THE ENTERPRISE.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, APRIL 30, 1875.

Important Land Decision.

We are in receipt of a dispatch from Senator Kelly, dated Washington, April 26th, informing us that Secretary of the Interior has reviewed and reversed the Commissioner's decision in the Donation Land case of Wm. Meek. This is an important matter, the Commisioner having decided that in cases of married persons claiming donations under the act of 1850, where the wife died before the husband completed the four years residence required by the law, her half of the claim determined at her death and reverted to the United States. The Commissioner's decision was at variance with our established rule which had stood unquestioned for more than twenty years. Had the decision been finally affirmed it would have had the effect to seriously embarrass and cloud many titles heretofore unquestioned.

Senator Kelly filed an able article in the case, a copy of which is before us, and is entitled to great credit for successfully resisting a decision that would have caused serious embarrassment to many land holders in Oregon.

City Election.

Next Monday, the voters of Oregon City will be called upon to select their city officers for the ensuing year. The election has no political signification, as the local interests are the motives which induce a person to vote for this or that man upon either ticket. But it has been the universal custom to run party tickets in this place, and so far as outsiders are concerned, it gives them the impression of the strength of the two parties. If our Radical friends propose to make the issues on these broad basis, we are satisfied and will gladly meet them on Monday next. Among the points at issue in that case will be, do the people of Oregon City propose to indorse the Civil Rights Bill? Do they uphold the Federal Government in interfering in local State Governments? Will they sustain, under the name of Republican party the removal of faithful and honest officials from their positions to give place to those who got them by, to say the least, questionable practices? Do they propose to sustain the third term policy of the Administration? These are some of the national questions, and while we claim that they have nothing to do with our city affairs, the Radicals outside of this place, and some even here, should they be successful, will assert that the result was an endorsement of all these questions. But we now take a very important local matter, which should be decided beyond question. It is well known that a portion of the Republicans of this place are opposed to the turning over of the school to the Directors of this District. This is a local matter, and we believe that no man should be elected who is not in favor of immediately turning the building over to the Directors, by them to be kept for educational purposes. It is argued by some that the city has paid for the house and the district ought to pay back the price to the city. This is child's argument. It is true the city paid for the property, and it is equally as true that the citizens who compose the district make up the city, so if the district was to buy the school house, the citizens of the town would have to be taxed to pay for it. The district is the city, and nothing more nor less. But this is not the true objection some have against turning the building over. There are some, and we regret to say it, who desire to break up the school. If they should succeed in getting into the Council, they would close up the school house and thus accomplish the end they aimed at in the school meeting. This is their true purpose, and those who are favorable to our school interests should look well to the names on their ticket before they cast their votes. There is another important matter to take into consideration in this city election. With the exception of one year in the past fifteen, the republicans have had control of affairs. Those in power regarded it as their special property and the public knew nothing what was being done. Three years ago a change was made and that Council inaugurated a system by which the public was informed of how matters stood. The Republicans have had the matter in their hands for the past two years, and we find that we are about in the same condition now. A change is certainly beneficial. The servants of the people should let them know what they have done. According to the revenue received during the past two years and the amount known to have been expended during that time with the debt, the city at this time should be free from indebtedness. But we know not whether it is or not. One thing we do know, that when the Republicans stepped out before, city scrip was worth sixty cents in trade and when the Democrats stepped out, it was worth eighty cents in coin. And from all we can learn, the last figure is all it is worth at present. Taking all these matters into consideration, we ask the voters of Oregon City whether it would not be good policy to make another change?

The Responsible Parties.

