

**The Daily Astorian.**

ASTORIA, OREGON:

SATURDAY.....DEC. 24, 1881

J. F. HALLORAN.....Editor.

The Astoria Land Grant.

It seems that in this matter of the Astoria land grant, and kindred impositions, that whenever a railroad fails to comply with the provisions of the act of Congress granting the land, the land can only be restored to the public domain by a supplemental act. So that those people living on the Nehalem, some of them residents of that section for a dozen years, are between the devil and the deep sea. The Government cannot give them a title to it, and the railroad company would not if it could—at Government price—and in the meantime the injustice exists. Some are going away, some contemplate going, having had enough of the "freeze-out" policy. Others who would settle and help build up Clatsop county, very naturally pass by, for they say, "What security can I have?" These remarks are prompted by no other desire than to see justice done a class of people who are desirous of remaining in Oregon and are almost forced to go. The question of the right on the part of the Government to give away millions of acres of the public domain; the question of the right of corporations to hold those acquired principalities without doing anything to justify such holding; the question of the power of the settlers, "if they don't like it," to go away; none of these are under discussion. It is simply a question of right against wrong; of justice against injustice. It is an outrage upon liberty, and a travesty upon our boasted superiority of government. It would be ridiculous to blame the railroad company; they're doing just what ninety-nine individuals out of a hundred would do in their place; the blame must be attached to the system of public transactions that makes such things possible. The Government is inexcusable. The most eloquent advocate, the most powerful writer, the keenest of casuists nor the most persuasive of advocates cannot explain away or extenuate the fact that these people are denied homes by the same Government that promises them they shall have them. They are invited here by the Government and are then chided for accepting the invitation.

## Providence.

In the last issue of the Pixley, the man at the wheel disowns his belief in the present existence of miracles, and ridicules the statement of a minister who claims to have been furnished by "a little brown hen" with an egg in a manner which betokened a special interposition of Providence in his behalf. A good many people read those skeptical utterances with pleasure; not that they really delight in ridiculing religion, nor that they disbelieve in the teachings and practice of true religion; but because the state of affairs that permits this kind of talk is in such strong contrast to the condition of human society in former times. There was a time, a few brief centuries ago, when such utterances as Pixley weekly indulges in would subject the author to red hot pincers, dark and mouldy dungeons, and other personal discomforts and inconveniences. Nine out of ten who read the skeptical literature of the day have this contrast in their minds while they are reading: "Three hundred, or four hundred years ago, this man would have been torn in pieces or burned at the stake for enunciating such doctrines. How brave he is!" and straightway admire such bravery. This is natural; but they forget that the whole world had to advance to the present stage of liberty and free speech before any one member could speak with impunity. It has always been a

mere question of majorities. Then, the believers in all sorts of miraculous and supernatural interferences with nature were in the majority; now, those who believe that there is no interference from above or below with the ordinary occurrences of life are in the majority; if not in numbers, at least in active influence. This is an age of doubting, discarding, denying, weighing, proving. People now-a-days are just as willing to believe, just as anxious for an eternity of bliss as ever they were; but they see so much exploded and broken up that was once held to be the artillery of faith and the armor of righteousness, that they naturally decline to accept anybody's word for it and want to take reason and judgment for the standard, and there's where the whole mistake lies. For revealed religion demands faith; pure, simple faith; and cannot be measured by cold, scientific experiment. As well try to measure the warmth of human affection by a Fahrenheit thermometer.

A good deal of this matter of special providence seems to be the effect of perverted egotism. People sometimes become imbued with such belief in their own importance that they fancy that the great Creator of the universe holds them in especial care, and looks out for their poor little daily needs and necessities. They put too literal a construction on the quotation "The Lord will provide." That does not mean that He will enter into details. He will provide light, life and opportunity. The proper application of these depends upon the individual. It would be not in consonance with a true conception of God's nature to suppose Him acting as a special organizer or provider. To any who argue that such writing as this is flippant and savor of irreverence, we can only reply that there is far more irreverence and belittling of the Omnipotent in the effort of sectarianism to establish a special protectorate for itself, than in an honest acknowledgment in the existence of a Divine Spirit, eternal, independent, infinite and immutable, a Creator and Governor of the universe.

