

The Weekly Chronicle.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF WASCOCO COUNTY.

COUNTY OFFICIALS.

County Judge Geo. C. Blakely, Sheriff T. A. Ward, Clerk R. Crossen, Treasurer Wm. Mitchell, Commissioners Jas. Darville, Frank Kincaid, Fred W. Koonik, Assessor E. F. Sharp, Superintendent of Public Schools Troy Shesley, Coroner N. M. Eastwood.

SENATE BILL 35.

We are in receipt of senate bill No. 35, introduced by Mr. Willis, to establish and incorporate the port of Columbia, and to provide for the improvement of the Columbia river in and adjoining said port, and to provide a railway at and around Tumwater and the dalles in said Columbia river. We have not given the bill a careful reading, but it occurs to us it was a blind to defeat the Railey bill, by interested parties who were opposed to the state building a portage road, not on general principles, but because personal or corporate schemes would be jeopardized.

Wyoming, North Dakota, and Montana failed to elect senators yesterday. The populists seem to be using the power for deadlock determinedly for weal or woe.

The scene of war in Cuba is somewhat startling. It is said that 80,000 troops and four men of war are maintained by the taxpayers of the island "to overawe themselves."

The governor vetoed the militia appropriation bill yesterday. The O. N. G., would like to send his honor to the Fiji islands or to some unknown seaport where men die "unwept, unhonored and unsung."

We are under obligations to the sender of House Bill No. 221, introduced by Mr. Nickell. It provides for the establishing of a state board of health. The bill is a necessary one and should pass without debate.

Now that the legislature has failed to recognize Gov. Penneyer's veto of the world's fair appropriation bill. It would be the right thing to make a small appropriation to pay the expenses of sending his excellency to that great exposition as an exhibitor of Oregon moshbackism.

The Stars and Stripes hoisted over the Allolani hall in Hawaii, as evidence of Brother Jonathan placing his arms around that queenhood has one assurance, and that is, his flag never, never condescends to come down. The Hawaiian group will be ours.

The man who plants an orchard in Oregon expecting to get fruit from it must do something more than stick the trees down in the ground and trust to providence for the balance. The kind of fruit to be planted, the destruction of insect pests, etc., must be considered, which demands persistence of effort and intelligent study.

Governor Penneyer withheld his signature from the world's fair appropriation bill. No one was surprised at it, the moss has not stopped growing west of the Cascade mountains yet, and will not, until the old moshbacks are gone. Oregon has been cursed with that kind of growth quite long enough.

It is now almost a settled fact that the U. S. Senate will not confirm Mr. Harrison's appointment of Judge Jackson to the supreme bench. The opposition to it by Clarkson and other leading republicans is having the effect to defeat it which is desired by most republicans. It can hardly be said that Mr. Harrison expected the confirmation of Judge Jackson's appointment, but on the contrary foresaw that Mr. Clarkson would raise a warwhop, whatever he did. It is hinted that our senator Doiph is slated for a supreme judgeship. The president could do nothing nicer, than to name him instead of Jackson.

From the present congress nothing is to be expected, and as to the next nothing can be safely predicted. But certain it is that the canal must be constructed under American control, and that at no distant day. It will not be done as a corrupt political job, but as a great and necessary national measure. The demands of commerce and of national protection alike demand it. The trend of the world's political forces will drive our country to the work. Let our statesmen take care that the necessity for the accomplishment of the work shall be duly recognized. Delay may prove most dangerous.

Nearly one thousand millions worth of American securities are held in Europe and they are as good as gold today. With free coinage of silver they would be as good as silver only, the shrinkage amounting to about \$300,000,000. The free silver agitation has led to the turning back of these securities upon this country, and that is the meaning of the continued heavy exportations of gold. The problem is a very simple one, and yet hundreds of thousands of men do not seem to be able to grasp it. So long as the securities alluded to are believed to be backed by a sound currency system there is no haste on the part of foreigners to get rid of them. The moment there is a draft on that point back they come by the cart-load. That is what the populist movement is doing for this country and that is all it has or ever will accomplish. It is a movement to make money plenty, and its only effect is to make money scarce.