Last week we devoted quite a lengthy article to the convict labor question, and gave our views as to the effects this class of labor will in the future have upon free mechanics. The *Statesman* has been riding a hobby on this question for the past week or two, and persists in charging the State Administration with the present condition of afiairs. This, our readers will bear in mind, is not the case. The enemies of the State Administration are the parties to whom this is chargeable. At the last session of the Legislature, every effort was made by the Radicals, aided by a portion of the Independents, to wrest the control of the Penitentiary from the Democrats, and we found such patriotic lights as O. B. Gibson, late Internal Revenue collector, H. C. Owen, the Independent Saint, J. B. Condon, a Radical, John White, another leading Independent, and John F. Miller, the latter of whom is the only Democrat among the lot ready to take the convict labor. It was the purpose of these parties to employ the convict labor for manufacturing purposes. Then came another bill, after this little game was checked by the most strenuous efforts of the Democratic Administration and the members of the Legislature, to appoint three Commissioners to take charge of the institution with power to lease the convicts. This was also a Radical move to get hold of the Penitentiary. So it will be seen that the present bill under which the convicts are leased, is the work of Radicals and Independents, and the State Administration is simply responsible for enforcing or carrying out a law which an incompetent Legislature passed. So far is the Democratic State Administration responsible, and no further.

The *Statesman* further charges that the convicts are leased at a low figure to Democrats. This is not so. The Superintendent advertised for bids for this labor, and those who have leased the labor are old Radicals, as Stephen Coffin, who is at the head of the penitentiary manufacturing company, besides a number of other Radicals and Independents. We know of no Democrat besides Sam. Bass who has taken any stock in the Penitentiary labor. So much for the charge that this labor is employed by Democratic favorites. The bids were advertised for, and the contract was awarded to the highest bidder. This was required by law, and the State Administration carried out the letter and spirit of the same. The evil effects of the measure must rest with the Legislature and not the Governor.

As to the expenses of that institution, the *Statesman* shoots equally as far from the facts in the case. The last Legislature appropriated $50,000 for the support of the Penitentiary for the present two years, and prohibited the Superintendent from using any funds earned by the convicts or creating any debt whatever. There are now over 130 convicts in the Penitentiary. During the last Radical administration of that institution, when there were about sixty convicts to support, the appropriation was over $60,000 for two years. This shows which party has administered the affairs most economically. Besides there was a deficiency to make up. The *Statesman* has evidently come to the conclusion that it has a good thing in this Penitentiary matter, and we are willing for it to make all the political buncombe it can out of it. But, when the public take into consideration that after forty days hard labor by the Dolph investigating committee, aided by Patton, the known enemy of the Superintendent, that committee utterly failed to find and improper management in the affairs of that institution, and the simple charges from unreliable sources should be taken with great allowance. No public official has ever been hounded as was Bill Watkinds by the last Legislature, and the result of the investigation showed that he had made a competent and efficient officer, and the unsupported charges of his political opponents have been proved groundless and malicious. If the *Statesman* thinks it can make anything by its assaults on the Democratic State Administration on this score, it is at full liberty to devote its energies in that direction. We want it distinctly understood that we are opposed to any kind of labor which is calculated to degrade and interfere with white labor, whether that be convict or China. But this does not argue that we have any censure to bestow on the State Administration in doing its duty in carrying out the laws passed by Radicals and Independents. The evil effects of this must be charged to those who passed the law.

NEVER FAILS.—When you see two columns of government contract proposals on one side, turn the paper right over, and you will find the nicest kind of a stand-by the-President-anyhow leading editorial article on the inside page. The Providence *Press* declares that it has tried it more than 7,000 times, and it *never* fails.

Interesting Letter From Sandy.

SANDY, April 25, 1875.

