

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: For annum, in advance \$2.00 Six months, in advance \$1.20 Three months, in advance \$0.75

THE INDEPENDENT.

"A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE AND BY THE PEOPLE."

Vol. XV.

Hillsboro, Washington County, Oregon, Thursday, May 24, 1888.

No. 51.

THE INDEPENDENT. One square, or less, one insertion \$1.50. Other legal advertisements \$1.00 per square for the first insertion, and 50 cents per square for each subsequent insertion.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, May 11, 1888.

Nothing very startling or very new has occurred on Capitol hill since I last wrote you. There is no lack of interesting work going on all the time, for the all-important tariff debate goes on in the house day and night; the great river and harbor bill has passed that body by a large majority; the senate has been discussing the land forfeiture bill and the bill for the establishment of a bureau of animal industry; has ratified the Chinese treaty, but there has been no personal encounter in either end of the capitol during the week.

Since his famous episode with Senator Ingalls, Senator Voorhees has been terribly afflicted with a caruncle, and has been confined to his bed in consequence. He was able to be in his seat on Tuesday, however, when he arose and made a manly apology to the senate for having allowed his temper to overcome his judgment under exasperating provocation, he having used language contrary to the rules and decorum of the body of which he is a member. He said that he regretted having used unparliamentary language, and his high respect for the dignity of the United States senate, as well as self respect, induced him to say so. His transgression of the rules of the (so-called) most dignified legislative body in the world was thus atoned for, with no sacrifice of principle or self-respect, and no doubt the Indian senator will stand all the better before the country for his handsome acknowledgement. Mr. Voorhees has so long and invariably borne himself with marked dignity in the senate that it is but natural that he should regret his recent departure from his own strict rule of conduct, and make due apology for its violation.

A new defalcation has just come to light. The first comptroller of the treasury has been overhauling the books of General James W. Ewing, the appointment and disbursing clerk of the department of justice, and it is claimed, has discovered a shortage of a little over \$90000. The attorney-general ordered an investigation, General Ewing was removed and his successor appointed, but it will take several weeks to investigate the accounts. General Ewing is an ex-Union soldier with a good record, appointed from West Virginia about six years ago. He says the discrepancies are caused by the comptroller disallowing accounts of money paid out by order of the attorney-general, and the charging of requisitions against him which he has not received.

The Texas senators have been making arguments against the pleuro-pneumonia bill as unconstitutional and inexpedient, and in the interest of the Chicago cattle syndicate. The river and harbor bill received its chief support from New York, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, California and the South. New England cast nine votes for and nine votes against it. There were no votes for the bill from Rhode Island, Vermont, New Jersey, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado or Kansas. There were no votes against it from New Hampshire, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Michigan, Kentucky, Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Oregon, California or Nevada. Pennsylvania gave eight votes in favor of the measure and twelve in the negative.

The house committee having in charge the bill providing for a constitutional celebration in Washington in 1889, has decided to report the same favorably. The bill has already passed the senate. It provides for the appointment of a commission of nine persons to have charge of the celebration, and authorizes the president to invite the chief executive and chief judicial officers of Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, San Salvador, Honduras, United States of Columbia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Chili, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador, the Argentine Republic, the Empire of Brazil, the Dominion of Canada, Haiti and San Domingo to visit the United States and participate. In order that the president may entertain these guests in a suitable manner, the bill appropriates \$300,000. There is little foundation for the reports to the effect that the confirmation of Mr. Fuller as chief justice of the United States is opposed by senators of both parties. Some democratic senators, friendly to Senator Gray, are said to resent the nomination of Mr. Fuller and wish to delay confirmation simply because Senator Gray was not the chosen man. Republican senators are said to be looking up Mr. Fuller's record during the war, and are inclined to object to what they term extreme and dangerous states rights views. In reality the opposition is not of such a character as to seriously delay his confirmation. As he himself said: "The senate is right to be slow and careful in such matters."

GENERAL NEWS.

The amount offered to Badaou by the Grant family to disclaim the authorship of Grant's memoirs is said to have been \$100,000. Col. Grant stated as his opinion that Badaou was propping the suit simply to annoy his mother and to drag her into publicity.

