

The Coast Mail.

MARSHFIELD, OREGON.

Thursday, December 25, 1884

North Carolina pays its school teachers an average of \$21.27 per month—the lowest of any state or territory in the union. Alabama is next, with \$21.66; Vermont next, with \$21.81. Oregon's average is \$25.63.

The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette mentions, in a spirit of kindness, that the facts that they overcame the republican vote in the south by means best known to themselves, and are in a minority in the north of nearly 400,000 votes, and have no majority in a single northern state and are in a minority of 40,000 votes in the state of New York, which they carried by a scratch, having a plurality of less than 1-10 of 1 per cent, do not entitle them to assume so suddenly so many official and imperial airs.

Jeff Davis and the democratic papers all over the country are highly incensed at Gen. Sherman for some of his utterances in regard to Davis at a recent meeting of a Grand Army post at St. Louis. The other day the Standard had a flaming headline: "Sherman Defeated!" By Davis, of course. Well, if Jeff does get away with old Tecumseh in this fight, it will be his first defeat before the confederacy. Sherman says he will take his own time to answer Davis, and it is quite probable that when that answer comes the defeat will fall to the lot of Davis. Sherman may be a little wordy at times, but from his past history we have no right to suppose that he said anything in regard to Davis that he cannot fully substantiate.

One of the first acts of congress in 1790 was the enacting of a law imposing import duties for revenue and for the encouragement of manufactures. No one was then opposed to protection and no question was raised regarding a protective tariff. In 1812 the duties were raised 100 per cent, which was equal to prohibition. In 1816 Webster succeeded in getting some reduction in the duties, and was bitterly opposed by Clay and Calhoun. In 1824 Clay succeeded in getting the duties raised again, and was aided by Webster, who had become more of a protectionist. In 1828 the tariff was again raised, and Clay had passed the compromise tariff bill, which lasted until 1842, when the tariff was reduced by the democratic party. In 1857 another reduction was made, and the result was national bankruptcy. In 1861 and 1862 the war tariff was enacted, and practically continues to-day.

A great deal of uneasiness appears to be felt by some of the leading editors of the east in regard to the fate of the state of Nevada and they are suggesting plans for the abolishment of the state organization. People without appear to be more worried about it than the people within the state. Nevada is all right, and there need be no apprehension felt on its account. The mineral resources of the state are immense and practically inexhaustible, and in addition to this she has millions and millions of acres of sage-brush and desert land that will eventually be brought under cultivation and made to pay the tillers of it handsomely. The territory of Utah has no percentage over Nevada in any way excepting the way in which the Mormon leaders have managed the water privileges of the territory and made the desert to blossom as the rose. The enormous expense at which the state and county governments of Nevada are run is what is paralyzing the state and driving people and capital away from it. The highest salaries paid in the United States are paid there by a mere handful of people. They pay their governor \$6000 a year and his private secretary half as much more. They pay three supreme judges \$6000 per annum each; one district judge \$6000, and none less than about \$4000. No state officer excepting the printer receives less than \$6000 per annum, and they all have little to do and deputies at \$2400, excepting the treasurer, and his deputy receives \$3000, with an assistant at about \$100 per month. The state printer receives a salary of \$1800 per annum and works about three months in two years, during the session of the legislature. The members of the legislature receive \$8 per day; some of the attaches from \$10 to \$12; some from \$6 to \$8, and none less than \$4 per day. The average salary paid the school teachers of Nevada in 1880 was \$80.45—an average greater than that of any other state or territory in the union. California comes next, with an average of \$76.99. Most of the salaries of Nevada were fixed in the constitution of the state in bonanza times. The big bonanza has been worked out and carried away; capital is following it and will continue to do so until the people come to their senses and reduce their expenses, when population and prosperity will return.

St. John Speaks.

New York, Dec. 12.—St. John writes that he never offered or proposed to sell out to the republicans. He continues: "I am to-day and always have been a comparatively poor man. The republican party may burn me in effigy, and continue its threats of personal violence; it may open its floodgates of falsehood and vilification and bitterness upon me, but it can never swerve me one jot or tittle from doing what my conscience tells me is right. The campaign for 1888 is already begun, and the warfare against the liquor traffic will be vigorously prosecuted. The political party that stands in the way of this movement of the people in defense of their homes will get hurt. The spirit of intolerance exhibited by the republican press to-day is doing for that party just what the same spirit did for the pro-slavery party thirty years ago. Hanging men in effigy, indulging in falsehood and vilification, are not arguments."

The Happiest Day in the Year.

"A Merry Christmas" is the greeting of the COAST MAIL to its readers this morning, old and young, rich and poor. The old probably did not forget the young last night, and have been richly repaid for their thoughtfulness by witnessing the delight of the youngsters this morning. It is to be hoped the rich also remembered the poor with like liberality. If not, it is not yet too late. There should not be one sad heart to-day that a little thoughtful kindness would make cheerful. "Tis a sad heart that never rejoices," and the day above all other days for hearts to rejoice is Christmas day.

