

THE ENTERPRISE.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, MARCH 31, 1876.

Judge Not Hastily.

The country is full of rumors about the Attorney General's mismanagement of the recent Government prosecutions, and if half that is alleged can be established he must have been prostituting his office to protect thieves and swindlers. It is stated that before and during the Babcock trial he concerned himself with great zeal on the side of the defense; that he caused the prosecuting officers at St. Louis to disclose all their evidence to him in advance, and then laid it before General Babcock; that the chief bureau of defense was in the Department of Justice at Washington; that a great deal of testimony was suppressed with Mr. Pierpont's connivance; that witnesses were intimidated by a threatening letter addressed to the western district attorney, and immediately communicated in some mysterious way to General Babcock's counsel; that the prosecution was continually thwarted by the principal land officers of the Government; in short, that ever since the indictment of General Babcock the Treasury Department and the Department of Justice have been fighting each other, the Treasury prosecuting the rings, and the Attorney General practically defending them. In like manner it is rumored that Mr. Pierpont purposes, by direction of the President, to put a stop to further disclosures like that of Mr. Marsh by prosecuting the men that make them. Nobody supposes that there is any desire to acquit General Babcock. General Grant and all his friends are too angry at the Secretary who has been found out, to show him any leniency; but if there are any more scandals in the background it is the determination of the White House clique that they shall not be allowed to come out.

Such, we say, are the reports in circulation. We regard them with great suspicion. We believe that if not false they are greatly exaggerated, as the testimony thus far given by Mr. Pierpont before the House Committee shows. Mr. Pierpont is a gentleman of whom we prefer to think well. When he entered the Cabinet it was supposed that General Grant's inconspicuous political family gained something in respectability. But the country cannot afford to rest in an uncertainty as to the stories now in circulation. Mr. Pierpont, if they are untrue, cannot afford to leave them unrefuted; the Republican party cannot afford to shrink a rigid investigation of them, and Mr. Pierpont will not dare to take advantage of any legal quibbles that might save him from answering a pointed question. Such rumors disgrace the nation almost as much as the crime of General Babcock. The House of Representatives in its present investigation must bring out every atom of truth. There must be a searching inquiry into the Department of Justice in the Babcock case, the consequence of the Dyer letter, the manner of its publication, and the reported proceedings to indict Marsh and intimidate the various post traders whom the committee has still to examine. If Mr. Pierpont is innocent of the misconduct imputed to him, let him be vindicated, not merely for his own sake but for the honor of America. If he has been unfaithful to his duty for the sake of pleasing the President, (we cannot suspect him of ignorance) let the House enforce his speedy and disgraceful expulsion. But we cannot help feeling that he is a slandered man.

A Great Improvement.

The President has suddenly begun to unload with great vigor, not to say violence. It is a question whether it is not too late, but his sinking administration can yet be saved from utter shipwreck, this is the way to do it. It was high time, certainly. Schenck should have been dismissed a year ago, or rather should never have been appointed. But, perhaps, it is as well that he has held on thus long, for nothing but the very desperation of the present condition of affairs could have secured so good an appointment as that of Mr. Dana. He is just as far as it is possible to get from Schenck, or from any of Grant's set. He is a statesman, a diplomatist and a gentleman; his presence at the English court would recall the times when the country felt that its honor was secure in the hands of its representatives abroad. Our only fear now is that a gentleman so far removed from the petty workings of zealous politicians may fail to receive the confirmation of the Senate.

Post Trader Frauds.

The entire country will approach the seething lake of corruption which had its fountains at the War Department with sorrow and indignation. When the magnitude of the frauds has been gauged there will be such an uprising against the heads of a system which has flooded the country with disgrace that purity will be placed above party, and the guilty punished with full measure of the law and that public scorn which is more terrible in its withering effects. Every day the telegraph brings us new exposures—fresh humiliations.

What We Know About It.

Chas. L. Bangs of Hillsboro, Ill., writes to enquire "what farming lands are worth in this vicinity, what are the prevailing diseases of the Willamette Valley, and is there much thoroughbred stock in this vicinity?"

