The Oregon Republican.

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

DALLAS, SATURDAY, OCT. 8.

Across the Ocean.

The world has been so schooled within the past few years to considering only deeds of the greatest magnitude, acts where two and three hundred thousand men are concerned, that the details of the small skirmishing now going on in France between the two contending parties do not elicit any comment, and European news has the appearance of being stale trash.

The Prussians are, however, before Paris, and that city is so closely besieged that no communication is carried to the outside world, only as it is entrusted to pigeons and balloonists. Occasionally we hear of a French success in a skirmish action, yet every day but makes the Prussian foothold stronger, and French affairs more desperate. The members of the new Republic are shinning it about over Europe, from Court to Court, begging the Great Powers to interfere in behalf of France, but the answer comes, hard and cold, No.

It looks now as though magnificent France is to disappear from among the nations of the earth. It is true that a great army is coming up from the South, but what can those raw recruits do with the sturdy German veteran? Proclamations without number may be sent from Paris to the effect that the Frenchman "will wage war to the knife," but they amount to nothing. They are all fustian, and will not keep the German from polluting the streets of Paris, the Frenchman's holy city.

The great trouble is, France has no government. The nation now is like a chicken with its head freshly cut off—the body is making terrible contortions and muscular exertions, but no end is accomplished. It is true that ten or a dozen men have got together and parceled the Cabinet offices out among themselves and call that a republic, yet the present form of government differs not from that of an empire. The people have had no voice. The whole thing is transient and so regarded by all mankind.

Unhappy France! The ambition and rash acts of a ruler sworn to protect and defend, has brought sore trouble upon innocent subjects.

It Does Concern Us.

The Dallas *Republican* has a good deal of complaint to make over the proposition to raise $300,000 in this city to have the Willamette Valley Railroad brought here. It is, by the way, a measure which does not particularly concern that paper.

Thus saith the *Bulletin*. But we are concerned; if not this paper, then the tax-payers of this and every other county in the State, whose interests we are bound to guard to the extent of our ability. If Portland is authorized to levy a tax on her citizens to raise this $300,000, then is the precedent set for permitting every county in the State to vote aid for railroads, and the prohibition of the Constitution amounts to naught except to involve us in expensive litigation, a thing that we now seek to avoid. If it was sought to tax Polk county for the purpose of bringing the road through its territory, then would the *Bulletin* doubtless concede that we were interested; yet the facts are, as they stand, are we any less so because the question is only confined to Portland. It is only a thing of time, and we desire to object now in the beginning to any such Constitutional evasions.

If the people of Portland want to help Mr. Holladay build his road into Portland, let them—in their individual capacity—subscribe the $300,000, as the people of Albany have done. If this plan be adopted, then we have no word of opposition; but when the object is sought to be accomplished by taxation then we shall certainly oppose it, especially when the Constitution is plainly on our side of the question.

NOTICE.—In consequence of our failure to employ help during Fair week and the ill-health of our printer we beg our patrons to excuse us for one week, and we promise to make it even the next.

African Civilization.

The Missouri *Republican* of Sept. 15th, contains the following sensible remarks on the subject of the "Effects of African Civilization on Civilized Society:"

There never was a more flagrant instance of the danger involved in the mixture of two discordant civilizations than that afforded by the infusion of African habits into the political body of France. It is now about forty years since the conquest of Algiers by France, and by it an important problem devolved upon the French people. Whilst the nations of German origin undertook to civilize the American continent and to re-conquer Asia for modern culture, it seemed to be the destiny of France to carry into Africa the light of European culture and Christian morality. The problem was evidently easier than that which devolved upon the Anglo Saxon and German races in North America. The land discovered by Columbus having been inhabited for ages by savage tribes, the attempt to civilize such a country might have seemed a doubtful enterprise. The northern portion of Africa, which was conquered by France in 1829, was highly civilized in antiquity, and the soil and the climate were evidently not opposed to the spread of a new civilization. How have the French succeeded, after an occupation of upwards of forty years? They did the very reverse of what was reasonably expected, and instead of transplanting their own civilization in Africa, they brought African barbarity into their own society. An army of thirty thousand troops was stationed in Algiers, and the struggle between the French and the barbarous tribes of Arabs and Bedouins became the pattern of warfare between the French government and revolted Frenchmen—not less than between the French and foreign armies. Brute force was employed thenceforth in all the internal difficulties between the French authorities and the people; and the policy which was found advantageous against the wild African tribes was also inaugurated against French citizens. African generals were ordered to Paris to maintain order there in the same manner as they enforced it against the Kabyles; and regiments of African Zouaves and Turcos were organized in order to terrify foreign troops in case of a war. These Turcos and Zouaves not only infused the French soldiery with their native barbarity and demoralization, but the French government, assuming that their wild and barbarous habits might supply a new element of strength, abandoned the study of tactics and strategy. It supposed that the Turcos on one hand and the *mitrailleuse* on the other, were a substitute not only for numbers, but also for military courage and a thorough organization. A series of defeats of the French army, and the overthrow of three thrones have shown the fallacy of this calculation. The Turcos could neither maintain Louis Phillippe nor Napoleon III, and their barbarous conduct towards wounded soldiers who fell into their hands, has been the only service which they rendered to the French empire in its present struggle with Germany.

