

DALLAS, SATURDAY, MAR. 29

POLK COUNTY FARMERS' CONVENTION.

According to announcement, a meeting of the farmers of this county was held at the Court House at one o'clock yesterday. Owing probably to the unfavorable state of the weather, the attendance was very small, there being not more than twenty persons present.

Here a dead lock came in the proceedings, and Messrs. Applegate and Collins not being able to convince the meeting that they were farmers, were ruled out. After this everything went on harmoniously, and the following delegates were chosen to represent Polk County in the State Convention at Salem April 10, 1873:

John Allen, Eola; B. F. Smith, Luckiamute; W. Churchill, Monmouth; W. C. Brown, Dallas; J. Holly, Bethel; Jesse Stump, Buena Vista; W. E. Clark, Dixie; Ira Townsend Salt Creek; I. Smith, Bridgeport; A. D. Babcock, Douglas; Thomas Blair, Jackson.

Delegate at large Wm. Ruble. The above named delegates are requested to meet at Salem on the day above mentioned.

On motion the meeting adjourned to meet at Dallas on Saturday, April 19, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Lucien B. Frazer, Secretary.

COMMUNICATION.

Mr. Editor: Allow me through the columns of your estimable paper to make a few facts known to the public, which has heretofore been sadly neglected. I speak with reference to the common mode by which district schools are governed. Upon the first Monday in April the patrons assemble at the district schoolhouse for the purpose of transacting the school business for the ensuing year. Which generally consists in the election of one director and a clerk. This done they make the arrangements for their summer school. So far so good but from this time forward they take no interest in the affair save the hiring of a teacher. Their greatest aim seems to be the protection of their pockets: they bustle around when a teacher makes an application for the school without ever testing his ability, for the position enquire his price if it is a mere tent for the position, and forthwith he is shadow, they consider him fully competent up as the muddle by which their children are to be guided.

On the other hand if his price is any way near what would be required for his subsistence, they declare him an imposter not fit to be put over the youths of the land, so they turn him off and hire a low priced teacher. Consider your self ushered into the school room some hot summer day, and imagine if you can the scene before you. Upon some half dozen benches are seated as many scholars, intelligent enough to be sure, but their minds seem to be upon anything but their lessons. While Mr. Pedagogue is seated at his table, his head thrown back, his mouth open and snoring as if his earthly troubles had ceased to be. Asleep, yes, asleep, and his pupils are improving the opportunity by throwing paper wads across the room and indulging in all sorts of capers which can be carried on without disturbing the peaceful slumbers of their governor.

Now if this kind of business was reserved for hot days only, it would not be so bad but it is an every day occurrence

and by the time his term is out what has he learned his pupils. I leave you to judge. His terms being finished he is paid off, and the patrons say he has done splendidly simply because there is more children in the district than brains and the public money foots the bill.

For nine months more the children are allowed to run about with without going to school, and by the time the next term begins, which generally results in low priced teachers, they have forgotten what little they ever knew, and so they are taken back and drilled over the old lessons till their heart fails them and they wish they had never seen a book. This is the general mode by which district schools are governed; and as soon as the pupils are able to work they gladly change the school room for the harvest field and thus ends their education. To be sure they can read, write, and cipher perhaps as far as fractions. So they consider they have enough knowledge to transact their business through life, and so they have, for they never have much to transact. Our last legislature instead of raising the standard, which was a poor excuse at best, lowered it by striking out Algebra, thus making it an easy matter for any person of limited education to obtain a number one certificate. I suppose they consider that where education prevails, monopolies fail, and it would be to their interest to keep the land in ignorance as long as possible.

Now these are facts which should be considered well, and would be no shattering secure good teachers, and when directors do so then they will have good schools and not till then.

An Observer.

THE OPPOSITION RATES.

Following are the freight and passenger rates to be charged by the Willamette River Transportation Company. They are living rates compared to those now charged by Holladay's boats:

Table with columns: TOWNS, Freight, Passenger. Lists rates for various towns like Milwaukie, Oswego, Oregon City, etc.

