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ROGUE RIVER COURIER.

An Independent Paper, Devoted Especially to the Interests of Southern Oregon.

VOL. 2. GRANT'S PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OR., FRIDAY AUGUST 20, 1886. NO. 21.

J. H. GRIFFIS,

Notary Public and Agent for the Sale of Town Lots in GOLD HILL, (Jackson County,) OREGON.

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DESTRUCTIVE FIRES IN WISCONSIN.

Many Persons Perish in the Flames. Great Destruction of Property. MILWAUKEE, Aug. 11.

A dispatch from Green Bay says: Fire is still raging throughout the woods around Eaton, Belleville and Depere, causing much loss and distress.

Nineteen families in the vicinity of Woodruff's old mill were burned out. The Clausen family of five saved their lives by getting into a well.

Reports from Laney and Angelica in Shawano county state that the fire is very bad. Five families were burned out and their crops destroyed.

A mill near Angelica was burned. A man near St. Nathan's, Oconto county, lost five buildings and his crop.

Several families were burned out in the town of Denmark and stripped of all their possessions. Around the postoffice the residents all packed their goods.

Streams are drying up and cattle are dying of suffocation. Their bodies can be found on the roads at intervals.

Twelve miles from Green Bay, in the town of Humboldt, fire is raging fiercely. Several residences were burned yesterday.

Trenches and fire breaks do not stop the flames. People in the threatened towns sleep out of doors, ready for any emergency.

A large load of provisions was sent to the sufferers from Green Bay to-day, and contributions would not come amiss.

Through the forests in the northern tier of counties in this state are still ablaze, and are likely to remain on fire until rains quench the flames.

The danger to villages and towns is over, unless heavy gales should sweep down upon them. While not over a dozen cases of human cremation are reported, it is believed that many backwoods men and families, remote from settlements, can not possibly have escaped.

The fatality to live stock has been terrible. Hundreds of charred bodies of cattle lie on the blackened tract of devastation.

It is estimated that in Calumet, Clarke, Marathon and a few adjacent counties 500 families are rendered homeless and destitute, and will suffer unless immediate relief is sent them.

Many of these people had narrow escapes from death, hiding in wells or submerging themselves up to their necks in streams with wet blankets covering their heads until the fire passed.

In some places fire swooped down so suddenly upon people that they had hardly time to seek this method of safety. In other places the roar of the flames was heard for miles, and the terror-stricken people fled madly before the flames to neighboring villages and houses.

The loss cannot ever be estimated. Hundreds of homes, dozens of sawmills and lumber camps, and millions of feet of timber are in ashes. Acres upon acres of ripening grain were laid waste.

To-night's advices are that the fires are abating considerably, by running into clearings, and because the wind has died out. However, fears are entertained of a repetition should high winds prevail again before a rain appears.

Along the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway heavy rains extinguished all the flames, saving the largest cranberry marshes in that section. To-day suffocating clouds of smoke from burning forests were borne by north winds as far south as Milwaukee.

On the lakes, near Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, and even further south, smoke clouds are so dense that the sun is obscured and vessels experience extreme difficulty in navigating, it being impossible to see 400 feet at midday.

The river and harbor bill as finally agreed upon by Congress and signed by the President contains the following appropriations in which Oregon and Washington are interested: Yaquina \$75,000; Clatsop Bay \$33,750; Cascades \$187,500; Upper Columbia, including Snake river, \$10,000; mouth of the Columbia river \$187,500; lower Willamette river \$25,000; upper Willamette river \$75,000; Coquille \$20,000; Chehalis \$2,500; Gowitz \$2,000.

These items are by no means as large as the nature and importance of the improvements to be made require, but will be of great benefit to the entire coast. The disbursing of the money for labor and material used in the improvement will constitute one valuable feature, but the improved facilities for commercial intercourse is the great benefit to which all are so anxiously looking.

[Eugene City Register.]

Particulars of the Sentence of Cutting in Mexico.

A special from El Paso Aug. 8th says: As sentence was pronounced upon Cutting at Paso del Norte last evening, the prisoner turned slightly pale, but was otherwise thoroughly composed.

When the reading of the sentence was finished he asked in a loud voice of the court, at the same time pointing to Medina, "About the \$500? Is that creature to get any of it?"

At this point Consul Brigham interposed to stop him. "If the prisoner uses insulting language," said the judge, "I can add something to the term of his sentence."

Consul Brigham assured the court that neither he nor Cutting meant any disrespect to it. "Let us understand," said Brigham, "just what this is for."

"It is for publication on the other side of the article which it is held vitiated the reconciliation made on this side."

"And this act on the other side," continued Brigham, "was construed on this side as contempt of court." To this the court replied in the negative.

THE PRISONER QUESTIONED. The court then turned to the prisoner and asked: "Do you still stand under the protection of your government?"

"I do," replied Cutting. "Do you wish to take an appeal to the supreme court?" the judge asked.

"I have no appeal to make except to the government of the United States."

"If you should desire to make an appeal," said Judge Zebulia, "you have five days in which to give notice. Do you wish to sign the proceedings of this court?"

