

Clackamas County Record

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Today is an eventful one in grange circles in Clackamas County, made so by the presence of Hon. Aaron Jones, national master of the grange. He is the man who has done much for the Patrons of Husbandry throughout the west and middle west and will receive a warm reception at the opera house this afternoon. The grange is fast becoming an institution of prominence in this country, and Clackamas County is the banner in the state in point of membership. Much of this fact is due to the efforts of the state secretary, Mrs. Mary S. Howard, of Mullino, who has worked untiringly to build up the grange.

Our courthouse is perhaps the most poorly arranged of any public building in Oregon. It is with much pleasure, then, that the public will receive the news of its rearrangement. The sheriff has not room enough and the clerk has room for both the sheriff's office and his own. The county school superintendent has been occupying a jury room for years. The proposed improvements will be made at a minimum cost and in the end the county will be the gainer because of the facilities supplied for doing good work.

The appointment of Tom P. Randall as postmaster of Oregon City gives universal satisfaction. Mr. Randall is a young man, a native of the county, has a host of friends and made a very capable county recorder. The new postmaster has not yet announced his deputies and clerks, but it is understood that his selections are made, and it is safe to say they will be good ones.

Yesterday's snow and its rapid disappearance illustrates what Oregon weather really is. At 2 A. M. Wednesday there was a steady downpour of rain and people were surprised to see several inches of snow covering the ground at breakfast time. But it was quickly followed by rain and before night every vestige of the white coat had disappeared. Oregon is having a remarkable mild winter. We have had really no snow or cold weather and this is the middle of March.

A remarkable cure has been effected by one of the leading physicians of this city upon a man who had a cancerous growth on his lower lip. No knife was used, only the X-ray. For two weeks an exposure of nearly an hour was made every day, and after that at rarer intervals. As a result the cancer has almost entirely disappeared and the sore has nearly healed. The advancement of science is wonderful, not only to the ordinary mind but to the scientist himself.

The action of the city council in ordering the improvement of a Chinaman's house near the Catholic Church property is commendable. But the shack should have been removed. There are too many of these tumble down houses in town, and the contrast they present to the natural beauty of Oregon City is painful. No one can blame Father Hillebrand for his strenuous objection to an unsightly structure fronting the doorway of his church.

The banquet and entertainment of Myrtle Lodge, Degree of Honor, was a fitting climax to its ninth anniversary. This lodge is auxiliary to the Ancient Order of United Workman, one of the best and strongest of fraternal and insurance orders in the country. These lodge affairs are becoming deservedly popular. Oregon City is a great lodge town, and nearly all of its secret orders are in a flourishing condition.

Climatic conditions change with passing years. One of the leading business of the city said yesterday that when he came here 34 years ago there was much more rain than now, but the grade was different. There was very little hard rain, but from

October until June a steady, drizzling downpour, known as "Oregon mist."

The excellent record that Register Moores has made in the United States Land Office is due in a great measure to the general efficiency of his clerks. Some of them have been there for years and a scrutiny of their work would convert any reasonable person to the advantage of the enforcement of civil service rules.

People all over Clackamas County are giving The Record the glad hand. They appreciate a paper that publishes all the news and suppresses nothing for political or personal reasons. The twice a week editions of The Record are adding much to its patronage.

Candidates for federal offices are getting thick in this neck of the woods. There will be some disappointed men in a couple of weeks.

Tax Payments are Slow.

Sheriff Shaver and his deputies have collected about \$25,000 in taxes. This is only a small proportion of the entire amount to be collected. None of the big corporations have paid their taxes yet, though the Southern Pacific Company will pay this week. Next Saturday at 5 P. M. ends the time when the 3 per cent rebate can be obtained. Many of the farmers have paid and it looks as though the heavy taxpayers can do better than 3 per cent with their money. Taxes not paid before April 1 will have penalty and interest attached. Tuesday the sheriff's office was crowded to the doors all day. The room is small and the air was foul and an aged citizen asked the amount of his taxes. When he was told, he fell over in a faint. It may have been the tax and it may have been the bad air.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Dr. J. S. Casto, a leader in Oregon grange circles, was in town today.

G. Reutter, a leading Stafford merchant, was in town on business yesterday.

Miss Stella Sumner will shortly commence a term of school at Oak Grove.

E. M. Graves, a prominent citizen and farmer of Liberal, was in the city today.

Hilda J. Olsen completes a term of school at Upper Logan this week and resumes work in the North Logan school.

W. L. Jones, an old resident of Highland, died at that place last Sunday night. He leaves a widow and several grown children.

Geo. E. Swafford, a clerk in Charman's drug store, has passed the senior examination before the state pharmacy board.

Miss Kitty Paine has returned from a visit of several months with her sister at Baker City. Mrs. Paine is in Baker City but will not return to this city before the warm weather sets in.

Hedges & Griffith have purchased a handsome new stenographer's desk.

Mary E. Talbert has been granted a state life diploma by the state board of education.

Ivy Park, who has been connected with the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company in this city for the past four months, will shortly be removed to another field.

Tomorrow night a big labor meeting will be held in Willamette Hall in this city. G. Y. Harry, president of the state federation of labor, will be present and the Labor Press quartette, of Portland, will furnish music. It is intended to make this demonstration one of the greatest ever held in Oregon City.

