

OREGON MIST.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING
BEEGLE & DAVIS.

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER.

Subscription Rates.
One copy one year in advance \$1.00
One copy six months 50
Single copy 5

Advertising rates made known upon application
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ST. HELENS, OREGON, DEC. 18.

The principal federal appointment to be made in Oregon under the new administration is that of collector of customs at Portland, and while there are many capable and worthy men in the state who may aspire to the position, there is none more capable or deserving than Hon. T. T. Gear, of Marion county, and without casting any aspersion upon any other aspirant for the place, we believe that a better selection than Mr. Gear could not be made.

The money paid out by the American consumer under the policy of the Wilson bill, instead of going into the pockets of the wage workers of our country, instead of going into the pockets of our farmers and our manufacturers, goes into the pockets of the foreign importer to enrich him and aid him in his industrial warfare on American industries; and more than all this, our country is drained of its specie to pay the balance of trade against us; circulating medium is contracted, prices of farm products are depreciated; wages have fallen, and poverty and distress overwhelm the people.

The following from the Jacksonville Times, democratic, shows a comparison between the president and president-elect, from a democratic standpoint: "President Cleveland has submitted his last message to congress—thank God! It is to be hoped that his successor will at least endeavor to do something for the benefit of the people, instead of having only the money power's interests in view. Cleveland's foreign policies, with one exception, have been villainous—a disgrace to America—and something should be done for Cuba and the Sandwich Islands as soon as the people get rid of Grover, the Fat. The Times hopes that Major McKinley will be equal to the emergency. He has a golden opportunity to canonize himself by simply doing what Cleveland has not done."

Last spring before election in nearly every county of the state republican candidates for the legislature, knowing the views of their constituents upon the subject, and in every case in order to strengthen their chances of election, pledged themselves, if elected, to support Senator Mitchell for re-election. In most cases these pledges were made by letters to their constituents or to friends of the senator over their own signatures, and the letters are still in existence. Most of these pledges were made voluntarily, but in a few instances candidates made the promises for the sole purpose of getting votes, knowing well that the masses of the people wanted Mr. Mitchell returned to the senate. If the men who so pledged themselves, over their own signatures, still hope to retain their honor, John H. Mitchell be elected United States senator on the first ballot. Several more than a majority of the republican members of the legislature made these pledges and a failure to keep them will be condemned by an outraged constituency when those members return home.

When we recall the clamor that was made in New York about the currency question being the sole issue before the people during the recent presidential campaign, it is a little difficult to understand why there should now be even a more persistent clamor in New York for an immediate revision of the existing tariff. Of course, we know today, as we knew several months ago, that the present free-trade tariff of the democratic party does not afford protection to American labor and industries. But why should there have been any effort to conceal this fact before election? It is now being pushed strongly to the front, as an issue, by all the republican and democratic papers alike. There was no more doubt about the position of the president-elect, on the subject of protection, in October than there is today, and the idle effort that was so very generally made in the Empire City, to bring the tariff issue appears all the more brazen when contrasted with the present scrimonious discussions in the daily press on the subject of a protective tariff, in order to provide revenue which, it is conceded, we must have and at once. We all knew this months ago. We also knew that a settlement of the currency

question would not provide revenue. We greet those converts who, thus late, tacitly acknowledge that the tariff was the issue of the campaign of 1896, when Major McKinley was elected by the largest popular majority ever accorded to any president of the United States.

"MR. CORBETT PAYS THE FREIGHT."

Mr. H. W. Corbett has come to be a great man all at once in the opinion of a few Portland politicians, and there are several of them just now using his name in connection with the United States senatorship, not because they want the old gentleman elected, or even imagine that he will be elected; but he is a wealthy man, and by making him believe he has a certain following his "leg can be pulled" for boodle with which to defeat Mitchell. The old gentleman is childish and a little taffy pleases him very much; indeed so much that from his millions he, no doubt, cheerfully contributes liberally to the fellows who are out for boodle, but whose real purpose is to make a cat's paw of Mr. Corbett and get him to put up the money with which to defeat Mitchell in the hope that Mr. Joseph Simon may go to the senate.

