

WEST SIDE TELEPHONE.

McMinnville, Friday, July 23, 1886.

Sidney Dell, late candidate for the legislature from Multnomah county in a recent number of the Portland News tells how every Pacific coast state can "solve for itself the Chinese question by lawful, constitutional and peaceful means."

For our part we cannot doubt that the law proposed would, if enforced, speedily eliminate the Chinese from our state. While the Chinese are not loafers but are industrious, they are not sufficiently fond of work for their health, so that if the license fee were high enough to destroy the profits of their labor, they would unquestionably leave.

The constitutionality of the measure is quite another thing. We think it conflicts with the treaty entered into between the United States and China which guarantees the subjects of the emperor of China residing in the United States the same privileges and immunities as to residence and occupation as are granted to the citizens of the most favored nation. To require a citizen of China to pay a license to engage in any occupation, while a citizen of Great Britain or Germany was not required to such license would be plainly in violation of this guarantee.

The action of the senate judiciary committee in amending Beck's bill prohibiting members of congress from acting as attorneys for land grant railroads, has provoked a great deal of adverse criticism. We are inclined to believe the amendment proper and right. The theory upon which the bill proceeds evidently is that when a congressman is employed as an attorney by a person or corporation and the interests of such person or corporation are subject to congressional action, the senator or representative will be biased in his vote by the relationship he sustains to such person or corporation.

After all is there not a good deal of "humbly" in this whole business? A member of congress is, by his oath bound to look after the interests of the whole country and people. As attorney for a railroad or other corporation he is required to see that his client receives his rights under the law. The judge and jury decide all cases in court and a senator or representative has no more influence there than any other man of equal ability. If it is meant that members of congress shall not accept retainers from corporations in consideration of their services rendered in obtaining legislation favorable to such corporations, it is sufficient to say that that would be bribery and is now condemned both by statute and the universal verdict of mankind.

Gen. Logan should remember that the senate has been asked to investigate the alleged bribery attending Payne's election to the senate, by the Ohio legislature, the entire republican congressional delegation from that state, and by more than 75 of the editors of leading republican papers in Ohio. He should remember that there is a popular superstition that seats in the senate are sometimes the subject of bargain and sale, and that the best way to disabuse the public mind on this point is the fullest investigation. Abuse of Murat Halstead will not answer the demands. If Payne is innocent an investigation will result in freeing him from a very ugly suspicion. If he is guilty he should be "fired out of the senate bodily."

The Reverend H. Ward Beecher has been explaining American politics to the readers of the London Daily News. According to Beecher, there is in America no restriction on purchase of votes and men are bought and sold like sheep before the ballot boxes, and the use of money does not stop till one reaches the United States senate. Too bad.

Mass meetings are being held in Arizona under the auspices of Arizona Pioneer Society for the purpose of adopting resolutions calling upon the general government to take measures for the removal of the Apache tribes from the territory. Petitions to be signed by the governor, county supervisors and every mayor.

The Mormons are American citizens and are as much entitled to freedom of religious belief and worship as any other denomination. It is a credit to the democratic press of Idaho that it has never endorsed the political claptrap which would deprive Mormons of their political privileges on account of their religious belief.—Idaho Paper.

If the "democratic press of Idaho" is so far "gone" on the sacredness of a "religious belief" which advocates and leads to the practice of crime, then the less there is of the "democratic press of Idaho" the better. If editors in that territory, democratic or otherwise, have not discovered that monogamy is necessary to the peace, prosperity and greatness of any people, their minds are certainly in such a state of darkness as to be unsusceptible of influence, by any argument whatever. People have committed murder and other crimes, on numerous occasions, and plead "religious belief" as an excuse. It was just as valid in those instances as in the case of polygamous Mormons.

The trial of the Chicago dynamiters has just been opened in that city, and promises to be a long and tedious affair at best. The evidence so far has been of the most straightforward and convincing nature as to the men indicted, and no trouble found in recognizing them. But in this day of chicanery and legal trickery it is always difficult to foretell the outcome of any trial. The better way perhaps, in such atrocious cases as these would be the trial afforded horse thieves, murderers, etc., in early frontier days—a post mortem trial.

