

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL

PUBLISHED DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY.
BY THE
Capital Journal Publishing Company.

Postoffice Block, Commercial Street.

HOFER BROTHERS, - - Editors.

Daily, by carrier, per month..... \$1.50
Daily, by mail, per year..... 2.00
Weekly, 8 pages, per year..... 1.50

A SPECIAL SESSION.

If a special session of the legislature is needed it is not to enact a stay law but to protect the state finances. A session would not cost over \$25,000 and might save a half million to the state. It is imperative that public credit shall be protected.

There is a half million of 1892 state taxes due the state treasurer from county treasurers. More than half of it is suspended banks at Portland. The state is losing the use of this money which should draw interest for the state and may lose a quarter of a million outright.

In some counties the treasurers are defaulters, and in others absconders. A large sum of state money is sunk in the collapsed Corvallis bank. Shall no effort be made by the state to enforce collection on the bondsmen?

With the tremendous advantage of the money power in depressing price of the farmers' crops, it is an outrage that it shall be permitted to fortify itself with public funds.

There is no reason why a school district treasurer shall go to the penitentiary for two years for using \$40 of school money, and men who steal hundreds of thousands go free. Yet such is the case in Oregon today.

Unless the state is going to be hopelessly bankrupt, or issue bonds, the legislature should meet and protect the people against longer wrongful detention of public funds, or possible loss of a quarter of a mill on.

DID HE STEAL THE PICTURE?

Mystery of the Theft of the Duchess of Devonshire Painting May Be Solved.

A mystery of 17 years seems about to be cleared up by the confession of a prisoner in a Belgian jail. This man, who wears the sackcloth mask of the Prison de Louvain, is Adam Wirth, "Le Brigand Internationale." It is said that he has confessed the theft of the famous stolen "Duchess of Devonshire," the painting which set all London agog, and which mysteriously disappeared on the night of May 24, 1876.

The picture is believed to be a genuine Gainsborough and was purchased from a Mrs. Magennis in 1839 by a picture restorer named Bentley. He gave £50 for it and was delighted with his bargain when he sold it for 60 guineas to Mr. Wynn Ellis. As part of the latter's famous collection it was put up at auction at Christie's on May 6, 1876, and a great struggle for its purchase ensued. The Earl of Dudley ran the price up to £10,000, but could not shake off the persistent agent of the Messrs. Agnew, who secured the picture for £10,100, the highest price ever paid for a picture at Christie's.

The dealers at once placed it in their galleries at 39 Bond street, and London went wild over the picture. It monopolized the conversation of the day, and at public receptions women dressed after the fashion of the beautiful painted duchess.

One night on May 24, only 12 days after it came into the Messrs. Agnew's possession, it was left as usual at 11 p.m. on the walls of the gallery. In the morning it had been cut from the frame and stolen. The Scotland Yard detectives took the matter in hand, and the owners offered £1,000 reward for its recovery. People who doubted the genuineness of the work hinted that the Messrs. Agnew had found these suspicious well grounded and had burned the picture in disgust, starting the story of the theft in order to conceal their mortification. But neither rumors nor the reward brought out any facts, until, as the years went on, the £1,000 tempted the thief to negotiate for the return of the picture. But he was too timid, and nothing came of the attempt.

Now he has confessed in jail and says that he stole the picture in the hope of getting ransom for it without risk. He failed and for years had the stolen "Duchess," like a white elephant, on his hands. He was of American birth, about 30 years old at the time and a robber by profession. A boldly planned felony put him in possession of £60,000, with which he lived like a king among the very people he had previously robbed. The picture was a constant menace to his safety, but he could not make up his mind to part with it. One scheme suggested itself to him—of painting another picture over the Gainsborough, having it put up at a sale, buying it in and then, in the process of cleaning it, discovering the real picture. But for this he needed accomplices, and he was afraid to risk it. At last he landed in the Belgian prison, and there being nothing to lose now he had made a partial confession, which he promises to supplement with the story of what finally became of the picture. That it is not destroyed seems probable from his assurance that he will prove his statement.—New York Sun.