## Congressional Committees.

Discussing the make up of the newly appointed committee a Washington dispatch says: "The Pacific coast has been specially well provided for in the house commerce committee. This committee, aside from its general importance, has special charge of all appropriations for river and harbor improvements of every nature. In the last two democratic congresses no representative of the country west of the Rocky mountains was appointed on this important committee. The combined influence of Page as chairman, and George as representing the northwest, would seem to insure as complete a recognition of the Pacific coast as can possibly be secured. Page's chairmanship is the first of importance held by any member of the Pacific coast for many years, and Oregon's representative is unusually honored, the present member for the first time being accorded two important positions, such as are not commonly obtained by new members, even from older and more influential districts."

When Mr. George stopped here on his way to Washington he expressed a hope that he would be placed on that committee, and that another Pacific coast member might be on the same committee. These hopes have been more than realized. Page, of California, is the chairman. That committee is to us who want the bar improved, the most important of all the House committees. It is a matter of congratulation that Speaker Keifer recognized the appropriateness of selecting a Pacific coast member. In reference to the matter the Washington National Republican says: "The selection of Page of California as chairman of the committee on commerce is

a most excellent one, and is a fitting recognition by the speaker of the great commercial interests of the Pacific coast, which in common with the commercial interests of the whole country will be properly cared for. We congratulate the speaker and the Pacific coast on Mr. Page's selection." The New York Tribune thinks Keifer made a mistake in giving that important chairmanship to Page, but that is simply a public expression of Jay Gould's opinion. Had Hiscock been the speaker the chairmanship of that committee would have gone to the East. The disposition that Keifer made of it is but a just recognition of this coast.

## LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

**Notice to Cannerymen.**  
FOR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS DATE I will contract to make fish boxes of satisfactory quality in any quantity at the following prices: boxes in the size 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents each; nailed boxes 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents each, delivered at the West Shore Mills. J. C. TRUILLINGER, Astoria, Dec. 10, 1881.

**SCHOOL TAX DISTRICT NO. 9—Upper Astoria.**

SCHOOL TAXES FOR THIS DISTRICT are now due and payable at the office of the undersigned. W. M. R. APATH, Clerk of District No. 9, Astoria, Dec. 5, 1881.

**Notice of Copartnership.**  
WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY give notice that we have formed a copartnership under the firm name of LEINENWEBER & COHN, to transact the business of banking, in Astoria, Oregon.

C. LEINENWEBER,  
A. A. COHN.  
Astoria, Oregon, Dec. 6, 1881.

**Notice.**  
THE PARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE existing between C. E. JACKINS and John A. MONTGOMERY, under the firm name of JACKINS & MONTGOMERY, is dissolved by mutual consent. John A. Montgomery will collect and settle all accounts of said firm.

J. CHAS. E. JACKINS,  
JNO. A. MONTGOMERY,  
Astoria, Oreg., Dec. 9, 1881.

**HADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER BARRETTES, W. T., Nov. 26, 1881.**  
Written proposals will be received by the undersigned, at Vancouver Barracks, W. T., for the supply of gunnery stores, etc., for six months on the Fort Stevens, (Point Adams) Military Reservation, during the next fishing season. The right to reject any or all bids, as may be deemed best, is reserved by the undersigned.

O. B. GREEN,  
Maj. and Ass't Adj. General, Brevet Brigadier General U. S. Army.

**Assignee's Auction Sale,**  
Saturday, December 24th, at 2 P.M.

INSTRUCTED BY L. W. CASE, Esq., trustee of the estate of T. Bailey, to sell to the highest bidder, at the court house door at the hour of 2 P.M., the following described improvements real estate: 1/4 of a block in Shively's Astoria, together with the buildings thereon. Two-thirds of the same being 100 feet square, of lots 6 and 7 in block 11, Shively's Astoria, together with the substance of the residence of Mr. T. Bailey, and all other appurtenances thereto belonging. The above lots and the street fronting on all graded. Also, lots 6 and 7 in block 11, in McMurtry's Astoria. Title, undivided. Terms cash. E. C. HOLDEN, Auctioneer.

**Barbour's IRISH FLAX THREADS**

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