First, the price of farming lands depends much upon the improvements, ranging all the way from \$25 to \$40 or \$50 per acre. Good farms can be had partially improved at from \$10 to \$15 per acre. We believe lands are cheaper, all advantages considered, in Oregon than in any other State in the Union.

Oregon is generally considered very healthy, yet during the past winter typhoid fever and diphtheria have been quite prevalent throughout the Willamette Valley. This is attributed to the unprecedentedly wet winter. Our summers are remarkably pleasant and healthful.

Little attention has been given as yet to the rearing of fine stock in this vicinity, yet the matter is being agitated, and several of our farmers are purchasing and importing improved breeds. We think a man can do better at this business here than in any other part of the State, for the reason that he would have less competition and his profits, as a matter of course, would be larger. We do not think a man who wishes to operate on a very extensive scale could do as well here as in some few other places, but for the man with moderate means, Clackamas county offers inducements unsurpassed by any other country, on this coast or elsewhere.

A person who is willing to work can make money at any calling here, but this is no place for young men who are hunting "easy jobs." We have a circular, prepared by the State and county committees on immigration, treating of Oregon generally, and of Clackamas county particularly, which we are happy to send to persons who will send us a two-cent stamp for postage. We believe Oregon to be the country for persons who propose to "go west," and believe its present and future will satisfy a reasonable man beyond his brightest anticipations.

A Card from the Committee on Fire Water.

OREGON CITY, March 28, 1876.

MR. EDITOR:—The Standard, of Portland, in its issue of the 24th of March, charges by implication that the Fire and Water Committee of Oregon City either were benefited or allowed some other person to corruptly speculate in the purchase of 400 feet of hose. Of course we presume his informant was Jos. Bachtel; as there are false statements therein, and will give you the facts. He says Mr. B. offered the White Anchor hose at \$1 23 per foot. M. B. never at any time made such an offer, nor did anyone else, to either the committee or the Council. He further says that Mr. B. offered to Oregon City the "Patent Electric," an invention of his own, if they would buy the hose he represented as a token of regard for the people of the place, where he formerly resided. Mr. B. never made any such proposition prior to the purchase of the hose. He may have said so to Mr. McCown after he had been informed of the rejection of his bid.

Mr. Bachtel, out of tender regard, did offer to furnish his telegraphic attachment to his White Anchor hose at ten cents per foot, or \$40, in case we purchased of him. Mr. Bachtel's proposition was partly in writing and partly verbal, and was, in substance, that he would furnish "White Anchor hose" at the same price we could buy genuine "Carbolized hose," and take pay in scrip, and if the city wanted his telegraphic apparatus, he would charge *ten cents per foot extra*. The committee considering his telegraph practically both useless and expensive in Oregon City, and having already on hand 600 feet of colobolized hose, and knowing it to be good, did not think it wise to buy an experiment, as we had been offered common white rubber hose at 75 cents per foot in San Francisco. We do not know whether "White Anchor hose" is better or worse than common white rubber hose. We purchased the Carbolized at \$1 28, delivered here. The San Francisco price is \$1 25; in other words, it cost \$12 to ship and insure the hose. His remarks about the purchase of couplings in Portland, if those were purchased elsewhere, does not need very much space to explain.

F. M. ALBRIGHT,
E. O. MCCOWN,
C. N. GREENMAN,
City Recorder.

The Chicago Times has a Washington dispatch purporting to explain the conduct of Hallet Kilbourn in refusing to give to the Congressional committee the names of his associates in the real estate ring in the District of Columbia, or to allow an inspection of his books. This dispatch says the ring was composed of Senator Sargent and two or three other Senators whose names are not given, Aldrich and one three or four other politicians of the Democratic side, Kilbourn and Boss Shepherd; and that Kilbourn's books would show that fact and the profits made by each. Kilbourn was the broker of the ring. He is now in prison for contempt, but he remains firm in his refusal to peach on his pals. He cannot be imprisoned by the House beyond the current session, and may hold out to the end unless the proceedings in the criminal court shall force him to the required disclosures.

Family Quarrel.