STATE NEWS.

"City Rifles" is the name of the new militia company at Portland.

A whale forty feet in length, was captured near Cape Foulweather last week.

Portland has had a one-horse runaway. Damage, \$300. Horses not hurt either.

Water in the Yamhill river is now so low that steamers cannot go above Lafayette.

Another street railroad will soon be built in Portland, one and a half miles in length.

Whooping cough and measles engage the attention of all the children and a majority of the grown people in Eugene City.

Unless the Indian troubles are settled soon, there will be little, if any, surveying done in Southeastern Oregon this season.

The contract has been let for building five new store rooms seventy five feet deep and two stories high, on the burnt district Portland.

Articles of incorporation were filed last week in the county clerk's office of Douglas county and with the Secretary of State, under the style of Roseburg and Port Orford Railroad Company. The incorporators are Aaron Rose, John Blacklock, A. A. Fink, E. S. Morgan, L. F. Mosher and J. M. Arrington. Capital stocks, \$2,000,000, in shares of \$100. The business office is at Roseburg. A competent engineer has been employed and a party is fitting out to make reconnaissance of the route by the way of the middle fork of the Coquille river to the forks, thence along the foothills to Port Orford. The road will also intersect the proposed road from Coos Bay to the Coquille thus opening communication with both harbors.

The four warehouses at Harrisburg have a storage capacity of 175,000 bushels of grain. They contain at present about 25,000 bushels.

The students of the Agricultural College, Corvallis, are being taught military tactics.

Jackson county has some money in the Treasury, and also considerable outstanding orders.

W. H. Baker is building a warehouse at Harrisburg capable of holding 100,000 bushels of grain.

The Herald says a gentleman of Portland recently paid \$100 for the use of \$1,000 for ten days. Rather high interest.

A little son of L. H. Riggler, of Roseburg, was caught under the turntable at the depot of that place a few days and had one of his legs badly crushed.

Six new cars for the Portland street Railroad Company will be constructed in Portland for the new division which is to be laid this summer on Main or Third streets.

The Herald says a butcher in that city has a hog that gained six pounds every day for two weeks. Keep that up for a year or two and it will discount hippopotami to dimensions.

Citizens of Jacksonville are petitioning the Common Council to remove the Chinese from the corporate limits.

The Sentinel: "Capt. Jack now wants to be appointed Commanding General of General Canby's forces. The new Peace Commission have the matter under serious consideration."

The Jacksonville Sentinel of last Saturday says: "Another sad occurrence happened in a mining claim near Uniontown, in this county, whereby John H. Harrison was killed by a caving bank, last Thursday. Just the same old sad story."

Jackson county, according to the report of the School Superintendent, has 1,408 legal voters and 2,372 persons of school age. During the year there has been taught 57 quarters. The public school fund for this year aggregates \$4,815 16.

The Jacksonville school girls have quit playing ball and gone to warbles.

General Applegate again. The Jacksonville Sentinel says he lectured at Ashland, Jackson County, one last week.

The Roseburg Plaindealer has begun its fourth year. It promises to stick to Democratic tenants, but we fear it cannot even find a plank to get ashore on.

The Roseburg Plaindealer notes the arrival of Heinrich Lauer, Minnesota, who came to find farms for himself and a few friends. He states that the intense cold which prevailed there last winter will cause a large emigration from that State the present season, much of which will come to Oregon.

Los Angeles, March 23.—From the Arizona Miner: We have full particulars of the murder by the Indians of Swain and McDonald. On Tuesday Swain left home for the purpose of taking water and provisions to the men in his employ in the vicinity of nigger wells. On his return as shown by the battle-ground, he was overtaken by 200 or 400 Indians coming from the eastward and supposed to be going on some Reservation—perhaps Date Creek. The Indians attacked and kill d him and his companion McDonald. When found, their bodies were stripped of clothing and their weapons and a horse and mule belonging to them taken away. Swain was shot with seven arrows, three of which were yet in his body; his skull was literally smashed in with stones and the body horribly mutilated. The body of McDonald was found partially covered up with sand and five or six arrows in his breast, with his head also smashed in. The arrows showed that the murderers were Apaches. Last week a party of troops in searching for Apaches, came upon a band; six were killed and four captured.

