

# OREGON MIST.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING  
-ST-  
BEEGLE & DAVIS.

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER.

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ST. HELENS, OREGON, JAN. 15.

ONE of the first things the legislature should do is to reduce expenses to the lowest possible figure consistent with good government. Let the general appropriation bill be carefully examined and if there should appear an item which would seem in the least way extravagant, let it be culled from the list or reduced to a reasonable figure.

THE decision of Judge Myers of Kansas that the alien law of that state does not apply to the right of way of railroad corporations will probably put an end to the populist scheme to wreck one of the principal railroads out there. This is an additional indication that Kansas is coming to her senses and getting ready to win back the creditable reputation of her former days.

THE upper house of the legislature is to be commended for its prompt organization and attention to the people's business, while the action of the members of the house is such that should be looked upon with contempt by the people of our state. The members were sent there to legislate for the people and not for child's play. The election of a senator should not bar legislation at all. Let the legislature elect Mr. Mitchell or someone else to the United States senate when the time comes, and then let there be some work done.

"Don't expect prosperity to come back with a jump," says Major McKinley's personal organ over in Chicago. "We won't," says the Kansas City Times, "if she enters with a glide, or a 3-o'clock-in-the-morning stagger; if she moes in on one leg; ay, if she even chases backwards on her surcingle, or waltzes gently forward on her ear, we'll welcome her and brush the dust off the best seat in the house for her to sit on. It don't make one diff of bitterness how she comes, but the whyness of her coming is a matter of great importance."

### THE ILLITERATE IMMIGRANTS.

In another column of our paper this week appears an article upon alien rights and usages. The article is in close touch with the bill which has been sent to the conference committee of the senate—the bill to exclude illiterate immigrants. This bill is, with or without the amendments, probably as good as can be had from the present congress, and ought to be enacted. In the leading section, the bill, as it is passed by the house, proposes the shutting out of all males between 16 and 60 years of age except those who can read and write the English or some other language, while the most important of the senate amendments to the bill prescribes as a test the ability to read and write, in some language, five lines of the United States Constitution.

Of course, this bill shows no unfriendliness to immigrants in general, but only to illiterate immigrants. Many republicans believe that the foreign vote turned the scale to the honest money party in the recent elections, but if this bill had been on the statute book for the past twenty years it would not have diminished the sound money vote in any state in any discernible degree, nor would it have hurt the other side much. Most of those whom it would keep out are the most ignorant of the Poles, Italians, Russians and Turks, and Asiatics of the last two named races. Comparatively few of these immigrants ever take the trouble to get naturalized.

There is an obvious advantage in having a definite educational test prescribed by law, like that which the senate amendment prescribes. It simplifies the work of the inspection officers, and makes the requirement in a general way uniform. The requirement is not difficult, and those who cannot meet it with the latitude as to language which the bill allows would hardly be desirable citizens. The large majority which the bill obtained in each house shows that men of all parties are aroused to the importance of interposing barriers against the incoming current of ignorant aliens. The difference between the two houses on the measure, which are only in matters of detail, ought to be quickly harmonized and the bill sent to the president.

# THE LEGISLATURE.

Latest from Salem.

SALEM, Jan. 14—9:45 a. m.—Republicans in caucus this morning selected Benson for speaker of the house.

SALEM, Jan. 14—10:50 a. m.—The house assembled at 10 o'clock. The populists held up continues.

SALEM, Jan. 14—11:15 a. m.—The senate adjourned until Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

SALEM, Jan. 12—Perhaps the most disgraceful scene ever witnessed in any legislative assembly save that of Oregon were those that were enacted in the house of representatives last Monday and Tuesday. By a shrewd scheme the Bourne-Simon faction secured the temporary organization of the house and elected one of their number temporary speaker and Ralph Moody temporary clerk. On motion of Thomas, a committee of five on credentials was appointed and the speaker ignored all rules of parliamentary law and precedent and appointed a committee, a majority of whom were populists, with Barkley as chairman. Mr. Thomas being the last member designated on the committee.

Under the constitution the election of a senator cannot take place until the second Tuesday after the organization of the two houses. Mr. Bourne is a candidate for speaker of the house and Mr. Barkley is his able lieutenant, so that, evidently, in order to force Senator Mitchell's friends to support Bourne for speaker the credentials committee refused to make a report so that the house organization could not be completed, and immediately upon the retirement of the committee the populists and democrats, together with seven of the Simon republicans from Multnomah county, absented themselves from the house in order to break a quorum. The committee on credentials refused to report, and all attempts to have the committee discharged and a new one appointed proved futile, for every time a motion was made to proceed to business Populist U'Ren would raise the point of order that there was no quorum present, and the chair would sustain the point of order. U'Ren himself would not answer to a call of the house, but seemed left there by the populist faction to see that business did not proceed.

