

# OREGON MIST.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING  
BY  
BEEGLE & DAVIS.

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER.

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Society Notices.

MASONIC—St. Helens Lodge, No. 22—Regular communications first and third Saturday in each month at 7:30 p. m. at Masonic hall. Visiting members in good standing invited to attend.

MASONIC—Rainier Lodge, No. 24—Stated meetings Saturday or on before each full moon at 7:30 p. m. at Masonic hall, over Blanchard's store. Visiting members in good standing invited to attend.

OLD FELLOWS—St. Helens Lodge, No. 117—Meets every Saturday night at 7:30. Transient brethren in good standing cordially invited to attend.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—Aurora Lodge No. 62, meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock, in Odd Fellows hall, St. Helens, Oregon. Transient brethren cordially invited to attend.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—Rainier Lodge No. 58, meets every Saturday evening at 7:30 o'clock, in their hall, over Delta store. Transient brethren cordially invited to attend.

JUNIOR ORDER UNITED AMERICAN MECHANICS—Columbia Council No. 10—Meets in Odd Fellows hall, St. Helens, every Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Visiting brethren in good standing, invited to attend.

ORDERS OF EASTERN STAR—Mispah Chapter meets every second and fourth Saturday at 8 p. m., in Masonic hall, St. Helens, Oregon. A welcome given to visiting members.

ST. HELENS, OREGON, NOV. 2.

THE SCHOOL BOOK QUESTION.

We have received a pamphlet containing sixteen pages from the American Book Company gotten up in answer to the charges made against them by friends of other publishing houses, and in answer particularly to Portland's Committee of One Hundred. The statements made by the American Book Company in regard to their organization and methods of business are presented in a very clear concise manner, thoroughly explanatory of all the charges implied against them and as a simple matter of justice, if for no other reason, all worthy of serious consideration. It answers and treats upon every phase of the book question, and we believe, honestly, every act from the incorporation of the concern to the present time. The document can be seen by all interested upon calling at this office.

While THE MIST is not particularly interested in the welfare of the American Book Company, or any other company for that matter, it believes that they should all be treated fairly and impartially in the premises. But it is our opinion that the books published by the above named company are the equal, on the whole, of those published anywhere in the world; consequently, they should have an impartial hearing upon the subject. We say now as in the past that a change of text books would be an unwise policy at this time from strictly financial reasons, unless the change can be made on a former basis, to-wit: an exchange of the old books now in use for the new ones without having to pay a difference. This has been thought possible, and if so the public schools might profit by such a deal. On the other hand should the change entail any cash outlay on the part of persons now having the old series, such would be placing a heavy burden on people who have children to school. One thing is certain, the knowledge contained in the present text books has not yet, to any great extent, been acquired by the children of the common schools. Indeed, the pupil should master the lower studies before promotion to a higher, and until such time they should stick closely to their present studies.

It may be urged that in adopting new books the difference between the old book exchanged for the new would be small, but if the parent has not this difference with which to pay, they cannot obtain the required book and in consequence the child is deprived of its school privilege. This may at a glance seem a small matter for objection but nevertheless it is a fact which strikes at the very root of the proposition.

So far as bribery and corruption being charged against the school authorities by certain cliques, we are not disposed to believe it to any great extent. While of course in all professions there are unscrupulous persons, yet the majority of school superintendents are actuated by honest motives, and so far as we have been able to learn the guardians of our public school interests have been giving this much agitated matter a great deal of study, going, if you please, into the minutest details of the controversy that in casting their vote on the question it may be done intelligently. We wish to emphasize the assertion that we do not believe the guardians of our public schools are of the class of men to be bribed or coerced into any deal by which those they were elected to serve would suffer.

## THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Whatever may be the cause or the merits of the cause which is at present attracting special attention to our public school, it is evident that certain faults in the system are daily becoming more obvious to the general public. They are faults which can be readily amended, and crystallized public sentiment can insure the remedy. The system is too heavy, and in this respect is false to the genius which established, which maintains and which will ever foster education. The greatest good to the greatest number is the cardinal doctrine of democratic institutions, and the public school is certainly democratic in its true scope and purpose. The safeguard of the republic is the intelligence of its citizens. To produce a comparatively few of advanced learning is not the true purpose of the state. Its duty is to widely and wisely distribute its favor. The extent of the curriculum should be subservient to its thoroughness. The great majority of those who are entitled to the state's services in the matter of education, and who most generously repay its care, are not able to avail themselves of its most advanced instruction. The stern calls of existence demand their attention before they have reached the age or stage which enables them to take advantage of it.