William T. Coleman says that while he is in harmony with his party, the democracy, on general questions of reform, he thinks it is a mistake to put borax on the free list.

Marshal Atkins reports that there is a great deal of prosperity in Alaska and that the mining outlook is good. There are from 700 to 800 men in the Yukon placer this season and they will bring out a large amount of gold dust in the fall.

Dr. Tanner, the great faster, now has a ranch of 1500 acres in New Mexico, and wants to establish a founding hospital there, and feed the children one meal a day, of light vegetable diet. He says the baser passions are fed on animal food.

G. T. Brown, the popular Portland artist, leaves this week on a 7000-mile sketching trip. He first goes to Mt. Shasta, then to the Yosemite valley, and thence to Monterey and Lake Tahoe. Turning north, he will take in Yellowstone park, and thence go to Alaska.

Wallis is flooded with about 600 idle men, who cannot find work and have no money. It seems that Contractor Hart sent east to an agency for 150 Italian laborers, to work on his branch road, and they sent him 600 men.

Mr. Dunlap, a farmer on the Swinomish flats, last year cut 500 tons of hay from 100 acres of land. He sold the whole yield at \$20 per ton, deducting \$5 per ton for cutting, baling, etc., which left him a net profit of \$7500.

Fifteen eggs found on a Howell prairie farm were hatched by a domestic hen and every egg turned out a beautiful Chinese pheasant.

Mrs. Parsell, of Alpine, has been appointed a notary public. This is believed to be the first instance in which a woman has been appointed a notary public in Oregon.

The Secret of Dynamite.

The following from the Indian Engineer, published at Calcutta, gives the information which many are seeking to know: Dynamite consists of some porous absorbent mineral saturated with nitro-glycerine. Several substances have been tried as absorbents of the glycerine, but the most satisfactory is the kieselsguhr, an infusorial earth, composed of the silicious shells of extremely small vegetable organisms, and it is of this that Nobel's dynamite is made. It absorbs about three times its weight of the glycerine, and resembles putty in appearance. Thus, a given quantity will contain 75 per cent. of the real explosive, and its blasting power, compared with pure nitro-glycerine, is, of course, represented by the same ratio. In order to explode it, it is necessary to obtain the temperature of 300 Fahrenheit. It freezes in the same way as glycerine, and when in this state must be carefully handled. Nitro-glycerine has an expansive force ten times that of an equal weight of powder. It is highly dangerous to place dynamite on or near fire stoves, steam pipes, or any highly-heated metal. Dynamite must never be put into warm water to thaw it, as the water would freeze the nitro-glycerine, when it is most dangerous. It ought always to be put into a water-tight vessel, and then have the vessel put into warm water. It should never be exposed to the direct rays of a tropical sun. When loading it, a wooden rod or squeezer should be used to push home the cartridge, never a metal one, and the charge should be gently and firmly pushed down, and not rammed or pounded. If dynamite has to be loaded into tins, avoid smelling it, as it gives a sickly, nervous headache for several days. Never squeeze the primer containing the detonator, but lower or push it gently till it rests on the charge. In the event of a misfire, never attempt to draw the tamping. If water-tamping has been used, put a fresh primer and detonator on top of the charge. If other than water-tamping has been used, bore a fresh hole. The detonator must be very carefully handled. If one explodes in the hand, the hand would be shattered. When putting in the fuse, cut off the end of it square, and put it in firm, but gently. Dynamite can be burnt with safety, and simply fizzes up harmlessly. It exerts its force in the direction of most resistance. A single cartridge attached to a rail will break it; a four-ounce cartridge will break a 35-pound railway in two. The charge varies from a few cartridges to as much as may be necessary.

A Universal Language.