Taking as we do neutral ground in the political arena, it is amusing to note the disclosures made when members of the same ring fall out with each other. Much has been said at different times by Republican papers about a Watkins ring at the penitentiary, but no facts being in our possession, we let those rumors pass unnoticed, knowing full well that whatever might be the jobbery or rascality carried on within the penitentiary walls, no hostile newspaper possessed the means of learning the facts correctly. Now, in what we are going to relate, we do not wish to take sides, but simply to state the facts as given by the parties to the controversy. Mr. H. C. Myers, late Warden, and Superintendent Watkins, of the penitentiary. It seems Mr. Myers, after resigning his position as Warden, stated to parties in Salem that Watkins was interested in the boot and shoe manufactory of W. Jackson & Co., carried on at the employment of convict labor at the penitentiary. Watkins denies this charge, and in a letter to Mr. Myers demands that he retract his statements through one of the daily papers of that city. He also brings forward Walter Jackson, of the said firm, who states that Watkins has no connection with the manufactory in any manner. R. H. Dearborn, clerk of the penitentiary, makes a statement in which he certifies that W. Jackson & Co. are now charged on the books with six hundred and ninety-one days' labor of convicts at fifty cents per day, for the quarter ending February 29, 1876. Watkins' report for the said quarter ending February 29, 1876, shows but four hundred and seventy-four days charged to W. Jackson & Co., leaving two hundred and seventeen days' work unaccounted for by Watkins. Since these two showings are so widely different, we will not try to explain or reconcile them, but give below the statement of Mr. Myers as published in the Oregonian of Wednesday:

"Now you will please examine the superintendent's report published in the Mercury, Statesman, Standard, and Oregonian, for the quarter ending February 29, 1876, and you will find that W. Jackson & Co. were charged with 474 days instead of 691. Well, how is this? Simply said superintendent finds that he is about to be caught, and he goes and has the balance charged up several days after settling with Jackson & Co. Now this is identical with his boot and shoe business. After he (Watkins) finds that he is about to be exposed in his speculation, he gets some one to take his interest, and then goes for a certificate stating that he has no interest. Books were opened and a contract let for convicts to manufacture boots and shoes with W. H. Watkins, one of the company. These are stubborn facts notwithstanding the statements made on page 702, section 13. The superintendent, warden, assistant warden, shall not receive the labor of any prisoner for their individual profit or use, or be interested directly or indirectly in any contract upon which such labor is employed or used. Now, if the jobber wants me to bring proofs, and have such published for the people of Oregon to read, I will do so, and that too, from the very best men of the country—plenty of proof, and that which is reliable. Will you have it? Think in the right."

H. C. MYERS.

Bourbon Blunders.

The stage direction in Spain appears to be exit Don Carlos; enter Queen Isabella. That is said to be the arrangement of King Alfonso, who, when the war is over, will meet the ex-Queen at the French frontier and escort her in regal state to Madrid. This we look upon as the characteristic madness of Bourbons. Nothing else could suggest so suicidal a step. A dissolute queen, who was driven from a throne by the people, is to be forced into position again as one of the earliest results of a successful war. King Alfonso will have troubles enough to face and overcome without those of a king making. The Philadelphia Times is of the opinion that if the king introduces his disgraceful mother he will have to shoulder her crimes and blunders. The young king has a rough road to travel. All his enemies have not left Spain with Don Carlos, and he should strengthen his position by judicious action, not weaken it by acts of folly. But he is a Bourbon, and any crooked path is possible to him and his adherents as it was to the Stuarts of England, and we must say, that from present appearances it looks very much as if their fates would be identical. The selfishness of the Stuarts alienated from them all their supporters in England and Scotland, brave, devoted gentlemen, as many of them were. That, we fear, will ultimately be the history of the Bourbons in Spain. And there is no better way to make the wheel of certain fate revolve with increased rapidity than to install the profligate Queen Isabella in the royal palace in Madrid. The affection of the son will not cover the outrage of the king.

The New York Republican State Convention, which convened at Syracuse on the 21st and 22d insts., instructed the delegation (35 in number) to support Roscoe Conkling for President at the National Convention.