A mass meeting of the Socialists of Clackamas County will be held in Judge Stipp's court room next Saturday at 10 o'clock A. M. to transact important business and prepare for a thorough organization of the county and the opening of the congressional campaign. In the absence of Chairman J. W. Grout, the call was issued by W. W. Myers.

The reorganization of the board of trade will be effected next Monday evening at the county courthouse. E. E. Charman, F. T. Griffith, Geo. A. Harding, C. Schuebel, J. J. Cooke, O. W. Eastham and H. E. Cross were a committee appointed to report a plan of organization and they will report next Monday. The committee appointed to solicit subscriptions for the improvement of the Viola road will also report at Monday night's meeting.

The board of school directors met last night and decided to reinstate the insubordinate pupils of the eleventh grade of the Barclay high school, who walked out of school last week because of the suspension of one of their number, Ralph Mills. The pupils have made satisfactory amends for their conduct and the trouble may now be regarded as ended. All of the members of the board were in favor of the reinstatement of the pupils except the Director T. F. Ryan, who opposed the reinstatement.

VALUATION WILL BE KEPT DOWN.

Assessor Nelson Makes No Increase Except On Corporation Holdings.

J. F. Nelson, County Assessor, will make no increase in the assessed valuation of real estate this year. This includes farm property. He made the following statement for publication Tuesday:

"I should raise all property about double, but as my deputies have already done considerable assessing this year, it is too late now to begin.

"If valuation were doubled it would enable the County Court to lower the tax levy one-half, and this would make a much better showing for the county in the eyes of strangers. The last Legislature authorizes Assessors to raise assessments to the full cash value of the property, but this has been the law for many years and it has not been followed. To raise valuations now would be to work an injustice on those who have already been assessed.

"Railroad rights-of-way are now assessed on the basis of \$4000 a mile, and I will probably raise this to \$5000. In some counties of the state railroad tracks are valued as low as \$3000 per mile; in others, as high as \$6000. I would favor a meeting of the assessors of the state for the purpose of a uniform assessment of railroad right-of-way and trackage.

"I may also raise the valuation of corporations within the county until they are on a par with farm property and the real estate held by individuals. I cannot decide, however, what per cent advance is to be made until I have inspected the holdings. The principal corporations holding property in this county are the Southern Pacific, Oregon City paper mills and the General Electric Company.

"The levy last year in Clackamas County outside of incorporated towns was 33 mills. In Oregon City the town taxes amounted to 46 1/2 mills. This seems very heavy taxation to an outsider who does not understand that the levy is made on the basis of 50 or 60 per cent of the cash value. To double the amount of taxable property would be to reduce the levy one-half, and this would look much better in the eyes of newcomers who desire to invest in farm property or to make their future homes with us. The tax would remain the same as it is now. The state levy would not come any higher, as the state levy is hereafter to be based on the county's expenditure, and not on the amount of assessable property in each county."

All reserved seats for the Mystic Midgets under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Congregational Church are 50 cents. Children and rear seats 25 cents at the door. Friday and Saturday night, March 13 and 14.

The Mystic Midgets—Read all about them.

MASTER GRANGER HERE.

Hon. Aaron Jones, Delivered a Lecture at Opera House This Afternoon.

Hon. Aaron Jones, master of the national grange, delivered a lecture at the Willamette Hall this afternoon. He discussed the objects and aims of the grange and told what it had accomplished. Grangers from all over Clackamas County were present to hear him.

Tomorrow the annual convention of the county grange will be held in the county court room. Three delegates will be present from each of the 16 granges in the county and delegates will be elected to the state grange, which meets in Oregon City Tuesday, May 26, and continues in session three days.

"Mr. Tompkins' Hired Man."

The people of Willamette will give a drama in the schoolhouse next Saturday evening at Willamette for the benefit of the school library. The title of the drama will be "Mr. Tompkins' Hired Man." T. J. Gary will be Mr. Tompkins and C. A. Miller will be the hired man. Many tickets have been sold and the drama promises to be very successful.

Joseph Supple, the Portland boat-builder, is contemplating erecting a new building on his property on Main street, opposite the Electric Hotel. The building is now occupied by Turney, who has a photograph gallery up stairs and a confectionery and cigar store down stairs. The property has a frontage of about 30 feet and runs back to the railroad track. It is long enough to accommodate a building as long as the armory. Mr. Supple is contemplating the construction of a building large enough so that the upper story may be used as a hall. The city has long needed a good hall for public purposes. While the armory is suitable for a drill room it is not especially adapted for a ball room.

A gigantic production by home talent will be given in the Opera House next Friday and Saturday nights, March 13th and 14th. Mr. E. Collins who has charge of this entertainment under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Congregational Church is proving himself a master in his art at the rehearsals. He controls 100 boys and girls in a most surprising manner, as they perform their parts as fairies, gnomes, representatives of all nations, midgets, grasshoppers, frogs, beetles, etc. The choruses of 100 boys and girls will sing will be the finest ever heard by juvenile voices in Oregon City. The leading parts will be taken by some of the Oregon City's most popular young people. Popular prices 25 and 50 cents. All 50 cent tickets can be exchanged for reserved seats at Huntley's. Tickets can be secured from the older children taking part in the entertainment, from members of the Aid Society, or at Huntley's.

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