

The Weekly Chronicle.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF WASCOCO COUNTY.

COUNTY OFFICIALS.

- County Judge: Geo. C. Blakeley
Sheriff: T. A. Ward
Clerk: J. B. Crossen
Treasurer: Wm. Mitchell
Commissioners: Jas. Darnielle, Frank Kincaid, Joel W. Koonitz
Assessor: E. F. Sharp
Superintendent of Public Schools: Troy Shelley
Coroner: N. M. Eastwood

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT.

Ben. Butler of Massachusetts, the distinguished general, statesman, lawyer and politician, has been a little too much inclined to favor reforms, so-called, and cranky isms; but when he lets them alone and comes down to legal matters and common sense, he hits the nail on the head every time with sledge-hammer force.

"The adoption of that system of balloting wounds my self-pride. We of Massachusetts, at least, are free men, coming from the Puritans who voted with a kernel of corn for yes, and a bean for no. We have been trying to improve our system of balloting for more than twenty-five years by methods devised with all our culture, aided especially by Harvard college in getting the best system by which a free, enlightened people will express their decision upon the measures and the men which govern them.

"This cross between British aristocracy and ignorant savagery, this product of the tag end of creation, framed by English snobs to hold down the ignorant sheep herders, gold hunters, varnish diggers, rovers and professional robbers of Australia, who are very little better than the kangaroos and laughing jackasses of the deserts, and who can make a cross opposite a name but cannot erase a name and write another in place of it, was taken up by all the cranks in the United States, as something really smart, and has been adopted by a number of the states, including Oregon, without anybody knowing what it was good for or what necessity there was for putting intelligent, free Americans, who can read and write and prepare their own ballots, on a level with the ignorant, half-savage herders of Australia, penning them up in stalls, one at a time, like cattle at branding time."

One who appears to look upon the Brussels conference with an eye of the pessimist, who never sees anything but ruin ahead, speaking of Rothschild's plan says: "Rothschild's grandfather made more than Croesus out of the wrecked mobility during the Peninsular and Napoleonic wars. Then princes came to his three balls. Now he scorns any customer less than a king, an emperor or a nation. In other words he is the money power of the world. If the conference adopts his plan, the American people will obey the money dictation of Europe. This nation will never obey the money dictation of Europe. That has been tried."

The proposition for this conference had its origin with the United States government. It may be set down as the result of party necessity rather than as a disinterested public movement. The silver advocates were at the doors of congress and upon the steps of the white house. The president was unable to yield what they demanded. Very audaciously he suggested, an international conference. Many obstacles lie in the path of the delegates from the various nations represented at Brussels. Numerous plans are suggested whereby there may be a renomination of silver, but they are for the most part too fine-spun and embody too many conditions to be successful. But if it does not reach a successful issue the conference will not be useless. It will disclose the temper of the world toward the minor money metal. It is possible that enough will be disclosed to teach the silver men that their dreams are hopeless of realization; or it may open the way for a broad international movement that will eventually re-establish silver in its former high position. The proceedings of the conference are watched with deep interest, for its results may be far-reaching.

Speaking editorially of the monetary conference, The London Times says: "It is not going too far to say the monetary conference has already resulted in a failure. Probably there will be a sharp

OUR ROAD AND CONVICT LABOR LAWS.

The question is being agitated throughout the state by the press on convict labor laws. The subject of discussion is worthy of a good deal of attention and our people ought to wake up to the importance of the matter at once. We say amen to the scheme of putting the convict labor on all public works and roads within the state. As far as our present road laws are concerned, they are a farce. We have not a single road in the state that is any credit to it save the Tygh valley hill road. In this county, the present system of road repairing and building, as provided for by the laws is a failure, and works out the problem by only patching mud holes, and making no decided improvement of the highway, labor is brought into requisition which is neither profitable or wise, as the law is, the supervisor is required to order out the laborer from his farm to do road service within his district whenever he sees fit, and what is the result? The laborer fools away the time spinning yarns and performing but little service for the public, and the road gets a lick and a promise to have the same thing over again next year.

In our opinion, there are but two ways by which a remedy of this evil can be had. The first is to pass a law by which an additional levy of tax be put on the assessed valuation within the several road districts of two or three mills annually, an amount which shall be used to build and keep up the roads, and to create the office of road commissioner, make it elective, and place the officer under bonds heavy enough to compel him to do his duty. Wasco county took the initiative step a year and a half ago and built the Tygh valley hill road, on this plan and it was a success. The legislature ought to make a general provision for a law covering these points.

Another proposition is to repeal the convict contract clause, which is a stain on our statute books, and put its labor on all public works of the state, and state and leading county roads. The convict labor is the state labor, and has no moral right to be expended on other than state or county works. The convicts are a public charge, kept at public expense, and their services in labor should be contributive to the public good, either to public roads or public works. The Dalles and Celilo Portage road could be built with this labor if the states finances were short. That is not in the question. The present need in the western part of the state, is better roads, and the convict labor should be used in making them the same applies to Eastern Oregon.

