

# The Oregon Register

LAFAYETTE OREGON.  
MARCH 2, 1888.

## SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

### A MECHANICAL GIANT.

What is believed to be the most powerful and efficient tool yet made is the gigantic hydraulic forging press of the Atlas works at Sheffield, of which Krupp, of Essen, has ordered a duplicate. It exerts a nominal force of 4,000 tons, though its actual maximum power is considerably greater. The work is made ready for the great machine by three furnaces, each capable of heating an ingot of 100 tons, and two traveling cranes, each easily lifting 150 tons, convey and manipulate the forgings. One man operates four valves to raise, lower, advance, retire, move sideways or rotate the forging, and another man regulates the strokes of the press with the utmost delicacy and accuracy.

### SOURCES OF PAINTS.

Materials for the painter's colors—animal, vegetable and mineral—come from many lands. The cochineal insects furnish the gorgeous carmine, and crimson, scarlet and purple lakes; sepia is the inky fluid by which the cuttlefish conceals itself; ivory black and bone black are made from ivory chips; and Prussian blue results from the fusion of impure potassium carbonate with such animal refuse as horses' hoofs. The vegetable lakes are derived from roots, barks and gums; lamp black is from vine charcoal; lamp black is from resinous root; turkey red is made from the madder plant of Hindostan; gamboge from the yellow sap of a Siamese tree; Indian ink, a Chinese secret, is probably made from camphor; mastic is from a tree of the Grecian archipelago; bister is the soot of wood ashes. A natural earth from Siena, Italy, furnishes raw and burnt sienna; and raw and burnt umber are from an earth of Umbria. Real ultramarine is obtained from the precious lapis lazuli; Chinese white is from zinc; scarlet is made of mercury, and cinnabar, or native vermilion, is from quicksilver ore.

### A WINE FIELD FOR ENTOMOLOGISTS.

The insect world is vast almost beyond our conception. President Sharp of the London Entomological society states that, while Linnaeus knew only 3,000 species of insects 150 years ago, the collections of the world probably include at present 200,000 to 250,000 species. Certain data lead to the inference that we do not yet possess more than one-tenth of those existing, so that even the present rapid rate of discovery will not complete our collections of insects in less than 1,000 years. Before the end of that period many species of to-day will have become extinct, and Dr. Sharp urges that those likely soon to disappear should be especially sought.

### MOSQUITO EFFECTS.

The influence of the moon upon vegetation is an interesting problem awaiting solution. A recent writer upon the subject mentions that woodcutters in Cape Colony and in India insist that timber is full of sap and unfit to be cut at full moon. Another observation of lunar influence in Cape Colony is the rapid spoiling of meat and other provisions when exposed to moonlight, though this may be due to the fact that the light serves as a guide to insects.

### A FORTUITOUS POSSIBILITY.

A curious speculation has been made concerning what would happen were the earth's rotation to cease. The equatorial diameter being twenty-six miles more than the polar diameter, the earth would present an equatorial zone of solid ground miles high above the sea

level, the water being all drawn to the poles. This land zone would then be like our Arctic regions, and would be banded by a ring of permanent ice and snow.

The average age of all the people of France is given as thirty two years, two months and twelve days; the average in the United States is only twenty-four years, ten months and twenty-four days.

Women are gradually becoming active in scientific work. The Royal Geographical society has decided to admit them to fellowship, and other prominent societies will shortly follow the example.

A company has been formed in Berlin to manufacture electrical watches. Two small cells and a small electric motor take the place of the ordinary watch movement.

### DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

A democratic state convention for the state of Oregon is hereby called to meet at Pendleton, Umatilla county, on Tuesday, April 3, 1888, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for member of congress, a candidate for judge of the supreme court, six delegates to the national democratic convention, and six alternates; to ratify the various district nominations, and such other business as may properly come before the convention.

Said convention will be composed of 135 delegates, apportioned to the various counties on the vote cast for candidate to congress at the election of 1886, being one delegate for each county and one for every 200 and fraction over 100 votes so cast. In accordance with said apportionment, the respective counties will be entitled to the following representation:

Baker	5 Linn	9
Benton	6 Malheur	9
Cacksonas	7 Marion	9
Clatsop	5 Morrow	6
Columbia	5 Multnomah	17
Coe	4 Polk	9
Crook	4 Tillamook	9
Curry	2 Umatilla	9
Douglas	6 Union	9
Gilliam	3 Wasco	9
Graham	2 Washington	9
Jackson	7 Wallowa	9
Josephine	2 Yamhill	6
Klamath	3	9
Lake	2 Total	135
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The committee respectfully recommends that the county conventions for the election of delegates to the state convention, unless otherwise ordered by the local county committee, be held on Saturday, March 24, 1888. —B. GOLDSMITH, Chairman Democratic State Central Committee.

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