

The Weekly Chronicle.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF WASCO COUNTY.

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Address all communications to "THE CHRONICLE," The Dalles, Oregon.

The Goldendale *Sentinel* says it conversed lately with a gentleman who has spent several years ferrying on the Columbia river between Celilo and Pasco, who said between these two points there are numerous shoals and rapids that only flat bottomed boats, drawing not more than four feet of water, could sail over at all times of the year. We have no knowledge that this statement is correct but if it is it has a strong bearing on the question of a portage railway. Vessels adapted to the traffic of the lower and middle river would be of no account on the upper river. Trans-shipment of freights would become a practical necessity and this is one of the strongest arguments used by those who favor a boat railway as opposed to a portage. The *Sentinel* is not far astray when it says that the cost of a boat railway would exceed the value of the whole country between the Cascades and Celilo. This, however, is a small matter where Uncle Sam would foot the bill. The cost of operating the boat railway is the serious part of the business. An annual tax of \$80,000 on the traffic over this one obstruction would, for years to come, materially impair the value of a boat railway as a cheap method of transportation. Uncle Sam may build a boat railway if he wants to but Oregon wants a portage for temporary if not permanent relief and it is only a question of time till she'll have it.

The second congressional district of this state is largely republican. Hence the nominee for representative of the republican party, whoever he may be, is almost certain to be elected. Upon the republicans, therefore, rests the responsibility of choosing a man who will best serve the interest of the Inland Empire and the whole state. If Eastern Oregon can unite to name such a man his nomination will be assured, but care should be taken that the Simon, Portland ring is not allowed to dictate the nominee. We want a man devoted to the interests of Eastern Oregon in general and to an open river in particular. Of all the republican candidates named from this side the mountains the *Chronicle* gives the decided preference to W. R. Ellis. He has an excellent record both as a public servant of the people and a private citizen and if he is connected with any clique or faction it is unknown to us.

The farmers of Centerville, Klickitat county, have called a meeting to consider the advisability of sinking an artesian well somewhere in the valley. The artesian wells of the Yakima valley have made that country one of the richest spots in the state and their success has strongly stimulated the residents in adjoining counties to put forth efforts to obtain more of them.

The Northwest *Pacific Farmer* very truly says, "This tax question, about which there is so much agitation, hinges on this one point. Shall a man be allowed to deduct his indebtedness without some one paying taxes on the amount? Reason says that he should not." No fair assessment law will ever be passed that does not allow deduction for bona fide debts and no indebtedness should ever be deducted that cannot be assessed.

A gentleman prominently identified with the fruit interests of this county made the statement to the *Chronicle* yesterday that there is not a California orange on sale in this city that is not covered with the San Jose scale. This is a serious state of affairs and of threatening import to our fruit interests. It implies an urgent demand for better laws against the pests of the orchard or a more vigorous execution of the laws we have.

The Willamette valley papers have a charmingly euphonious way of referring to candidates for office. The *Salem Statesman* says Jennings of Lane, who, rumor says, has aspirations after Binger Hermann's shoes, is an ever-blooming jaskass. How nice Mr. Jennings will feel when he reads that.

The letter of "J. W.," from Nelson, Washington, cannot be published in these columns. We have never allowed the *Chronicle* to be the vehicle of scandal and never intend to.

C. P. Heald of Hood River has been appointed to fill the place on the state board of horticulture made vacant by the resignation of Gen. James A. Varney. The appointing board could not have made a better selection.

The county court of Polk county, by a new ruling, offers to add 50 per cent to any sum raised by private subscription for the improvement of the public roads.

