

The Coast Mail.

MARSHFIELD, OREGON.
Thursday, April 23, 1885

Senator Spooner is the smallest man that ever sat in the United States senate—that is physically speaking.

Gen. Grant's recovery would give many excellent obituary notices of him that have been in type for weeks, awaiting his death.

Latest advices give Penjdeh to the Russians to avert war. The bar is on his hind feet and the lion hesitates to be hugged just at present.

The emperor of Austria recently performed the ceremony of washing the feet of 12 beggars. What an elegant American ward politician he would make.

Old Ben Butler has been heard from since the last presidential election. He is dissatisfied with Cleveland's course. This ought to encourage Cleveland to go ahead in the way that Ben disapproves.

A St. Petersburg dispatch says that England has made fresh proposals which Russia is inclined to accept. Newspapers there welcome what they call the retreat of the British, and agree that peace is assured.

The attorney general has given an opinion to the president, sustaining the eligibility of Lawton of Georgia for appointment as minister to Russia. One brigadier that wouldn't vouch for another wouldn't be permitted to live long in the south.

It now begins to look as if some New York doctors have been trying to kill Gen. Grant in order to advertise themselves, and as if the general is destined to get well in spite of them. No wonder they wouldn't give the cancer doctor a chance at him, for that might have revealed the secret and blocked the game sooner.

Dr. Paul Semler, a practical botanist, has been visiting Rogue river valley, which he pronounces the most beautiful country he has ever seen. He found acres and acres of wild pennyroyal along the foothills and thinks the manufacture of pennyroyal oil might be carried on there profitably. He found several other useful plants in large quantities, and his botanical rambles afforded him much pleasure.

The New York Evening Post wants to organize a new party composed of the "better and more thoughtful elements of both parties." The Sun has no patience with the scheme and it pays its compliments to the promoters of the deal in the following incisive way. It says: "We are at the very start invited to put ourselves under the guidance of leaders and teachers who have shown by indelible actions that there is no extreme of villainy, no debasement of political soundness, that they are not ready to adopt and to justify when it serves the purpose they happen to have in hand."

It is with pleasure that we recommend to our readers the sterling Republican journal, the Philadelphia Weekly Press. Its columns are laden with all the interesting news of the day, the freshest and spiciest paragraphs, interesting stories, excellent literary notices, and a "heap of common sense" talk to the agricultural community. We have concluded arrangements with the publishers by which we are able to send you the COAST MAIL and the Weekly Press one year for \$3. A sample copy will be forwarded to any of our readers who will apply by postal card. Address the Weekly Press, Philadelphia, Penn.

The news appears to be greatly exercised about John Lane and the Coos bay custom house. It says our statement that he is or was an applicant for the place is entirely groundless. That is not true. We have in our possession a letter from Washington which, in referring to the collectorship of this port, says: "I am credibly informed that there are several applicants for the position. One is Col. John Lane, who has quite a formidable petition, and who will doubtless have some of the brigadiers urging his claims." The man who wrote that knew what he was saying and we do not believe that he made the assertion without foundation.

Oregon Democrats After Scapls.

WASHINGTON, April 17.—Democrats of Oregon represent to the president that they can carry the next legislature, and thus secure a senator to fill out the term now vacant, because of the neglect to choose a successor to Slater, if the administration will oust federal officials who make use of their places for political ends. It has been submitted to the president that seven federal officials of Portland dominate the republican politics of that state; that they control the machine, and are now laboring in behalf of the republican party. It is charged that the arbitrary rule of this clique of officials really caused the breach in the republican party which prevented the election of a senator last winter. The president has been advised also that Portland federal officials are now endeavoring to persuade Gov. Moody to convene the legislature in special session for the sole purpose of another effort to force in the bolters and elect a senator, but the governor refuses to issue a call, unless an agreement is entered into beforehand that a senator shall be chosen. Democrats contend that the removal of objectionable federal officials will give them a fair chance in the next election, and that with such a chance they can carry the legislature. The president has requested that charges against the officials complained of be put in writing, with details of their interference in elections, and it is the purpose of democrats of Oregon to fully comply with this request.

Russia's Navy and Army.

