

A NEW party in Cuba favors home rule under the protection of the United States. Annexation is a better plan, and would not interfere with proper home rule.

EVERY American soldier in the Philippine department is a hero, when the occasion is presented; and every American officer a general, whenever generals are demanded.

A CHINESE orator thinks the United States ought to rescue that empire in the cause of humanity. On account of prior engagements fully occupying his time, Uncle Sam asks to be excused.

THE only reason why the instructions given the United States commissioners to the Czar's disarmament conference have not been made public is that it would not be proper to state the official attitude of this government on the matter to be considered at the conference in advance of its meeting. There are reasons for the belief that arbitration fills a large part in the instructions.

SPAIN has been notified through the French ambassador that the \$20,000,000 called for by the treaty of peace will be paid on demand, in New York, in United States gold coin or in gold bars, as may be preferred. This is anticipatory, as this government has the right, under the treaty, to defer payment until six months after the date of the exchange of copies of the treaty.

LIVE STOCK VALUES.

THE agricultural department has issued some statistics having to do with the values of the stock in this country. The figures furnish a comparison between the situation on January 1, 1898, and that of the same date of this year. At the beginning of the present year the total value of live stock of all kinds was \$1,999,010,407, which represented an increase for twelve months of \$108,353,482, or 5.74 per cent. This increase is shown by beef cattle, this class of live stock having increased in value nearly 9 per cent in spite of a decrease in number 4 1/2 per cent. There were on January 1, 1898, 27,994,225 beef cattle in the country, and their total value was \$637,931,135. The horses were valued at \$511,074,813, and milch cows at \$474,233,925, while sheep represented a value of \$107,607,530, or an increase during the twelve months of 29 cents a head. Horses increased in value per head \$3.14; milch cows, \$2.21; and mules, \$1.08. All three of these animals decreased in number. The value per head of the various animals is: Mules, \$44.96; horses, \$37.40; milch cows, \$9.66; beef cattle, \$22.79; hogs, \$4.40, and sheep, \$2.75. The high value of the mule, as compared with the horse, is a surprise. It is the highest priced animal on the farm.

Want Oregon Sheep.

The demand for Oregon sheep has not abated, judging from the number of drovers who have come this season from Montana, the Dakotas, Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado, for the purpose of purchasing yearling ewes and wethers with which to replenish their ranges. Harry Dunbar and F. J. Everson, of Bozeman, Mont., are now in Portland, says the Oregonian, with a view to meeting sheepmen. They expect to buy from 15,000 to 20,000 head in the Eastern Oregon country, which they will ship over the O. R. & N. and Northern Pacific to the Yellowstone. They report a long, cold season for stock in Montana, and the worst part of the winter did not manifest itself until February. Sheepmen who were well supplied with hay will pull through all right, they say, but those who have not provided their flocks with fodder will lose heavily.

EMBEZZLED CITY FUNDS.

A Former Pendletonian in Trouble at North Yakima. Henry Presey, who for a number of years was in the general merchandise business in Pendleton with Perry Hinkle, the firm name being Presey & Hinkle, has been placed under arrest at North Yakima on a charge of embezzlement while acting as city treasurer. The case against him is similar in character to that against Krug of Seattle, though of smaller importance. Presey's term as city treasurer expired February 6th last, when the council accepted his resignation, and ordered an auditing of his accounts. He was at that time conducting a feed store in North Yakima, and is charged with using the city's funds in the transaction of his business. He drank heavily, and made large loans to his friends. His system of bookkeeping was careless, but he blindly trusted in the success of his feed business to square any shortage in the city finances. (North Oregonian.)

Ex-Sheriff Frank Cathcart, of this city, has lost his job as deputy fish commissioner at Astoria. The new fish commissioner has appointed W. C. Loughery in his place.—Roseburg Review.

Geo. M. Stroud, one of Oregon's best known pioneers, died at his residence in Portland last Saturday. He was a prominent Mason and Odd Fellow, and a man universally respected by a host of friends over the entire state. He leaves a wife and grown family.

The test of the flax tow grown in Oregon, at the Walla Walla penitentiary, to determine if the tow could be successfully manufactured into sacks, has been made at the Walla Walla institution with gratifying success. The bags made from the tow are stronger than those made from jute and in other ways more satisfactory.

