

THE TAX LEVY.—The county court at its recent session fixed the tax levy for the present year at a figure which, with the state levy of four mills, makes a total of twenty-seven mills, five and a fraction of which is for school purposes.

ANOTHER PRODUCT.—Oregon can raise many products that have been neglected in the past. The way to make the state flourish is to raise every product possible. During the past summer Peter Boler, who resides in Springfield precinct raised several hundred bushels of canary seed, and has sold the same in Portland, Salem and Eugene. He received four cents per pound for the seed. It is better than the canary seed raised in California and other states, weighing considerably more to the bushel.—Eugene Guard.

MORE TO FOLLOW.—During the winter there have been all sorts of weather prognostications—some prophesying a mild winter, others predicting snow and cold in abundance. The atmospheric conditions, however, for the three or four weeks just past have been such as to lead to the conclusion that not very severe weather for the remainder of the year was in store for us, but when daylight dawned upon our beloved country Tuesday morning we found Mother Earth covered with a liberal quantity of the "beautiful" (?) snow. Snow continued to fall all the day in greater or less quantities, and a general wintry appearance confronted us. One of the familiar remarks heard during the day was "I told you so."

THE LATEST SWINDLE.—A new swindle reported by some of our exchanges is worked by two men. One buys an article in a store and pays for it with a marked bill. After he has gone his confederate writes and makes a purchase, usually a cigar, and after standing at the counter a few minutes, asks for his change. The clerk says he has not been paid and the customer insists that he handed over the counter a bill, naming the denomination of the one passed by the first man. He is sure of it and he remembers that the bill was peculiarly marked. The clerk looks in the money drawer, finds the marked bill, apologizes to the customer and gives him the change.

FRUIT TREES INJURED BY FROST.—Several prominent orchardists say that the cold snap which came in the latter part of November has done considerable injury to fruit trees. The extent of this injury is not suspected by many, and cannot be ascertained until spring. The cause of the trouble is that the cold came on so suddenly, while the sap was still in the trees, and the result will be that many trees which were particularly thrifty and vigorous, and were still growing when the cold snap came, and which show no signs of injury to the inexperienced eye, will be found to be dead or badly injured when the sap starts in the spring. What with the cold nights late last spring, which played amash with the fruit crop, and the early cold snap last fall, which has damaged young fruit trees, the weather has done orchardists more damage during 1896 than during a lifetime previous.

NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT.—Last week a new school district was created in the Bachelor Flat settlement, and numbered 54. The district was formed out of parts of the Yankton and Houlton districts. Last Saturday the people in the new district met and elected school officers as follows: S. Salsar, W. T. Mason and H. T. Bennett as directors, and C. E. Philbrook as clerk. They also voted a special tax for the erection of a suitable school building, which will be built at once. The people of the new district are very grateful to Mr. D. J. Switzer for the donation of one acre of ground for school purposes. Bachelor Flat has long needed a school district, as it is destined to be among the most prosperous of neighborhoods in our county and is fast settling up with a thriving, enterprising, go-ahead element, and we speak for that section of our county a brilliant future.

WORK ON FORT STEVENS FORTIFICATIONS.—Work on the fortifications near Fort Stevens is being pushed as rapidly as possible, a large force of men being employed, and that part of the fort now being built will soon be ready for the guns. The new works are located about a quarter of a mile west of the old fort, just behind the jetty. The timber south of the works has been cleared off for some distance. In order to furnish a good bank of sand for the steam shovel to work in. Visitors are not allowed at the works, and no information that is reliable is given out by the men employed there; so the works and all operations, as far as they can be observed, are a constant source of wonder to all who see them from a distance. The pilot-driver employed on the wharf at Chinook Point, where fortifications are soon to be commenced, was driven ashore during a violent storm a short time since, causing some delay in the work; but operations were resumed Monday.

PROGRESSIVE WHIST.—Last Friday evening Mr. and Mrs. A. Davis and Mr. and Mrs. D. Davis entertained a crowd of merry whist players at their home. Progressive whist was played until 10:30, when, upon reckoning the score, it was found that Mrs. Sarah George and Mr. A. King had the greatest number of points to their credit, and were awarded the first prizes, which were two whisk broom, a bearing the inscription: "A clean sweep." Miss Mary Burke and Mr. J. T. Muckle succeeded in winning the booby prizes, which was a stick of candy each. After the results of the game had been announced a lunch was served. Those invited were: Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Quick, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Dillard, Mr. and Mrs. F. Dow, Dr. and Mrs. Cliff, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Beagle, Mr. and Mrs. James Muckle, Mr. and Mrs. A. George, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. George, Mr. and Mrs. James Sheldon, Misses Mary Burke, Florence George, Tillie Muckle, Frankie Way, Meers, Dr. Row, J. T. Muckle, A. King, S. C. Davis, Robert George, D. O. Tidford and Wash Muckle.