A petition is in circulation and will be forwarded to President Cleveland, asking him to remove Steamboat Inspectors Lotan and Ferguson, and substitute some loyal democrat. These little offices cut but a small figure in Washington, but it awfully troubles the local democrats who hate to see them occupied by republicans.—News.

The body of President Garfield has been removed from the Scofield vault to the public vault in Lakeview cemetery. The transfer was made by the United States soldiers who have been guarding the vault.

FOR CHATEL LAKE.

The United States Geological survey party sent out to make a scientific examination of Crater lake and its surroundings, (the proposed national park,) left Ashland for the lake Wednesday afternoon going by the Rogue river road. The party is in command of Capt. Dutton, U. S. A., a prominent scientist, who has been engaged in the government geological researches for a number of years past. In addition to the dozen or more men required to assist him in his special work, a detachment of troops from Vancouver, consisting of a sergeant corporal and eight privates, under charge of Capt. W. Davis, 14th infantry, was detailed as an escort to assist Dutton in placing his three boats upon the lake (a difficult task) and in such other matters as he may help. Capt. Davis, as well as Capt Dutton, is an officer with national fame. It was he who superintended the placing of the new foundation under the Washington monument, and had charge of some difficult architectural engineering in the treasury building at Washington. He also superintended the survey of the proposed Nicaragua canal and the treaty with the Nicaraguan government to secure the right of way. He also has been on special public duty at Washington for many years, but when Endicott took the war portfolio was ordered to join his regiment at Vancouver. Capt. Dutton was surprised and greatly pleased to have his assistance at the lake.

The party will most likely make their camp out on the island, which rises some six or eight hundred feet from the bosom of the lake. There is no good camping ground at the shore of the lake and the climb from the water to the summit of the mountain rim surrounding is too much an every day experience. The island is very rocky, but has timber upon it for fuel, and may furnish a tolerably comfortable camp. Some few attempts have been made to find the bottom of the lake heretofore by sounding with an ordinary twine line, and the impression is general that the depth is profound but the test to be made with the regular sounding apparatus—wire line and heavy weights—may prove the actual depth of the lake much less than has been supposed.—Ashland Tidings.

A large lot of tin ore recently arrived at Chicago from the Black Hills. It is the first considerable quantity ever mined in America. Prof. Bailey, geologist of Dakota, says that the deposits of tin in the Black Hill are practically limitless, covering an area of 7000 square miles. But the whole vast deposit has been monopolized by one company, composed of heavy eastern capitalists. We are importing tin at the rate of \$25,000,000 a year, and this American company claims to be able to supply the whole product called for by the American market. If so, here will be another colossal American monopoly.

We see no reason why congressmen should pass the oleomargarine bill. They now all seem able to tell on which side their bread is buttered.

STONE PILES IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

The following interesting letter from the pen of our old friend D. I. Corker, of Lafayette, appears in the Scientific American of Jan. 16, 1886.

To the editor of the Scientific American: I see in the Scientific American of October 31, a notice to the "Stone Piles" of Washington Territory, wherein the writer expresses his belief that the mounds were nests of some kind of aquatic creatures, and refers to an article on the "St. Lawrence Club Nests" in support of his history.

I am not acquainted with the locality, "Stone Pile Meadows," to which he refers; but I know something of Mound Prairie, Mima Prairie, and Rock Prairie, all in Thurston County, W. T., and presume that the mounds on those prairie meadows are of the same formation and origin as the ones he names.

I had heard the fish nest theory advanced by Mr. Thomas Condon, formerly State Geologist, Oregon, and, until I visited Washington Territory, supposed his theory to be correct. But a very slight examination of the mounds upset that belief.

After listening to theories of all kinds, some of which might be called possible, but none of which appeared at all probable, I settled on the ice theory for myself.

In the first place, it must be understood that these prairies are the dry beds of what were once shallow lakes, made dry partly by filling up with wash from the surrounding hills and partly by the wearing away of some obstruction that dammed the water back. That these lakes were shallow is fully proved by the entire bottom being covered with well-washed gravel.