Under the date of Feb. 20th the Astoria chamber of commerce has draughted a memorial to congress intended as additional proof and substantiation of the one recently sent by the same body, relative to matters now pending regarding proposed appropriations for deepening the channels of the Willamette and Columbia rivers. The memorial insists that the figures contained in the circular letter of the chamber of commerce, already presented to the river and harbor committee, were furnished by pilots whose business necessitates constant and correct knowledge on these important findings; that the proposed "improvement" if carried into effect would impair the work at the mouth of the river by setting in motion silt, sediment and gravel that would create a bar which the government has recently and at great cost successfully removed; that the proposed channel is of purely local import, and should not obtain an appropriation which might occasion the cutting down of those necessary for anterior projects in course of construction, and that the proposed creation of the "port of Portland" is contrary to the immutable laws of nature and would result in detriment to the reparian interests of our sister state, by diverting the natural channel of the Columbia river to the southern shore. The memorialists claim to be actuated solely by public motives in maintaining that their former and present exhibit show most conclusively the injustice of an effort to induce governmental discrimination against the needs of interests of the entire northwest, merely to aid a private and local project. They do not oppose the Portland project but protest against diverting needed appropriations for work on the river now in successful progress to apply to a new and impossible task. There can be no question that Astoria is correct in her position in this controversy. The figures furnished by the chamber of commerce are taken from recent surveys made by the pilots and not from data furnished by government engineers years ago. The depth of the channel in the lower Columbia is fully adequate to all the necessities of the present inland commerce. Till other works of infinitely more general importance to Oregon, Washington and Idaho have been attended to it will be time enough to talk about the doubtful project of deepening the channel from Portland to Astoria.

Under the new laws regulating the incomes of county officers in the state of Washington the cost to the taxpayers of maintaining these offices is about one-fourth what it was under the old fee system which was similar to that which prevails in Oregon. The sheriff of Walla Walla county, for example, gets a salary of \$1,800 a year. The sheriff of such a county in Oregon would get not less than \$10,000 and possibly \$15,000. There is no complaint of a dearth of candidates in our sister state and there is no proof that the county officers are not filled by thoroughly competent men. The same would be true of Oregon if the incomes of the county clerks and sheriffs were placed at reasonable fixed salaries instead of fees so enormously disproportionate to the average capacity of the incumbents that clerical ability in a candidate is infinitely less a qualification for office than is the ability to command votes.

A Wasco county democratic paper that earnestly advocates free wool enters this solemn protest against the placing of woolen manufactures on the free list. "We can earnestly, conscientiously call upon any citizen who loves our institutions, our land and the welfare of our workers in the textile industries to think of these things and to combat any such extreme measures as placing manufacturers of wool on the free list at once, such as the *Oregonian* has got into the habit of advocating." Free wool and taxed woolens may do for the bloated manufacturers of the east, but an Oregon man who advocates it is a traitor to his country.

There is truth enough to fill a whole library in the following exchange clipping: "If Patey Egan wants to make friends with the London papers and the democratic papers of this country, he can do so by favoring free trade and voting the democratic ticket. The newspaper combination of England and this country, would then applaud him to the skies as a brilliant statesman and a diplomat of unrivaled ability."

Patti has refused to sing in Portland and that city will be financially ten thousand dollars the richer. The *Telegram* accepts the ultimatum of the imperious prima donna with becoming equanimity, and truthfully says ten thousand dollars is too much to pay for any music short of the song the herald angels sing.

The republicans of Wasco, Sherman county, organized a club on the 17th. It started out with a membership of twenty.

The latest candidate for the presidency mentioned by the democratic press is W. S. Holman of Indiana. "We object."

The Fossil flouring mill expects to supply the Antelope country with flour in the near future.

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT LAW MANDATORY.