The slow increase of the colored race and the emigration from the old country diminish a danger to our civilization similar to that which has had such a hurtful influence on France. The right of suffrage, which the Radical party gave to the negroes, is as poisonous to American society as the habits the French generals acquired in African service were on the state of the society of France. Almost every ingredient of the African character is incompatible with our civilization, and the contamination of the American life by the instincts of the colored race would be equivalent to the death of science, morality and social refinement, if the poison were sufficiently strong to affect the mass of the American people. To some extent, small as it may be, it has already entered our system. We may or we may not outgrow it. At any rate, it would have been better if a status had been discovered for the negroes, where they could be free, and yet at an innocuous distance from the whites.

The American people are not heroically virtuous enough to face every moral danger and resist all successfully.

Fraud in the New York Elections.

The canvass in the State of New Yok over the Gubernatorial election is becoming very exciting. The Republican candidate, Gen. Woodford, has taken the stump, and boldly charges that the present Demoratic Governor, (and candidate for re-election), J. T. Hoffman, was elected two years since because of a fraudulent vote and a fraudulent count; because thousands of naturalization papers were issued from courts without the semblance of judicial order; because organized gangs of repeaters, ruffians, and bullies marched from poll to poll depositing their illegal ballot, and that over and over again, with none to molest or make them afraid, because corrupt inspectors and canvassers in the cities of New York and Brooklyn falsely counted the ballots, that were thus unfairly thrown, and created fictitious majorities upon which his certificate of election was granted. These are not idle boasts made upon the eve of an important election, for Gen. Woodford announces himself as prepared to prove all his assertions to the present Governor face to face before the people, and Gov. Hoffman had not at latest accounts signified his willingness to accept the challenge. The New York *Evening Post*, a conservative Republican journal, thus comments upon Woodford's serious charges: "This question has passed beyond partisanship. Of what avail is it to discuss any question of policy, system of taxation, canal policy, the merits of protective tariffs, the justice and expediency of free trade, if in any event the people are not to decide the election? The purity of the ballot box must be restored and maintained and preserved, or the days of the Repuplic are numbered." Both parties—or rather the honest and scrupulous majorities of both partirs—are interested in having the purity of the ballot-box maintained inviolate, no matter which party remains in the ascendant. Through the ballot box the people exprss their will; it is the only way provided by law in which that will can be ascertained. Whoever tampers with the ballot-box attempts to defeat the will of the people, and should be visited with condign punishment. It is to be hoped that the people of New York will have an opportunity of having their will correctly recorded.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION.—Senator Stout, of Multnomah, has introduced a bill into the Legislature that provides for a State Board of Equalization. The duties pertaining to this new office is to see that all property in the State is assessed alike. We do hope that our law makers will pass the bill or a similar one. By the present method of assessing, counties so disposed can and do doctor the valuation of the property therein so that the burdens of taxation pulls unequally on different portions of the State. Another source of complaint is the assessing of all stock and real estate at a fixed valuation. A person having his substance in money is assessed for the whole number of dollars, yet he can purchase a piece of land for $12 or $15 dollars per acre and have it assessed at $5 or $8. Here again is taxation unequal. Can these things be remedied.

Gov. Whitaker, from the Committee of Ways and Means, has introduced into the Legislature an appropriation bill to pay the debts contracted during the past two years. The rules were suspended and the bill passed the House. Ayes, 25; nays, 1—R. J. Grant. Mr. Grant explained that he would not vote for the bill because it paid M. K. Lauden, the accountant who two years ago examined the books of the State Treasurer, ten dollars per day.

A company has been incorporated in Salem for the purpose of building and operating street railroads. The Legislature have been applied to for a charter.

Friday at 1 o'clock p. m., Postmaster J. D. Lee of Dallas delivered the mail to Jesse C. Lewis, Government contractor on route No. 15,105, instead of Mr. Clark.

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W. T. Newby, of Yamhill, has been admitted to a seat in the Senate instead of J. W. Watts, ousted. It seems to us that is this case at least partisan feelings governed instead of the rules of evidence and equity, and there are not men wanting who openly charge that there is an axe to grind, and that Watts would not vote for the measure. We shall, however, in time see.

Hon. C. M. Pershbaker, Senator from Coos and Curry counties, died at his rooms in Salem on Wednesday morning.

Noose-paper—A marriage certificate.

Welcome lines to the ladies—Masculines.