EDITOR ENTERPRISE.—Your correspondents from Sandy have had but little to say about our Grange, and perhaps it might interest many of your numerous readers, to know how our Grange is prospering. But a little over a year ago, Cascade Grange, No. 120, was organized with thirty charter members. It was predicted that a Grange could not be sustained here on account of the sparcity of the settlement, but it has prospered beyond the expectation of its most ardent supporters. Five new members have joined in the past year. At the expiration of the year, when the retiring Master was congratulating the members upon their prosperity, he said that if there was anything which we should feel justly proud of, it was that no feeling of discord had found a resting place in our Grange. The old grudges and animosities that had existed for years have given place to more kind and humane feeling. During the past winter, social parties were the order, where fun and good cheer abounded, which brought forcibly to my mind the good old times when you and I were boys. At the last meeting of Cascade Grange S. D. Coleman was elected W. M., in place of J. C. Branham resigned. Henry McGugin, Secretary of the Grange, presented a subscription paper to raise means to publish the resources of Clackamas county, after describing the State and county board of Immigration and what they proposed to do, he said he did not know of a better investment the members of our Grange could make than to aid this board of Immigration; certainly none that will be more creditable to us unless to provide for the destitute. The impression is abroad, in some quarters that our organization is desirous of benefitting the farming community alone. We want to show upon this and every other occasion that we desire and are laboring for the prosperity and happiness of all, as the farming community is the fountain head from which all prosperity must flow, whatever oppresses the farmer, in a like proportion, will it oppress all other trades and callings. The sooner this fact is understood, the sooner will the Patrons disarm their opponents and all will move along smoothly to prosperity and to happiness. Fears have been expressed to me that the money contributed may not be wisely and honestly used. All I have to say in reply to this is that the Hon. John Myers, State Senator from Clackamas county is President of the board for Clackamas and F. O. McCowen, Mayor of Oregon City, is the Secretary, two gentlemen who have been honored by and stand high in the estimation of their fellow citizens, and the board is composed of gentlemen who desire the settlement and the prosperity of our county and will add their dollars to the subscription, and no fears need be entertained that a dollar of the money so raised will find its way into the pocket of any undeserving person. Some object to trying to induce immigration into our neighborhood because they say the best locations have been taken up. But there are thousands of acres of land in this precinct alone, and there are plenty of men that would be glad to know it. There is hardly a man in our neighborhood but is holding or owns four times as much land as they can cultivate or make profitable to himself for the next twenty years. Where then is the wisdom in holding on to this surplus of land and paying taxes on it year after year? G. W. Sharrock bettered his condition and also largely benefitted this settlement by selling a portion of his land thus making three farms where there was but one. Three times the taxable property besides three times the ability to build roads and school the children. If we will but contribute a little each to sustain our board of Immigration, and offer our surplus land low, ere long we can all find sale for a part of our land, and thus better our own and the condition of the community. Does any one doubt that it pays to advertise? Every successful business man knows that it does. How many make fortunes by advertising extensively the most transparent humbugs. Those States and cities that have advertised most extensively have grown up rapidly. Does any object for fear too flattering a description of our State and county will be published? There is not a State in this Union which offers greater inducements to immigrants than Oregon. She has a mild and healthy climate; productive soil and cheap farms. She is nearer the center of the commercial world than the Empire State and who shall say that when Oregon becomes thickly populated and her vast resources become developed, she may not rival any State in this Union? Then if Oregon possesses all that soil, climate and situation can bestow, what more can be desired; all countries have some disadvantages. The great and far famed California, has her disadvantages; she has her droughts, that mean starvation to man and beast. More than once has she had to get flour and wheat from Oregon to feed her population. Never since the first settlement of Oregon has she failed to raise enough to feed her population and to spare. In the last twelve months over one hundred ship loads of flour and wheat left Oregon to supply the wants of other lands. Then if each one who desires the settlement, the wellfare and prosperity of our State, will help a little with this board of Immigration and railroad communication with the East ere long, Oregon's hillsides and her valleys will become thickly populated with a prosperous and a happy people. Then will our rivers and our harbors be whitened with the sails of ships to bear our surplus products to distant lands and bring us back the luxuries of other climes and gold to develop our vast mineral and other resources. At the conclusion of Mr McGugin's remarks which were well received, Mr. John J. Strowbridge made a spirited appeal to the members to contribute liberally stating that immigration was the great want of our State and with it, would flow wealth enterprise and prosperity. He made us believe he was in earnest by contributing two dollars. Francis Revinue also gave two dollars; Charles Cole and H. McGugin each gave a dollar; Uriah Paine, Mrs. Lidy Revinue, F. Seavers, Joseph Goi, and Joseph Williage, fifty cents each. I believe the committee has made a mistake in calling for at this serson of the year, when money is so scarce. This is not a healthy locality for neighborhood quarreling or lawing, as we have none of either; even the members of the various Church denominations appear to have buried the tommy-hawk and scalping knife and all meet and mingle socially under the same vine and fig tree. Mr. Harvey Cross, (a clever and promising young man) has an engagement with the Cascade Road and Bridge Company, to collect toll on their road the coming season. As the road has mostly changed hands, I understand the new company intend to make it what it ought to be, a number one road. There is quite a mystery up here who your Sandy correspondent "New Comer is, as his letters are quite witty and amusing. We would like to hear from him often, if he is not too busily engaged studying the rules of draw-poker, as taught by General Schenck at the Court of St. James.