There were thirty-one republicans in the house, some of them old farmers, pleading with the populists to not block business by absenting themselves, but all in vain. The populists had twenty-three votes, or three more than enough to break a quorum, and they lost no opportunity to do it. They stood about the lobby of the capital building and refused to answer to roll call, while there was no sergeant-at-arms to bring them in, the temporary speaker contending that he could not entertain a motion to appoint a sergeant-at-arms because the house was not organized and could not organize until the credentials committee reported, so it would be known who were and who were not entitled to seats.

Thus things dragged along all day Monday and Tuesday, the populists thwarting every attempt to proceed with business. Developments have only proved what a number of people have believed for some time, that Joseph Simon and Jonathan Bourne have pooled issues and the two together have entered into a coalition with the populists. That this statement is absolutely correct would not be doubted by anyone who could witness the hohobobber between Bourne, Simon and the populist members. The Simon republicans and populists are determined to elect Bourne speaker at any cost, and in return to Simon for this support Bourne and his followers are to prevent the organization of the house in order to put the election of senator off so that Simon, Corbett et al may have more time to organize their opposition to Senator Mitchell. Mitchell and his friends are urging a senatorial caucus, and it will probably be held Thursday. There are forty-seven names to the call and the way matters now stand Mitchell's election is certain. Simon knows this and schemes with the populists for further time to thwart the will of the people.

There is no indication that the house will be organized before Thursday, as the populists simply laugh at the thirty-one republicans who are on hand and anxious to transact business. It is apparent to all that Simon intends, if possible, to compel Mitchell to support Bourne for speaker in order to use such fact against Mitchell. The condition prevailing is disgraceful in the extreme, and the populists, who never miss an opportunity to howl for economy (before election), are, by their actions in blocking legislation, costing the state thousands of dollars, and they simply defy the state of Oregon to help itself.

SALEM, Jan. 13.—The house of representatives was called to order promptly at 10 o'clock by temporary speaker Davis, but upon a call of the house it was found that the hold up was still on, the populists, except U'Ren and all the democrats being absent. U'Ren, as secretary of the committee on credentials, stated that his committee had finished its report some time previous, but they now discovered that it was necessary to change it, and therefore desired to re-write the report, which he proceeded to do.

The populist members now positively assert that Senator Mitchell's friends must agree to support Bourne for speaker before they will allow the house to organize, and the Simon republicans stand by this movement, believing that such action on the part of the Mitchell men would cast discredit upon the senator and thereby lose him much support.

One thing is certain, under the constitution if the house does not organize by Friday the members cannot draw pay for their services. This, it is believed, will force many members who are standing out to come in in order to draw pay from the state. Some of those who have stood out are conscientious in the matter, saying they did not realize what they had done, but had simply been led by the leaders of their populist allies.

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\$2,000 per day. This is another streak of populist economy. Besides the loss by inaction by the house, if virtually blocked business in the senate, as the joint committee of the two houses cannot go to work on matters that might be brought before them. The senate has already appointed its committees and they have nothing to do until the house appointments are made. A number of bills have already been introduced in the senate, but the house at best will be a long way behind in its work. J. R. B.

### THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

Outline of What Constitutes that Privilege.  
ST. HELENS, Jan. 9, 1897.

Editors Mier: The defective laws of this and other states which grant to foreigners the right of franchise, and to hold office after a few months' residence in the United States without having a due conception of its laws and the abuses of them in the June and November elections in this state, have, to some extent, opened the eyes of the people, causing them to inquire how and by what means these defects can be obviated. The proposed registry law which Mr. E. W. Bingham, of Portland, will submit to the legislature, is a step in the right direction, and should be passed without a dissenting vote.

Now, the question arises, what constitutes the right to vote? I shall, in this article, as briefly as possible, attempt to answer the question.

We find that all human rights are natural or acquired. They must either reside in the individual, so equal with his life and the varied faculties of his nature, or become delegated to him by concession, by compromise, or by some specific compact to which he is a legitimate party. Natural rights are absolute and inalienable; they rely upon no presumptions of an arbitrary character, but are fully prescribed and ordained with the existence of man. Whether exercised or not, a man cannot, by any law, be divested of their proper and positive possession. They may be yielded to the unlawful encroachments of other men, but the concession is merely temporary and cannot be considered to invalidate the individual privileges of resuming their exercise at such times as he may think proper.