Mr. Corbett, no doubt, is in good faith the same as John F. Caples was for the nomination for congress last spring, but the use of his name at this time is for the sole purpose of making him pay the campaign expenses of another whose name will be put forward whenever the opportunity presents itself. In the case of Mr. Caples last spring they wanted to use his ability and influence; with Mr. Corbett they want to use his money.

The first object of this small aggregation of boodle politicians is to create dissension sufficient to prevent Mr. Mitchell's election, and if that is accomplished with Mr. Corbett's money that gentleman will be brought to the stern realization that he has performed his part in the political drama and he will be cast aside and the author of the play will be presented.

Those who have watched the drift of the proceeding closely agree that this is the ostensible purpose of the opposition to Mitchell, and coming events will, no doubt, soon demonstrate the truthfulness of the prediction. One thing is certain, Mr. Corbett's name is not being used with the belief that he stands the slightest chance of success.

THE PRESIDENTIAL TERM.

After every election of president an agitation is started for lengthening the term of office of the nation's chief magistrate, for the reason that a presidential campaign is distracting and depressing to business. This is always true of a presidential contest, but the interference with industry has become particularly marked in the campaign just closed. The usual uncertainty attending the outcome of a national election is sufficient to cause men of capital to hesitate before putting their money into new enterprises or enlarging existing ones. The disturbance to business has been unusually severe during the last summer, because the issues involved were of tremendous importance to business interests. But the difference between this and other campaigns is simply one of degree. With every recurring presidential election business must suffer more or less.

These contests probably follow each other too closely. If elections took place less frequently business would be subject to fewer disturbances from this cause. Six years is not too long a term for the president of the United States to serve, especially if it be understood that he shall retire at the end of that time and not seek a re-election to the office, and provided also that his administration be a success by being in touch with existing conditions. It goes without saying that even a shorter term than at present for the president whose administration does not meet the requirement of the times, would be better. But in such cases the constitution could be so changed that a bare majority only, would be necessary to pass a measure over the executive veto, instead of two-thirds, as at present. Then it would not make so much difference as to the attitude of the chief executive so far as needful legislation is concerned. Congress would have power to make and even enforce laws without executive sanction, and in the case of the 54th congress a tariff bill could have been enacted for the relief of a bankrupt treasury, and Mr. Cleveland need not have been asked or expected to have signed it. Congress is supposed to be the law making power, and the president is clothed with authority to execute such laws as may be enacted. But under our present system the president can, by a stroke of his pen, declare null and void any act of the congress.

A six-year term would give two presidential elections in twelve years, instead of three, as now. In the early days of the republic the objections were not so great to the shorter term. Now the very cost of presidential campaigns is an argument against having them more frequently than is necessary to enable the government to keep in touch with the people.

In order to change the term of the

president it would be necessary to amend the constitution of the United States, something which it is very difficult to accomplish. But the change is a very desirable one, especially for the business interests of the country, and it is to be hoped that before many years it may be brought about.

ST. HELENS SCHOOL NOTES.

Watson Philbrook, of Houlton, visited school Friday afternoon.

Miss Maud Decker was a pleasant caller at school last Friday afternoon.

Teacher—"Johnny, what is the plural to 'twins'?" Johnny—(after a moment's pause) "Twins."

Misses Daisy Watkins, Grace Miles and May Whitney were absent from school on Monday on account of sickness.

Miss Rachel Robinson, of Washington state, and John Turpin, of St. Helens, entered the school Monday for the winter term.

Miss Florence George visited Portland last Thursday, having gone there to visit her sister Amy, who is attending Harrison street school.

The advanced class in history are reviewing this week, preparatory for final examination next Friday. Those who pass will then take up physical geography.

Friday completes the fourth month of school, with an enrollment of 57 and an average daily attendance of from 47 to 51, which is very good for this time of the year.

Answers to the first six questions in last week's *Mist* were received from little Wilbur Kyle, of Columbia City, aged 10 years, but too late for publication. Let us hear from you again.

Prof. Meserve, of Columbia City, was a visitor at our school Monday. He contemplates entering the Portland Business College for the winter term to take up short hand and typewriting.

St. Helens has a reading circle which meets weekly for the purpose of studying Shakespeare's plays and Roman history. The circle consists of more than 15 members, and great interest is manifested.