San Diego, March 24.—Alexander J. Fenwick was to be executed on Friday next for the murder of Charles Wilson. For several days a watch had been kept over him by the Sheriff day and night. Soon after 8 o'clock last evening he became drowsy and dozed off to sleep, waking at intervals until the night watch came on, at ten o'clock. He was then sleeping easily. At 11:30 the turnkey's attention was called to the irregularity in his breathing, and the Sheriff and county physician were immediately summoned. All efforts to awake him failed. He continued to breathe hard and irregular until the time of his death this morning. The indications of death were similar to those produced by narcotic poison. The physician who attended him is of opinion he died from exhaustion. A bundle of papers was found addressed to his friend M. A. Denis, Dogtown, Amador County, but nothing was found in it to indicate the cause of his death.

New York, March 23.—Comodore Vanderbilt has given \$500,000 for the purpose of erecting a large seminary for females on the grounds of Moravian church at Newdrop, Staten island, to be built on the plan of the seminary at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and endowed by the Commodore.

Madrid, March 23.—The Assembly met yesterday with the understanding that a vote should be taken on the bill for the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico. A resolution was adopted at the beginning that the Chamber should not adjourn until the subject had been disposed of.

Figueroa announced that the Ministry had declined to stand or fall with the measure, which was contrary to the general exception. It was resolved not to continue the debate, and subsequently, by a unanimous vote, the Assembly passed the bill for the immediate emancipation of slaves in the Island of Porto Rico.

The announcement of the result was received with cheers. The bill declares that the Republic of Spain will preserve the integrity of Spanish dominions, and provides that the emancipated slave in Porto Rico shall enjoy all political rights accorded to citizens of Spain. The Government took ample precaution against any disorderly demonstrations in the city.

Madrid, March 23.—An immediate emancipated law for Porto Rico passed to night, unanimously. There is great enthusiasm in the Assembly. (signed) SICKLES

Washington March 24.—In the Senate, Mr. Clayton asked as an act of justice to himself and his State that his case was taken up. The case was taken up, by a vote of thirty-six to fourteen.

Wright said, after consultation with other members of the Committee he had come to the conclusion that the subject should go over to-day, as the Senate was not ready for discussion.

The report of the Committee was then read, but no further action was taken.

The resignation of Caldwell was occasioned by his knowledge that many Republican Senators would vote for Ferry's resolution for expulsion, though it is not certain that the necessary two-thirds vote would have been secured. It is believed a majority might be obtained. Caldwell did not desire to remain in the Senate with even a minority vote for expulsion, but preferred to resign and refer the whole matter to the people of Kansas. Caldwell will not return to Kansas for a week or ten days.

Washington, March 24.—The Senate has confirmed the nomination of W. J. McComick as Collector of Customs at San Diego.

In the Senate to-day, at the instance of Senator West, reconsidered the vote confirming Colonel Casey Collector of New Orleans, but after debate the nomination was again confirmed.

It is understood that Cole's chances of securing the Berlin mission are good. He prefers Berlin to China, and says Bill Nie always got into trouble with heathen Chinese and tears he would also.

Stoeton, March 25.—James H. Smith, residing near the Nightingale House, two miles from this on the Sonora road got into an altercation this evening with his brother in law Michael McQuinn of Copperopolis. It is alleged that McQuinn endeavored to draw his shooting-iron, when Smith got the start of him, drew his revolver and fired the bullet entering McQuinn's left side and inflicting a serious and probably fatal wound. The attending surgeon has but small hopes of his recovery.

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AT THE OVERLAND, Feb 22 73 ly

PORTLAND BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

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