Mr. C. Rutherford of Walla Walla, has invented a new style horse collar.

The Belknap Investigation.

J. S. Evans detailed the circumstances surrounding his obtaining permission from Marsh to remain at Fort Sill. Belknap told Evans he had promised Marsh a place and Marsh had selected Fort Sill. Evans saw Marsh, who appeared to understand all about the matter. He went to New York with Marsh, where a written contract was signed. Evans said he was introduced to the Secretary of War by Gen. Rice of Iowa, and paid him a thousand dollars for the introduction. He thought this was enough, though Rice wanted \$1,500.

Geo. H. Pendleton testified before the judicial committee that neither Belknap nor any member of his family immediately or remotely received any money whatever from him resulting from the Kentucky Central Railroad.

Caleb P. Marsh being sworn testified. In Montreal I looked over the printed account of my testimony. With one inconsiderable addition it is correct. The addition is that I returned to the Secretary of War after I had gone to New York with Mr. Evans, and requested the Secretary to make the appointment of Evans as post trader. I came to Washington in answer to a note or request of Mrs. Belknap. I came here and called on her first. She told me she had prevailed on him to make that appointment. She said I had better go and see him I did so. I think I produced letters of recommendation from Judge Bohmann, of Cincinnati, and one possibly from Job Stevenson. Evans made his first quarterly payment to me a month or so after our contract. The first remittance I made was to Mrs. Belknap. I have said to Mrs. Belknap that she might expect a present when she spoke of getting me the appointment. I sent only one payment to Mrs. Belknap; she died a few months afterward. I can't say when the second payment was made, except that it was about three months after the first; sent half of it to the Secretary of War; do not remember the correspondence with General Belknap, except when Evans asked for some favor at Fort Sill. He supposed Belknap understood where the money came from without any conversation upon the subject. Witness might have said to him "Here are \$1,500, or a present of money; here is under the impression that Belknap knew the money came from Fort Sill. In answer to the question how he came to make the present to Mrs. Belknap, witness replied that Gen. Belknap must have known the arrangement he made with Evans, for he had asked the Secretary to appoint Evans to his place, and the Secretary did so. In answer to the question why he should voluntarily and without solicitation, offer to give Belknap money on that transaction that would do him no good, he said I do not know. The first money I sent was to Mrs. Belknap; the next was to Gen. Belknap. Whether this was in consequence of any arrangement with her, I am unable to say. The committee were asked if they would do take it up out of its order. When they reached it in order of business, they would consider the case. The question was taken and amendment lost and the bill passed.

Edmunds called up Senate bill number thirteen, to amend the fourth section of the act to establish the judicial courts of the United States, approved September 24, 1875.

Debate ensued, but the morning hour expiring the bill went over, and the chair laid before the Senate the consular and diplomatic bill as the regular order.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, the question recurring on restoring Italy, which was stricken out by the yeas and nays, and may be voted. It was restored. The amendment on restoring several posts which had been stricken out by the House was taken up.

Sargent explained that in all these amendments the committee were only conforming to the existing law, and Sherman and Hamlin urged the necessity of conforming to the existing law, and spoke against the general principles of engrafting new laws upon old appropriation bills, pending the Senate went into executive session and soon after adjourned.

WASHINGTON, March 27. Bills were introduced by Jones, of Kentucky, for the distribution of official patronage of the Government at Washington equally among the States of the Union.

Marsh was again recalled but nothing of importance was elicited. The rest of the committee that he had not "spirited" Marsh away when he went to Montreal. Alvin C. Leighton, James Leighton, and Seth Arnold, Post traders, were examined, and statements were elicited that Gen. Hendricks received large sums for obtaining one of the appointments, and that \$300 a month was paid Orville Grant and \$100 contributed for electioneering purposes. Gordon Daniels testified that traders were procured from time to time for money, and a trader at Fort Bascom informed him he had to give \$1,000 for the place. He had heard that John Dent, brother-in-law of the President, controlled four or five such appointments.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Spencer, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported back favorably the petition of colored citizens praying that the 14th of April be set apart as a holiday for Government employes, accompanied with a joint resolution providing that all persons employed in the various departments in Washington be granted a holiday on the 14th of April, 1876, to attend the unveiling of the Lincoln monument in Lincoln Park, Washington, D. C.

