

The Weekly Chronicle.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF WASCOCO COUNTY.

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A few days ago the Times-Mountaineer, in a moment of thoughtless candor spoke in a complimentary manner of our new water system. When the CHRONICLE commended the paragraph the paper practically ate its own words by the following compressed tissue of falsehoods:

There never was a time in the history of this state when matters relating to public expenditures, more especially as they relate to the salaries of county officers, received so much attention as they do at present. An assessor who must, to be worth anything, be a man of good clerical ability and sound judgment, a man whom experience has made familiar with the values of all classes of property, receives, in some counties, the pittance of \$3 a day, in this county \$4, and bears all the expenses incident to traveling over the county on horseback or in a conveyance, while in these same counties the clerk and sheriff whose duties do not require anything like the same talent and ability have incomes often reaching up from five to fifteen thousand dollars a year.

Oregon will be much concerned in the information which comes from Tacoma to the effect that the wheat weevil has appeared in countless numbers in the Cascade oatmeal mill there. These destructive insects, it is claimed, have been brought to Tacoma in a consignment of wheat shipped from San Francisco. This is the first appearance of the weevil at that port. It is claimed that it could not have been imported from western Washington, on account of certain climatic conditions. These insects were first discovered about a year ago in the oatmeal mill, but the fact was kept very quiet, as grain men claim it would advance insurance on cargoes if its presence were known.

The plan of attack on the McKinley law is to take it piecemeal—one item at a time. The law contains 2,500 items and the free trade guns have been leveled at three of them without the slightest appreciable effect for exactly 102 days, at a cost of \$7,000 a day. At this rate, if congress sat continuously, it would take more than 700 years to get through with the job, at a cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,782,858,000.

A Buffalo, N. Y., paper notes the fact that Gen. Poe of the U. S. Engineering department, opened on the 4th inst. bids for contract to supply valves and valve frames for the new 800 foot lock in the Soo canal, which reminds us that this entire canal was built by contract and that as far as the magnitude of the work is concerned the Cascade locks are simply nowhere. What was done there can be done here, the "Majah" to the contrary notwithstanding.

All reports concerning the favorable situation of affairs at Astoria are confirmed today by private dispatch from Hon. I. W. Case. All the financial business is now fixed; all the stock subscribed; and The Dalles joins with the seaport city of Oregon in grand and hearty rejoicing. This time Astoria wins. No matter what may be said to the contrary.

Up to date the present house of representatives stands pre-eminent as the one which has cost the country the most and transacted the least amount of business in a given time. In both these particulars it has a record beyond any legislative body that ever sat in the United States.

The Astorian notes the singular commentary on our Oregon statutes that lies in the fact that the only two things that the law demands the applicants shall possess "a good moral character for the possession of a saloon license and a permit to carry a gun."

RATHER A CURT REPLY.

The Portland Dispatch furnishes us with an incident which goes farther to show the bitterness of the U. P. R. R. "system." It appears that when the pilots of the American Brotherhood wished to visit The Dalles on official business, they divided the delegation, expecting of course that the courtesy of a complimentary ticket would be extended to them by both the U. P. R. R. "system," and The Dalles, Portland and Astoria Navigation company. The latter line at once issued transportation, including meals and berths, and seemed to feel pleased to do so. That part of the delegation however, which applied to the "system" were flatly refused, and were rather curtly informed that as walking was good they had that alternative, or pay their fare, as the Union Pacific was opposed to any and all other Unions. The gentlemen decided to join their comrades on the Dalles City, say nothing about the slight, and pay their fare as other passengers, but somehow the matter leaked out, and the pursuer of the Dalles City refused to take their money. What makes the matter all the more aggravating is the fact that the applicants were all old time masters and pilots, in the employ of the selfish and sordid monopoly.