PERSONAL AND LOCAL.

Mrs. H. Allen was in Portland last Tuesday.
Mr. C. F. Blyth of Portland was in the city last Saturday.
Edmond Giltner, of Salem, was in this city last Friday.
Mr. John Dibble of Rainier was in this city last Saturday.
Mr. C. L. Ayres, of Paris, was on our streets last Saturday.

N. A. Perry, the Houlton merchant, visited Portland Tuesday.
William J. Dietz of Rainier was doing business in this city last Friday.
Mr. E. W. Conyers of Clatskanie was in this city Tuesday evening on his return home from Portland.
One of Mr. R. S. Hattan's children has been very sick during the week.
Mr. Wm. D. Connell, of Deer Island, was in this city last Monday.

Mr. George Wagner of Mayger was circulating on our streets last Tuesday.
Mr. A. L. Clark, police judge of Rainier, was in our city Tuesday afternoon.
The little daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Cliff has been very sick during the week.
Rehearsals for the drama are being held in the large hall nearly every evening.
Mr. Frank Dow has been confined to his home during the week with an attack of grippe.

Rev. C. E. Philbrook will preach next Sunday morning and evening at Seaside.
Rev. C. N. Plowman will commence a protracted meeting at Warren next Sunday night.
Sigel Wilkinson and Albert Parker of Pittsburg were in this city last Friday and Saturday.
Mrs. C. H. Piggott and children went to Portland Wednesday morning. Mr. Piggott will go up tomorrow.
Mrs. J. B. Beagle left on Monday morning for Hillsboro, where she will visit relatives for a week or more.
Dr. Cliff will probably not answer any calls for a few days until his little daughter recovers from her illness.

Miss Mary Burke, after visiting in this city a couple of weeks, returned to Rainier last Sunday evening.
The "F. D." brand of butter will be furnished now for 45 cents a roll. Leave orders with Frank Dow.
Walter Cox started last Monday morning for Rossland, B. C., where he expects to remain for some time.
Mr. G. D. Brice, the engineer who put in the Trescott cold storage plant at Goble, was in this city yesterday.

Mrs. John Groves of Portland was in this city Wednesday and Thursday visiting her daughter, Mrs. J. G. Muckle.
John B. Beagle, of this paper, left last Monday morning for Salem to be present at the opening of the legislative session.
Rev. Geo. Palmer, of the Episcopal church, will hold services in Masonic hall Sunday at 2:30 p. m. All are cordially invited.

At Court.—Mrs. E. C. Slavens will sell at cost her remaining millinery goods at may place. Call early.
Mrs. Scott.
Messrs. Cole & Quick have been rearranging their offices and adding some new and convenient furniture, and their quarters are now much improved.
Hereafter Episcopal services will be held in the Masonic hall Wednesday evening at 7:30, and Sunday afternoon at 2:30. All are cordially invited to attend these services.

Rev. C. N. Plowman is in the midst of a big revival meeting at Yankton. Sixteen have been converted, and Mr. Plowman has organized a class of thirty members.
The date of the performance of "Among the Breakers" by local dramatic talent has been definitely agreed upon. The performance will be given Wednesday evening, January 27.
An Iowa man advertised for a wife in these words: "I am a widower, and want a wife to share my lot, my heart and hand." Next day a reply came: "Send age and location of lot; hand and heart no object."

It is not often that we see fruit trees out in full bloom at this time of the year, and yet yesterday Mr. J. C. Schreyer exhibited three sprigs from a cherry tree loaded with white blossoms.—McMinnville Transcript, 8th.
Captain James Good of the steamer Young America has been confined to his home in this city for several days with an attack of threatened pneumonia and malarial fever. During his sickness Captain Charles Hooghirik had charge of the steamer.

Mr. A. J. Robert, sr., of Prescott, Ariz., is in the city visiting his wife and son. Mr. Robert has large mining interests in Arizona, and expects to be called away at any time. However, he expects some time in the future to make this city his permanent home.
During the coming year don't neglect to give your own town a boost when you can. One of the ways to do this is to patronize your home merchants in your purchases whenever you possibly can—sending your money away to one of the city department stores won't help build up St. Helens.