In Arkansas the senate has just defeated a bill providing for depositing the state funds in bonded banks, in order to secure interest on the same for the benefit of the state, and the recent failure of a bank at Lincoln, Neb., which held a large amount of state funds under such a law, raises the question whether it is prudent to risk the loss of the principal in order to secure the interest in the case of public funds. If treasurers are required to loan out the funds, they and their bondsmen will probably be relieved of responsibility for their safe keeping, but the legislature ought to be able to devise some plan that would protect the public in this respect, and at the same time give it the benefit of any interest that can be earned on the funds belonging to the people.

The vote on the mortgage tax law in the senate discloses the fact that Eastern Oregon, Multnomah county and a few valley counties were in favor of the repeal of the measure. It was not political in any sense. Senators Alley and Veitch voted against the repeal.—Eugene Guard.

Where was Cogswell? Eastern Oregon has these three brands. They are known as obstructionists and are against the public interest, even if they are its servants.

A TOUCH OF DESPOTISM.

It has got to be a mixed question whether Mr. Penneyer or the other ninety gentlemen who sit in the state-house constitute the legislature. Those who were elected as senators and representatives are impressed with the belief that they are the lawmaking power, but the governor has an entirely different notion. The freedom with which he is using the veto power would signify that he hasn't much faith in the ability of the legislators to discern good from evil. Possibly the legislature may return the compliment by a display of sufficient nerve to override the governor's vetoes, and put their legislation into operation in spite of gubernatorial objections.

The exercise of the veto power is at best a dangerous constitutional prerogative. It is a relic of monarchical government unsuited to our republican institutions. It was adopted, however, as a safeguard against hasty and ill-considered legislation, and if wisely used may have a salutary effect. But this authority was not bestowed upon the executive department for the purpose of affording an opportunity for an arbitrary exercise of one-man power, or to enable the chief executive officer to be an obstruction to progress. The most important legislation of this session has already run against the veto snag. The world's fair bill and the militia bill were scuttled in the governor's office. The amended assessment law may possibly share the same fate. If it goes on at this rate, the people will begin to ask themselves, "What are we at?" and will wonder what is the use of having a legislature, when we have a governor who assumes all the functions of the legislative department. It is about time for the legislature to get in and assert itself as an independent branch of the state government.

Yesterday was the 84th anniversary of Lincoln's birthday. Chicago celebrated the event in fitting style.

Gov. Penneyer's action in refusing to lend the state's cannon to celebrate Cleveland inauguration is variously assigned by the state papers to imbecility, false dignity, puerility and caprice.

Three enterprising women of Medford have filed in the office of the secretary of state articles of incorporation for the Southern Oregon Water Co., of the above named place. The capital stock of the corporation is \$250,000.

The member of the legislature who introduced the resolution commending the actions of Senators Equire and Allen, should be presented with a leather medal. He is undoubtedly the greatest joker of the age.—Goldendale Courier.

The judiciary report of the Cross bill No. 50 is before us. The committee reported favorably and asked that it do pass, with some few attached amendments, and that its provisions shall not apply to those now in office. The bill ought to pass as amended.

For Rent. The only 3-story, fire-proof brick building in the city. For further particulars inquire of Tom Kelly, at The Umatilla house.

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

Yesterday's dispatches brought news of one of the most important events in our national history and one that is destined to merge the mere title of "The United States" into that broader name whose mention inspires every citizen with the fire of patriotic zeal—America. For six years has been secretly pending a triple alliance between the United States, Russia and France, culminated in an executive session of the United States senate three days ago. In ratifying the French and Russian treaties, the United States government has received distinct pledges, both orally through the Russian and French legations in Washington and by correspondence through our department of state with the foreign offices of those governments, of their support, by force, if necessary, against any interference by Germany, Great Britain or any other European power, with the maintenance by the United States of what is commonly termed the "Monroe doctrine." In other words, the control of the Hawaiian islands, the annexation of British America, the acquisition of Hayti and San Domingo, and the ultimate expulsion of Great Britain from Bermuda are all possibilities, in fulfilling which the United States would be upheld by the two powers which, in European politics, are most distinctly opposed to the dreadnought, the alliance between Germany, Austria and Italy.