One of my neighbors informs me that Uncle Samuel's officials are on his track charging him with selling a quart of liquor without investing the requisite amount of stamps. If there is no evidence but the informant, the proof against him rests on a very crooked stick. But I suppose that does not make any difference with Uncle Sam's officials, so they get a bite, if it does come out of the dear people's pocket. The general impression here is that Uncle Sam has the wrong pig by the tail this time.

I have seen a letter from a brother of Rudolph Gantenbein of this county and Rev. J. Gantenbein of Portland inquiring about the prices of land and cattle, and produce in Oregon and the cost of getting here as he intends moving to Oregon this Summer, bringing with him a large and promising family. Perhaps a few remarks from you Mr. Editor, as to the prices and cost of getting here, might convey this desirable information to many who contemplate moving to Oregon. His letter, which is dated at Calumet county, Wisconsin March, 18th 1875, says there was two feet of snow on the ground then and the cars were blockaded by snow drifts; that the people were out digging night and day to get them through; that the weather for a long time during winter was extremely cold, ranging from thirty to forty degrees below zero. I think that would have made an Oregonian's nose look blue. If each subscriber for your paper after reading it would mail it to some friend in the East, much good might be done towards the settlement of our county.

The political excitement is running quite low here at present. We republicans are quite demoralized and would like to make a new departure since the passage of the Civil Rights bill, and the course our Representative S. P. Lee took in the Legislature in favoring Woman Suffrage, a measure distasteful to nine-tenths of the people of our county; in opposing the Assessor's bill, which I'm creditably informed was introduced in the Senate by the Hon. John Myers and by his characteristic energy and perseverance, he got it passed by that body. By the assistance of the Democratic members of the House it finally passed and by the signature of a Democratic Governor it is now a law, that only one thousand dollars of indebtedness shall be taken out, by the Assessor, a measure that I believe will relieve the tax-payers more than all the acts passed by the last Legislature; in also favoring even Republican petty partisan measures gotten up to annoy the Democratic State officials. There are scores of Democrats and Republicans (if the sentiment prevails in other sections of the county that does here) that supported S. P. Lee, will never support him or any other Republican again.

Mr. Editor, as your Sandy correspondent has been charged with being a little too boastful to be real wholesome; I hope I may not be so accused as I aim to tell a few facts, without exageration. When anything sensational occurs, I will try to keep you posted. Yours respectfully, from

A GRANGER.

REMARKABLE.—The *Statesman* says: Drs. J. C. Shelton, E. R. Fiske and J. C. Chase made a post mortem examination of the remains of Mrs. Nesbit last Monday. It was found that the neck was broken and the fifth ceverical vertebra was fractured and dislocated backwards, and the spinal column much injured. The wonder is that death was not instantaneous and would have been, had the injury been nearer the skull. From the time of her accident up to the moment of her death she retained her senses, but the lower part of her limbs were completely paralyzed from the moment of the injury.

RETURNING.—Hon. J. S. Smith returned to Portland on the steamer this week. His many friends throughout the State will regret to learn that his health has not materially improved during his absence.

The Per Cent. of Gain From Home Manufactures.

THIRD ARTICLE.

From the Oregonian.

Having spoken of this gain to the business activity, and to the increase of confidence in our business—which is itself the best capital—we speak in the third place of its direct effect upon our industrial interests.

Employment is the prime source of prosperity. The *largest per cent. of values of all kinds of goods is the labor of producing them and putting them in the hands of the consumer.* The chief value of cordwood is the labor of cutting and hauling it. The materials for a pair of boots or a coat or a plow, or a wagon, or a stove, or a book-case, or a rifle or a knife, or a watch cost but very little. Their worth is in the skill and toil of the artisan, and the cost of exchange. An acre of wheat well cultivated brings the farmer, possibly, 33⅓ bushels, or one ton. Delivered at the port of shipment, it brings him $1 37 per cwt., or $27 40. It costs him about $16 50 to raise a ton and put it on board a ship. If he raises only 20 bushels per acre, or 1,200 lb he gets $16 44, or hardly the cost of his labor.