The greatest care should be taken of the root, the warm growth-producing influence at the bottom, not to the pyrotechnics at the top. Practical education, which fits the student for further development through his innate love of knowledge and desire for learning, is what is due from the state to its children. This is all that is required of it. There is no occasion to teach any foreign language in our public schools. See that the instruction in pure English be thorough and let it go at that. There is no occasion to teach music, drawing or oratory, spite of the published remark of one of the directors that he would rather give up penmanship than music, argument ad absurdum. Music is an accomplishment with which the public as instructors has nothing to do; drawing and oratory can be self-acquired by those who have the talent and the industry necessary to success. Nobody finds fault with any necessary expense of the public schools, but let the little children have their share. They may not reflect the radiance of innumerable "professors" in the eyes of a dazzled public, but schools can prosper without footlight accessories. Strengthen the bottom, lop off the top—we shall have better results at less expense.—Sun.

It is indeed unfortunate for the state of Oregon that a United States senator is to be elected by the legislature in January. Especially is it unfortunate since there are so many matters of public importance which should be dealt with by non-partisan methods, and which the people so much need accomplished. However, it is a "condition and not a theory" that confronts us, and a republican senator is a national necessity at this time; but too much valuable time should not be consumed in making the selection. This is not a time for bickering, and whoever the choice may be it should be made promptly so that the assembly can settle down to the business for which the people allow it to exist. The aspirant who would assist or even permit a long drawn-out contest in the election of senator at this session thereby retarding more important legislation, is not worthy the high honor which he seeks. It is all well enough to serve the "dear people" in a six-year term as United States senator, but the people of Oregon have matters more "dear" to their hearts just now than the senatorial complication. We say again that upon the assembling of that august body the senatorial contest should be very promptly settled so that legislators may get down to matters more directly in line with the public's present requirements.

No man should be elected to the United States senate who does not favor the coinage of all silver produced by the mines of the United States. Three of our representatives in the national legislature have already declared themselves, and to elect one who is not in accord with them would be inconsistent.

In Clackamas county road taxes are paid in cash and collected at the same time other taxes are. This system has been in vogue two years. At first the people were very much opposed to it, but since they have seen the good result they would not return to the old system, so we are informed.

It is to be hoped the attempt to tow logs to San Francisco will never succeed, and from the result of the two recent attempts the outlook is anything but encouraging along that line. We have plenty of mills, men and ships to cut, handle and transport the product of Oregon's forests to the markets of the world.

The elections next Tuesday will determine whether the people want the McKinley law or the Wilson "perfidy and dishonor" law. Watch the result.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

County Judges Hold a Convention in Portland Last Week.

The county judges of the state held a meeting in Portland last week for the purpose of discussing and recommending some much needed changes in the laws of the state. The following are some of the recommendations:

"That the salary law be so amended that the salaries of the clerks, sheriffs, and clerks of the circuit courts, and recorder of conveyances shall be in full payment for all services as performed by each of the said officers, and that they should not be entitled to receive any further compensation, except the sheriff of the several counties, who should be entitled to receive the same compensation as allowed by the law for boarding of prisoners confined in the county jail, and the said compensation shall be full compensation for the pay of any jailor, or person taking care of said prisoners; provided, that the sheriff shall be entitled to receive from his county a mileage fee of five cents each way for each and every mile actually traveled in performing any service for his county, or for any individual over and above a distance of 20 miles.

"That the county courts of the several counties shall fix the salaries and number of deputies appointed by the various county officers in their respective counties.

"There should be elected a prosecuting attorney for each county, and that he should be paid a salary by the county, and that he should not receive any fees or other emolument for his services, other than his salary, and that his duties should be prescribed by law; that one of his duties should be to give legal advice to the county court, when called upon by the court, and that he should prosecute or defend, as the case may be, all cases for and on behalf of his county under the direction of the county court, without additional compensation, and that the office of district attorney be abolished.

"That all county officers who are paid a salary shall turn over to the county treasurer all fees and mileage earned by them in the course of their official duties, except as provided in the office of sheriff.

"That the various assessors be paid salaries instead of per diem; that the law fix and prescribe their duties, and the said salary shall be full compensation and shall include mileage and expenses.

"That no witness shall be entitled to any mileage or per diem in criminal cases in justices' courts, unless he resides more than three miles from the place of holding court.

"That the law relating to the compensation of witnesses and jurors in the county and justice courts, be amended so as to allow each witness or juror \$1 per day, and mileage as above provided.

"That the court reporter's salary be \$5 per day of eight hours, and should be paid in advance by the party requiring his services.

"That it is the sense of this convention that the law authorizing the state board of equalization be so amended that their work shall be completed much earlier than at present.

"That section 1170 of Hill's code should be so amended that executors and administrators shall be required to file their semi-annual accounts and reports within the first ten days of April and October of each year; that the law be so amended that all guardians be required to report semi-annually within the first ten days of April and October.

"That a law be passed directing the county court, upon the discharge of a person committed to the insane asylum, to enter an order setting forth such discharge upon the receipt of a certificate from the superintendent that such person is discharged as cured; such order to be made in the county from which such person was committed.