Not a few who read what Mr. Robert Bowls, of Holland, Va., has to say below, will remember their own experience under like circumstances: "Last winter I had a grippé which left me in a low state of health. I tried numerous remedies, none of which did me any good, until I was induced to try a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. The first bottle of it so far relieved me that I was enabled to attend to my work, and the second bottle effected a cure." For sale at 25 and 50 cents per bottle by Dr. E. Ross.

VERNONIA VARIETIES.

The local talent of Vernonia are preparing to render a drama in the Webster hall, in the near future.
Mr. Solomon and the Parker boys are engaged putting a lot of logs in the Nehalem river for the Pittsburg Mill Company.
Mr. Powell, of Pittsburg, was visiting his daughter Myrtle the early part of this week. Miss Myrtle is attending school at this place.
Clarence Adams has finished teaching a term of school in the Kibby district and has been engaged to continue two months longer.
Clarence Reed returned from Portland last Saturday, where he has been to see some capitalists with a view to operating the Rock creek mines.

Mr. Zillgit is building an addition on his property on the east side of Look creek. Carpenters E. Sasseman and G. W. Rice are doing the work.
Mr. Reub Sesseman, of this place, and Miss E. Wilson, of Washington county, were married in this city on the 4th of this month. Rev. McElroy officiating. The happy couple have gone to Washington county to reside, followed by the good wishes of many friends.
Aspirants for the Vernonia post office are numerous all over the United States. Meanwhile Postmaster Pringle will continue to hold the fort until further notice, with guns primed and trained on the approaching enemy, sentinels posted and garrison sleeping on their arms.

We wish to give notice to Columbia county that the Vernonia school good enough without bragging, and we are not a bit jealous at the neighboring towns blowing their own horns. Rivalry between towns and schools is not a bad thing if carried on in the right spirit.
L. W. Vandye has given a vacation to his school near Miss, and is spending a short time with his family. He is putting in his time well, having already chopped off part of a finger, sprained his ankle and had lots of other accidents too numerous to mention. This, I think, is making news with a vengeance.
Mr. Editor don't you follow the advice of your Mist correspondent in offering prizes for the largest amount of news items gathered. An enterprising correspondent of the News in his eager race for news, fell over a log and is now badly crippled, but as news flies rapidly we hope he may still be able to grind out his three or four column articles.

Mr. Sigel Wilkinson and Miss Cora Parker, both of Pittsburg, were married on Sunday, the 10th of the present month by Justice Shannahan. Quite a number of friends of the contracting parties were present to witness the marriage, and to see the newly married couple launch their barge on the sea of life. May they have pleasant sailing and have a safe harbor at the end.
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Mr. J. M. Fowler of this place is quite sick.
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Miss Lulu Fowler of Dent is visiting relatives at this place.
Mr. John Linquist, who is the guest of Mr. S. Fowler, has been quite sick.
Who was the man that made fast time in leaving Goble Saturday night?
Mr. Davis, formerly editor of the Mist, called on Mr. J. M. Archibald last week.
Some one tried to force an entrance to Mr. Mann's residence one night last week, but was not successful.
Mr. S. Butts, who started for Idaho a few weeks ago, has returned, his horse being unable to stand the journey.

Mr. J. M. Archibald, who has been under the doctor's care in Portland, has returned home somewhat improved in health.
The 4-year-old son of Mr. Fowler of Moresville was very badly scalded about the head and body by overturning a can of hot water from the stove.
A quiet wedding took place at Kalama last Friday evening, the contracting parties being Mr. Charles Link and Miss May Link, both of this place.
Mr. H. M. Fowler has made some extensive improvements to his stock of goods, and is also now able to furnish money orders, as this postoffice is now a money order office.
Mr. H. Stahman and wife, Mr. E. Fowler and wife, Mr. S. Butts, Misses Bertha McKinster and Myrtle Fowler, and Mr. S. Fowler and wife attended the dance given at Dent last Saturday.