We are in receipt of a neat little school paper entitled the "High School Whizzer," published by the pupils of the Clatskanie school. It is a nice little paper, and we speak for it a wide circulation in the schools of Columbia county.

Applications are received almost daily from pupils of the surrounding country for permission to enter our school for the winter, and we are very sorry to refuse, but with limited room and a full school it is next to impossible to receive them.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1. Who was the first white born in Washington Territory? Answer—C. H. Newell, merchant, St. Helens. Answered by Winnie Way, Pearl Decker, Myrtle Newell and Grace Dart.

2. Where, when and by whom was the first wharf built on the Columbia river? Answer—By the Hudson Bay Company at Fort Vancouver, in 1829. Answered by Florence George, Anna George, Grace Dart, Pearl Decker, Myrtle Newell, Eugene Miles and others.

3. What is the exact height of Mt. Rainier? Answer—14,000 feet. Answered by pupils in all grades.

4. What celebrated foreign minister recently visited the United States? Answer—Li Hung Chang. Answered by Lulu, Anna and Florence George, Lottia Hill, Grace Dart, Pearl Decker, Myrtle Newell and others.

5. What causes Chinook winds? Answer—Chinook winds are not winds from the ocean, as most people think, but air made warm by the compression produced by the flow of air from the high mountains of Nevada, Utah and Southern Idaho to the lower lands extending westward to the area of low barometric pressure, thus causing dynamic heating of the air, which causes the snow to melt from underneath as well as above, and removes it very rapidly. The Chinook wind is a peculiar phenomenon confined to the Pacific slope. Answered by Florence George and the teacher.

6. What are the seven wonders of the world? Answer—(1) The pyramids of Egypt; (2) the hanging gardens of Babylon; (3) the Temple of Diana at Ephesus; (4) the statue of Jupiter at Athens; (5) the leaning tower of Pisa; (6) the Colonus at Rhodes; (7) the Pharos at Alexandria. Answered by Myrtle Newell, Pearl Decker, Florence and Anna George, Grace Dart and Lulu George.

7. If 8 be added to both terms of the fraction 4-5, will it increase or diminish its value, and how much? Answer—Increases its value .65. Answered by Winnie Way, Florence George, Grace Dart, Percy George and Myrtle Newell.

8. If 8 be added to both terms of the fraction 5-4, will it increase or diminish its value, and how much? Answer—Decrease its value. Answered by Winnie Way, Florence George, Elmer Newell, May Whitney and Lottie Cooper.

9. What time after 11 o'clock a. m. will the hour and minute hand on a clock be exactly together? Answer—12 o'clock noon. 11 x 5 = 55 minutes equal 60 minutes past 11 o'clock, or 12 o'clock noon. Answered by mental arithmetic class.

10. What number is that which, if multiplied by 3/5 of 5-6 of 2, will produce 7-9? Answer—36-45. Answered by Myrtle Newell and Winnie Way.

NEW QUESTIONS.

1. Who were the founders of St. Helens, and from and by whom did it receive its name?

2. Who was the father of English prose, and in what age of literature did he live?

3. Who is known as the great American essayist, and what books did he write?

4. Who was Joan of Arc, and what notable events brought her before the public?

5. What eminent jurist died a few weeks ago?

6. The steamer Telephone runs 78 miles in six hours and 20 minutes, her engine making 19 revolutions per minute. How far is she pushed forward by each stroke of her engine?

7. Bought eggs at the rate of 5 for 2 cents. How many must be sold for 14 cents to gain 40 per cent?

8. A roller is 10 feet long and 12 feet in circumference. How many times will it turn in rolling a field of 9 acres?

9. What is money worth if \$50 amounts to \$64 in 252 days?

10. Explain how it is that there are 146,097 days in every 400 consecutive years.

PERSONAL AND LOCAL.

The *Mist* \$1.00 per year.

Choice perfumeries at the drug store. The legislature will convene on January 11th.

Max Berg, of Warren, was in town Wednesday.

Miss Tillie Muckle was in Portland last Friday.

Mr. W. H. Dolman was a Portland visitor last Friday.

John Slavens, of Warren, has been in Castle Rock for several days.

N. A. Perry and L. Meeker went to Portland Tuesday afternoon.

John Swager, of Kelo, was in this city Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Sheldon spent several days in Portland this week.

