

Coming Report on Alaska.

Major Wm. Gouverneur Morris, special agent of the treasury, department, has been called to Washington to superintend the publication of his report on Alaska.

He says the resources of that territory are beginning to be appreciated, and that there will be a large emigration thither next spring attracted by the promises of rich discoveries in gold. Just before Major Morris left San Francisco he saw at the mint 800 ounces of placer gold, which had been received from that country, one nugget of which was worth about \$250.

A quartz mill has been built at Sitka, but the enterprise has not proved a success so far, on account of bad management of the mine, though some of the ore yields \$25 a ton. The water-power at that point is sufficient to drive 400 stamps.

A bill has been introduced into congress by Senator Mitchell, to appropriate money sufficient to build or buy a revenue steamer for service in Alaskan waters, a provision of this kind is necessary to protect the interests of the government in that quarter. There is now no government vessel on the coast which can carry more than enough coal to take her to Sitka and back; and as no coal loading station exists there, it is impracticable to do anything to prevent infraction of the revenue laws, or repress any outbreak that may occur.

He says that there is already a dispute respecting the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia and the Stickine river, and as this is the gateway to an important mining region in British America which can only be reached by passing over American territory, it is of moment to the British Columbians to secure an outlet for their trade as near the coast as practicable. The chief industry developed thus far on the mainland in Alaska, is the canning of salmon, there being now two establishments employing 150 men each. About 336,000 pounds of canned salmon were shipped to San Francisco the past season.

Executive Clemency.

The Sacramento Record-Union contains an editorial on the abuse of the pardoning power, and discusses the evil of undue exercise of executive clemency, as well as the inequality of the law that classes criminals unequally in putting the citizens betrayed by a moment of passion to the committal of a crime that accidentally results seriously, with the hardened criminal whose act is premeditated and has no palliation. It appears as if our penitentiaries should recognize a difference in the character of criminals, and the law should leave the judge more discretion in cases that deserve a mitigated sentence. But the granting of pardons by the executive, the possession by one man of a power to mitigate sentence at will, or pardon criminals entirely, has always been attended with danger, and is often exercised without sufficient guarantee to the public safety. A criminal pardoned to-day finds himself incarcerated next month. He assumes the role of good behavior while in prison and wins freedom to make the most possible use of it. The great majority of such offenders are beyond the reach of hope and

should be beyond the reach of pardon. The pardoning power, if exercised at all, it seems to us, should be vested in a board of pardons, which should be non-partisan, and exercise that power unanimously, and most scrupulously, or not at all.

THE CIPHER TELEGRAMS.

Copied from New York Herald.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—This cipher despatch business at last seems likely to prove a boomerang to the republicans. The Potter committee has, by a curious chance, almost completed to-day the discovery which alone was worth making—of who stole the despatches and how they were stolen and given to the public.

The evidence to-day shows that the telegraph company carefully collected the political despatches from all parts of the country and accumulated them in New York. On the persistent demand of Congress they brought them to Washington on the 17th of January 1877, in a trunk. Mr. Whitney, telegraph superintendent here, took out of this trunk 300 despatches for the Morrison committee, and a number for the Morton senate committee, the latter relating to Oregon. The remainder, numbering 29,275, were then sorted and arranged according to locality, and it appears that out of the whole number 9,000 were from Indianapolis alone. On the 25th of January Mr. Whitney, of the Morton committee, surrendered all these despatches to Mr. Burbank, Senator Morton's brother-in-law, and the clerk of his committee, and there ended the responsibility of the telegraph company, which appears, with one exception, noted below, to have acted with entire fairness.

The testimony goes on to show that the despatches remained in the Senate committee until the 14th of March. Meantime the Field committee, of the House, and the Morton committee, had come to an agreement that neither the despatches nor the bank accounts should be used or investigated, and it occurs at once to everybody that the republicans would not have such an agreement had they believed their own hands clean. On the 14th of March the telegraph company got permission to recover their despatches. Burbank, Senator Morton's brother-in-law, surrendered to Mr. Whitney the trunk said to contain them all, and he forwarded them to New York, where they were destroyed last spring, having, it is said, been forgotten meantime and remained locked up in the trunk.