The Pendleton term of the Supreme court will open the first Monday in May. The three justices who are present engaged in hearing cases in Salem, Chief Justice Wolverton and Associate Justices Bean and Moore and Attorney General Blackburn will leave Salem for Pendleton a week from today. The term will last a week or ten days. Only arguments and motions will be heard. No decisions will be handed down.—E. O.

Editor Harvey W. Scott of the Oregonian was in New York last week trying to get onto the fringe of the democratic banquets. He was expected home yesterday. It was his intention to visit Cuba before returning, but the recent outbreak of the beef investigation scared him out and he will not risk his life at this time. During his absence the gifted Albert Holman has held down the tripod and injected mental pabulum into and out of the Oregonian.—Portland Dispatch.

E. Jacobson, of The Dalles, and C. Bartholomew, of Portland, undertook to cross the mountain between here and Mitchell a few days ago, but found the snow too deep and had to leave their wagon near the summit. Next day they took one horse and eight men from the mines and went up and brought it over the snow by putting snow shoes under the wheels, letting the horse tread on the single trail and the men pushing behind the wagon. They say that the next time they cross there in the spring that they will go around by Texas.—Prineville Review.

Cattlemen with headquarters in Montana have already placed agents in Grant county, and they expect, notwithstanding the recent hard winter, to do extensive buying. W. M. Butler, representing W. M. Boardman, who has for years made large annual drives from Grant county to his Montana ranch, has returned and has commenced buying. He says the southern portion of the county can furnish as many cattle as they did last year, and he anticipates no trouble in making purchases. While Mr. Butler has not yet made public what his figures will be, it is not believed the prices paid will equal those of last year.—Baker City Democrat.

It has been said that the day of miracles was past. Not so with the stage line between here and The Dalles. On Tuesday between the bridge and Bakerover the coach turned over with seven passengers aboard and no one was hurt. On Wednesday night following, between Hay creek and Willow creek the driver, unable in time to see that the bridge across a deep ravine had been washed away by the swollen waters, drove into the remaining frame work of the structure in such a way that the coach was supported on the stringers, the team falling through into the water eight feet below, throwing the driver and passengers out, nothing being injured but the harness.—Prineville Review.

A. B. Leckenby, the expert on grasses, returned Thursday, says the Oregonian, from a week's work at the O. R. & N.'s experimental farm in the Walla Walla valley, where he put in many new varieties of grasses. There are now about 200 varieties of grasses growing at the experimental farm, covering an area of 15 acres, and all seeds sown some time since are giving a good account of themselves and make a show that promises an abundant yield. Leckenby says that the varieties best adapted to the soil and climate, and that when they sow them in advance have a very intelligent idea of what they are going to reap.

THE ROW AT FOSTER.

Partakers of the Shooting Last Thursday Night.

HALSBY, Or., April 24—Thursday, at about 9 p. m., the little village of Foster, was startled by hearing a shot in the residence of Mr. Erickson, a merchant of that place. But little attention was given it at first, as rows were frequent in that vicinity, until Mrs. Erickson came screaming across the street to the residence of Mr. Yost, and said her boy had shot a young lady that was staying there. Mr. Yost and S. Umstead went over and found Oliver Erickson bound hand and foot, struggling violently and cursing every one within reach of his voice in drunken frenzy. Young Erickson had been paying attentions to a Miss Ora Sturdevant, as had also a young Mr. Jackson. Erickson became furiously jealous as well as drunk, and taking down a Winchester rifle started out to kill Jackson. Mr. Erickson, the boy's father, and Tom Watkins attempted to take the rifle from him, when he fired the shot which entered the thigh of Miss Kate Sterling. The ball passed through about 8 inches below the hip and lodged in the side of the house. There being no doctor nearer than Lebanon, 30 miles away, Mr. Umstead dressed and bandaged the wound as best he could and pronounced it not dangerous. A doctor was sent for, as was also the young lady's mother, who was very unwisely informed that her daughter was in a dying condition. She started at once for Foster, but died on the way. According to reports of the citizens of Foster, young Erickson, who is about 22 years old, has been a "terror" to that place for several years. A large number of citizens gathered, and were going to hang him to the nearest tree, but were persuaded by Mr. Yost and Mr. Umstead to let the law take its course. Had the news of Mrs. Sterling's death reached them at that time, it would have been impossible to have prevented a lynching.

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Ladies' Skirts in plaids, serges, worsted, blue duck, crepons, silks, etc., an elegant line at reasonable prices ranging from \$1 to \$3.