All men, says the Declaration of Independence, are born free and equal; they possess certain inalienable rights, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These are natural endowments from the lawful process can they be taken from them. These inheritances—these four—belong to us by nature. Wherever a human being is found these rights of necessity exist. Acquired rights exist by a different tenure. They hold their title either by concession, by compromise or by compact. Certain limits bind them, beyond which their progress is forbidden. They are described with accuracy, and secured by due process of law. Of such are the privileges of the subject or the citizen. The former holds his by a kingly concession or compromise, the latter enjoys his by virtue of his compact with the general authority of which he is a component part. It is of the acquired rights of the citizens and how an alien may have those rights, and what qualifications are necessary to attain them, that I propose to deal with in this article.

Under our government no man is a subject, all men are citizens—because it is acknowledged that the government, deriving its existence primarily from the individual, is superior in its origin.

A citizen is in no means a subject, nor can a subject be a citizen.

Therefore citizenship implies no ordinary privileges. It connects the man with all the operations of the laws and all public institutions, and associates him in close relationship with that which belongs to the common welfare. It broadens and expands the sphere of individual sentiment and action, makes man amiable and generous in his conduct and views, so that while a man may at the same time be true to his own interests, he will not be forgetful of the vast interests of the whole. It belongs only to institutions that are democratic and to states of society in which men are the arbiters of their own rights and fortunes. For the possession of such prerogatives there certainly should be rigid and absolute qualifications. To be a citizen of the United States is to put one's self in direct relationship with the moral and social interests of a great nation, and to be entitled to that privilege there should be intelligence and a knowledge of the laws which govern its citizens, and an understanding of the duties appertaining to the general compact.

The origin of all governments is property, and the manner in which that property is held determines its form. If the lands in a community have but one possessor, it is an autocracy; if the inherent right of the whole people this forms a democracy. The commonwealth, then, represents, not only the form but the basis of government.

Man is entitled to sustenance and protection from that society which nature places him at birth. Sometimes to better his condition he forsakes one country for another.

What relation, then, do his acquired privileges bear to the rights of the new society? Because he has forsaken the land of his birth, is the land of his adoption compelled by any law, human or divine, to place him on a perfect equality with her own citizens? By the political constitution of the new society he may enjoy all their privileges, but, in the nature of things, he has not, and never can have such a right to them as the sons of the soil. What then, gives the right to vote?

I have shown the right to hold property is universal; therefore the right of suffrage must be universal. But to define this in regard to men who have not a born right in the country, but simply by permission or tolerance. The government takes cognizance of the entire property of the country, that is to say, the land and the products belong to the sons of the soil. Strangers arriving in their midst receive as a gift a certain portion of that which is the right only of the native-born. Is it logical to assert that this gift carries with it the right to vote, or, in other words, to legislate for those who have just granted what is in their power to refuse? Such an argument is monstrous, yet it is one we have constantly asserted.

The entire body of immigrants to this country for many years past, with but few exceptions, never exerted the slightest control over any government whatsoever, being of the pauper or peasant class, having no idea of what constitutes a democracy, without the ability to read or write, not capable of governing themselves, not having a due conception of the laws and constitution, and lastly of a very undesirable class, are we then, to be told by the friends of foreign immigration that such classes of men can appreciate and properly wield the electoral power in a country like this, the political constitution of which is so difficult to understand. Besides, is the moral character of these immigrants such that will secure our free institutions from danger and to remove any fears of the use to which they will put this novel power?

The rule of Algebe and the Haymarket riot in Chicago, and the assassination of the mayor of New Orleans answers the question.

There is no principle in the constitution which guarantees land or political power, by vote or otherwise, to foreign citizens. Europe disgorges her surplus population—the people she is glad to lose—upon our shores. They arrive in form of paupers, immigrants to some state like Oregon, where, by declaring their intention to become citizens, residing one year in the state they have the right to vote, and thus, to a certain extent, control the elections. These hordes of paupers who yearly crowd our shores seek, not only to obtain a voice in making the laws, but a certainty of life and personal freedom and immunity from military duty they never before enjoyed. They, like the soldier, warmed into life by the peasant, get prosperous and turn on their benefactor. They raise tumult and discord, encourage socialism and a disregard for law and order, and readily play into the hands of dishonest politicians to further their own ends.