Every nation that has a history has had its songs. Every people that has taken part in the advancement of humanity has had its heroes, glorified and praised by poet and sage. The memories of great men and great events are written upon the minds and hearts of men by the anthems and poems of the multitude. He who is the sovereign of people and nations was heralded in His advent upon earth by the melody and harmony of angelic voices. The songs of the heavenly visitants who rejoiced with men in the coming of the founder of Christianity have been taken up and re-echoed throughout the world by millions of happy mortals who have known and loved the author of "Peace on earth, good will to men." The grandest efforts of those almost divine composers have been directed toward the expression of that joy which His birth brought to the world. The swelling choruses of praise with which the light of this morning is ushered in is the mighty attempt of the Christian world to lift to the great white throne a universal echo of the celestial universe which floated over the plains of Palestine, and awakened the very flowerets in Esdras' ago. Creeds and their combatants come and go like the dust and dew of summer, but the mighty grandeur of that star which heralded the advent of the Christ can never be effaced, and it beams with a greater radiance and more potent brilliancy as the years fleetly flow into eternity. Men rise and fall like the billows of the vast deep, and their praises are sung by admiring multitudes, but over, above and through all comes to the sense of humanity the unspeakably rich, soul-absorbing harmony of "Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy; for unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord."

As the pendulum of time beats the cycle of existence, so with the recurrence of each Christmastide beats the heart of the civilized world in unison with the great heart of Him who said: "This is my beloved Son; hear ye Him." Therefore it is proper that in every Christian country this day should be one of general joy, and on which to preach sermons of peace and good will.

To the good this day is fraught with sacred reminiscences and worthy inspirations. To the evil-disposed it looms up as a reminder of the innocence and purity which once reigned in the heart, and insists that the wanderer retrace, in memory at least, the steps which have led him away from this hallowed youth. It should be a great day, made up of multifarious and diverse experiences. It should contain the feasting merry making, and the gift receiving; but it should also contain the solitude, quiet meditation and self scrutiny, the joy giving and the planning of the future. The two elements should be combined; one without the other will be narrow, dwarfed, unsatisfactory experience. Let the day be neither an occasion for unthinking, unsatisfying dissipation, nor an occasion for morose, cynical, self consciousness; let it be a great social, moral, physical and intellectual breathing spell to each individual.

In another column we give place to an article from the Coquille City Herald on the subject of the bar improvements at this bay and at the mouth of the Coquille river. The writer assumes that everybody who criticizes the manner in which the work is prosecuted is opposed to the improvements, and he says that it is of no use to find fault with any work that is being carried on according to plans and specifications approved by the board of engineers. That is where the trouble comes in. The manner in which the improvement to the entrance to this bay is being prosecuted does not at all correspond with the original plans, and as long as the government educates men to plan such work, many people would like to know why their designs are not carried out. Major Wilson, in his report upon the proposed improvement for this bay, said, in speaking of the training walls: "Within the limits of the bay they could be built of ordinary rubble stone, the sides and top to be of large pieces from one to four tons in weight; where the violent action of the sea is felt outside the immediate limits of the bay, they could be constructed of ordinary rubble to a height of 10 feet below low-water, and of rubble in pieces from 5 to 20 tons from that height to the top, the sides to be well protected by blocks of the same size. * * * Stone for the construction of this work can be obtained near at hand in Coos bay." Now, if we understand the situation, nothing of this kind is being done, but, instead, small rocks are being dumped into the water, to spread out at random, and no one can tell whether they spread over one acre or over one hundred acres, and no one can bring to bear any system of measurement by which it can be ascertained what quantity of rock has been used. If the present system be right, the engineers who first planned the improvement were wrong, and if cheap men can be picked

up who know more about such things than do the men whom the government educates for that purpose, then the government had better dispense with its expensive schools. Capt. Powell has approved the manner of prosecuting the works at this bay and at the mouth of the Coquille, but as to a thorough investigation of everything or anything having been made, it is not so, and the little attention that Capt. Powell has bestowed upon the works has not seemed to outsiders what it should have been. Moreover, it has been claimed that greater benefits have accrued from the work here than the facts warrant. The importance of the improvement of the entrance to this bay demands larger appropriations and an efficient government officer to disburse them, whose salary would not be drawn from the appropriations and whose occupation would not be gone with the completion of the work; then it might be hurried along faster. The insinuations and assertions made that those who criticize the works are opposed to them is wrong. We do not know of one man on the bay that is opposed to the improvement of the entrance thereto, while all are anxious for the judicious prosecution of the work, that some of the people now living may be benefited thereby. We would be pleased to see Powell's successor come down this way and take a view of the works.

Bar Improvement.

[Coquille City Herald.]