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In the way of Linings we have a splendid assortment. Silesias, percalines, nearsilk, brocades, roman stripes, etc., etc. Never had so complete a line. Prices 6 1/2c to 30c.



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THE WHEAT TRADE.

The following we clip from the Commercial Review under date of April 20th: We do not hear of any important sales having transpired during the week, and as quiet rule obtains, we do not see so much owing to a slack demand as to stiff ideas of holders, who have inflated views as to the statistical position of wheat, and show a decided tendency to hold aloof. Reports reach us that farmers and dealers in the interior will in the next 30 days let go a good part of their holdings; the farmers in many cases are compelled to dispose of their crop in order to secure the means by which to tide over a new crop season. Reports coming from the wheat belt of Washington state that the damage to fall sown wheat has been enormous, especially in the bluestem district. In our last issue we stated "a great many of the country dealers and farmers have come to the conclusion that they have held on too long, and are now unable to realize within 10c of what they could have received last fall." A subscriber objects to the aforesaid article and desires a statement to be given of the highest quotation and also present quotation, and the price now obtainable. For his information, the latter part of September club wheat was bought here on the basis of 64c and 65c per bushel; at the time we write it is worth but 57c to 58c. This shows a loss of 7c, with interest and warehouse charges; 12c loss is not too much to show since then. Sales that are now being made are principally for milling account, and exporters are not very eager to secure any of the stuff, considering the price offered in Europe for cargoes of prompt shipment or afloat. We quote club 60c; valley, no brand, 58c to 60c; bluestem, 62c per bu. Crop reports to hand from various sections of Oregon say that the late rains delayed plowing and seeding, but with the fine weather work progresses rapidly, and becomes general. Ten days will practically finish spring seeding. The government report issued by the local office says of Western Oregon: "The rain on Monday and Tuesday last delayed plowing and spring seeding, but the weather from Wednesday onward put the soil in good condition, and plowing became general; it was pushed with vigor. It will require fully two weeks more, with favorable weather, to complete spring seeding. Fall and winter-sown grain are in good condition. More warmth and sunshine would produce more rapid growth, but the present growth is healthy and favorable for better stand and stooling. Early sown spring grain has appeared above the ground and promises well. Out of 215 reports, only three contain a record of any unfavorable grain conditions."

Any Blockhead



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PINE CITY ITEMS.

(The following, from our regular correspondent, came too late for publication last week.) George Gray spent Wednesday night on the creek. Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Matthews were in town last week. Most of the sheep in this vicinity have been sheared. T. D. Matthews spent the first of the week in Pendleton on business. The apple crop will be short this year, as most of them have been killed. Our telephone is now working O. K. H. E. Bartholomew is the ballou girl. Superintendent Shipley was down visiting the Pine City school recently. Chas. Bartholomew is making preparations to dip the M. C. L. S. Co.'s sheep. Mrs. Prater and Mrs. Evans are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Matthews. There was a hot time on lower Sand Hollow one day last week—only a few black eyes. Hadley Barker has had his violin repaired and will take his place in the Batten Creek orchestra. Discovered By a Woman. Another great discovery has been made and that too, by a lady of this country. "Diseases fastened its clutches upon her and for seven years she withstood its severest tests, but her vital organs were undermined and death seemed imminent. For three months she coughed incessantly and could not sleep. She finally discovered a way to recovery by purchasing of us a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, and was so much relieved on taking first dose, that she slept all night and with two bottles has been absolutely cured. Her name is Mrs. Lethia Lutz." Thus writes W. C. Harnisch & Co. of Shelby, N. C. Trial bottles free at E. J. Bloom's drug store, Regular size 80c and \$1.00 every bottle guaranteed.

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Fresh Candies manufactured and kept constantly on hand. Oyster Grotto Kept open night and day. Hart Bros. Proprietors.

Lakeview Races. The Lake County Agricultural Association has hung up \$900 for a race meeting, to be held in Lakeview, beginning June 30th, as follows: First day, June 30—First race, 5 1/2 furlongs, for 3-year-olds, purse \$150. Second race 1 mile dash, purse \$125. Second day, July 1—First race 1/2 mile heats, 2 in 3, purse \$125. Second race buccaroo race, buccaroo rigs and riders, purse \$50. Third day, July 3—First race, 1/4 mile dash purse \$100. Second race, 3/4 mile, heats 2 in 3, purse \$125. Fourth day, July 5—First race, distance to be announced July 3, purse \$125. Second race, 1 mile dash, purse \$100.—Rural Spirit.

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