We have no doubt but some will say that our stove industry will get a black eye if the convict labor is taken away. If American labor cannot produce stoves on this coast at remunerative figures, where there is an abundance of materials and labor, there is something wrong with the manufacturer, and not with labor. The convict labor clause on our statutes ought to be wiped out.

There has been more or less gossip concerning what President Harrison will do after he retires from office March 4th. It is well known that the president will first take a much-needed rest and recover some of his lost energies and recuperate from the severe strain he has been under for a year past. Mr. Harrison will leave the presidency in rather comfortable circumstances; probably worth \$150,000 or \$175,000. This amount invested in an ordinary way will yield him sufficient income, so he need not be as turbed as to the future.

The official examination into Prof. Briggs' alleged heretical utterances and beliefs is quite as much of a trial to the public as to Dr. Briggs. Why not electrocute him at once and have done with it? The charges fill up thirty-six pages of closely printed matter. The writer evidently was not a newspaper man. The charges could be edited with a blunder pencil without any detriment evidently.

Sheriff Furnish, of Umatilla county, was in Portland yesterday after taking to the penitentiary Charles Wilde, sentenced to a year and a half for stealing an overcoat, and W. Rupert, who gets two years for stealing a horse. His deputy brought him down another brace of worthies. J. H. Anderson, who stole a buggy and team, and William Bloss, who was satisfied with a horse. They were taken to Salem yesterday.

There is a sort of trader who says "I think it better not to advertise until business picks up." When business picks up the same trader invariably says "I don't need any advertising now." The man who waits for business to pick up always wears out the seat of his pants first. You can tell him when the wind is whispering around his coat tails and calling him a daisy.

Governor Pennoyer's troubles are doubled up on him of late. It now turns out that Governor Ferry of Washington, has declined to honor a requisition for an escaped criminal, which his excellency issued recently. The gover-

WHITNEY'S PLAN.

Whitney, who, aside from Villard, exerts greater influence over Cleveland than any other man in the democratic party, opposes the idea of an extra session. Mr. Whitney insists that the democracy should go slow with the tariff. Working, impliedly for the approval of Cleveland, he is endeavoring to persuade the present republican senate to give its assent to the appointment of a tariff commission made up of business men, to take testimony in all parts of the country regarding the probable effect of the alteration of the McKinley bill. This commission would be appointed by Cleveland and would be a very convenient "anchor to windward" for the democracy. If the tariff changes based upon its report should prove unsatisfactory, Mr. Cleveland could say that he had acted upon the counsel of the business interests of the country; and on the other hand if the changes should meet with approval, the democracy could claim all the credit.

A prominent republican of New York, to whom the proposition was presented, thus expresses his opinion:

I don't think the republican party ought to go into the business of making peace for the democrats with the business interests of the country. Every man with a dollar invested in industrial enterprise was openly denounced and attacked as a corruptionist by democratic orators, and the democratic platform arrayed our manufacturing interests as no better. Now, having inflamed the masses, and thereby won the day, they are ready to face about. I propose to let them get out of the dilemma as best they can. With the southern democrats in the saddle tagging on one side and the Whitney conservatives on the other, Cleveland has no easy task. It is his business to find a way out, though, and neither the republican senate nor individual members of the party should offer him advice. I am decidedly against the proposition.

Of course this is the only view that the republican senate should take of the proposition. The republican party has said that it considered the McKinley bill the correct, patriotic and scientific solution of the tariff. If the democracy think it has a better scheme let it enact it. If it does not know what it wants let it go on as best it can. A business man's tariff commission could throw no new light on the problem, and would merely consume many months of time.

The democracy talked during the campaign as if nothing could be more infamous or burdensome than the present law. It now acts as though it has a profound conviction that it has a hard task before it in finding something in the way of an improvement.

How to get an office is now the idea in the head of many good democrats and the statesman is often asked the best way to go about it. It is something of a secret, but for the good of the boys we will tell them that they must first obtain their credentials and be qualified to run the office they aspire to. They must get the foot of a rabbit killed on the grave of a coon when the sign is in the heart in the dark of the moon in the month of August. After that place their endorsements in a burglar proof safe, and the less they bother the county and state committees until after April next, the better show they will have to get something.

The east has recently been chilled to the marrow with ice and snow, while California has been the victim of a terrible mud storm, but Oregon has only been bothered with the usual winter rains—noting to slow business in any way or to cause people to suffer from any severe cold.

The Berlin correspondent of the London News has learned that the governments of England, Germany and the United States have agreed to a common action to restore order in Samoa.

The monetary conference is almost a failure, and anticipating an outcome of its deliberations, Senator Hill has introduced a bill for the repeal of the silver purchase act.

A Lover's Awful Act. SEATTLE, Dec. 5.—The second awful tragedy of the week, growing out of unrequited love, occurred at 11 o'clock to-night at 416 Marion street. Mrs. Marie S. Story, a beautiful and highly accomplished woman and a leader in musical circles, was shot and instantly killed by her discarded lover, Charles Roger Moulton, who lay in ambush in her boudoir when she returned from the opera.

