

Oregon Front.

AMOS K. JONES, Editor.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1891.

GOOD-BY.

With this issue of THE SCOUT my relation with the paper ceases. I have sold all my right, title and interest in the paper, with the exception of the book accounts to date, to Mr. Chaney, who has been my partner in the business since it was started, nearly seven years ago. This has not been done without much reluctance on my part, as I have learned to love the work and have formed many attachments for persons and things connected with it, and regret to part with them. But, I find it necessary to do so on account of ill health, and will, in a few weeks, take my departure for California, accompanied by my wife, in the hopes that change of climate and the balmy breezes of that sunny land will restore health, which is more to be desired than anything else.

Every builder has a pride in the structure he has reared, all the more intensified if it receives the admiration and plaudits of his fellow men; so I may be permitted to feel a pardonable pride in the record made by THE SCOUT: the success it has secured, and the esteem in which it is held. That it has the confidence and good will of the people at large is evidenced by its immense and ever increasing list of patrons and subscribers, which far exceeds that of any of its competitors. We have been able to make the statement on several occasions in the past years that there never had been a week, since the first issue of THE SCOUT was published, that its list of patrons was not larger than it was the week before. I am still able, on this the last week of my connection with it, to say the same thing, and must express my pleasure at the popular favor which this fact implies. That it will continue to grow and prosper under the guidance of Mr. Chaney, I do not doubt. To him is due much of its success in the past. During my relationship in business with him for the past seven years I have found him to be strictly honorable, conscientious, unassuming, industrious, considerate and obliging. These are qualities that must win success in any business, and deserves it when won. Being an expert in every department of newspaper work, THE SCOUT, under his exclusive management, will not retrograde from the high position it has attained. Mr. Chaney is a young man who has lived and worked in, and for, this city from his childhood up, and deserves the support of its citizens. We trust it will be given him, particularly by the business men.

To our exchanges and the editors of the State I send greeting, and will say, farewell. I have been in the business long enough to sympathize with all of you in your never-ending fight for progress and your struggles with delinquent subscribers—join with you in your "opinion" of the alleged business man who ought to help himself and the paper by advertising, but who cannot be made to see it in that light—squirm with you when we learn that some big bruiser is hanging around your premises bent on "taking satisfaction outen your hide" for something that appeared in the paper—be glad when you were merry, and saddened when your work failed to bring its just reward, and, weary of the thankless strife, you got knocked out yourself, and the plant and delinquent subscriptions were sold by the sheriff to satisfy some heartless creditor. Yes, I have a deep fraternal feeling for all of you, made stronger and kinder by your daily and weekly visits. No matter how busy I have been I have always found time to open the wrappers on the papers and say, "How do you do?" as each familiar heading appeared, and always with a feeling of satisfaction if it had upon it a look of prosperity. I shall miss you all, and if my good wishes can anything avail you will all ride over the breakers that encompass you on every side, safely into the harbor of Success.

To our correspondents, among whom are some of the brightest intellects of the State, I desire to return my sincere thanks. To you must be credited much of the interest in THE SCOUT that has been shown by its patrons. I hope that not one will relax in his, or her, support of the paper, but continue your favors as heretofore. While I shall not have the pleasure of opening your communications and perusing their bright sentences in manuscript, I will read them when printed, and they will be all the more interesting by reason of old associations.

Change is the immutable law of Nature and in this brief life of ours no

living thing remains the same. Each change brings us one step nearer to that viewless goal which all must soon or later reach, and this thought brings with it sadness. "Good-by" is the most pathetic word in any language and is often uttered—a word that has been, and must be; a word that makes us linger—yet, it must be said. Good-by. AMOS K. JONES.

THE PRESS AND THE COURTS.

The San Francisco Examiner says: "Ex-Judge Maguire is asking the Legislature to pass a bill protecting the liberty of the press against judicial caprice. The measure which has been introduced in the Assembly by Mr. Wentworth amends the Code of Civil Procedure by forbidding judges to treat any speech or publication as contempt of court unless made in the immediate presence of the court while in session, and in such a manner as actually to interfere with its proceedings. It is also proposed to put a similar provision in the State constitution.

This is a reform to which there should be no opposition. The latitude assumed by courts in the punishment of offences against their own dignity is an anomaly to which there is no parallel under our system of government. The president of the United States may be lampooned, pilloried and accused of stealing Indian rations and appointments in the civil service—all without any more summary means of retaliation than belongs to the humblest inhabitant of a tenement house. His only course is to sue his traducer or procure an indictment for criminal libel, to be duly tried by a jury. But any smooth-tongued lawyer who may have drifted to the bench through inability to make a living at the bar has the power, according to the decision of the supreme court, to punish any criticism of himself at his own discretion—acting at once in the capacity of victim, prosecutor, judge and jury.