The best cedar for tubs and buckets, brings at the Oregon City factory $8 per cord; but goods worth several times that sum are produced from a cord. Wool costs 50 cents per pound, but broadcloth made of it is worth from $2 or $3 per pound. In a word, when we buy a stock of goods, or a carload of machinery, or an invoice of hardware or furniture, or a cargo of sugar or rice, we pay from 70 to 90 per cent. for the labor and transportation—which is labor—and only 10 to 30 per cent. for the material. Your baker and butcher, and shoemaker, and blacksmith, will tell you all they make is on their labor and skill. Increase your industries, employ every man, woman and child, and you will create values faster than crops can grow or miners can wash out the gold. Home manufactures furnish opportunities for your idle hands. For instance, Oregon has 40,000 children of school age, between 4 and 20 years. Large ranks of them pass annually into womanhood and manhood. Few ways are open for them to make a living. It is hard for a man to find trades for his boys or places for his girls. We have a few foundries in which a few apprentices are permitted to learn a trade; one or two furniture manufacturing establishments that take from two to eight boys each; three or four factories that employ from ten to thirty lads and girls; and tin shops, and blacksmith shops, shoe shops, and wagon shops, a meat market, bakery in every town, a watch maker, a brick yard, and tannery here and there that will employ one or two each; but the vast majority must seek work abroad, or keep on the farm or in the woods.

Our sprightly young men hasten to other cities and States that invite labor and encourage the skillful artisan. Our printing establishments have done much to employ lads and teach them a trade, but the general decline reduces their power to help others. Surveying has but a narrow field, that will soon be closed up. School teaching offers annually new places, but finds a larger annual increase of well prepared teachers. Clerks are more numerous than places for them. Looking on all sides, we have not work enough for our growing children. Add to these the immigrants whom we invite by every argument to our northwest coast, we find that a large per cent. of the people must be idle. They cannot all produce wool, or hen's eggs, or salmon, or beef, or pork, or wheat or oats; for it is easy to overstock the market. All mouths are easily filled with food in our prolific climate and from our abundant resources of land and river. And when this condition happens, there is a stagnation of business, and a new chill of idleness settling over dull streets and gloomy houses.

But extend home manufactures to supply all wants, and to employ all hands, and every finger-touch will put value upon something that before was worthless. The gentlemen who have begun to make glue and neatsfoot oil and curled hair, have set a noble example of what can be done. A new tannery is a double benefit, in saving us from importing leather, and in setting men and boys to work in getting bark and tanning the hides. Every anvil and lap-stone in use adds value to otherwise useless material. Every table or bedstead or bureau made from our own woods confers a double benefit upon the people, giving them employment on the one hand and comfort on the other. The Oregon Furniture Manufacturing Company now established in Portland, as estimated saves $50,000 per annum to the State that would be paid for such goods to other States, and thus develop nearly this amount of labor and skill among ourselves that would otherwise be idle, or be lost to us.

The Oregon City and Salem factories put on the market several hundred thousand dollars worth of goods annually, as the product of labor and skill and power applied that was before useless.

An instance of the value of home manufactures appeared as an item in the daily paper of the 22d. A gentleman from San Francisco imports gloves made there, and undersells the English gloves, even in Victoria, their own market, after paying a duty of seventeen per cent. Many people buy and wear gloves. All credit to San Franciscans, who make them instead of importing them.

Two or three men in that city have begun to manufacture the Cornell watch, employing many artisans and many girls. People buy watches freely. It is a noble thing to make them at home.

