

The Weekly Chronicle.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF WASCOS COUNTY.

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Everybody knows the agricultural exhibits at our last two district fairs out a sorry figure in the pavilion. Everybody knows that the farmers took little interest in the fairs and that very few of them were in attendance. The question is, will the exhibit and attendance be any better this year? And if not, is it really worth while to try and hold any more fairs, or work for an appropriation from the state for their support? If the farmers won't take an interest in the fairs, then is it not better to abandon the farce of an agricultural exhibit altogether, and let the trotting association—which is an entirely distinct institution, and which has kindly given the grounds, free of charge to the agricultural fair, for the past three years—have their trials of speed at whatever time is most convenient to them. But if the country has taken little interest in the fairs the city has taken less. There was undoubtedly good expense for this last year; the fair happened immediately after the fire, but there was no excuse for the year before, and it is even doubtful if the fire stopped one single exhibit from the merchants of the city last year. We firmly believe we never will have successful fairs unless the city goes to work and helps to make them so. Let the business men and others do, as they are doing in La Grande and Island city, namely, offer special premiums for special exhibits, separate and apart from the cash premiums offered by the agricultural society. These premiums would, in most cases, operate as the most effective kind of advertisement, and their value would come back to the donor in increased trade. As a sample of the character of the La Grande and Island city premiums, we find in the La Grande Chronicle, that a furniture firm gives a \$40 bed room set for the best display of jellies; a clothier gives a \$25 suit for the best stallion; another a \$25 suit for the best colt; Knapp, Burrell & Co., give a Deering mower for the best exhibit of potatoes; a saddler gives a saddle or single harness, worth \$40, for the best saddle horse; a stove dealer gives a \$55 range for the best display of canned fruit; a dealer in musical instruments gives a \$25 guitar or mandolin for the best exhibit of worsted embroidery; a stockman gives a \$40 half-bred colt for the best pure-bred sucking colt of draft breed; a nursery-man gives \$25 worth of fruit trees for the best general display of fruit grown by exhibitor in the district; a groceryman gives 25 pounds of tea for the best display of butter; Mitchell, Lewis, Staver & Co., give a \$60 road cart for the largest and best display of vegetables; a patent fence company give \$25 worth of fencing material for the best milch cow; Frank Brothers give a \$40 set of harness for best span of carriage horses owned by exhibitor; a dry goods man gives a \$25 silk dress for best quilt, plain patchwork; another dry goods man gives a pair of \$30 portieres for best exhibit of silk embroidery; another a pair of \$20 blankets for something else, and so on. Would it be any wonder if the La Grande fair should prove a success? With such liberality it could not be anything else and the same results would follow the same causes here. Will our business men and capitalists take the hint? Then we'll have a fair and, possibly, not till then.

The people's party in Portland are making vigorous preparations for capturing the offices in the coming city election. They have issued a platform containing eleven planks the first of which demands that no employe of the city shall receive less than \$3 per day, and that eight hours shall constitute a day's labor. Another plank demands that all city work shall be done by the day, instead of by contract. Another demands municipal ownership of the entire street railway system to be operated at cost for the benefit of the people; another demands ownership of lights and water, to be furnished at cost and another free bridges, to be located by popular vote. It is not surprising that the last plank should demand free quarters, at the expense of the city, for all bums and tramps who may be found congregating there of nights, too lazy to work for means to provide lodgings at their own expense, or too shiftless and improvident to take care of any wages they may have earned. The people's party ought to succeed. They are wonderfully magnanimous—with other people's money.

The fifteenth plank in the republican platform declares in favor of the cession of the arid public lands to the states or territories in which they lie, under such congressional restriction as to disposition, reclamation and occupancy by the settlers as will secure the maximum benefit to the people. This plank ought to be popular in many of the states west of the Mississippi.