The county court of Gilliam county have, on the ground of economy, refused to provide polling booths, as prescribed by the new Australian ballot law. As we are jointly interested with Gilliam county in the election of a member of congress, a state senator, a circuit judge, a district attorney and member of the state board of equalization, it should not be considered impertinence on our part if we insist that the new law makes the providing of compartments or booths where the elector, may prepare his ballot with absolute secrecy mandatory and not discretionary with the county court. Section 56 of the Australian ballot law, which is the only election law now in force in the state says in part: "He," (the sheriff) shall furnish in the manner directed by such county court, a sufficient number of such compartments, shelves, or tables in or at which electors may conveniently prepare their ballots for voting, so that in the preparation thereof each elector may be screened from the observation of other persons. The arrangement shall be such that neither the ballot boxes, or the compartments, shelves or tables, or the electors while preparing their ballots, shall be hidden from view of those just outside the said guard rail, or from the judges; and yet the same shall be far enough removed and so arranged that the elector may conveniently prepare his ballot for voting with absolute secrecy. There shall be provided in each polling place not less than one such compartment, shelf or table for every forty electors to vote and each polling place shall have at least three such compartments, shelves or tables." Thus the law very clearly prescribes the manner in which an election is to be conducted and in section 9 it lays down the principle that "all general or special elections hereafter held in this state shall be conducted under the provisions of this act." If Gilliam county ignores the law one result will follow, that is, the entire vote of the county will be declared void and the present county and precinct officers will hold their places for two years more.

Teachers' Institute.
A number of teachers and their friends met at the school building in the enterprising town of Dufur for their local teachers' institute on the 19th.

Promptly at 10 o'clock Supt. Shelley called the meeting to order, and announced, that the first exercise would be a song of we come by the Dufur high school. Miss Kate Cronin was then elected secretary of the institute.

Supt. Shelley's introductory address was earnest and forcible, showing the usefulness of teachers' institutes and advising teachers to attend them whenever they could. After this address an opportunity was given for all teachers to sign the roll. Twelve teachers from various parts of the country were thus enrolled. The subject of arithmetic was then presented by P. P. Underwood, who asked why we study arithmetic, and answered his own question by saying that it was for practical use in after life, and urged the teachers to seek for definite results. The things to be accomplished would require a thorough knowledge of the fundamental principles of arithmetic. Therefore, take time, and lay the foundation well; require neatness in the work of the child, thereby teaching other things than numbers.

The morning session was closed by a song by the school, which Prof. Frazier said was for the old people. We enjoyed it. After the Underwood exercise in arithmetic, Mr. Hinman gave us an interesting talk on writing. Writing was an art not a science, illustrated and described muscular movement. Favored practice paper rather than copy books.

At 1:30 the institute again took up the work and after two songs, sung by the school, which were well received by the audience, Supt. Shelley announced Prof. A. Frazier as the first speaker and his subject orthography. He had prepared an exercise on the board. The sounds of the vowels, had been classified into long and short sounds; and on this exercise he drilled the teachers. Showed how teachers could easily prepare such exercises for use in their own schools, urging them to drill on this work frequently.

Miss Kate Cronin of The Dalles then gave the institute a very able paper, the subject of which was "Enthusiasm in the Work." She spoke first of the importance of enthusiasm in the teacher's work. If on entering the work you do not find yourself becoming enthused, it would be well to examine yourself; and see if there is not something lacking; and if still you find no enthusiasm in the work, it would be better to seek other lines, rather than to remain in this, which requires so much enthusiasm. All should be enthusiastic, school boards, superintendents, teachers, patrons of our schools, and the citizens of our country, for if we love our country we should be very much in earnest, in regard to the education of the coming citizen; for it is only when a people become ignorant and corrupt, that they become incapable of self government. We know that truth and right have the universe on our side.

On the subject of physiology, Supt. Shelley said that teachers were now required to be examined on this subject. Man had a three fold nature, the mental, the moral, the physical, and all should be developed, not one at the expense of

the others. But this development should be delegated to the teacher. He condemned the process that graduated the child from the schools at too young an age.

An essay by Miss Edith Peabody showed much study, and presented many useful thoughts.

Mr. Underwood in his talk on reading favored word method and the alphabet combined. Believed in reading charts. Advanced classes should be taught to study the nature of the piece they were to read as to style, force and pitch. Dwelt on articulation and expression.