An ignorant and degraded citizen can only be a bad citizen, and a bad citizen is worse than none. What, then, should be those qualifications which grant the right of suffrage to foreigners? This is one of the most important questions that concern the people of the United States today; more important than the tariff or silver question. In the first place a knowledge of reading and writing and to be able to write at least five lines of the constitution, a knowledge of the principle and workings of our constitutional government; thirdly, a residence in the United States of ten years, and in the state three years before becoming a citizen. Unless the elector has a clear apprehension as well of the character as of the workings of the institutions under which he lives, it can hardly be supposed of him that he is capable of exercising the electoral franchise. Such are the people flocking to our shores yearly by tens of thousands, and admitted, even welcomed to the privileges of citizenship.

During the past five years there has been a steady immigration at the rate of four hundred thousand persons a year, or about one thousand each day. Out of each thousand at least 175 are voters. The great mass of the people are ignorant, superstitious, lawless and poverty stricken. They come to the ballot box side by side with those who have, from their youth, a perfect familiarity with and respect for free institutions. With no knowledge of the constitution, they never intrude themselves to understand its meaning. It is time this threatening danger be averted. Unless efficient and timely safeguards are interposed by vigilant watchmen of freedom there is danger that the very foundations of the public may be shaken and fall. It is time that the legislatures of the several states amend their constitutions in regard to this question, and congress should pass rigid laws in this connection. Let the Oregon legislature pass the proposed registry law, as submitted by Mr. Bingham, and make a record for itself and members upon this important question.

G. A. HALL.

prison which released the political prisoners—those incarcerated. The key was brought to America upon Lafayette's second visit to the United States, and presented to Washington. It is now deposited in the tomb of Washington at Mt. Vernon.

- NEW QUESTIONS.
1. How many poets laureate has England, had, and who is the present one?
  2. What is specific gravity?
  3. What are centrifugal and centripetal forces?
  4. What is standard time, and wherein does it differ from solar time?
  5. What were the blockade runners?
  6. How are treaties negotiated between nations?
  7. What was California named after, and when was it admitted to the Union?
  8. From what did Oregon receive its name?
  9. Who made the first American flag having on it the stars and stripes?
  10. What is the oldest flag in the world, and how long has it been in use?

### Lost.

One white yearling steer, marked with "K" mark in left ear; also red yearling heifer, having small white spot over hip. Anyone knowing whereabouts of either or both animals, please notify owner, C. Salene, by letter addressed, St. Helens, care of Captain Good.

### For Sale!

My share, consisting of 213 acres in range 7 west Willamette meridian, sections 2 and 3 situate on Columbia river near town of Rainier, off James Dubbins' donation land claim.

D. W. DOBBINS.

### NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION.

The law partnership of Dillard & Cole ceases to exist, by expiration of term, on January 1st, 1897. Both partners will continue to practice law at St. Helens, and they will jointly attend to existing business of the firm.

W. R. DILLARD,  
G. W. COLE.

### Notice of Final Settlement.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned has filed his final account and petition for distribution in the estate of Joseph Norton, deceased, and that Monday the 25th day of January, 1897, at 10 o'clock A. M., and the court room of the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Columbia County, has been appointed by the said County Court, as the time and place for hearing and determining the same. All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to be and appear in said court at the said time and place, and file their objections, if any they have, to the allowance of the same.

R. COX,  
Administrator of the Estate of Joseph Norton, deceased.

### CITATION TO HEIRS.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Columbia County.  
In the matter of the Estate of John Keller, deceased.  
To Marie Keller, (now Marie Schmitz), Anna Keller, Lise Keller, John Keller and to all others unknown, if any such there be.  
BY THE CLERK OF THE STATE OF OREGON.  
I, You and each of you are hereby commanded to be and appear before the Hon. County Court of the State of Oregon, in and for the County of Columbia, at the Court House in St. Helens, on the 9th day of February, 1897, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any exist, why an order of sale of the real property belonging to said estate should not be made as in the petition prayed for; said real property being described as the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 26, in Township 7 north of Range 5 west of Willamette Meridian, in Columbia County, Oregon, containing 160 acres of land.

In testimony whereof, I, Judson Weed, clerk of the County Court aforesaid, do hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of said Court at my office in the City of St. Helens, Oregon, this 6th day of January, A. D. 1897.

[SEAL] 1895 JUDSON WEED,  
County Clerk.

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