It is needless to say that this is a dangerous power for anybody to possess. It abolishes the salutary old rule that no man should be a judge in his own case. It allows personal animosities to sway judicial decisions. It deprives the unfortunate object of a judge's enmity of the constitutional right of trial by a jury of his peers. It encourages incompetence and corruption on the bench by screening them from criticism.

The legislature should abolish this perilous judicial license. There is no divinity that hedges a magistrate. When a judge feels aggrieved by criticism outside of his courtroom let him take his chances in a libel suit like anybody else."

Here is a chance for some of our legislators now at Salem. Such a reform should be made in Oregon. This must be apparent to every thinking man since the setto of the Valley Record and his High Mightiness, Judge Webster, of Jackson county.

FROM SPARTA.

News of the Week as Noted by Our Regular Correspondent.

SPARTA, Jan. 16, 1891.

Dr. Jay Guy Lewis has gone east for the winter.

We do not receive our SCOUTS until Monday and not always then.

Sparta is wrapped in a mantle of snow about eighteen inches deep.

Hon. J. A. Wright has gone to Salem to look after the interests of Union county.

The Messrs. Longley are here tonight with 100 head of fine beef cattle, on their way to Baker City. Cap. Craig accompanying them.

The Del Monte hoisting works have shut down for the second time. Cause: Henderson does not pay up. The men have gone to attach for their pay.

Dave Redman is on the sick list, with erysipelas in the head, but is improving slowly under Dr. Fuller's care. Mrs. Clara Waldron is also improving slowly.

Sparta has been a very rich placer mining camp and she has a good many quartz mines and prospects that look well, and I think it only needs some capital to develop them and Sparta will be one of the richest mining camps in Oregon.

Mr. D. C. Dilworth of Detroit has been appointed superintendent of the Eastern Oregon Mining Company, of Detroit, and is here pushing work on the mines formerly owned by Moratt Bros., at the foot of Baldy mountain. Mr. Dilworth is very well liked by all and pays for everything. He does not ask the storekeeper nor his men to wait awhile for their money. What has hurt Sparta more than anything else is having men come here with no money any trying to develop mines, hiring men and not paying them.

KNOW MORE.

That "Mare's Nest."

UNION, Ore., Jan. 19, 1891.

EDITOR OREGON SCOUT:

The public have been duly informed by N. Schoonover and others, that I have been the chief instigator in stirring up the tax-payers of Union county to investigate the matter of the \$1,200 appropriation made last June, for a road between this city and the Union depot.

The records show that on the 7th day of June 1890, the county court made an appropriation of 12,000 for the purpose of straightening and grading the county road leading from Union to Union depot, and that N. Schoonover was appointed superintendent to draw said warrants for said purpose etc. (correct as to drawing the warrants—that part was attended to) but, it being now nearly seven months and a half since the orders were drawn, and not a mouthful of dirt thrown on the said road, I, in common with other tax-payers, became interested in knowing what had become of the \$1,200 of the taxpayer's money; hence the petition to the county court to investigate the matter.

N. Schoonover, in his attempted explanation says that the appropriation, and his appointment was made without his knowledge and that he "immediately" drew the warrants and made preparations to commence work. He must have been stationed not far from the court house or the news of his appointment would not have reached him with such lightning rapidity. The records show the appropriation and appointment of Schoonover was made on the 17th of June and that the warrants were drawn on the same day. This fact agrees with "Nels'" explanation in regard to drawing the warrants "immediately" (if not sooner.) He goes on to say that the road scrapers being in use on the motor line delayed him several days. Mr. Schoonover was working on the motor line about this time,—I think as superintendent—and should have known whether the scrapers were at his disposal before he drew the county orders. If they were not, and if his harvesting prevented his working on the road, what business had he to draw the warrants? That is the question that concerns the taxpayers.

Mr. S. has had other appointments of the kind—would like to know whether he always draws his pay in advance. In his explanation—if it can be called such—he says, he had now concluded to wait until spring, but still does not explain why he drew the warrants. He further says "if the people of Union say 'turn the money back' back it goes." The tax-payers had virtually said, even before his explanation appeared in the papers "turn the money back," and Mr. S. having it seems, disposed of the county orders, could not when called upon by the county court, return the same, but finally, upon the third trial, gave a bond which the county court accepted, agreeing to return the money at anytime he may be called upon to do so.