A singing exercise closing the afternoon session. The evening session was opened with singing by a large choir of trained voices. The evening sessions were held in the M. E. Church.

Mr. Shelley spoke on the thoroughness in the work. Its importance and lasting effect.

An essay by Miss Vanderpool was instructive and interesting.

A discussion of the subject, Shall the state furnish text books free of cost, was supported by Messrs. Hinman and Anderson, and was opposed by Miss Kate Cronin and Mr. Dufur. The judges decided in favor of the affirmative.

The evening session closed with a song by the choir.

Friday February 20.—The morning session was opened by songs by the high school.

The secretary then read a synopsis of the exercises of yesterday.

Prof. A. Frazier talked on the subject of grammar, and illustrated his methods by having his class diagram sentences and parse words. Mr. Underwood's talk on mental arithmetic was helpful.

How to keep the little ones quiet was the subject of an able paper by Miss Margaret Daley. She suggested various methods, which she called busy work.

Language lessons was the subject of E. H. Merrill's talk. Train the little ones to distinguish name words, by drawing pictures, or presenting objects for them to look at, and then give the name of the picture or object.

Miss Menefee's essay on methods of teaching geography was helpful. She advocated map drawing from memory without using the ruler.

This closed the morning session. Afternoon session, Feb. 20th. Music by the school.

Prof. Frazier on U. S. history. Teach few dates and those like beacons around which facts could be clustered. "Who, when, what, how, and where."

A paper by Mrs. Chamberlin "How to prevent whispering" was enjoyed by all. Don't forbid it; check it, when it hinders the school work.

An essay by Miss Hessler, "Fife of Pestalizzi," was well received.

School government was well handled by Mr. Pitman.

Moral instruction by P. P. Underwood. Necessity and importance of it.

Temptations to evil in school life. Prof. Frazier reading extracts from a little book called duty.

By request the school sang again the piece entitled "Bob White."

Evening, the band played for an hour before the evening session. The choir sang appropriate songs at the opening. A free discussion of graded work for country schools called out advocates and opponents.

Declarations by Park Bolton, Bessie Hastings and Ada Jackson. The choir sang a negro song in which a solo by Mr. E. C. Warren was appreciated, and solos by Mr. Shelley were very much enjoyed.

A vote of thanks was given for the kind favors extended to the teachers at this institute in which the band, church trustees, and choir were remembered and all others who in any way contributed to its success. Another song by the choir and school, closed this delightful session. A. TEACHER.

Warning Against Antipyrine.
Let me say something about the indiscriminate use of antipyrine. I think it is villainous. Its use should be restricted like laudanum and morphine, and used only upon a physician's prescription. People use it carelessly, not knowing that it is a heart depressant and cumulative in its action. Many persons come to me and say that they have been using ten grains every three or four hours, and without any idea of the harm it does. I came across two or three deaths last year directly due to its use. Too much cannot be said about the danger from its indiscriminate use.—Interview in Philadelphia Press.

Mamma's Diaries.
Little Girl—The teacher says I must get a diary, and write in it all I do every day. Will you buy me one, mamma?
Mamma—There are plenty of them up stairs in the lower bureau drawer—fifteen or twenty, I think.

Little Girl—But isn't those ones written in?
Mamma—Only the first pages of each.—Good News.

As Brave as a Stump Orator.
A rooster was put on the block at Hanford the other day and his head was cut off, but when the plucker reached for him the ambitious fowl had walked off. The head was completely severed save a small portion of the base of the skull, but the bird could still hear and feel and even cry out. He lived for sixteen hours in that condition.—San Francisco Call.

An electric snow plow has been designed with a thirty horse power motor for propelling the car and independent reversible motors for running the brushes. It is intended for use on street railways.—New York Journal.

The agricultural department of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, is importing half a million grapevine cuttings from southern California for use in starting experimental vineyards.

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