Senator Peffer of Kansas, has been airing his notions on finance, in the U. S. senate. The republic was going to the dogs, of course. This was his major premise. There was no way to save it except by destroying usury. He believed congress had perfect authority to lend money to the people as much as to provide for carrying the mail packages or determining the rates which the railroads may charge for carrying freight or passengers. His bill, whose passage he was urging, provides that no corporation or firm is hereafter to receive more than 5 per cent interest on short time, nor more than 4 per cent for a year or longer. All of which goes to prove that all the fools in the country are not confined in the lunatic asylums. When congress shall have power to compel a man to loan his money at 4 per cent, when the law of supply and demand has fixed its price at 5 or 6, or 8 or 10 per cent, then congress will have power to fix the price of wheat or any other commodity. Senator Peffer's attempt to fix the price of money, by congressional interference, is as likely to succeed as if he attempted to fix the subscription price of newspapers. The thing cannot be done.

The Portland Telegram thinks if the democratic state convention had put a free-silver plank in the platform Pennoyer would have taken the stump for Veatch and Hermann would have been beaten in the first district; while, if the platform had suited Eastern Oregon voters, Slater would have been elected, and then the grand news could have been heralded to the Minneapolis convention that Oregon had gone democratic. To this the East Oregonian a bed rock, dyed in the wool democratic sheet answers: "For the life of us we cannot see where the benefit would have come in. Already congress is overflowing with democrats, so called, and more of them would only add to their accomplishing nothing, but to waste time at the people's expense. There is no need of more democratic congressmen until those already in congress prove themselves real servants of the people. The trouble with the Telegram is, it believes more in a shallow victory at the polls than in accomplishing something after the election." Brethern, brethern, this lack of harmony will injure the good old cause.

The mayor has issued a call for a meeting to be held in the Court house tomorrow night for the purpose of selecting candidates for the various city offices, to be voted for at the coming city election. It is hoped that a good representative meeting may convene and that candidates may be selected who will represent the majority of the voters of the municipality. There is absolutely no issue before the people, excepting only that of economy and a faithful and honest discharge of the duties connected with the several offices and these are issues that are always before the people at every election. Under these circumstances let a full representative meeting convene tomorrow night, let good men be selected for candidates and let us all without regard to race, color or previous condition of servitude, get in and support them.

At the late Minneapolis convention, Ingalls, of Kansas, sent to the desk the following resolution which passed the house unanimously: "Resolved, That the secretary of the convention prepare a full report of the national republican convention of 1856, 1860 and 1864, and cause it to be sold at the cost of printing, and a similar arrangement should be made for the publication of the proceedings of this convention." This ought to make an interesting document. In whatever light men may view political parties and principles, it is a remarkable fact that every plank in the first platform of the republican party has since been incorporated in our national laws.

Chauncey Depew is credited with saying that if Blaine had not written the Clarkson letter he would have had Depew's support for the presidential nomination; and more than that, if Blaine had announced his candidacy at a reasonably early date before the Minneapolis convention Harrison would not have been a candidate. Senator Hale accounts for Blaine's strange conduct by saying that "He did not want to be a candidate, but seeing his friends insisted upon his candidacy, whether he was willing or unwilling, he resigned."

Everyone knows, says the Spokane Review the influence that his fatalistic superstition had over Napoleon—his implicit belief that the fates had willed his destiny thus and thus. No matter how free from superstition, one cannot help feeling much the same in regard to Blaine, and to agree with weird credulity that Henry Watterson stated the case rightly when he said: "Blaine will not be nominated; if nominated he will be defeated; if elected, he will die the day before his inauguration. Fate has decreed that Blaine shall never be president."

Democrats find but small comfort from the election returns in this state. The issues were squarely drawn on the congressional ticket and the returns show a republican plurality of over 9000. There is not the slightest probability that this vote will be diminished in November.