Now let us go back to the earlier ages of the world, to the time when the climate of the northwest coast was much colder than now; when the ice formed to the depth of several inches every winter.

Next we must imagine the end summer, when, through a very porous soil below and a hot sun above, the bed of the lake was left completely dry. Of course, while the bed of a lake may be, generally speaking, level, yet there will be many little depressions and as many little hillocks, all barely visible above or below the general surface.

After summer comes the fall rains; gradually the thirsty soil becomes saturated, and then little by little the water accumulates in the small depressions of the lake bed. Inch by inch the water rises until the whole surface is covered. Then the rains cease and the frosts set in. One or two months of frost is sufficient; the water is frozen solid to the bottom, and probably several inches below. But spring approaches, the frost ceases, and the rain again comes down in torrents. The flood soon lifts the ice, still gripping its load of gravel, and it goes floating about in broken fragments, that from the deepest places being the thickest, carrying the biggest rocks and the most of them. But the floods cannot go far, because some little rise will catch one and hold it, and another little rise will catch another and hold it, and so on. Now, where each floe is caught and held, it will deposit its load of gravel and sand. So there we have two results—the hole or depression, where the floe came from is deepened, and the hillock where it lodged is raised, or a new mound started where it was level before. The next year the process is repeated; the deepening places always giving up the most material, and the growing mounds always forcing its delivery as a new contribution to their growth.

How many years the process may have been going on would be hard to guess, perhaps for thousands, until the barriers that confined the water were finally worn away, and channels formed, growing deeper and deeper, until now the beds of the Chehalis and Black rivers are many feet below the present level of the former lake beds. One strong proof of the ice theory is in the fact that some of the largest rocks from five to ten pounds in weight and perhaps larger, are often found at the top of the mounds. These mounds are of all sizes, from mere swells, barely perceptible, to cones eight or ten feet high. In some places they stand so close together that their bases almost touch, while in other localities they are more sparsely scattered. The material of which they are formed is the same as that over which they were raised—sand and gravel—ranging in size from the merest speck to ten and probably more pounds in weight. Lafayette, Or., Nov. 11, 1885. D. I. C.

RUIN OF BRITISH AGRICULTURE. It now seems to be settled that under existing conditions it does not pay to grow grain or raise cattle in the best part of the continent and the British Isles. For this curious state of things the world is indebted to the extension of steam navigation to all parts of the earth. Wheat, barley, oats, etc., can be grown on almost any arable land. It follows that wherever the factors are most valuable that region gets the benefit of this cheap access to the consuming market. A few years ago India contributed but 90,000 bushels of wheat to countries outside of the peninsula. Its export supply is now about 50,000,000 bushels, and with the extension of the railway system it will have fully

100,000,000 for outside consumption.

The secret of India's ability to sell in distant markets is the extraordinary cheapness of labor, which does not command more than ten cents a day of our money. The United States, Australia and New Zealand can produce wheat and lay it down in Liverpool at a price which is simply ruinous to the England and European wheat grower. This is because of cheaper and more fertile land, and the use of machinery on the broad prairies and plains, which dispenses with costly labor. Recent statistics show that tenement farmers in the British Isles who confine themselves to cereals an cattle raising cannot make both ends meet if they undertake to pay their rent. This accounts for the distress among the agricultural classes in the Old World, and more especially for the subject misery of the Irish people, who have no diversified industries, because the island is without coal or iron, and British laws discourage manufacturers of any kind in that unhappy country.

The inability to raise grain is effecting a social revolution. It has struck a fatal blow at the authority and prestige of the peers, who are the great land owners, and it will end in agricultural lands being transferred to the peasants, in England and Scotland as well as Ireland. These agricultural workers, having no rents to pay, will be able to make a living out of the soil, for they can raise perishable vegetables, poultry, eggs and dairy products, as these are safe from foreign competition. In the meantime the cities of Europe are growing rapidly and are yearly consuming more and more, not only of the grain and cattle raised in distant regions, but also of the vegetables, fruit and dairy products of near by production. This explanation of the agricultural situation tends to throw a good deal of light upon the political and social change now taking place in the Old World.

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