At this step of the examination, Mr. Evans, a republican member of congress from Indiana, was examined. He admitted that he knew one George Bullock, formerly messenger to Senator Morton's committee, but now consul at Cologne. It is curious that Bullock was appointed to his consular position and went abroad about the time the Potter committee was formed. Mr. Evans admitted that the night before Bullock left here for Germany he handed Evans a bundle of papers which Bullock said he got in the Morton committee room and which were important. Evans further admitted receiving a letter from Bullock, dated November 18, 1878, in which Bullock wrote that he saw by the papers that a great stir was created by the publication of the cipher despatches, and that there was to be an investigation as to where they got. He suspected that they were the papers he had handed to Evans, "and which you handed to William E. Chandler," and he urged Evans to go to Chandler at once to prevent him from mentioning Bullock's name in connection with them, because of the trouble and disgrace it would bring on him.

Evans said, however, that he did not hand the papers to Chandler, but to Brady, Second Assistant Postmaster General (an Indiana man), and Brady will to-morrow have to say what he did with them. Brady was a protege of Senator Morton.

Thus the despatches are at last traced, and it is found that the messenger of the Morton committee had an important share in their theft, and that he is now consul at Cologne, as so many other persons, disreputably connected with the republican manipulation of the

Presidential election, have been rewarded with public office.

But this is not all. The officers of the telegraph company, being asked, admitted that certain despatches were withdrawn by orders of Mr. Orton, president of the company, and that they were between Mr. Tyner, Assistant Postmaster General; Mr. John W. Foster, of Indianapolis, and Secretary Chandler. They numbered six or eight on each side. Two persistent searches were made to get them all, and they were collected and withdrawn by order of Mr. Orton, who sent a letter which was burnt by his directions. According to the memory of the witnesses these despatches related to what one of them called a dirty political transaction—the sale of two positions in the Interior Department for \$5,000, to be transferred to Indiana, to be used in the October campaign. Aside from these sixteen other despatches were withdrawn from the Washington office by Mr. Orton's order, but of these no particulars are as yet public.

It is not necessary to ask after this why no republican despatches have appeared, but to-day's testimony leaves a number of prominent republicans in a very awkward position.

—Time was, says a New York exchange, when to our worthy ancestry, any musical instrument less sacred than the violin, within the walls of the sanctuary, seemed a profanation; but now the full resources of the brass band are sometimes drained for music in churches, while the cornet, in particular, is carrying all before it. We find Mr. Arbuckle and his cornet offered as an attraction of one Sunday service; Mr. Mitthauer and his cornet, of another; Mr. Prettit and his cornet, of a third; "cornet playing and singing," of a fourth. Presently the inquiry will be, what is church without a cornet?

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FOR SALE.

DESIRABLE CITY PROPERTY. If you mean business and want the Best Bargain in Oregon

Call at The Astorian Office.

For the Next SIXTY Days we Offer

1 Large House and Beautiful Lot; 1 Inside Lot; 1 Corner Lot; AT RED ROCK PRICES.

This property is within two minutes walk of the Post office and Custom-house; has splendid fruit and shrubbery; is well supplied with excellent water, and the title is safe beyond dispute.

There is a Bargain in it. Apply to D. C. IRELAND, Astorian Office.

PICKED UP.—A fishing-boat sail, which the owner can have on proof of property, and payment of charges, by applying at the Star Billiard Saloon, on Main street.

HOUSE TO LET.—A nice residence, new, containing six rooms, will be ready for a tenant any time on short notice. For particulars inquire at THIS OFFICE.

LAUNDRY FOR SALE.—Inquire at the Astoria Steam Laundry, J. T. BORCHERS, Proprietor, Astoria, Oregon.