Russia's navy consists of three divisions. These divisions are a necessity of her geographical position, one of the most peculiar ever known in history. Practically her great fleets of war vessels can be restricted to her immediate coasts, because any outlet into the great ocean is forbidden by the narrow passages through which these vessels must pass, and which can easily be blocked by a much inferior fleet. In fact, Russia's navy is mostly confined to two great lakes, or seas, having narrow entrances. The Baltic is a lake with a narrow outlet, of which Denmark holds the key; the Black sea is another, of which Turkey is the water-gate keeper. Any naval power, therefore, which seeks to meet the Russians on sea must go to look for them. Whether they will find them or not is another question. In the last war the Baltic fleet ignominiously sheltered itself behind the fortifications of Cronstadt, and no inducement was sufficient to entice them out to interview the French and English men-of-war which were well in sight for months. It was a decided case of "one was afraid and the other didn't dare." The fortifications of Cronstadt were, beyond doubt, impregnable to all naval attacks of that time, and so the allies contended themselves with looking at it. The Russian Baltic fleet was safe from assault, and the Grand Duke of Constantinople, the admiral, never yearned for glory had enough to seek it broadside to broadside with the French and English. Neither French, English, nor Russian ships covered themselves with glory, and but for the exploits of the Hecla and Driver, both small ships of the British fleet, scarce a laurel was gained on any side.

In the Black sea, after the Russians destroyed the Turkish fleet in Sinope bay, they retired to Sebastopol, and were either sunk, to obstruct the harbor, or burned at the time of the capture of the fortress. No one of them ventured outside the harbor to greet the invaders, and no one ship of the allies could or did get in to carry an invitation. By means of torpedoes the Russians, in the last war with Turkey, managed to destroy several Turkish ships, but no naval battle, as the term is understood, has been fought by Russia for many years. It is possible, however, that the Baltic and Black seas both hold vessels capable of meeting the English ships to-day, and as ironclads are now the generally accepted strength of the navy, it will be of interest to see just what strength Russia has in these modern marine monsters.

In the Baltic fleet there are 10 sea-going iron-clads, 8 of which are afloat and 2 building. The biggest is the Peter the Great, built of iron in 1872, of 9655 tons displacement, 8-inch armor plate, and which carries four 46-ton guns, has twin screws, is of 8000 horse power and calculated for a speed of 13 knots. The Admiral Nakhimoff, steel, 7900 tons, 10-inch compound armor, with 4 15-ton and 10 4-ton guns, 8000 horse power and gauged for 16 knots; the Moskva, not yet built, does not materially differ in construction or armament. The Admiral Arkass, a steel ship with from 6 to 12 inches of compound armor, and the Dimitri Donskoi, of the same class and build, each carry 2 9½-ton and 14 4-ton guns; the Vladimir Monomach and Minin are nearly alike in build, 5740 tons, 6-inch armor, 2 9½-ton and 12 4-ton guns each; and the General Admiral and Herzog Edinburghski, the former of which, with 6-inch armor, carries 4 9½-ton and 2 4-ton guns, and the latter 10 4-ton guns. A new ship to be launched next year is of good pattern, designed and armed like the celebrated Sachsen of the German fleet. In all, there are 8 serviceable ironclads in the Russian Baltic fleet.

The ironclads before noted are classed as effective. Russia possesses about 27 ironclads of an obsolete type. It is purely conjectural how useful these are. The Greig, Lazareff, Spiridoff, Tchitchagoff are iron-turret ships, built from 1863 to 1868, of 4½ to 6½ inches of armor; 4 others, whose names any one might spell if they saw them in print, but none could read, of iron and wooden-armored type. Of coast-defense monitors in the Baltic, Russia possesses 13, none of which, it is said, can swim out of smooth water. The names would look pretty but unintelligible to the naked eye.

These are also from 4½ to 6½ inch armored. Though the above "obsolete" ships are not of the first line, it should not be forgotten that many of them are good ships, and would be likely to do effective war service, thus adding 24 iron or armored vessels to the 10 already given.

In the Black sea there are, or will be, 4 first-class ironclads, the best of which, the Katarina II., is to be launched in 1887. She is to be of iron and steel, 10,150 tons displacement, 15 inches of armor, and will carry 6 46-ton and 7 4-ton guns. The Sinope, Teheime and Alexander II., all of which are 18 inches of armor and the same armament. Then 2 circular iron-clads are classed as among the obsolete, the Novgorod and the Popoff. These were considered egregious failures, and in this case there is no reason to doubt that they are utterly useless. Two river gunboats, captured from the Turks, are also numbered in the iron-clad Black sea fleet. Of unarmored ships Russia possesses in the Baltic 21 cruisers, 14 gun vessels and one torpedo cruiser—36 vessels. In the Black sea, one cruiser, 8 of the volunteer fleet built by the Moscow subscription, 8 auxiliary cruisers, making 12 in all. No certain information is obtainable, however, about the Black sea flotilla. The numbers given above are the best attainable, but the naval bureau at St. Petersburg can best tell the real strength, and rumors have been

heard of war vessels floating the Black sea which are a match for the best ships of the best navy. They have not yet appeared before the world; they may not exist; but there is little doubt that the Black sea fleet, as given above, does not comprise the whole of the Russian naval strength in the Euxine.