Mrs. Frank Dow was a passenger for Portland on the Lurline Tuesday.

Ex-Commissioner S. G. Schoonover was in this city several days this week.

Mrs. D. W. Price, of Scappoose, visited friends in this city and Houlton Tuesday.

Judge Doan came up from Rainier Wednesday to attend to some probate matters.

Rev. C. E. Philbrook will preach at Scappoose next Sunday, morning and evening.

Next Friday is Christmas. Hang up your stockings and see what Santa Claus will bring.

Mrs. A. Henderson and Mrs. David Henshaw, of Houlton, visited Portland Tuesday last.

W. B. Buell is engaged at present on the abstract books of Messrs. Cole & Quick, of this city.

County School Superintendent J. G. Watts, of Scappoose, was in this city a few moments last Tuesday.

Mr. Jacob George is running the monkey logging engine in Muckle Bros.' camp on Milton creek.

Parties desiring to sell cordwood can find a purchaser by applying to G. H. Lemont, at Muckle's wharf.

The Oriental hotel has been much improved in appearance lately by the application of new paper and paint.

Fresh creamery butter will be delivered anywhere in town for 55 cents per roll. Leave orders with Frank Dow.

Mrs. T. C. Watts, Goble, went to Scappoose last Saturday to purchase nursery stock from the nursery of A. Holsday.

Gus Hegele, of Warren, was in this city Monday evening. Mr. Hegele takes quite a prominent part in social matters at Warren.

Dr. Ross has just received a large invoice of choice candies for the holiday trade. Call on him for your candies.

Alex. Sword, of Vernonia, came over from there Wednesday to attend to some business matters. He returned yesterday.

Mr. A. L. Richardson, of Rainier, came up on the Lurline Wednesday to see his wife, who is quite ill at the home of his daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Watts, of Reuben, were in this city last Saturday evening. They were in attendance at Eastern Star, and returned home on the night boat.

Mrs. M. J. Sept, of this city, has been at Castle Rock for a number of days watching with other members of family, for the lost body of her brother, Charles Slavens.

Mr. Gus Hegele, of Warren, has purchased a quantity of timber from D. J. Switzer which he will work into cordwood during the present winter and next summer.

Rev. C. N. Plowman has just received a large box of clothing for his family from Williamsport, Pa., sent by the Women's Missionary Society of the United Evangelical church.

Mr. H. Orchard and family came up from Kalamia Tuesday last, en route for Tillamook by steamer, where Mr. Orchard will be engaged for the next year in the construction of the water works for that city.

Dr. W. B. Morse, of Salem, was called in consultation with Dr. Ross last Saturday in the case of the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Wharton, of this city. Dr. Morse returned Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. E. L. Eckley, of La Grande, is visiting with relatives at Scappoose and Houlton. In company with her sister, Miss Proebstel, she will visit Hillsboro and other neighboring villages before returning home.

Miss Mollie Proebstel, of La Grande, is visiting with relatives at Scappoose and Houlton. In company with two of her cousins, Mrs. N. A. Perry and Miss Maria Watts, Miss Proebstel visited this city last Monday.

The Earnest Workers' fair takes place at Scappoose, beginning tomorrow night. The young ladies of that place are enlisted in a good cause and deserve to succeed. Those who attend will, no doubt, be well entertained.

Mr. L. J. Meserve is soliciting subscriptions to *The Mist* at \$1.00 per year. He also has authority to collect subscription accounts. There are several hundred dollars due us on subscription, and a remittance to this office or to our agents would be much appreciated.

Linn county claims the youngest school teacher in the state, if not in the United States. Lester Umphrey is just 13 years old, and has passed the teachers' examination, making an average of 80, enough to warrant a second grade certificate; but on account of age, and this being his first examination, only a third grade certificate could be issued to him.

Joseph Reed, of Vernonia, was in this city Wednesday on his way to Portland, where he will take some specimens of mineral rock to be assayed. The specimens were obtained from the Rock creek mines, a few miles above Vernonia, where much work has been done in the past few years. He also had with him some specimens which assayed from \$30 to \$100 per ton.

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My share, consisting of 313 acres in range 7 west, Willamette meridian, sections 2 and 3 situate on Columbia river near town of Rainier, off James Robbins' donation land claim. D. W. DOBBINS.

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