"That section 2866, page 30, of the laws of 1891, be so amended that in all cases where the guardian petitions to mortgage the property of his ward in a sum to exceed \$500, notice shall be given in such manner and from such time as the court may direct; and an additional bond, in a sum required by the court may be given.

"That the law be so amended that real property shall be assessed without reference to the name of the owner; that said assessment shall be a lien on said realty from the date of its assessment, to-wit: March 1, at 1 A. M.

"That an assessment against personal property shall constitute an account against the owner thereof when such assessment is made, and that any personal property of the owner within the state of Oregon or real property within the county wherein he resides, shall be liable for said tax when collectable without reference to the property assessed.

"That no levy upon real property shall be necessary in order to sell the same for taxes.

"That one-half of the taxes shall become delinquent on April 1 and the remaining half shall become due on December 1 of each year, and all taxes not paid at the time the same become delinquent there shall be charged a penalty of 1 per cent a month until the same shall be paid; provided, that in all counties where the population is shown to be 20,000 or more by any census of the state or of the United States, a period of 90 days shall be allowed for the collection of a sum required by the court.

"That the county courts be authorized to appoint the assessors of the several counties at the last regular term in each year for the year following.

"That the law be amended so that it will not be necessary for the several counties of this state to send a certified copy of the tax roll, but it shall be sufficient to send a certified copy of the tabulated statement of the property contained therein; that it shall not be necessary to copy the tax-roll for the sheriff, but it will be sufficient for the county clerk to make out receipts showing the amount of taxes due from each individual, with a warrant attached thereto.

"That the sheriffs of the several counties shall collect the tax as provided for in said receipt.

"To abolish the making of a military list by the county assessors. The list was unnecessary and a useless expense but is required by law to show who is subject to military duty.

"To amend the present law of letting contracts, as to plans and specifications, so that it shall be at the discretion of the court whether to let the contract or perform the work.

## VICTORY FOR OREGON.

More Awards than Any State at the Tacoma Fair.

Mr. A. F. Miller, superintendent of the Oregon exhibit at the interstate fair, returned to this city from Tacoma, Saturday, says the Oregonian. He speaks in warm terms of his treatment by the managers of the fair just closed, and says that Oregon has every reason to be proud of the honors she carried off. Out of thirty-seven of the highest awards given in the agriculture and horticulture building, in close competition, this state received more than half of the number.

"Our exhibit did not cost us more than \$700, but it was the choicest at the fair," said Mr. Miller. "I believe our money was well spent. Mr. Samuel Collier, secretary of the Tacoma chamber of commerce, and Mr. George P. Eaton, assistant general land agent of the Northern Pacific railroad, said they believed the Oregon exhibit attracted more attention than any other display at the fair. Our display consisted of an exhibit of the products of the state, and was confined to the agricultural and horticultural building."

Diplomas of highest award over all competitors were awarded Oregon exhibitors as follows: O. Dickinson, of Salem, seeds; Leach & Bowen, Portland, two cereals and paste; J. Withycombe, Hillsboro, merino wool; R. Scott, Milwaukie, Cotswold wool; Carson & Son, Grant's Pass, fruit-lyrer; state agricultural college, Corvallis, potatoes; East Portland Mill & Fixture Company, school desks; E. N. Morgan, Portland, wool and artistic design of grain palace; Oregon, five, on vegetables, fruit in jars, grain in sheaf, grass in sheaf, and grain shells; A. F. Miller, Portland, artistic design of entire display. Second premiums were given Oregon on green fruit, minerals, fish and fishing appliances.

Mr. Miller says there will be several diplomas of honor awarded in recognition of interest taken and work done for the fair in Oregon. These will be issued to Governor Penneyer, Mayor Frank, The Oregonian Publishing Company, the Telegram Publishing Company, Hon. C. H. Dodd, Mr. W. W. Baker and Mr. C. H. Lewis.

Out of thirty-seven diplomas granted in the Oregon, Washington and British Columbia exhibits, in active competition in the main building, Oregon secured nineteen, Washington sixteen, and British Columbia two.

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Castoria is Dr. Samuel Pitcher's prescription for Infants and Children. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. It is a harmless substitute for Paregoric, Drops, Soothing Syrup, and Castor Oil. It is Pleasant. Its guarantee is thirty years' use by Millions of Mothers. Castoria destroys Worms and allays feverishness. Castoria prevents vomiting Sour Curd, cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. Castoria relieves teething troubles, cures constipation and flatulency. Castoria assimilates the food, regulates the stomach and bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. Castoria is the Children's Panacea—the Mother's Friend.

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"Castoria is an excellent medicine for children. Mothers have repeatedly told me of its good effect upon their children."

Dr. G. C. Osason,  
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