There is also a Russian naval station on the northern Pacific coast, at Nicholasvsk. The place is well fortified, has dockyards, for the repair and refitting of ships, but no construction is carried on at that place.

In the Caspian sea there are a number of ships, all of wood, but as these are even more out of the way than the Black sea vessels, their strength or weakness is a matter of little interest.

The Russian army is recruited by a levy on all men who have completed their 21st year and are not physically unfit, and no substitutes can be provided. The period of service is 15 years, 6 with the colors and 9 in the reserve. The latter are only called on in case of war, except for drill purposes, and then only near their homes. The educated classes are freed from conscription only by the alternative of voluntary enrollment. Young men of this class are permitted to enter at 17 years of age, and after a short term of service may pass an examination and either go to the reserve or, by a stricter examination, qualify as officers.

The well known Cossack regiments are, however, recruited under different conditions. Their enlistment is by terms of treaties made with their chiefs. It is found in practice that a levy in Russia of 2 on every 500 males produces 90,000 to 100,000 men. The Russian army on a recent computation contained 1,213,259, officers and men. Add 129,000 Cossacks to this, and the total force on a peace footing is given.

The peculiar military systems of Finland and of the Cossacks deserve more than a passing notice. Finland provided a certain number of men, graded according to districts. The districts pay the soldiers, while the state government supplies their material wants. The Cossacks of the Don, the most important, are liable to service from 15 to 60 years of age, and no substitutes are permitted. The Cossacks are a race of free men; neither serfage nor any other dependence upon the land has existed among them. The entire territory belongs to the Cossack commune, and every individual has an equal right to the use of the land, together with the pastures, hunting grounds and fisheries. The Cossacks pay no taxes to the government, but in lieu of that they are bound to perform military service, which, under various conditions, they do until their 47th year. Every Cossack is obliged to equip, clothe and arm himself at his own expense, and keep his horse. If he serves beyond the frontiers of his own country he receives rations of food and forage and a small amount of pay. Instead of imposing taxes on them the Russian government pays the Cossacks an annual tribute and distributes grants among the widows and orphans of those who fall in battle.

The Afghan Trouble.

The latest news from London and St. Petersburg is more pacific. Both the funds and Russian bonds are higher and the official organ of the Russian government hopes that the incident at Penjdeh may not interfere with peace negotiations. Still the fact wears a threatening look. There is no doubt that the Afghans did advance from Penjdeh, did cross the Kushk river nearly opposite that point, did extend their lines along the left bank of the river as far as a place called Pul-i-Khisti and did throw the bulk of their force into the new lines. This was a violation of the agreement of March 17, by which England, on behalf of Afghanistan, and Russia, on her own behalf, promised to make no advance while negotiations were pending. In making the agreement, M. De Giers expressly stated—and Gladstone repeated the statement in parliament—that the Russians would remain where they were "unless the Afghans advanced." When the Afghans did advance, a contingency which M. De Giers had foreseen occurred, and Russia was absolved from her pledge. Under the circumstances it is hardly worth while to inquire whether the story from Meshed, on which M. Lessor lays such stress, to the effect that the Afghans had driven the Russians out of the Zulfigar pass, with some loss of life, is or is not true. It is more material to know whether after the victory Gen. Komaroff did or did not occupy Penjdeh, and whether he is there yet. He says himself that he returned across the river, and the Russian government makes the same statement. But Gladstone seems to think the Russians are in Penjdeh. It is a point of considerable strategic importance, covering the Oxus road to Herat, and if the Russians are there in force it will be hard to drive them out. From the fortifications which the English are throwing up around Herat, it looks as if they expect to be besieged there.