Constable Fowler of Goble and Frank Hudson of Dent had a shooting match the other day near this city while trying to arrest a thief, who had stolen property belonging to Mr. Hudson. Among the stolen property was a pair of \$5-shoes, which he was wearing when found. Being good shoes for running he made his escape among flying bullets.
MAYGER ITEMS.
S. E. Cline, of Portland, is working for J. W. Boals.
A Clairmont and W. J. Sanborn made a trip to Portland this week.
Lewis Metcalf, of Oak Point, visited friends and relatives here last Saturday and Sunday.
W. J. Sanborn, who has a force of men at work getting out fishtrap piling, completed his contract Saturday.
A large crowd of our dancers attended the dance at Dent Saturday night, and report having a good time.
Harry Meserve was visiting at Boals last Saturday—sparking the cook but I do not think he can get the inside track of Mark.

G. R. Wagner, the worthy scribe of the Columbia County News, at this place, spent Monday at Boals' place, picking up news for the paper.
YANKTON NOTES.
La grippe is prevalent.
Mrs. Gibson returned home Wednesday.
Mr. W. Charleston was in St. Helens Sunday.
William Brinn is on the sick list this week.
Two inches of snow fell at this point Tuesday morning.
I. Stanwood has purchased a fine 2-year-old stallion.
Mr. Lige Burnett and wife were the guests of H. Burnett Sunday.
William Miller of Spring Valley passed through this place Monday.
Wilford Miller of Spring Valley spent a portion of Monday in this place.
C. C. Moyer of Paris passed through this place Monday on his way to St. Helens.
R. H. Bailey, who has been working for A. A. Smith, came home Sunday and is now on the sick list.
Frank Laws of Ridgefield is spending a few days in this place. He is breaking a saddle horse for I. Stanwood.
Frank Malmston, who is H. O. Howard's fireman, sprained his shoulder in some manner Monday and is now laid up for a few days.
A protracted meeting is progressing nicely at this place and a large number are preparing to be saved and washed in the waters of Milton creek.

MIST NEWS ITEMS.

Gus Bynon of Portland was in the village on business last week.
Mr. Alphonse Martin made a business trip to Astoria the first of the week.
Miss Maude Orwig, who has been staying in Marshland, returned home Friday.
The Pittsburg Mill Company took a large raft of lumber down the river to Mishawaka last week.
Our village blacksmith, Mr. N. A. Borknisi, has been engaged in repairing sewing machines of late.
Mrs. Jake Dowley of Portland, daughter of G. F. Lindgren, is visiting friends and relatives this week.
Frank Van has built a scow, which he uses in taking his floats across the river, so that they can be hauled to Clatskanie.
Miss Minnie Baker, who has been staying with her uncle, Mr. Perrine, of Clatskanie, is visiting her parents and friends this week.
Fred Wilson returned home Wednesday after an extended visit to Portland, where he has been spending the holidays with his best girl, you know.

Orson and Arthur Hiatt were out on the Columbia river last week for the purpose of selling corks to the canneries for the coming fishing season.
Arthur Hiatt has procured work at Marshland. We miss Arthur very much, as he plays the baritone in the band and the band is not complete without him.
There will be a dance given on the night of February 13 at the residence of Orson Hiatt for the benefit of the Knob Hill band. Tickets for dance and supper only 75 cents.

Delena now boasts of a Good Templars lodge of thirty-one members and more coming in each week. The lodge is doing good work and its influence is being felt in many ways.
Maj. J. S. Rinnearson, who has been in the Oregon City hospital for some weeks past, returned last week much improved in health, and is now at the home of John Boals for a few days.
Mr. Gay is busy with his stamp puller on John Dibble's hill farm, where he and Robert are clearing the orchard and meadow of roots and stumps. This is an effective and economical process of taking out the stumps, and doubtless Mr. Dibble's example will be largely followed by others in the near future.

We notice by last week's News, in which appears a four-column communication from Mist that their correspondent at that place is still surviving. He seems to be casting about for items, until like Mark Twain's watch, he is away back in week-before-last, and appears not to realize that the world is rolling on and that Tax Mist enlightened the people on those subjects a fortnight ago. This proves that if you would have the news "up to date" you must consult Tax Mist, and not some publication that always comes bobbing up to the judge's stand two weeks behind time, rubbing his eyes and wondering how it happened. Now, our friend may be "all wool and a yard wide" but we, by putting on our specks, and examining very closely, can easily detect a superabundance of free trade shoddy about the goods.
Phil Young, for a year past with M. J. Kettering, of Rainier, came into the valley last Saturday. As soon as this fact was known a Mist reporter at once sought an interview with the gentleman, during the course of which it was learned that he was on his way to Wm. Holsapple's place, where he was going to prune fruit trees. He had on his Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes, and being rather of an imaginative nature (an indispensable quality in the successful reporter) we interrogated him further, that our minds, as well as that of the public, might be put at rest on this vital point. Mr. Young seems free to express himself as being pleased to meet our representative. Clearing his throat, and incidentally taking out his watch, he continued: "Of course, as I said before, I am on my way to Holsapple's, where I will do a little pruning, getting him started and will leave him to complete the work." Then with a significant wink, he said, as he rode off, "I will take in the dance tonight at Fowler's."