This great diplomatic stroke has been accomplished through the effort of a statesman at whose bier a few days ago the nation mourned, who, regrettably, did not live to witness the master-stroke of a brilliant career—James G. Blaine.

This news will scarcely be relished by Great Britain, who cannot longer be blinded to the fact that America's star is in the ascendant; and her proud boast that "her sun never sets" will doubtless be paralleled, and that by a nation little more than a century old. England will not now dare protest against the acquisition by the United States of the Hawaiian islands, in the face of the added support brought to the aid of our new navy, and it is questionable if she would have done so anyway. It is true that four years ago we were more poorly equipped for naval warfare than most nations pretending to any prestige, and even now her armament would be classed as second rate, but England has before learned to her cost the fertility of American invention and the celerity of American gun-makers.

In all probability Canada, encouraged by the turn of affairs, will humor her secret wish and not linger long without the folds of the stars and stripes. The world will then behold the rise of a star in the Occident, whose luster shadows all history, born in 1776 out of intolerance, cradled in the blood of martyrs to liberty, safely passing the period of boyish strife in 1864, and in the full stature of manhood in 1900, a nation grander than ever existed.

OVER THE VETO.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 15.—The world's fair bill, appropriating \$60,000 for the state exhibit at Chicago, passed the legislature this afternoon.

From the Hunchgrass Country.

RANCH, Feb. 8th, 1899.

To THE CHRONICLE: Thinking perhaps you would like to receive a few words from this isolated portion of old Wasco in regard to the stock interests, I concluded to drop you a few lines.

We are now feeding all our sheep, about 10,000, to hay, and have been for the last two weeks. Have fed in all this winter about three weeks, and the prospect is very good at present for about three weeks more. Our sheep are doing first class; haven't lost any as yet, more than the usual mortality among so many sheep, none having died from the effects of the winter. We have on hand at present about 200 tons of feed, enough I think to last for quite a while yet. All my neighboring sheepmen, from what I can hear, are feeding, and all have an abundance of feed for quite a siege yet.

The snow is drifted and piled up in such a shape that it is almost impossible to tell just how deep it is on a level. It is blown off the range so that with a very little warm wind there will be lots of bare ground. The thermometer stands today at 30 degrees above zero, but it has been down to 12 degrees below.

There are quite a good many cattle on the range not being fed, a number of which have died already, and a good many more will die before long if the weather doesn't change. Horses are all right up to date.

The Burlington in Tacoma.

TACOMA, Feb. 12.—C. E. Wright is quoted here as saying he had not denied that he has sold 37 1/2 per cent. of the stock of the Tacoma Land company to the Burlington & Quincy, and it is asserted on good and authentic authority that that road will be built to Tacoma. It is also asserted that Nelson Bennett, who is now east, already has a contract for 65 miles of the Tacoma end to be started as soon as the matter is arranged, and it is said he remarked, when leaving this city, that upon his return there would be no idle men in this city who desired work.

A RUSTIC'S VIEWS

He Briefly Reviews Some of the Present Leading Issues.

A POOR MAN'S LAW THAT FAILS

Inheritance Tax Law and Jay Gould—Honesty Measured by Wealth.

MR. EDITOR—Will you allow a rustic a space in THE CHRONICLE? I am a newcomer into the state of Oregon, and should not at once find fault. But will say that while preparing to make the change from a neighboring state to this, several persons urged me not to go to Oregon, assigning as the principal reason that the laws of Oregon were very objectionable. I gave the matter little or no thought, supposing my advisers were a little cranky; but since living here, I have heard more cranks than I know existed in America, growling and praying to be relieved from laws enacted by themselves.

DRIVING MONEY AWAY.