Drunkenness and a craving for liquor banished by a dose of Simmon's Liver Regulator.

GENERAL COMPSON'S DEFENSE.

He Sets Right Several Unjust Attacks.

That the coroner's inquest on the body of Lieutenant Nelson was conducted on rather broad lines and took too wide a range, is plain to anyone. In the following statement General Compson bases his opinion in this matter upon the elementary principles of military law and upon the natural expectation that he himself, the person condemned, should have been summoned as a witness. He was not even notified that an inquest would be held. In speaking of the matter, he said in Saturday's Oregonian:

"I left Portland on Monday with the other railroad commissioners of the state to make an inspection of the Astoria & South Coast railroad, and was away during the inquest. I did not receive any notification that one would be held, and if I had I would certainly have remained here in order to be present. My testimony surely would have been at least as important as that of any other witness, and I think it a very strange circumstance that I was not summoned to be in attendance. Those of my staff who took an active part in the engagement were not called upon to testify in regard to the matter, and, altogether, the inquest seems to have been conducted more in the spirit of a prosecution than a fair and impartial investigation. To my knowledge, out of the witnesses summoned was upon my behalf, and part of his testimony is not entirely clear to me."

"I did not intend to make any statement of the circumstances surrounding the battle, until I received the report of the military court of investigation; but so much has been said and published to my discredit that I determined to give an account of the conflict at once. I have done all in my power to have the death of Lieutenant Nelson investigated, and it was by my order that the military board convened Saturday night and is now in session. Notwithstanding my efforts to have a careful investigation made, it would seem that some one has been endeavoring to hold me up to public reprobation. In my judgment, spite-work is evident, and it will be only a matter of time to fully develop who is at the bottom of it.

"To begin with, I will say the only objection of any weight made by any of the officers was that the men would not be in a condition for the brigade inspection which took place that evening. The sham battle is a part of the education of every soldier in civilized nations and of the National Guard of the various states of this country. Every year the state organizations are ordered out for field maneuvers, and the sham battle, which is recognized as a part of the military training of a soldier, is fought at nearly every encampment. No danger attends a well-planned and properly executed sham conflict, and there would have been no fatality at Camp Compson had my orders been obeyed. It is absurd to say that a National Guard is afraid to participate in a sham battle on account of the danger attending it, and if there is any such an officer or militiaman in the Oregon guard he should leave military life. Such a man is not fit for a soldier, for how would he act in active and actual service? Would he ask permission of his superior officer to remain in camp during the conflict to avoid being killed? Some people have an idea that the National Guard is for parade purposes only, but during my incumbency in office I intend to accomplish the object for which it was formed—that is, to train and prepare it for military service in time of actual need.

My duty, as brigade commander, is to put the Oregon National Guard on the best possible practical footing and prepare them to meet any emergency that may arise—insurrection, invasion or riot. This cannot be accomplished without putting them under fire with blank ammunition, which experience would tend to abate their fear of excitement when in a regular battle. Some people say that sham battles are for fun! That is all wrong. I think it would be an expensive amusement to buy ammunition for the boys to discharge for fun."

I wish to correct several statements in regard to Lieutenant Nelson's death. The gatling gun which he tried to capture was set out as a dummy only and could not be fired because there was no suitable ammunition to be had for it in the state. According to the plan of battle, it was to be taken by Major Everett on the fourth charge, and the attacking party had positive orders to fall back when they approached to within 20 yards of the gun. They advanced on the third charge, and when within the prescribed limit fell back. Seeing that company A, with Lieutenant Nelson in the lead, was disobeying orders by charging for the gun, I ordered my bugle to sound a retreat, and many fell back. I then sent Captain Jones forward to order a retreat, but meantime Lieutenant Nelson had advanced too far beyond his proper position and had fallen, wounded by a blank cartridge. I deplore his death as much as any one in the state, if not more, but as it was the result of a violation and not in pursuance of my positive injunctions to both lines to avoid a

collision, I do not see how I can be held responsible for the fatality.