"I sign nothing."

"Do you wish to express satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the sentence?"

"No, sir; I have never recognized your court or jurisdiction and I do not recognize its right to imprison me for one hour."

Cutting was taken back to jail and will be sent to Chihuahua in a day or two.

GREAT EXCITEMENT. No sooner was the fact of Cutting's sentence known than both towns, on the Mexican and American side, were wild with excitement over the matter.

Two secret meetings were held here, and companies of minute-men were organized. Merchants fear harm if soldiers are not promptly on hand, they realize that congress only can declare war, but the superior number of Mexican soldiers in Paso del Norte would play havoc with the single company now at Fort Bliss, one mile from El Paso. Arms and ammunition are not scarce, however, and citizens are secretly organizing, so as to act on the defensive. Their voice is unanimous for vindication of American honor and protection of our citizens.

Mexicans, too, are angry at the tenor of our press, and the people are fearful of violence on account of numerous mass meetings which are being held. A dispatch from Rio Grande city, Texas, says, a heavy force of Mexican revolutionists crossed the river into Texas on Thursday night. A troop of the Eighth United States cavalry was ordered yesterday from Ringgold barracks to pursue and disarm them.

Deep Crater Lake. W. G. Steel, who is out on the U. S. geological survey of Crater Lake, writes to the Albany Herald under date of July 25 as follows: "Our boats having been launched, we are at present engaged in sounding Crater lake, and have been rewarded by finding the deepest water in America, and a depth seldom equaled anywhere except in the ocean; and no country on earth can say 'we have a lake of an equal size with as great a depth.' Up to the present time the deepest sounding has been 1059 feet. Oregon against the world!"

The following is the debt statement of the United States Treasury Aug. 1st, 1886:

Interest bearing debt, principal and interest, \$1,214,992,034; debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, \$5,577,843; debt bearing no interest, \$535,079,699; total debt principal and interest, \$1,755,559,047; total debt less available cash items, \$1,460,293,604; net cash in treasury, \$80,205,325; debt, less cash in treasury August 1st, 1886, \$1,380,087,279; debt, less cash in treasury July 1st, 1886, \$1,380,135,353; decrease of debt during month \$8,047,104; cash in treasury available for reduction of public debt, \$193,265,443; total cash in the treasury as shown by the treasurer's general account, \$484,856,903.

There is a young lady in Burlington so sensitive that she cannot see a railroad cut without feeling hurt herself. [Burlington Free Press.]

Coming Colonies of Immigrants.

The loaters for the Welsh' land company colony returned to this city from a visit to some of their countrymen in Clackamas county Saturday, and under the auspices of the state board of immigration start this morning out into the valley and Southern Oregon. They are in search of 10,000 acres of land, for the settlement of about 120 families. In addition to what information the state board furnished these people before they left Ohio, they have been provided with every possible help to enable them to make a full examination of every part of Western and Southern Oregon. They will investigate the eastern part of the state on their return. This is one of the colonies reported by the board last winter. A second, was a colony of about 100 families from Southern Missouri, and the representatives, Messrs. Ault and Hoffer, arrived by the steamer yesterday, and will go out into the interior of the state this afternoon. Before leaving home these gentlemen and their friends were favorably impressed with the report from the western part of Lane county, a portion of Douglas and the western part of Benton county. All these points will be visited during the journey just now undertaken. This colony is already formed and the people intend to start West in September. The third colony is from Northumberland county, Penn., and Mr. Higgins and his sub-agents, locators and agents will start out to view the state early the coming week. The state board has only to announce the arrival of a colony agent from Texas, San Saba county, to verify the colony statements made last winter and spring. Messrs. Ault and Hoffer inform the state board that if they succeed in getting the climate and soil here which they are in search of, the exodus from their part of Missouri will be 1,000 instead of 100 families. So far they are very much pleased with what they find. [Oregonian.]

Poor Nellie Grant. Sartoris spends his time in London, carousing around the cafes and clubs, drinking and making merry with women of little reputation, while his wife remains at an old isolated country-seat year in and year out. Many stories have been told of his shocking treatment of her. A gentleman said some time ago that he had seen and heard her begging him to remain at home, simply to abate the scandal that was in progress. But no, he would not listen to her for an instant, and the next hour off he went with a couple of riotous companions to London.

Sartoris has no business; he never attempts any for the simple reason he has not sufficient brains to conduct a dog case before a justice of the peace. He lives on an allowance of £700 per annum given him by his father, with which he takes himself to London, lives in style for about three or four months, and then returns penitently to his sorrowing wife and proceeds to borrow some more. Then a few months of "life" is repeated at the gay metropolis and the second act is gone over again and so on year by year. [Eugene City Register.]