Samuel Williston, of Easthampton early lost his health, and could not continue his studies and fit himself for professional life. He was poor both before and after his marriage. His wife began to cover buttons and sell for support. He united in the work. The business increased, and new and quicker processes were invented, and more laborers and machinery employed. At length his importations of cloth became so large that he cut his covers in England to save a part of the duty. A village grew up around his shops. An academy was founded by him. Hundreds of pupils are yearly taught, many fitted for college, others for business. Amherst college has received a large endowment from his industry. Churches and ministers have been largely supported by his industries. Families of the poor have been reared to profitable trades and to affluence by this single business of button making. Most people buy buttons. It is a gain to have them made in your own neighborhood.

We want matches to light lamps and fires, if not cigars. He is a benefactor, who makes them and puts them up near your own door. He ought to have your trade, instead of the man 600 or 5,000 miles off.

Bonaparte said that England's manufacturers, not her soldiers, conquered his continental armies. England has employed all her people and controlled manufactures, the commerce and the markets of the world. She draws her wealth out of the bone and sinew and brain of her industrious artisans. New England has learned to do the same. The tier of States westward to the Mississippi have begun to produce at home what they had bought from others. Georgia follows in that path. California takes rapid strides in supplying her own and other markets with home made goods. Riches abide with them all. Oregon and Washington must do the same, if they would save money and gain more.

FOURTH ARTICLE.

Producers want markets. He who raises food from garden, orchard and field, seeks consumers. *The nearer they are to him, the quicker are his sales and the larger his net profits.* Employ every other person in home manufactures, and they will consume all the vegetables and fruits—early and late—which neighboring gardeners and orchardists can produce. They will give life to the milk, bread and butter business, paying cash promptly for all they buy. They will support and increase the number of grocers, and impart animation and steadiness to all the smaller tradesmen of town and city.

Large amounts and varieties of farm products are wasted or almost valueless for want of a village market at hand. Storekeepers pass many idle hours and days, because so few marketmen can sell what they could bring, or buy what they need. But wherever a small factory starts, trade livens up. The employees, on their way home from work, call for supplies for their tables, at two or three shops, and for some article of clothing or comfort of one or two other tradesmen. Increase the factories, and laborers, men, women and children, and the streets of ever village and city will sing, day and evening, with the hum and cheer and rattle of busy throngs. Thrift will also mark their persons and their dwellings.

A gentleman who had spent ten years as a gardener near Portland, returned to England, remaining there a few months. On coming back, his words were: "Everybody is busy there; all are at work, and all have work to do. Every article of food, every turnip, radish, lettuce-head, potato, currant, plum and peach, which a man brings to market, sells quick for cash. You cannot have too much, for there are so many mouths to feed." He went to work here in his garden and brought his vegetables and berries to market and got the best sales that were made, but the market was so dull every day that he became utterly discouraged, and a few weeks ago he sold out and left for England, or for some place in which people can have something to do and can earn money to buy food. We do not commend the wisdom of his course, while we recall the lesson of his experience.

A gentleman, recently from a visit to the manufacturing villages of Massachusetts, tells of the surprise he felt to see so many artisans going to and from their shops, and so much growth and thrift in all those communities. The houses of the mechanics were models of neatness and comfort. Many of them had little patches beside their houses for vegetables and fruits, and a stable with horse and carriage and other conveniences. Imagine a hundred such model houses built up in a community and increasing every year. The lumber merchant, the brick maker and mason, the plasterer, the builder and plumber, and painter, and furniture manufacturer, are all in demand and their work is paid for promptly from the sale of goods manufactured. One trade prepares for another. It is not easy to overdo production when one thing creates a want for another.

Before the day of daguerreotypes and photographs we felt no need of them, but now they are a necessity, as the term is used, in every household. You want the face of your living friends—the mementoes of those departed. Ere sewing machines were invented, our mothers wives and daughters made garments very well by hand. But that day is passed forever, and this manufacture developes into larger proportions annually, supporting tens of thousands of workmen and agents, and building up some of the most thriving cities of the Eastern and Middle States.