Wars seldom grow out of such questions as boundary lines, but where two armies are encamped face to face, with bad blood on both sides, it is hard to prevent casual encounters, and a skirmish may lead to an outbreak of war. These two nations evidently believe that they have got to fight sooner or later, and the chief question which occupies the minds of the rulers is when is the best time to begin the fighting. Englishmen cannot look back at the advance which Russia has made in the last nine years without utterly distrustful Moscow assurances of the pacific purposes of the emperor. Nine years ago Russia, in contempt of the solemn assurances of count Schouvaloff, occupied

Khiva and holds it yet. Three years ago she was over 500 miles from Herat by either of the two roads. In May last she advanced to Merv on one road, and in July to Sarakhs on the other. Last January the corps at Sarakhs pushed on to Pul-i-Khatum, and the corps at Merv occupied Yulotan, and threw out an advance guard toward Penjdeh. Now on March 30 this advance guard drove the Afghans out of Penjdeh, and may or may not be in possession of that place. All this while the cabinet of St. Petersburg has been profuse in pacific assurances and protests that the Russians were not seeking territorial extension. In view of the facts, does not this Russian talk look rather thin? Would it surprise any one to hear any day that the Russians were in possession of the Rohat pass? Looking at the situation from the calm standpoint of an outside observer, it would seem possible that England may make up her mind to fight without further waste of time. There will never be a better opportunity. The odds are all on her side, provided the people of British India do not seize the opportunity to rise. If we were in the position of Great Britain the American people would undoubtedly force the fighting. They would take the ground that they would gain nothing by deferring the struggle, whereas Russia is drawing nearer to the vital points day by day. England can put more men in the field in Afghanistan than Russia, she has more money, more ships, more guns, more prestige. The only defect in her case is the anomalous position she occupies in India and the terrible danger that her disaffected subjects may open a fire in the rear of an army marching to Kabul. But for this, Russia would stand no show. So courses come home to roost. When Clive and Hastings and Wellesley and Lawrence were covering the British flag with what was called glory by robbing the natives of India of their country, there were clear-headed men who predicted that Great Britain would some day have to pay the penalty of her buccaneer policy. The warning was disregarded. And now she stands face to face with Russia, with every chance in her favor, except the one chance that the outbreak of war may be the signal for an uprising among the people she has oppressed in the land that she has stolen.—(Chronicle.)

J. H. Shaw, a democratic member of the lower house of the Illinois legislature, was found dead in his bed at his hotel on the morning of the 12th inst. He had been a sufferer from heart disease, but had been able to take part in the proceedings up to the time of his death. This again frustrates the plans of the managers of the senatorial contest. Logan's friends are confident that he will yet be elected.

Chas. Wooten attempted suicide in San Francisco on the 10th inst. and was afterwards examined by the commissioners of insanity and doubtless sent to the insane asylum. Wooten is a man 40 or 50 years of age and was employed at the block at the Pioneer market in this place about the time Whitney sold out, and afterwards he was in the market at Empire for a short time. He was cranky on religion.

Thos. H. Forrester, a well known farmer of Eagle creek, Clackamas county, went out with a double-barreled shotgun on the morning of the 14th inst. to shoot squirrels that were destroying his peas. In the afternoon his lifeless body was found near a log, where he had accidentally shot himself while in the act of loading his gun.

Stetson & Post's saw mill at Seattle, W. T., was destroyed by fire on the 12th inst., caused by the explosion of a lamp in the hands of a Chinaman who was oiling the machinery. Loss \$100,000; insurance, \$10,000. Post says the mill will be rebuilt when Stetson returns from the east.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICES FOR FINAL PROOF.

LAND OFFICE AT ROSEBURG, Oregon, April 13, 1885.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the judge or clerk of Coos county, at Empire City, Oregon,

On Tuesday, May 26, 1885,

Vis: CARL HENRICKSON, declaratory statement No. 4702, for the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 10, and the north half of the southwest quarter of section 11, township 25 south, range 11 west, Willamette meridian. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land—viz:

Charles Rodin, S. B. Cathcart, George Stemmerman and Anders Hengel, all of Marshfield, Coos county, Oregon.

ap3td Wm. F. BENJAMIN, Register.

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ap3td Wm. F. BENJAMIN, Register.

The Coast Mail
And the Philadelphia
WEEKLY PRESS
\$3 00
Per year in advance.

Gen. Grant Getting Well.

New York, April 17.—Gen. Grant has had a very refreshing sleep. He says he rested better than for many nights, and feels strong enough to get up and dress for the day. He has taken nourishment without pain in swallowing, and has not since midnight been disturbed by coughing. Pulse and temperature unchanged.