Hamilton, from the Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads, reported a bill fixing the rates of postage on third class matter.

James of Florida, offered a resolution calling upon the Secretary of State for information as to how much money, if any, there is in the hands of his department paid by the government of Venezuela on account of the unpaid claims of the United States against Venezuela. Passed.

The question was taken on the first amendment proposed by the Senate Committee, as follows: For salaries of Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary to Great Britain, France, Germany, and Russia, fixed by the House at \$14,056, the committee moved to strike out \$14,056 and insert \$17,570. The Senate agreed to the amendment.

The Senate went into an executive session and soon after adjourned.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Edmunds called up the bill to relieve S. J. Shofon, of Mississippi, of political disabilities imposed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

Cameron, of Pennsylvania, moved to amend by adding the name of Joseph Johnstone, of Georgia, a man who deserved pardon just as much as anybody else.

Edmunds called up Senate bill number thirteen, to amend the fourth section of the act to establish the judicial courts of the United States, approved September 24, 1875.

Various amendments were offered by Wells, of Missouri, Holman, and Townsend, of New York, and others.

The committee then rose and reported the bill and amendments, with the understanding that five minutes' debate will be allowed in the House and votes taken on each amendment. Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Gordon offered a resolution directing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of preventing the use of the United States mails in carrying lottery advertisements. Adopted.

The Speaker laid before the House two communications from the District Attorney of the District of Columbia, informing the House that the grand jury had found an indictment against Kilbourn, the recusant witness in the real estate pool investigation, on five counts, and another from Thompson, Sergeant-at-Arms, informing the House that the United States Marshal of the District of Columbia had come to him and requested that Kilbourn be given into his custody, which he (Thompson) refused to do, and asking further instructions from the House.

New, of Indiana, defended the action of the House in the case of the prisoner Kilbourn. He said the power of Congress was as great in that respect as of any court.

The question whether the recusant witness should be committed to the judicial authorities of the district to be tried under the indictment found against him for refusing to testify, was discussed at considerable length. Glover, chairman of the select committee on the real estate pool, offered a resolution ordering the Sergeant-at-Arms to deliver Kilbourn to the Marshal of the District of Columbia for trial for misdemeanor.

After considerable discussion the House proceeded to vote on the substitution offered by Harbit, and it was rejected; yeas, 32; nays, 192. Glover's resolution was adopted without yeas and nays.

NEW YORK, March 16.—The steamship Great Western from Mediterranean ports, went ashore near Amityville, Long Island, late on Saturday night, and it is likely to become a total wreck. The crew were saved.

It is now alleged that B. P. Rogers, the absconding receiving teller of the Fulton bank, Brooklyn, defrauded that institution out of \$50,000. The detectives are said to have traced Rogers to Knoxville, Tennessee.

presented a bill to provide for the survey of the McKenzie river in Oregon. Referred to the committee on commerce.

The district convention to-day to elect delegates to the National Republican Convention at Cincinnati was controlled to some extent by opposition elements; but in the opinion of the majority of the convention did not represent the Republican voters of this district. The result was the withdrawal of a majority of Republican delegates, and another convention will be held soon, at which delegates to the Cincinnati convention will be elected to contest the seats at St. Louis. Bowen and M. Green, who were elected by to-day's convention.

A bill was introduced by Senator Wright to-day which purports to give to the Covington, Columbia and Black Hills Railroad Company, of Nebraska, a national charter, under the name of Sioux City, Black Hills and Pacific Railroad, with right of way and authority to construct and maintain a railroad from Sioux City through Nebraska, Dakota, Wyoming Idaho and Oregon to the city of Portland, Me. It was completed within fifteen years.

The change of postmaster at Salem, Oregon, was made at the instance of the Postoffice Department on account of the repeated violation of its regulations as to the manner of doing business, and Senator Pittwell was immediately nominated a successor.