Thirty-five years ago a piano was considered a luxury not to be indulged in by a Christian. A minister, known to the writer, having been made a residuary legatee of a wealthy brother's property, proposed to buy, and did buy, a piano for the use of his four daughters. He had no son. Some of his church objected, reproaching his extravagance, and making it one ground of complaint which ended in his dismissal. One of his daughters afterward married a relative, and became one of the heirs of the late George Peabody, of London. How much the piano helped that marriage deponent knoweth not. But we can testify that pianos have got into ministers' houses since then without turning out the pastors. In those days Worcester, Massachusetts, was a respectable village. The ledge of rocks on which Mr. Thayer built the "Oread institute," was then isolated, a wonder which croakers said would bankrupt the builder, and end in the failure of the school. But the piano manufacturers drew a class of mechanics around; machine shops were put up; various home industries sprang into existence, and Worcester now encloses not only the "Oread institute," hill and all, but buys the ledge for building material, and gives a solid cash foundation for that and many other enterprises.

Start your home manufactories of all kinds, and nourish them with capital at first, and they will put a large per cent. of value upon now worthless stones, and clays, and lumber, besides furnishing a home market for your articles of food and clothing, and a place for your children to learn useful and lucrative trades. Man's wants will multiply with every new invention, and extend abroad with every new mode of communicating with his fellow man.

I. O. O. F. Celebration.

Probably at no period in the history of Odd Fellowship has its anniversary been so generally observed throughout the United States, and especially in Oregon, as it was last Monday. At Portland and Canyonville extensive preparations were made for the occasion. At the former place, Hon. S. C. Simpson delivered the oration, and at the latter, Hon. O. N. Denny, of Portland. Both are spoken of as very able and interesting productions, and the attendance was very large. In all Lodges throughout the State appropriate ceremonies were had to do honor to the event. Hon. H. G. Struve, Grand Master of Oregon, was with the brethren at Canyonville, and made them a very interesting address. The members of the Order have just reason to feel proud of their organization and the progress it has made in the fifty-six years of its existence in the United States. The following figures, taken from the last annual report of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the United States, will give the reader an idea of the magnitude of this institution:

The annual report of 1874 shows that there were, the previous year, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the United States, 46 Grand Lodges, 5,436 subordinate Lodges, with a membership of 444,815; Grand Encampments, 36; subordinate Encampments, 1,512, with a membership of 80,131; Rebekah Degree Lodges, 512. During the previous year there had been 57,454 Lodge initiations. The relief by Lodges for that period was $1,325,937 33; by Encampments, $150,787 06; by Rebekah Lodges, $3,550 33; aggregating $1,490,274 72. The annual revenue was $4,434,001 08, an increase of $136,159 84 over the previous year. It will be seen that the membership is rapidly gravitating toward half a million, and the aggregate revenue proximates the large sum of five millions of dollars.

In Oregon the Order has progressed at a remarkably rapid rate. The first Lodge was organized at Salem, in 1852; the membership increased very slowly until 1860, and now there are over 2,700 Odd Fellows under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, divided into sixty-four Lodges. The revenue of these Lodges is over fifty thousand dollars per annum, and the annual relief paid to its members is about one fourth of this sum. This shows a systematic organized relief for the benefit of those in need and distress. The Encampment branch of ths Order is also prospering finely, and while three years ago there was but one Encampment in Oregon, now there are six and one in Washington Territory. The Grand Encampment was Organized the 29th of last March and under its fostering care the subordinates will grow faster than they have in the past. We can say, truly, that Odd Fellows have good reason to feel proud of their Order, and its annual celebrations are but a just tribute to the success of one of the greatest institutions ever organized and perpetuated for the benefit of the human race.

AN OFF-YEAR.—The lively political work in our own State, remarked a Connecticut journal, just prior to the late election, will be revived in Ohio and Pennsylvainia the coming fall. As both States have been strongly Radical, Democratic majorities would be convincing evidence of the onward roll of the tidal-wave. It has been an off-year so far with the Radicals. Probably so called on account of their being shoved off various pinnacles of power.

INTERESTING.—A telegram from Washington City dated the 27th inst. has this little item of news about Oregon people. The Evening *Star* says editorially:

It is now said the efforts to displace Secretary Delano arise from a combined movement on the part of Senator Mitchell of Oregon, Ben Holladay, Rufus Ingalls and others who want him replaced by some one who will join them in securing to a corporation already formed, and in which they are interested the Black Hills country.

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