

OREGON MIST.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING

BEEGLE & DAVIS.

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER.

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Single copy \$0.25

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COLUMBIA COUNTY DIRECTORY.

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.....J. G. Schoonover, Vernonia

Society Notices.

MASSONIC—St. Helens Lodge, No. 23—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.

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

ODD 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—Avalon Lodge No. 62, meets every Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, in Odd Fellows hall, St. Helens, Oregon. Transient brethren invited to attend.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—Rainier Lodge No. 58, meets every Saturday evening at 8 o'clock, in their hall, over Blair's store, St. Helens. 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.

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR—Mispah Chapter meets every second and fourth Saturday at 7:30 p. m. in Masonic hall, St. Helens, Oregon. A welcome given to visiting members.

ST. HELENS, OREGON, MAY 21.

The Sentinel co-operator does not mention tax-eaters this week, therefore we conclude the fool-killer has been over there.

People generally should not lose sight of the fact that whatever is done in the way of improvement in any particular section of the county is an advantage to the whole county. Every dollar invested at any point in the county enhances the value of all property. Encourage new enterprises.

From all parts of the state come reports of a good crop outlook. In Eastern Oregon it is said the grain crop looks better than usual at this season of the year, and even should continued dry weather set in now the crop is far enough advanced that it would mature to a good yield without further rain. The western part of the state is in no danger of a shortage in crops, except that in some parts certain varieties of fruit is affected with blight. This condition is not general, however, and an average yield in all crops is expected.

SECRETARY GRESHAM is dead. The end came at 1:15 Tuesday morning from an attack of pleurisy. While Gresham has been found fault with during his service as secretary of state, the fact yet remains that his life has been a life of usefulness. He was postmaster-general and secretary of the treasury during President Arthur's administration, and twice held the position of judge of the United States district court of Indiana. It is possible that the office of secretary of state was too large for his statesmanship, yet his honesty of purpose is undisputed.

The (Donkey) who writes editorials for the Sentinel does not believe that farmers should take an active part in politics "only" or "just" long enough to go and vote. Like all populist politicians the aforesaid has no use for a farmer only when he is willing to quit his plow "just" long enough to go and vote the populist ticket. We are glad that farmers as a rule are possessed of sound judgment on political questions, and have backbone enough to use their own judgment without the assistance of political agitators who go about the community for the sole purpose of creating unrest among otherwise contented and industrious people.

For the benefit of the co-operative editor of the Sentinel THE MIST desires to say it never has advocated the free and unlimited coinage of silver, nor does it believe now that free coinage would be best. What THE MIST did say was that it favored an increased coinage of silver not to exceed in extent the product of the mines of the United States, believing this could be done in safety to American interests. But THE MIST has at all times advanced the proposition that the tariff issue was paramount to all others, notwithstanding its friendliness to an increased (not free) coinage of silver. As to THE MIST's position on the question the Sentinel is referred to THE MIST bearing dates September 28, November 2nd, 9th and 16th, 1894, and January 25th, 1895, and many other dates.

TODAY takes place a meeting at the city of Rainier which will probably be in effect to mark an entire revolution in the cordwood business along the Columbia river. The extremely low price of wood which has prevailed for many months has aroused the choppers' sense of indignation, and after repeated efforts have succeeded in interesting the dealers to such an extent as to secure their assemblage, where it is hoped some action may be secured in behalf of choppers and dealers alike. Those who have been instrumental in this direction maintain that so long as freight rates and steamboat fares can be raised, so should they receive more satisfactory compensation for their labor, by which it will be more nearly possible to maintain themselves. At the present price of banked wood—\$1.75 a cord—there cannot possibly be more than a poor living in it for the chopper, and we are of the belief that if these persons will stand together their efforts will be the cause of their receiving an advance on wood.

SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE.