Gen. Grant's progress towards convalescence for the past two days has been phenomenal. His physicians now openly express the opinion he will recover. Dr. Shady said he was prepared for any change, but did not anticipate any at present, though it would be premature to say that the general was out of danger. He felt very hopeful of the future. Senator Chaffee went into the house at 7:30. He desires it understood he did not mean to say that the doctors did not know what was the matter with the general, but that they might be mistaken in their diagnosis.

The World says: "Grant's cancer will perhaps turn out to be as imaginary as the bullet which the learned doctors were certain they found moving in the murdered Garfield's groin."

New York, April 19.—Everything passed quietly at the Grant mansion last night. Cyrus W. Field drove up to the house at 9:45 this morning and had a short conversation with the general, whom, he said, he found feeling and looking much better than at his previous visit. He said the doctors would not allow the general to go out just at present, as the air was so chilly.

At 11:30 the general appeared at the front window and seemed to enjoy the bright sunshine that streamed in upon him. People passing on the other side of the street noticed his presence, most men lifting their hats, which the general recognized with apparent pleasure. About the same time Jesse Grant went out for a stroll with his little daughter Nellie. She saw the upturned faces on the other side of the street, looked up to the window where the general stood and quickly placing both chubby hands to her lips, threw a kiss to him. "There's grandpa," cried the child as she did so, and in response Grant nodded to the child and smiled.

When baby was sick, we gave her CASTORIA.
When she was a Child, she cried for CASTORIA.
When she became Miss, she clung to CASTORIA.
When she had Children, she gave them CASTORIA.

R. MAINS,
MERCHANT
TAILOR!
FRONT STREET, MARSHFIELD
JUST RECEIVED,
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GOODS.

Stock of Foreign and Domestic Hats and Fancy Suits of
READY-MADE CLOTHING.
Which will be sold at BOTTOM PRICES.
Ready-made goods bought at this shop altered and pressed free of charge.
Give me a call.
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FURNITURE STORE!
ON FRONT STREET, OPPOSITE THE Postoffice, in the building formerly occupied as a residence by A. Nasburg, where the undersigned has every facility for doing
Cabinet Work of all kinds,
UPHOLSTERING, and
GENERAL JOBBING WORK IN WOOD
At short notice and on liberal terms.
Furniture manufactured and furnished to order at bottom prices.
Handsome Chaises for sale at low figures.
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COFFINS made to order at lowest rates. Jobbing Work a specialty and promptly executed at living rates.
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EMPIRE CITY, OREGON.
THE EXCELLENCY OF THIS house is too well known to need any recommendation, and travelers have long since pronounced it the BEST HOTEL SOUTH OF PORTLAND.
MRS. E. M. LOCKHART, Proprietor.
P. C. LEVAV. F. P. NORTON

EMPIRE Cigar Store!
Schetter's Corner, Empire City, NORTON & LEVAV, Proprietors, JOBBERS AND RETAIL DEALERS IN
Cigars and Tobacco, Cutlery, Jewelry, Playing Cards, Confectionery, Stationery, Toilet Articles, Etc., Etc.
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KIDNEY & LIVER REGULATOR
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BOTH PAPERS FOR ONE YEAR
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Remember all these goods are the newest patterns from the East.
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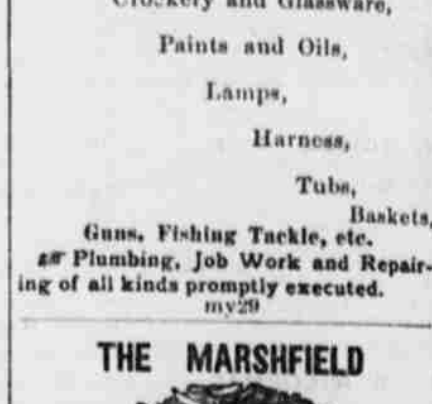
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Manufacturer of and Dealer in



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Plumbing, Job Work and Repairing
of all kinds promptly executed.
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THE MARSHFIELD



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STORE
KEEPS ON HAND A SUPERIOR
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TIN, COPPER and
SHEET-IRON WARE,
Of home manufacture, in connection
with a well-selected stock of
GENERAL HARDWARE!
Stoves and Ranges,
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Paints, Oils and Brushes,
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MARSHFIELD, OREGON,
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\$2 75
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