With reference to the frequent comments that we both hear and receive on the merits and demerits of the work now progressing at Coos bay and the Coquille, we deem it sufficient to say that, all comment by parties outside of the board of engineers seems to be superfluous. Government educates men with a view to their utility—the theory first, and then the practical instruction follows. This being the case, of what use is it to complain? The heads of departments will take no notice of people objecting to the course of an improvement progressing according to the plans and specifications of that department. Complaints have been made, heretofore, calling attention to gross corruption on the part of some of these officials; but, on a thorough investigation, the charges were not sustained.

Of what use is obstruction, anyway? Untold efforts, and some that have been thoroughly ventilated, were made to obstruct the preliminary proceedings of the bar improvement at Coos bay. After that work commenced—for some reason unknown to us—the system of attack was changed, and the men in control came in for their share of abuse. What effect has that had? None whatever. Yes, we are mistaken, it has had the effect of enabling the officers in charge to treat all such matters with contempt. Monopoly has had and still keeps a wedge weapon of obstruction pointed and ready to insert whenever an opportunity offers. If no improvement had taken place, the business would have been circumscribed, and would have remained in the hands of those who would have controlled it for their exclusive benefit. This is the meat in the cocoon. The improvements will still go on, notwithstanding all this opposition. We all may give our opinions, pro or con, but, if we are not connected with the constituted authorities in such matters—the board of engineers—we will enjoy as much satisfaction from our opinions as if we were to whistle against a hurricane.

During our checkered career, we have had considerable experience with rough, rocky inlets and sandy streams, or in other words, where the action of the current was confined by shifting sands. Our opinion is that where you can obtain rock that will harden in water—there is plenty of such rock here—you must build crib work first, as it offers an advantage in building track in a direct line with the proposed improvement; and moreover, where the appropriation is light, you can carry the jetty further into the stream by this method, than by any other; besides, you will have an earlier opportunity of observing its action. In soft sand, containing great quantities of drift wood, this object can be attained best by driving piles. On Coos bay, where the foundation was solid rock, they had to build cribs made of square timbers. On the Coquille bar they are driving piles, which is by far the cheapest method, and if appropriations are made sufficient to riprap the crib work, there need be no fear of the result.

Fears have been expressed by some parties that the winter freshets will wash the new work away. Granting this to be so, although we fall in seeing how the piles driven to an extent of 10 feet, can be so easily washed out, what would be the effect of the current on a wall of artificial rock placed on this sand in a position where you can obtain no solid foundation? The winter freshet would come just the same; the swift current would cut the quicksand with the same severity, and the magnificent wall would be undermined and tumble into the river. This is precisely what occurred to the Umpqua light-house. They dug in the sand among old logs for a foundation, and built their light-house—a veritable house on the sand; but the high tides came, and the sand shifted, and away went Uncle Sam's light-house.

Riprapping is, no doubt, the best method for the Coquille. The rock used both here and at Coos bay is said to harden and become firm, therefore, instead of attempting useless obstruction, let us join in efforts to promote the continuation of this much-needed work. The Coquille is bound to go ahead, regardless of obstruction. Men with capital will finally enter and develop her resources. Great efforts have been

made on Coos bay to keep them out; but, what is the result? The Oregon Southern improvement company, and the investment in coal lands by J. C. Hawley and others. What the Coquille needs is a few such men, then the business will progress without those depressing fluctuations which are an ever recurring theme.

Dividing the Spoils—A Fable.

[From the Albany Journal.]

A highly moral cat had become so disgusted with the shortcomings of cats in general that she resolved to quit their company and join a colony of rabbits, and to more closely resemble her new friends she had her tail amputated. The rabbits, who were trying to make their way into a larger, warmly welcomed the new recruit and by her aid they soon accomplished their end. When, however, they began to divide the spoils they branded her as an interloper and counted her out. "But," pleaded the cat, "did not I place you in your present position? And is not my tail like your tails?" "True," replied the rabbits, "but when you had your tail docked you unfortunately neglected to have your ears spliced." Indignant at such ingratitude, she flounced out of their company and returned to her old friends. The cats received her again, but not without many suspicious glances at her stump, which ever after remained as a badge of her apostasy.

If this fable has any moral, perhaps the mugwumps can find it.

Pendleton on Civil Service Reform.

New Haven, Dec. 12.—At a meeting of the civil service society to-night a letter was read from United States Senator Pendleton of Ohio. He says the law has already done much good in establishing the merit system and the time of members of congress is less occupied by office seekers. "I think," Senator Pendleton says, "we may have the fullest confidence that the president-elect will, in his new field of duty, be as faithful to the principles of this reform movement as he has shown himself to be while mayor and governor; that he will rigidly enforce the provisions of the laws now on the statute book, and gradually extend their application to the whole subordinate non-political service. As a necessity for additional legislation shall appear it will be promptly and intelligently recommended. The system has grown rapidly in favor with members of congress, and in this I think they only reflect the views of their constituents. The beneficence of the reform will surely commend it more to the good sense and patriotism of the people. Its original friends have every reason to be encouraged, but this encouragement should only stimulate them to increased exertion."

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