Something should be done to improve our school facilities in this neighborhood, and as we have repeatedly stated, the consolidation of the St. Helens-Houlton school districts would do more for the educational interests of this entire community than any other thing imaginable. It is argued by some that consolidation would not be practicable, owing to the indebtedness of the St. Helens district, the amount of which is between \$500 and \$800. To effect this indebtedness this district has a perpetual income of \$800—on \$800 from the Gumm place and on \$500 in cash from the same estate loaned out on interest. In view of this annual income the liabilities of the district are no serious obstacle in the way of consolidation. The present school facilities of St. Helens and Houlton are deficient, and a remedy should be sought, for a city or community is very largely judged by its educational facilities, and, indeed, that is one of the greatest attractions to prospective new comers.

A movement is now on foot to build a new school house at Houlton, the construction of which is imperative. Since this is the case, why would it not be wise for the two districts to consolidate and erect a substantial school edifice some where about half way between that would accommodate for years the school interests of both places. The distance from either need not be more than one-half mile.

In years gone by many good citizens have left this community because of poor schools, and many others who would have come here to make their homes here, for the same reason, stayed away. Is it not apparent, then, that something should be done in this direction? It does not take a philosopher to see that without school facilities no city or country can prosper. It is almost daily asserted on our streets by visitors to the city that they would locate here if we had better schools, but in the absence of such they have been compelled to seek homes elsewhere.

In view of these facts and also the fact that Houlton is going to build a school house anyway, and the further that St. Helens ought to have a better building would not consolidation prove beneficial to both? This is a question that deserves the serious consideration of every resident of the two districts.

THE FACTS IN THE CASE.

There is a state of unrest and alarm prevailing the country everywhere. This state of affairs is attributed by some to the demoralization of silver in 1873. This may have had some effect when the crisis finally came. Some again attribute it to the general bad legislation of the republican party, and that the hard times now upon us would have come as the result of that party's vicious legislation, even had Harrison been elected.

Such claims are gratuitous, and will not bear the light of fair criticism. That for several years prior to the change of administration from a republican to a democratic rule, there had been wild and reckless speculations in lands and business enterprises, is an admitted fact; and that business everywhere was beginning to crystallize and assume a more solid basis is also a fact. But notwithstanding all that, after eliminating these wild and reckless business enterprises entered into upon borrowed capital; all business managed with care and on sound business principles were prosperous and employed labor so extensively that general depression, such as we find now, was unknown.

The history of the facts brought to light by the senate labor commission is proof that the wage of the country was slightly appreciating, and that commission so reported. Then another labor commission raised by the state of New York to investigate the labor question of that state, known as the "Peck Commission," found the same state of facts, viz: the advance of wages instead of a decline. In view of these facts it is not strange that immediately upon the fact being known that the democratic party would be in complete control of the government in March, 1893, the crash began to be felt even before an effort had been made to repeal any republican law. (The democratic party had pledged the people that if entrusted with power, it would repeal the McKinley tariff act, the Sherman silver purchase act and the act taxing state banks.) The threatened repeal of those three acts, all modifying the currency system, was cause for alarm in the financial world. Importers canceled orders for purchase of manufactures in Europe, wholesale merchants throughout the country called in orders from domestic manufacturers. This caused them to shut down their mills and discharge their laborers. Depositors in local, savings and national banks began to call for and draw out their deposits. The banks had loaned out the people's deposits and could not honor the demands of their depositors. As a result a general panic seized business men everywhere.

Labor being unemployed for the reasons above stated, merchants could not meet the anticipated trade of wholesale and retail dealers. So they, too, were short, while their shelves groaned with manufactured goods. The whole trouble was the result of a want of confidence in the financial system and tariff system which the incoming administration had pledged itself to adopt.

Such was the real cause of the depression which we now endure. If, as our populist friends claim, how is it that there is a gulf of nineteen years of good times between the act of 1873 and the presidential election of 1892, when the depression began?

The only answer is found in the fact that the tariff and financial policy of the democratic party is unsound and inimical to prosperity, and no juggling of words can show the contrary.

BACHELOR FLAT.

Mr. E. Morton has his large barn nearly completed. Charles Wikstrom is busily engaged at the construction of a large barn. Planting in this vicinity is about finished and all crops look well and promising.

COUNTY NOT LIABLE.