"I also wish to say that immediately before the battle there was an assembly at which every soldier was searched as to both cartridge-box and pockets for ball cartridges, and they were not allowed to visit their quarters after examination. This was done before the 40 rounds of blank ammunition had been issued. We feared that ball cartridges might have been carelessly left in their pockets and become mixed with the others, and be unintentionally used during the excitement attending the conflict.

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Veals—dressed 44 cts.

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Livestock—2 to 24.

Sheep—alive \$1.50 to \$2.00.

Spring lambs—\$1.50 to \$2.00.

MILL PRICES.

Salem Milling Co. quotes: Flour

in wholesale lots \$3.20. Retail \$3.00.

Bran \$1.75, \$1.50 sacked. Shorts \$1.95 and \$2.00. Chop feed \$19 and \$20.

WHEAT.

Old wheat on storage 48 cents. New

wheat 50 cents.

HAY AND GRAIN.

Oats—old, 38 to 40c., new, 30c.

Hay—Baled, new \$6 to \$12; old \$10 to

\$14. Wild in bulk, \$6 to \$8.

Barley—Brewing, at Salem, No. 1,

95 to \$1.00 per cwt. No. 2, 70 to 85 cts.

FARM PRODUCTS.

Apples—75c to \$1.00 a bushel.

Wool—Best, 10c.

Hops—Small size, 15c to 17c.

Eggs—Cash, 18 cents.

Butter—Best, dairy, 25; fancy

creamy, 30.

Cheese—12 to 15 cts.

Farm smoked meats—Bacon 12c;

hams, 13; shoulders, 10.

Potatoes—new, 50c to 60c.

Onions—12 to 2 cents.

Beeswax—34c. Caraway seed, 18c.

Anise seed, 25c. Ginseng, \$1.40.

HIDES AND FELTS.

Green, 2 cts; dry, 4 cts; sheep pelts,

75 cts to \$1.25. No quotations on fur,

LIVE POULTRY.

Chickens—7 to 10 cts; broilers 10 to 12c;

ducks, 12; turkeys, slow sale, choice,

10 cts; geese slow.

PORLAND QUOTATIONS.

Flour—Standard, \$3.40; Walla Walla,

\$3.40; graham, \$3.00; superfine, \$2.50

per barrel.

Oats—Old white, 40c per bush.; grey, 38c;

rolled in bags, \$6.25 @ \$6.50; barrels,

\$6.50 @ \$6.75; cases, \$7.50.

Hay—Best, \$15 @ \$17 per ton; common,

\$10 @ \$12.

Wool—valley, 10 to 12c.

Mills—flours, \$17.00; shorts, \$21;

ground barley, \$25 @ \$24; chop feed, \$16

per ton; whole feed, barley, \$0 @ \$6 per

centos; middlings, \$22 @ \$28 per ton; brew-

barley, 90 @ 95 per cental; chicken

wheat, \$1.22 @ \$1.24 per cental.

Hops—Old, 10 to 16c, new 12 to 17.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

Butter—Oregon fancy creamy, 25 @

28; fancy dairy, 20 @ 22c; fair in good,

16 @ 17c; common, 14 to 16c per lb.; California, 35 @ 40c per roll.

Cheese—Oregon, 12 @ 14c; Eastern

twin, 16c; Young American, 14c per

pound; California flat, 14c.

Eggs—Oregon, 15 to 17c per dozen.

Poultry—Chickens, \$0.50; broilers,

large, \$2.00 @ \$3.00; ducks, old, \$4.50 @

6.00; young, \$2.50 @ \$4.00; geese, \$8.00

turkey, live, 12@14c; dressed, 15c per lb.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKET.

Wool—Oregon Eastern choice, 12 @

15c; do inferior, 9 @ 11c; do valley, 14 @

16c; do—18 @ 21c.

Potatoes—E. Rose, 30 @ 35. Bur-

bank, 3 @ 40c per cental.