In their spite and envy toward far-seeing, energetic, frugal, industrious and prosperous men they have driven money out of the state and made it almost a penal offence for a man to be in easy circumstances. Instead of allowing money to bring what the demand makes it worth, they have undertaken to place a limit to its value, and, in this western country, a value that is low, all in the interest of "the poor man." The result is that very large amounts of Oregon money are sent across the Columbia river where men are allowed to get what their money is worth, and the little that remains on the south side of the river is put into the hands of brokers so that when Mr. Poor Man gets it, he has paid as large interest as is paid by people in our neighboring state, with a good fat commission besides to the well-kept gentleman who has over his door "Real-estate and Loans." The man that favors such a law deserves no sympathy when he is getting skinned. "Experience is a dear schooling," etc., but such a man will learn in no other way. Again the mortgage must pay the taxes, but the fact is that it is generally so arranged that Mr. Poor Man must pay the taxes or have the mortgage foreclosed.

Next Mr. Poor Man is allowed to deduct his indebtedness, forgetting that the rich man's credit is par excellence, and he is capable of getting deeper into debt and more rapidly and on much better terms than Mr. Poor Man, so that Mr. Poor Man is matched again.

INHERITANCE TAX LAW.

Very recently, by casual reading, I learned that England has an inheritance tax law. The thought of such a law among civilized people was repulsive to me, but I finally concluded that it might do in England, for they are "Hinglish, you know;" that in a republic such as the United States no such reprehensible law would find advocates enough to bring the suggestion before the people. But within a few days after reading of the English law I noticed that the New York law was after George Gould and that he would likely be

LEGALLY ROBBED.

By the state of nearly one million dollars. And what seems curious is that periodicals of high standing comment on the matter with a tone and air of great satisfaction. Shame on them! Some enjoy the matter and justify it by saying Jay Gould stole his money. When asked of whom and where or when he stole it, the answer is: "Why, he stole it, no man can make such a fortune honestly." If this answer is true I want to know how much money a man can be worth and be honest. If wealth measures a man's dishonesty, then poverty measures a man's honesty, and the loafer whittling goods boxes, along with the able-bodied dead beat who lets his wife support him by washing and ironing are the most honest and should be the most respected. Again the taxing of young Gould is justified because his father never was properly taxed. If this be true, it was the fault of men whose business it was to properly assess and tax him. His property lay out in long lines in full view of the public. It is said of him he

NEVER ROBBED MONEY.

He kept it always at work. When a person's attention is attracted to almost any subject it is wonderful how he can find reading matter concerning it. Next I noticed that noted demagogue, Gov. Pattison of Pennsylvania, in his message to the legislature, recommended the passing of an inheritance tax law. Next we hear our own worthy governor doing the same thing, and supported by some of the weaklies of the state. Now that the cranks have had a full dose of their medicine, and seem cured, and we are likely to see some of the worst prescriptions revoked, another class comes up and says when a rich man dies let us rob his widow and orphans. The great and strong argument offered in favor of this law is that after the man is dead his property is so easily found and gotten at. This is the

ARGUMENT OF THE WOLF.

When the flock-master is absent. The fact is that demagogue politicians are

taking up everything and anything to try to capture the vote of the rabble. It is easy to get the, by unavoidable circumstances, unfortunate, the bad manager, the lazy, the buxeted boomer, and the stupid to believe that the law should come to their relief, and the relief would be quickest and greatest by confiscation, and then restricting the energy and industry of others. I think a little legislation to encourage energy and thrift about these times, with assurance that a man will not only be protected in his property rights while he lives, but that his kin will inherit what he may leave behind, and that it shall not be the legal spoiler's prey, would be good.

Vicious as an income tax, under ordinary circumstances would be, it is far more preferable than an inheritance tax. I have no prospect of an inheritance, nor do I expect to leave an inheritance, for there is a deficiency about me in some way that I am incapable of getting much beyond a day ahead, but I do like justice tempered with mercy. AMOS.

A Card of Thanks.

We wish to return our heartfelt thanks to our many kind friends for the kindness shown during the last sickness of our beloved son and brother, especially to the Misses Clara and Etta Story, Mr. W. H. Lowery, and to the B. of L. F., and O. R. C.

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