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Woman's Dainty Underwear.

Just what sort of underwear to assume is one question that troubles the average woman very much. She doesn't want to wear so much that it will be bulky, and she doesn't want to wear too little for fear she will catch cold. She tries first one and then another shaped garment, and the wise woman is she who, having at last hit upon that which is most comfortable, makes it most dainty and assumes it for good. Very little linen is used nowadays for one's lingerie, the preference being given to cambric, Victoria lawn, nainsook or percale. The last is noted with tiny dots or wee flowers in pink, blue or lavender upon the white ground. Then when the garment is finished the edges have a triple scallop or a sharp point embroidered in cotton of the same color as the figure. This material, with its simple finish, is liked for sack shaped chemises, for night-dresses and for drawers. It is seldom, if ever, used for skirts.

The fancy for silk nightdresses still exists, but as there always have been women who would wear nothing but the clear white lawn or nainsook, and as these women are many, the makers of underwear are specially catering to them. Very much more fine work, that is, handwork, can be put upon a nainsook gown than upon a silk one, and the needlewoman can make more fine tucks, fancy stitches, gatherings, hemstitching and drawing of threads than ever would seem possible.—Mrs. Mallon in Ladies' Home Journal.

The Bayeux Tapestry.

Tapestry was brought into general use in western Europe, with many other elegancies of life, by the Moors of Spain. The oldest known specimen is the Bayeux tapestry, an epic in embroidery, carefully treasured for centuries in the cathedral of Bayeux, and now preserved in the hotel de ville of that place. Miss Strickland says of this piece of work: "It is beyond all competition the most wonderful achievement in the gentle craft of needlework that ever was executed by fair and royal hands."

It was done by Matilda of Flanders, wife of William the Conqueror, and the niece of her court. It is a coarse linen cloth, 314 feet long and 20 inches wide, on which is worked in woolen thread of various colors a representation of the invasion and conquest of England by the Normans.

It contains the figures of about 655 men, 300 horses, fifty-five dogs, forty ships and boats, besides a quantity of quadrupeds, birds, trees, houses, castles and churches, all executed in the proper colors, with names and inscriptions over them to elucidate the story. It is a valuable historic document, as it gives a correct and minute portraiture of the Norman costumes and their manners and customs.—Woman's Work.

Ailments of the Eyes.

No organ of the body is liable to a greater variety of ailments than the eye. More than forty such diseases are enumerated in medical works.

Some of these tend toward blindness, partial or complete. Some are highly contagious. Some are peculiar to the earliest stages of infancy; some to old age. Some are due to other diseases; some originate with the eye itself; some are the result of external wounds. Some are brought on by the improper use of the eye; some by the abuse of other organs. Some are partially or wholly curable; others are not.

As we have two eyes, the loss of one does not materially affect the other. The double provision is a wise and benevolent one in the case of an organ exposed to so many accidents from without and so many diseases from within.—Youth's Companion.

A Professional Housecleaner.

A woman in this city has a certain number of customers, all of whom are persons of wealth and willing to pay her well. She goes to the house of each customer at stated periods and removes all the furniture, curtains and pictures from the drawing rooms. She then directs the cleaning of the rooms and the furniture, taking care that the latter is not scratched or injured in the handling, and that all blemishes are removed by careful oiling. All the furnishings are then replaced according to her ideas. As she has excellent taste, she manages to create a good impression each time, but never duplicates a setting. She suggests the removal of unnecessary pieces or the addition of odd bits that will fill out her plan, and keeps the customer informed in regard to the changes of styles.—New York Sun.

Bimini and the Fountain of Youth.

Bimini was a fabulous island firmly believed in by the Indians of the Antilles, though they could give no further clue to its location than that it lay some hundreds of leagues north of Hispaniola. On this island was the famous fountain of youth which had the power of restoring youth and giving perpetual health and vigor. It was the search for this fountain that led Ponce de Leon and Hernando de Soto to Florida, on the outskirts of which the island was generally supposed to be situated.—St. Louis Republic.

The Heart Beats Eight Hours Every Day.

That wonderful piece of mechanism, the heart, appears to work continually day and night, from birth to death, but in reality there are short pauses or rests between each beat, which, though minute in themselves, mount up in the aggregate to eight hours out of every twenty-four. These short pauses enable the heart to repair the waste which constant work entails and without which rests it would break down.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Why the Wren is King.

The wren is chased every St. Stephen's Day on account of it betraying the Saviour by chattering in a clump of furze where he was hiding. It is called the "king of all birds," because it concealed itself beneath the wing of the eagle when that lordly bird claimed supremacy by soaring highest. "Here I am," said the wren, swooning above the eagle's head when the latter could do no higher.

Ten Days' Clearing Sale! WOOL FELT HATS At 65 cts. WORTH \$1 to \$1.50 FRENCH and FUR FELT HATS At \$1.15. WORTH \$2 to \$2.50 Miss Anna Peter & Co. 112 Second St., The Dalles, Or.

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