



WESTON WEEKLY LEADER
W. T. WILLIAMSON, G. P. McOLL
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ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING,
WESTON, UMATILLA COUNTY OR.

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Attorney at Law,
Will practice in the Courts of this State and Washington Territory.

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Attorney at Law,
OFFICE-At Court House, Walla Walla

A. MEACHEN,
Attorney at Law and Notary Public.
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And the pine-clad hills of Maine.

TRESPASSES ON U. S. LANDS, ETC.

The following instructions have been received at the U. S. Land Office of this District:
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 17, 1880.
GENTLEMEN:-I have to direct your attention to the provisions of an act of Congress approved June 15, 1880, entitled 'An act relating to the public lands of the United States,' of which a copy is appended.

Section 1 provides that when any lands of the United States shall have been entered, and the Government price paid therefor, neither criminal nor civil suits or proceedings shall be had or further maintained for or on account of certain trespasses therein specified.

Section 2, duly qualified persons who, prior to June 15, 1880; entered, under any of the homestead laws, lands properly subject to such entry are permitted to obtain title by paying the Government price, less the fee and commissions paid at date of original entry.

Section 3, When homestead entries made prior to June 15, 1880, have been attempted to be transferred by bona fide instrument in writing, the persons to whom such transfers were made are likewise authorized to obtain title by like payment and with like deductions of fees and commissions.

Section 4, Under section 2, duly qualified persons who, prior to June 15, 1880; entered, under any of the homestead laws, lands properly subject to such entry are permitted to obtain title by paying the Government price, less the fee and commissions paid at date of original entry.

of the law will largely depend upon your vigilance and discretion. In cases where you entertain a doubt of the propriety of allowing the application to purchase, you should refer all the papers to this office, with a full statement of facts and your opinion.

Under the proviso to this section you are specifically instructed to allow no entry which interferes with an entry of the land under the homestead laws made subsequent to the original entry on which application is made to enter under section 2; and if the land was embraced in a prior entry at date of such homestead, the section is inoperative, inasmuch as in that case the land was not properly subject to entry.

I do not construe this section as intending to permit the parties named as conditional purchasers to make entry of tracts to which adverse legal rights have attached prior to date of the act.

The third section reduces to one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre the price of any lands which were subject to ordinary private entry at two dollars and fifty cents per acre at the date of the approval of the act, having been doubled in price by reason of the grant of alternate sections for railroad purposes, and which were put in market at that price prior to the 1st of January, 1861.

You will further observe that, under section 4, none of the provisions of this act apply to mineral lands, and that no person is entitled to the benefit of any provision of the entire act who falls within the inhibition named in this section.

The subject of caring for the insane is a question of no small importance. For many years they have been kept by Dr. J. C. Hawthorne of East Portland under a contract with the State.

A bill to regulate the practice of medicine in Oregon is now before the Solons at Salem. We have not learned the provisions of the bill but we hope that they are simple, and if they become law, will present no loophole through which their violators may pass with impunity.

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SO-CALLED REBEL CLAIMS.

The charge has been made by leading Republicans in Congress, and echoed by Republican newspapers, that the Democratic party proposes to pay all the so-called Southern claims. A deluge of claims for losses incurred by the Confederates during the war, it is asserted, will pour in upon Congress, and that body will empty the Treasury and bankrupt the country by appropriating the money necessary to pay them.

Just why a Democratic Congress, and a Democratic chief magistrate should wish to ruin and destroy the industries of the people, these alarmists do not explain.

In the catalogue of these imaginary claims which the Republicans assert will be settled by a Democratic Congress are claims for all the slaves that were emancipated during the war, and for all losses incurred in aid of the rebellion by the Confederate states and the people of the South.

To show that there is neither sense nor sincerity in this vulgar clamor, it is only necessary to say, what is known to every intelligent man in the Republic, that all of these claims are forever barred by the Constitution of the United States.

The fourth clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is in the following words:
Sec. IV. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned.

But neither the United States nor any state shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

By this amendment to the Constitution all such claims are removed from the domain of discussion, and any attempt to agitate the question of their possible payment becomes the trade of the demagogue alone.

The thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States, embodying the results of the war for the Union, are inviolable. If called to the Presidency I should deem it my duty to resist with all my power any attempt to impair or evade the full force and effect of the Constitution, which in every article, section and amendment is the supreme law of the land.

The members of the Oregon Legislature met at Salem on the morning of the 13th instant, and proceeded to a temporary organization immediately. In the Senate, C. W. Fulton, of Clatsop County, was made temporary Chairman, and in the House, C. P. Yates, of Multnomah, was made temporary Speaker.

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OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 4, 1880.

There probably within twenty years has never been an impending Presidential campaign so much in doubt as the present one. Both sides crowd justly to keep their courage up, while at the same time both are equally apprehensive.

Right here at the capital of the nation, where there are so many office holders, it is difficult to get a fair expression of opinion—this for the reason that the "ins" want to stay in and the great majority allow their feelings to run away with their judgment.

Turning to that class who has held office under this and heretofore existing Republican administrations and been dispossessed, there is the same bias in the opinion that a change is coming; that Hancock will be elected, and that the "outs," including this class will again be in. The Republican campaign committee does not regard Pennsylvania or Maine among the debatable states.

The conceded debatable states are New York, Indiana, Connecticut and New Jersey. The Republicans do not feel at all uneasy about the Pacific slope states. Mr. Blaine is to go to California as soon as the Maine election is over, and his record on the Chinese question and his well known popularity in that section are counted upon to pull the electoral votes of all the slope states to the Republican column.

Mr. Joseph Nimms, Jr., chief of the bureau of statistics, has to-day given to the press his long-expected report on the commercial aspects of the proposed American Inter-Oceanic canal. The preparation of this report has involved an immense amount of labor, since it is based upon the commercial statistics of all the principal commercial nations of the globe.

The report is accompanied by sixty-one appendices containing valuable statistical and other statements. The large shipments of gold to this country and the heavy balance of trade in our favor during the past month, coupled with the prediction of Treasury officials that this condition of affairs is likely to remain unchanged during the present month, affords a cheerful outlook.

An examination of the nature of the articles imported into this country, as shown by the last quarterly report of the chief of the bureau of statistics, demonstrates a tendency which, if persisted in, will soon destroy this balance of trade in our favor. The tables show an increase in that class of articles worn as luxuries, which drain the country of money without giving any return.

During the past four months this increase has grown to alarming proportions, and the present rate threatens the balance of trade.