There never was a time in the history of this state when matters relating to public expenditures, more especially as they relate to the salaries of county officers, received so much attention as they do at present. An assessor who must, to be worth anything, be a man of good clerical ability and sound judgment, a man whom experience has made familiar with the values of all classes of property, receives, in some counties, the pittance of \$3 a day, in this county \$4, and bears all the expenses incident to traveling over the county on horseback or in a conveyance, while in these same counties the clerk and sheriff whose duties do not require anything like the same talent and ability have incomes often reaching up from five to fifteen thousand dollars a year. A special law, which ought never to have been on the statute books, applies to this county. Through this law the clerk and sheriff are entitled to add 33 1/2 per cent. to the ordinary fees fixed by statute for the whole state. That is to say, if these officers perform a piece of work for the county the price of which is fixed by the general law at \$100, the special law referred to allows them to charge \$33 1/2 dollars more for it. The thing is a simple outrage and must be abolished. The ordinary fees are more than enough without the added per centage. The clerk and sheriff of this county receive annually, from the already overburdened tax-payers, a sum of money, above what would be a reasonable and fair compensation, that cannot fall far short of \$10,000 a year. The thing is a monstrous iniquity and demands that the next legislators we send to Salem shall pledge themselves to work for the repeal of at least the special law or the placing of these officers, like that of assessor, on a fixed salary.

United States Commissioner of Labor, Carroll D. Wright, in a late newspaper article, says that the condition of the wage-workers of this country, viewed in all aspects "is better now than at any previous period in our history. He finds that while wages have increased there has been a general decrease in the hours of labor. He considers the situation full of hope for the wage-earners and that only one thing is needed to promote the interest of labor, namely, a wise and just regulation of foreign immigration. The article from which this language is quoted, appeared in the New York World.

Should James G. Blaine die of his present troubles, the Post suggests an appropriate epitaph: "Killed by a Woman;" and let posterity sum it up to be either his wife or his daughter-in-law, just as they have a mind to.

Coolness in a Mixed College. There is a coolness between the boys and the girls of the Stanford university. It all came about from a question of propriety. The boys gave a ball in their dormitory hall on Monday night, to which they invited all the girl students, as well as the professors. Elaborate preparations were made, and the young men anticipated an evening of enjoyment. They hired a band, and had the dormitory beautifully decorated. One or two of the more modest and retiring of the maidens in the girls' dormitory were shocked at the avowed intention of some of the girls to attend the ball, and called a meeting of the girls, at which there was a long discussion of the affair.

Many of the fair students said they could see no harm in going to the ball as long as the professors were willing, but the more prudish damsels read a strong lecture on the evils of such doings, and, on a vote, there was a majority in favor of not attending the ball. So none of them went.

The boys waited long for the coming of the fair ones, but they came not. At first the collegians were very angry. Then they took the dancing floor themselves and made a "star" party of it. They say, however, that for future festivities they will send no invitations to the girl students. This suits the ultra-modest among the latter, but the sociable girls feel crushed.—San Francisco Chronicle.

A Queer Pair of Eyes.

I labor under the peculiar inconvenience of having a right eye of normal power and a shortsighted left eye. The numerals on the face of a clock five-eighths of an inch high are visible to the right eye twelve feet distant, but in order to discern them as clearly with my left eye I require to bring that organ of vision as near to the figures as eight inches. On looking at my gold chain hanging on my breast in daylight and with both eyes, the chain colored yellow and toward the left is perceived by the right eye, while a steely blue chain, another, yet the same, is perceived about one inch to the right and a little higher up. By artificial light the same phenomenon presents itself, but the difference of color is not so apparent; the yellow to the right is only dimmer.

Again, when a page is being read with the shortsighted eye there appears, about an inch to the left, part of the same column, small, and the black under artificial light, like weak purple. The right hand side of this ghostlike column is lost to the right eye, being commingled with the larger, darker letters seen by the shortsighted left, which cover it like the more recent writing on a palimpsest. Middle life was reached before the discovery was made. These experiences must be gone through with intent, for objects generally being perceived altogether with the right eye, all that the left seems good for is to supply a little more light. The perception of the difference of color is as good with the one eye as the other, and the shortsighted eye can read smaller type.—Nature.

The democrats of Umatilla county have adopted a platform in which, among other things, they demand an equitable system of graduated tax on incomes; that congress take action to devise some plan to obtain all lands now owned by aliens and foreign syndicates and that all lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of such as is actually used and needed by them be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only. They declare their opposition to national banks of issue and affirm their belief that the state should control all railroads and "other arteries of transportation with due regard to the rights of the people," whatever this last clause may mean. The tariff plank is about as noncommittal as it can possibly be and nothing in the world is said about silver coinage or a substitute for the national bank circulation it is sought to destroy. Possibly these good brethren thought the nationalization of railroads, the destruction of national banks and the establishment of a graduated income tax would be as much as they could conveniently manage during the next two years.

Cash paid for Eggs and Chickens, at J. H. Cross' Feed Store. 2-19-4tw

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