The Senate confirmed John M. Coghlan, of California, as chief justice of the supreme court of Utah. Glover, of Missouri, a U. S. consul at Brunswick, Germany.

No action has been taken as yet by the Senate, in regard to the nomination of Dana as Minister to England.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, March 25.—The corn trade is not so bright as it was a few days ago. The market has rather gained strength and has been slowly and steadily improved. The provincial markets yesterday reported a shilling advance on wheat; but with the fine weather, the inquiry is becoming smaller in London.

MADRID, March 25.—A Madrid dispatch reports that recruiting for Cuba is actively progressing. The soldiers serving under Don Carlos are allowed to enlist.

In the House of Lords to-night, the royal title bill passed its first reading.

A dispatch dated Naples, Sunday night, says the eruption of Vesuvius continues with unabated vigor.

HAVANA, March 26.—The Diario says the present crop of sugar will make about 100,000 boxes, and valued at \$30,000,000 less than last year's crop.

GALVESTON, March 25.—A Brownsville special to the News says the commander of the gunboat Rio Bravo loaned General Labarra six bags of powder, about 150 pounds. It is reported this loan was made at the suggestion of the American Consul at Matamoros, Mr. Wilson, and that General Potter considered it in violation of orders received from Washington. The loan was effected the day before yesterday. On Tuesday evening General Labarra visited the gunboat Rio Bravo. He crossed the river in a small boat sent from Rio Bravo. He did not call upon General Potter. General Labarra is constructing a fort at the lower edge of Matamoros. Don Antonio Alvarez has been released upon a promise to pay \$5,000 to a forced loan. It is reported that Diaz will attack Matamoros to-night.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The American minister to Mexico will receive instruction from his government to use his good offices in the interest of the preservation of peace in that country.

Lane's bill for the payment of the Modoc Indian war expenses, as reported from the committee on Indian claims, and \$4,400 for California.

Postmasters appointed.—John A. Smith, Sprague river, Lake Co., Ogn; H. Higgins, Friday Harbor San Juan Co., W. T.

BOSTON, March 27.—Thomas W. Piper, formerly sexton of the Warren Street Church, and convicted of the murder of Mabel Young in that building on the 23d of May last, was to-day sentenced to be hanged.

LAWRENCE, Mass., March 27.—Some five or six thousand mill operatives here are idle to-day owing to the stoppage of many mills in consequence of the unprecedented high water. All the mills on Spickett River are stopped.

NEW YORK, March 27.—John S. Harris, of California, arrived at Baltimore a few days ago with twelve Angora goats, which he brought from Asia Minor, after a difficult journey, lasting a year. They have already cost him over \$525 a piece. Harris hopes to make them profitable in the Sierras of California. This is the first importation of the kind.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—The House Committee on Postoffices to-day heard the statement of Governor D. P. Thompson, of Idaho. He said the recent testimony of Mr. Barlow was calculated to injure him unless his transaction with Barlow should be explained. He stated his bid for the route from Klamath Falls to the Dalles, Oregon, was \$124,500, but was underbid by a man named DeLacy, who secured the contract. After some months Thompson's deposit was returned to him. Shortly after that himself and Barlow discussed the probability of DeLacy's failure. Thompson stated that in that contingency he should claim the route. He considered he had a claim on the department, but the department had none on him. As a result of this conversation Barlow purchased Thompson's reversionary interest in this contract for \$15,000. Soon after DeLacy failed, and Barlow took the route as Thompson's.

NEW ORLEANS, March 28.—Capt. Wilds, of the bark Magnolia, 800 tons, from Liverpool in ballast for Passaguilla, arrived here to-day, and reports a vessel wrecked off Chandler island on March 18th. Jas. Morrison, mate, and three men were drowned. The others escaped to the island and the vessel went to pieces during the storm of Sunday, the 18th.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Senator Mitchell made an argument before the House committee on commerce urging an appropriation for the construction of canal and locks at the Cascades of the Columbia river.

Surveyor General Simpson left for Portland to-day, and will be in the Senate Mitchell of Oregon,