In this so-called "explanation" Mr. Schoonover in no place explains why he drew the warrants and presented them so that they would draw interest, and then it appears sold them—unless this extract from his "explanation" is explanatory: "In the month of December, 1890, a gentleman, the first letter of whose name is Samuel A. Purcell, was a candidate for mayor of the city of Union. I felt that the interest of the city would be best subserved by the election of his opponent. I think if I should say nothing more this would be sufficient explanation of the mare's nest referred to."

Now, what kind of an explanation do you call that? Are we (and by I mean the taxpayers) to infer from the above that the \$1,200 was expended to defeat me in the city election? I think and believe the taxpayers will think that S's explanation is rather thin and far-fetched and a long time getting here after the warrants were drawn, and no telling how much longer it would have been had not the matter been investigated. Taxpayers of the county are not generally much interested in such small matters as the election of a mayor for the city of Union, but they are, in this \$1,200 matter. I have not accused Mr. S. of using this appropriation for his own benefit, and as he has intimated that if pressed he would tell all he knows about this matter, I think this would be the best thing he could do for himself, as it might, throw some light on the subject, we do not know that it will, but it might, to call the attention of the taxpayers to the fact that in May, 1890, there was a motor line (or was it a motie line?) building from Union depot to the city of Union, and that on or about the 7th day of June might have been pay-day, and that the company might have been

short of funds, and to quote from Schoonover—"I think if I should say nothing this would be a sufficient explanation of the mare's nest referred to," or at least more plausible to taxpayers.

Mr. S. speaks of not being able to do the work as soon as it might have been done by some one who had "less business of his own and more of other people's to attend to." Very true, it was other peoples, biz; every tax-payer's and my own in common, and while he could not, as he says, find time to do the work, he could find time to draw the warrants as the records show, and we close with the query that presents itself to the mind of every taxpayer—then why did you draw the warrants?

S. A. PURSEL.

ALBANY.

Jottings From the Note Book of an Occasional Correspondent.

Jan. 11, 1891.

We are enjoying the very loveliest of weather here now. Cold frosty nights and pleasant warm days. We have not seen a snowflake yet.

Everyone is talking politics at present. The State legislature meets tomorrow and everybody wants an office or a clerkship, but somebody will get left, badly. Linn county will be well represented in both houses this term by senator's J. K. Weatherford and Jeff Myers; representative's Hansard, Henry and Shedd.

Business in Albany is reported very good in all mercantile lines and the only ones to complain are the real estate agents, but as they seem to have about all they can do, we see no reason for complaint.

Albany's charter will be sent to the legislature for some changes and amendments, which in our opinion are very badly needed; some more especially than others.

We have not seen a river steamer at this city this winter. The highest stage being reached yet was only 4 feet 9 inches above low water mark.

The Swedish Ladies Concert Company played to a fair house here last evening. They are reported as being very good.

Baltimore's new three-story block is now occupied by two of our leading firms, on the first floor. We are unable to say whether the upper floors have been rented or not. Price and Robson and The Albany Furniture Company occupy the lower floor.

There are several revival meetings going on here now, among them being the Baptist and Methodist, the latter having just dedicated their new and handsome church.

Albany still continues to be the leading city of the valley. Improvements for 1891 are almost without number. Some are already begun, namely, the orphan's home and city hospital and Plans brewery. Albany will have a handsome steel bridge begun this year; several large brick business blocks, and residences without end. There are also several improvements that could well be enlarged among which are our street car line. These should be lead out into the suburbs and given a chance to make something for the stock-holders. As it is it barely pays expenses. Other cities are lengthening their lines, why not we do the same with ours? It could be run to South Albany, Goltra's park and also with great advantage to the eastern part of the city.

Rev. Dr. Hill, an old resident and pioneer settler of Albany died at an advanced age on Dec. 31st. He was very highly respected by all who knew him.

One hundred and seventy-nine marriages were committed in Linn county the past year. Pretty good for an off year. "P"

GRAND

MASQUE BALL!

—AT—

WRIGHTS' HALL, UNION, OR.,

—ON—

Friday, Feb. 13, '91.

The Best of Music and a Good Supper.

Prizes of Value Will be Given.

The city bus will run all night to connect with trains, for the accommodation of those from a distance.

Further particulars next week.

New FALL Goods.

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An Elegant Assortment of High Novelties in
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Not to be found elsewhere in Eastern Oregon.
Chamber Suits
in XVI. Antique & Mahogany
Parlor Suits in Mohair and Wool Plushes. A Fine Line of Upholstered Chairs, Office and School Furniture.
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The best of accommodations for the care of stock. Charges Reasonable.