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Graduate University of Pennsylvania. PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.

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Office—Room No. 7 over C. L. Parker's store, Opposite Dement's drug store.

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HAS REMOVED TO Main street, Parker's building, ASTORIA, OREGON.

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All kinds of building work, and monumental work attended to promptly and to order. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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Hay, Oats, Straw, Wood, Etc. General storage and Wharfage on reasonable terms.



Ordinance No. 311.

AN ORDINANCE to provide for special counsel for the city in the matter of the last will of Cyrus Olney, deceased. WHEREAS, It is asserted that Cyrus Olney, late of Astoria, deceased, left a will under which it is claimed the city has large pecuniary interests, and it is asserted on the other hand that said supposed will is invalid and that no rights accrued to the city thereunder, and it is desirable to have more certain advice about the matter.

Now the city of Astoria does ordain as follows: Sec. 1. That J. H. D. Gray, John Hahn and C. W. Shively are hereby constituted and appointed agents for the city and are authorized and empowered and directed on behalf of the city and in its name, to employ and enter into written contract with E. D. Sluittuck, attorney-at-law, to investigate the facts and the law relative to the will of the late Cyrus Olney, and to the rights and interests of the city of Astoria thereunder, and to furnish his written opinion thereon, at an expense to the city thereof of not exceeding two hundred dollars and further to retain him in any litigation that may arise concerning the claims of the city under said will at a further fee for conducting an action or suit to final decision on appeal not exceeding (\$100) one hundred and fifty dollars, certain, and such reasonable contingent fee as may be agreed upon.

Sec. 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval by the Mayor. Passed the Council, Jan. 29, 1879. Attest: R. H. CARDWELL, Auditor and Clerk. Approved, Jan. 30, 1879. J. H. D. GRAY, Acting Mayor.

AUCTION SALES.

E. C. HOLDEN, Notary Public for the State of Oregon.

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N. B. Parties having real estate, furniture or any other goods to dispose of either at Auction or private sale should notify me soon as convenient before the day of sale. No storage charged on goods sold at Auction. E. C. HOLDEN, Auctioneer.

AMUSEMENTS.

WORSLEY'S Dancing Academy.

Page's building next door to E. S. Larsen.

GENTS CLASS—On Monday and Thursday evenings, at 7:30. LADIES CLASS—On Monday and Thursday afternoons, at 2:00. BOYS CLASS—On Tuesday and Friday evenings, at 7:30. MISSES CLASS—Wednesday and Saturday at 4 P. M. Wednesday evening for the entire school. None admitted except scholars. Saturday evening SCHIRRE.

TERMS—Ladies and girls class per Month \$5.00 Boys and Misses class per Month 2.50

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PARKER HOUSE, ASTORIA, OREGON.

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THIS HOTEL is the largest, most comfortable and best kept hotel in the city. Fully supplied with the best of spring water, hot and cold baths, barber shop, and a first-class saloon with best of liquors and cigars, and fine billiard table. Free coach to and from the house; charges reasonable, \$1.00 to \$2.50 per day, according to room occupied. Astoria, July 15, 1878.

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Board and lodging per week \$8 Board per day Single Meal.

The table will be supplied at all times with the best the market affords.

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THE PROPRIETORS ARE HAPPY to announce that the above hotel has been repainted and re-furnished, adding greatly to the comfort of its guests and is now the best hotel north of San Francisco.

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Furnished rooms in suits, or single, by the day, week or month.

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Fresh oysters, and other delicacies of the season, served in every style.

Opposite the Telegraph office, Squemoque street, Astoria, Oregon.

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HAVING ENLARGED MY STORE I have now on hand the largest and best assortment of plain and French candies in town, also, all kinds of CAKES, CRACKERS AND BISCUITS.

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Fresh Eastern and Shoalwater bay oysters served in every style.

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All sizes and shapes from Plate or 20 oz.

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