THE CHRONICLE has undertaken the work of procuring, from the merchants and capitalists of this city and county, a generous list of special premiums to be given for agricultural and other exhibits at the coming district fair. As soon as the list is complete it will be published. The liberal response which THE CHRONICLE has already met with in talking the matter up among The Dalles merchants, gives assurance that so far as premiums for exhibits are concerned the farmers will have no ground for excuse this year for not doing their best to make the fair worthy of the magnificent resources of this district. The premiums, so far as we are able to report at this writing, will consist of such things as valuable agricultural implements, carts, harness, saddles, cooking stoves, groceries, dry goods, clothing, articles of household furniture, and many others both useful and ornamental. The people may be well assured that all or any of these premiums will be well worth contending for; and, so far as we can judge, there will be plenty of them, and they will be distributed so as to cover every worthy exhibit to be made. It will be understood that these premiums are all additional to the cash premiums, same as last year, which are given by the state. Now let the farmers look out for their best samples of grain and vegetables, the orchardists their best samples of fruit, the stock men their best specimens of domestic animals, the women their best samples of butter, jams, jellies, needle work, embroideries, etc. etc, and if THE CHRONICLE does not surprise you with a list of special premiums, we greatly miss our guess.

We called attention a few days ago to the efforts being made by the merchants of La Grande to encourage and promote the success of the district agricultural fair to be held at La Grande in November, and urged that similar efforts here would insure the success of our district fair. A late dispatch informs us that a Union county lodge of the farmers alliance has supplemented the merchants, efforts in a way that ought to promote a profitable rivalry among the farmers themselves, and materially contribute to the success of the fair. The lodge has decided to place on exhibition at the district fair, a display of fruits, vegetables, grains, grasses and other products, to represent their section of the county. They have invited the alliances and grangers of other parts of the county to do the same, and the result should be a competition which will attract much attention from strangers attending the fair. Why should not the alliances and grangers of this second eastern Oregon district copy the example of their brethren in Union county? Or why should not Three Mile creek compete with Five-mile, and Five-mile with Eight-mile and Eight-mile with Fifteen mile, and these or any of them with Wamic, or Hood River or Mosier or The Dalles? We have got the stuff wherewith to make a creditable exhibit. A little effort last year at the Portland fair, and we carried off the first prize for the best exhibit of fruit, while we had the whole northwest to compete with. A little effort to make our coming fair a success and thus advertise our resources would come back to us with a thousand-fold increase.

The mass meeting at the Court house last night fully demonstrated that in order to ascertain the choice of the people for any office in their gift we must adopt and observe some system similar to the Australian primary election law. There is no question that numbers voted who had no more right to vote in The Dalles than they have to vote in Patagonia. Of course these votes were cast for individual candidates and as there was no principle at stake they were allowed to pass. Had it been otherwise, the votes would have been scrutinized more carefully.

Today we issue No. 1 of volume 4 of the DAILY CHRONICLE. For eighteen months it has been a daily visitor at the homes of hundreds of readers. It may not have accomplished all it hoped to, but it has the satisfaction of the conviction that it has always honestly battled for what it believed to be right. It has filled an empty niche in the journalism of this district and the people's appreciation is shown by the fact that the daily and weekly editions have a larger circulation in the country tributary to The Dalles, than any other paper published here or elsewhere.

The people's party in Kansas will probably nominate Jerry Simpson for governor. There is a bitter fight in the party over the nomination and the sockler statesman will be sprung as a dark horse in the hope he will secure the nomination and heal the factional differences.

Whatever difficulties or inconveniences may have attended the first trial of the Australian ballot law it is beyond question that it has met the approval of the people by an overwhelming majority. It may need revision by the next legislature but its main features have come to stay.

Word comes from Omaha that the leaders of the people's party at that place have now fixed on Senator Stewart of Nevada for president, and Congressman Watson of Georgia, for vice president.

Because a plot of land up about Tongue point, which has been held for fifty years to the detriment of Astoria; has recently been platted, with a railroad avenue in it 100 feet wide, and 40 foot margins on both sides, some people down by the deep, sad sea think the projectors of the Astoria and Portland R. R. should stop work immediately "and wait for the Northern Pacific" to decide what it proposes to do about it. Take the friendly advice of THE CHRONICLE, neighbors; and push your A. and P. through to transcontinental connections just as quick as Providence will let you. Waste no more time coquetting with nosebacks.

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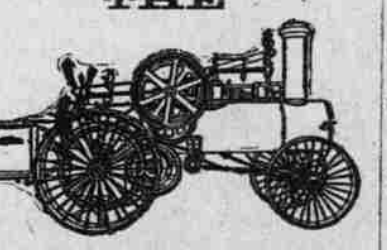
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