New points are continually cropping up in the discussion provoked by the agitation of the water question. The latest is decidedly novel. In the grants of land made by the Mexican Government before the American occupation, the ownership of the water was particularly conveyed to the grantee as part and parcel of the appurtenances of the soil, as much as the rocks and trees thereon. This ownership of water was with the land to the American purchasers of the large ranches, and the question now is, how far the right of an appropriator of such water is good against the owners of the land whereon it rises and to whom it was especially granted by the Mexican Government? In one case at least this question is of vital importance to the interests of one of the leading colonies of Southern California. If it shall ever be decided that the owners of land owned the water thereon; and that it cannot be acquired by appropriators at a distance, then the settlement referred to will be deprived of a large portion of its water supply, and infinite loss will result. [S. F. Chronicle.]

Yanhill county has a cemeterian in the person of Mrs. Andrew Smith, who has resided within a short distance of Lafayette since 1841. She was born in 1785, and has hence passed her one hundred and first birthday. She is a small woman, much bent with age, but is singularly free from the infirmities of age. [Hillsborough Independent.]

A Nebraska farmer says that acres and acres of corn is growing this year without ears. It is probably tired of hearing about low prices. [New Orleans Picayune.]

TO ADVERTISERS.

Grant's Pass, so named after General Grant, is a county seat centrally located in Southern Oregon. It is a progressive railroad town of 600 inhabitants, and is the main supply point for a large portion of country devoted to mining, lumbering, agriculture and fruit-raising. Climate unexcelled.

The Courier being the only paper published in Josephine county, with a good circulation in Jackson county, enables it to be one of the best advertising mediums in Southern Oregon. For rates, address THE COURIER, Grant's Pass, Oregon.

An Important Decision.

It will be remembered that Gov. Moody made application to the U. S. land department, at Washington, recently, asking that all contests to determine the character of the lands that had been approved and certified to by the state of Oregon as being swampy and overflowed, and as being hers under the swamp-land grant, should be dismissed. The secretary of the interior has decided that after the approval and certification by the department and land office, the character of such lands cannot again be called in question on an affidavit of contest, which merely alleges that the land is not of the character granted, unless the applicant further alleges fraud or mistake in procurement. By the decision of the secretary and acts of congress fraud must be specifically stated. He further holds that a party may contest the right to such lands prior to approval and certificate by alleging and proving settlement prior to such approval, and that the land is not overflowed but susceptible of cultivation without drainage.

The lands heretofore approved and certified to the state as swamp and overflow, covered by this decision are embraced in what is known as List No. 5, Lake View district, containing about 80,000 acres. It is claimed by the state that the remaining land, not approved and certified, amounts to about 300,000 acres, which will be reported to the land office for approval and certification under the law laid down in this decision. [Saleman Statesman.]

Here is a late receipt for making a good town by the Brunswick (Mo.) News: Grit, Push, Snap, Vim, Energy, Churches, Schools, Colleges, Morality, Enterprise, Harmony, Advertising, Cordiality, Cheap property, Healthy location, Good country, tributary. Talk about it. Speak well about it. Help to improve it. Advertise in and read the town papers. Patronize its merchants. Faith, exhibited by good works. Honest competition in business. Help all public enterprises. Elect good men to office. Speak well of its public spirited enterprising citizens, and be one of them yourself. Remember that every dollar invested in permanent improvements is that much on interest. Always cheer on the men who go in for improvements. Your portion of the cost will be nothing unless what is just."

The above applies as much to Grant's Pass as it does to any other town and should be carefully read and studied. We have so far tried to keep the columns of the Courier free from matter detracting from the course laid down in the above item.

The cyclone occurring at Oak Bar and vicinity over a week ago, was most severe at Doggett Creek, where the uprooted trees and debris blown into the river, dammed the stream and backed the water nearly a mile before giving way. A large sugar pine tree nearly 4 feet thick at base was carried in the air for about half a mile, and cut by 30 to 40 feet deep were made in the hillsides, sluicing out the soil to bed rock. At Oro Fino, in Scott Valley, large numbers of trees were blown down, ranches flooded, and houses and barns damaged. At Shovel Creek Springs, those camping out, were compelled to go to houses for safety, on account of the great volume of water everywhere. At Butte Creek, the storms were also heavy, with more rain probably than elsewhere in the county, as rain poured down nearly every day for over a week in regular tropical showers. The storm was also very severe at several other points, as heretofore mentioned, but very light at Strawberry Valley, Scott River and Salmon River. [Yreka Journal.]

Last week Hon. W. D. Penton and family arrived at this place, bringing their household effects with them, prepared to again make their home in Yanhill—this time at McMinnville. Their residence in Portland has proven very damaging to Mr. Penton's health, as he is reduced to almost a skeleton. Yesterday they left for Yaguina, to remain until he shall become improved physically when they will return and settle down as permanent citizens. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Penton and his most estimable wife to our city, and bespeak for them a pleasant and healthy home. Of course Mr. Penton will follow his profession, law. [McMinnville Telegraph.]

The only reason to disbelieve in the genuineness of the seal is that he is "dressed" in the show of prohibition signs, when liquor is plenty. [Washington Post.]

"You had better look out," said the anxious Mrs. Muldoon, as she saw her husband imbibing too freely, "or you'll fill a drunkard's grave before you die." [Shoe and Leather Reporter.]