The question of a universal language again excites attention. The convenience of a language which would be the means of communication all over the world has always been acknowledged. In medicine, certain forms of law and the religious services of the Catholic church, Latin retains that function; but, although as recently as the days of Bacon, Milton, Addison—we might say of Johnson—Latin was a written language; it steadily becomes obsolete. In China, where every province has its spoken dialect unintelligible in other provinces—there is a "Mandarin" tongue used by officials and persons of education all over the empire. Some such office is hoped for this proffered tongue called Volapuk. We are not familiar with its philosophy, but we have grave doubts as to the elasticity or durability of any language made to order. There would be certain advantages in everybody speaking English, although, notwithstanding its strength and beauty, no such lawless, barbarous tongue was ever invented. When we consider the changes forced upon English by the influences of nature and the social customs to which it is subjected in so many different parts of the world, there is little hope that it may be reclaimed into more symmetrical forms. If we want a universal language, to be to the nations what the Mandarin dialect is to the diversified provinces of China, we could take the ancient Greek or the modern Spanish. Laying aside the prejudices arising from affection and association, there is no language so logical, so beautiful, and at the same time so mathematical in the simplicity of its laws as the Spanish. It has a wider range when we take in the American provinces from the Rio Grande to Cape Horn than would be supposed. It has left an ineffaceable impress upon the United States from Florida to Oregon. For every form of speech—eloquence, devotion, poetry or conversation—Spanish has a superior among living tongues, while in many respects it has excellences which no living tongue can rival.—N. Y. Herald.

Well Dressed.

I once heard a mother, who had been criticized for personal vanity by a somewhat gossiping neighbor, say that she made it a duty and a pleasure to keep well dressed, for she was likely at any hour to be called upon to entertain friends whose good opinion was of such consequence that she could not afford to run the risk of having them fud her in any but neat and presentable attire. The friends were her husband and children, and she was fully compensated for her care in this direction by their approval and appreciation. To be "well dressed" was not to her mind an admission of extravagance. Good taste and good planning often stand in place of dollars and cents, and the lady in question was able to dress well on half the cost of her neighbor's wardrobe.

Johnnie Tied Him.

Malone's fine dog was out in the yard pulling the clothes off the line and having so much fun that Mrs. Malone's patience was entirely exhausted. "Go out there, Johnnie," she called to her hopeful son, "and tie that dog." "What must I tie him to, mother," asked Johnnie. "Oh, tie him to anything. I can't have him tearing everything to pieces." Johnnie went out, and in about ten minutes returned. "Well," inquired the mother, did you get him tied? You were long enough about it." "Yes'm," said Johnnie, exultingly, "I got him tied to a tin can and the way he went down the street was beautiful to look at," and Johnnie's laugh ended in howl as his mother reached for him.

A Five-Million Contract.

Genial Paul F. Mohr, chief engineer of the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad, says the contract for the last 225 miles of the road had been let. It was the largest contract ever let in Washington territory, and amounts to about \$5,000,000. Fifty miles of the road from Seattle eastward is finished. Fifty miles from Spokane Falls westward is well under way, and is to be finished by September 1st. The 225 miles just let is the gap between these two sections and it will take two years to finish it. The total length of the road is 325 miles.

The Best of Men.

The great test in life, says Gen. Thos. J. Morgan, in a paper on training as an element on education, is rather what a man can do than what he knows. Can he use his eyes? Has he good judgment? Is he a man of common sense? Can he think? Does he reason correctly? Has he executive force? Is he practical? These are the kind of test questions that are put to the graduates of our common schools. Can the "sweet girl graduate" cook a dinner, sweep a room, or superintend a house? Does she have an intelligent interest in passing events? Has she robust health, good habits, self-reliance, energy and power of endurance? Can the young man lay aside his diploma and keep his father's accounts, write an article for the newspaper, make a business trip to Chicago, give an intelligent account of the morning's news? Can he lend a hand at home, and turn to some good account in the daily duties of life some of the accumulated stores of knowledge assumed in years of study? Does his education render him more industrious, more skillful and efficient, more persistent, more practically masterful in whatever he undertakes? If he has been trained to use his senses, to acquaint himself with natural phenomena at first hand; if he has been taught to think, to make careful comparison, noting essential differences and significant similarities, making patient inductions and wise generalizations; if he has been led to form fixed habits of thoughtfulness, self-reliance, moral earnestness, inflexibility of purpose, persistent industry, promptness, punctuality, fidelity, unswerving devotion of duty; if, in short, as a result of his school life, his training has produced a well-rounded character, he will be able to meet all the reasonable demands that society can make upon one who lacks practical experiences in actual business. He will readily acquire skill and efficiency in any calling for which his special talents have fitted him. Training gives potency to all the soul's possibilities.

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