Below is a full text of the opinion delivered by Judge McBride in the circuit court last Friday in the suit brought by Mary Pringle against Columbia county to recover the sum of \$500 as damages alleged to have been done an orchard by fire set out by a road supervisor:

"Mary Pringle vs. Columbia County."
"This is an action brought by the plaintiff against Columbia county for damages arising from the alleged negligence of the road supervisor of road district No. 21, in allowing a fire, kindled by him upon the public road, to spread upon plaintiff's land, whereby plaintiff's orchard and improvements were burned up and destroyed."

"Plaintiff alleges that the supervisor, while clearing and repairing said county road, carelessly, negligently and wilfully caused a fire to be set out in such a careless, negligent and wilful manner that it destroyed the orchard and improvements, and that the county is liable therefor."

"The county demurs on the ground that the complaint does not state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action."

"It is a principle well settled that a county is not liable for damages unless made so by statute. Such was the rule at common law and such is the holding of the supreme court of this state. (See Tompkins vs. Linn County, 20th Oregon Reports, where all the authorities are collected and this rule clearly enunciated in the opinion rendered by Chief Justice Chaney.)

"This being the rule, it is only necessary to examine the statute to ascertain whether plaintiff has brought herself within its provisions."

"Section 547, page 182, Deady's rule, is as follows: 'An action may be maintained against a county or other public corporation mentioned in Section 346, either upon a contract made by such county or other public corporation in its corporate character and within the scope of its authority, or for an injury to the rights of the plaintiff arising from some act or omission of such county.'

"Under the above section it has been held that the counties of this state were liable for injuries arising from the negligent or wrongful acts of road supervisors; but in 1887 the last clause of Section 347 was stricken out and the section amended so as to read, 'An action may be maintained against any of the organized counties of this state upon a contract made by such county in its corporate character and within the scope of its authority, and by other wise.' Under this section it was held in the case of Tompkins vs. Linn County that a county was not liable for an injury caused by a defective bridge upon its highway, and I think it could not, under said section, be liable for any negligent or other act, its liability was expressly limited to matters arising out of contract."

"In 1888 an act was passed providing that any person injured while carefully traveling any public road, provided he was himself free from negligence, should have an action against the county for any injury sustained by reason of any defect in such road, and limiting his remedy to the sum of \$1000. The act is limited in its operation to damages arising from defective roads or bridges, and does not pretend to repeal the act of 1887."

"It follows, then, as a logical deduction from these statutes and the decisions of our courts that a county is not liable for any damages, except when they are occasioned by its negligence in failing to keep in repair bridges or roads or such as arise out of contract."

"The injury here complained of, is not within either class of cases; it did not arise from a defective bridge or highway; neither did it arise from a contract, and the plaintiff's remedy, if any exists, is against the person who kindled the fire and negligently allowed it to spread upon her property."

"The demurrer will be sustained and the case dismissed."

The Portland Sun is the most popular paper in the state. THE MIST and Sun together, per year \$1.75.

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Farm One Mile From Scappoose.
Intending purchasers are invited to call and see my stock. All correspondence promptly answered.

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T. J. CLETON, H. ALLEN,
ALLEN & CLETON,
Attorneys and Counselors at Law
ST. HELENS, OREGON.

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PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,
Rainier, Oregon.

D. H. R. CLIFF,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,
St. Helens, Oregon.

D. J. E. HALL,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,
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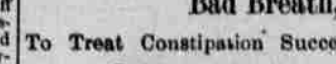
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County Surveyor. Land Surveying, Town Platting and Engineering work promptly executed.

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—STEAMER—
Young America

WILLAMETTE SLOUGH
Leave St. Helens.....6:30 A M
Arrive at Portland.....10:00 A M
Leave Portland.....5:00 P M
Arrive at St. Helens.....6:00 P M

Will Carry Nothing but Passengers and Fast Freight.

During the summer season, or as long as the water remains high enough, this boat will make two trips each week up Scappoose bay—on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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Make money while
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TEMPEST is a beautiful, dark iron gray, sixteen hands high; nine years old; weighs 1000 pounds, with fine style, quick movement, and second to none in muscular power and durability.

He was sired by Young Byron Kier; by old Byron Kier, imported and owned by Sigmaster, Keota, Iowa. Tempest's dam was sired by Old Tempest, a Norman horse owned by J. Downs, Iowa.

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