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Mrs. R. J. Moran, we are pleased to note, is rapidly improving in health.
J. B. Meserve has lately added "Gibbons' Rome," in six volumes, to his library.
O. E. Wonderly, with a crew of men, were out working the road last Monday.
John Syverson was duly initiated in the Good Templars lodge here last Saturday evening.
Miss Lulu Fowler has gone to Near City, where she will visit relatives and friends for a few days.
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SCAPOOPE.
Robert Bonser is visiting his parents.
A social will be given in the church Friday evening, January 15.
J. F. Dangerfield has finished a neat and substantial barn on his place.
Misses Mildred and Constance Boyle spent the holidays visiting friends here.
P. B. Stephens has taken a large land clearing contract for P. A. Frakes.
The Endeavor society meets in the church every other Sunday evening.
Monte Vista Nursery is making large shipments of fruit trees for spring planting.
The holiday season passed off quietly, with dances on Christmas night and New Year's eve.
The Earnest Worker Club entertainment and fair realized over \$57 and was a complete success in every particular.
Harry West has just completed a modern wind mill and tank outfit for water supply. The mill is ornamental and tasty as well as useful.
Frank Payne is opening up the mineral paint deposit on his place on Scapoope creek. He is putting in a turbine wheel for motive power. The reducing machinery will come from the east and is of the latest design, and when in operation doubtless will prove of great value to this vicinity.

THE MIST \$1.00 per year.
The origin of women's special privileges of "proposing" during leap year is stated to be that in the year 1288 a statute was published by the Scotch parliament ordaining that during the reign of "Her Most Blest Majesty Margaret" every maiden and lady of high and low estate should have liberty to speak to the man she liked. If he refused to take her to be his wife she would have the privilege of fining him \$100, or less, according to his estate, unless he could make it appear that he was betrothed to another woman, in which case he would be free to refuse. After the death of Margaret the women of Scotland became clamorous for their privileges, and to appease them another act of parliament allowed them to propose every fourth year.
Many merchants are well aware that their customers are their best friends and take pleasure in supplying them with the best goods obtainable. As an instance we mention Perry & Cameron, prominent druggists of Flushing, Michigan. They say: "We have no hesitation in recommending Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to our customers, as it is the best cough medicine we have ever sold, and always gives satisfaction." For sale at 25 and 50 cents per bottle by Dr. E. Ross.

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Delena now boasts of a Good Templars lodge of thirty-one members and more coming in each week. The lodge is doing good work and its influence is being felt in many ways.
Maj. J. S. Rinnearson, who has been in the Oregon City hospital for some weeks past, returned last week much improved in health, and is now at the home of John Boals for a few days.
Mr. Gay is busy with his stamp puller on John Dibble's hill farm, where he and Robert are clearing the orchard and meadow of roots and stumps. This is an effective and economical process of taking out the stumps, and doubtless Mr. Dibble's example will be largely followed by others in the near future.

We notice by last week's News, in which appears a four-column communication from Mist that their correspondent at that place is still surviving. He seems to be casting about for items, until like Mark Twain's watch, he is away back in week-before-last, and appears not to realize that the world is rolling on and that Tax Mist enlightened the people on those subjects a fortnight ago. This proves that if you would have the news "up to date" you must consult Tax Mist, and not some publication that always comes bobbing up to the judge's stand two weeks behind time, rubbing his eyes and wondering how it happened. Now, our friend may be "all wool and a yard wide" but we, by putting on our specks, and examining very closely, can easily detect a superabundance of free trade shoddy about the goods.
Phil Young, for a year past with M. J. Kettering, of Rainier, came into the valley last Saturday. As soon as this fact was known a Mist reporter at once sought an interview with the gentleman, during the course of which it was learned that he was on his way to Wm. Holsapple's place, where he was going to prune fruit trees. He had on his Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes, and being rather of an imaginative nature (an indispensable quality in the successful reporter) we interrogated him further, that our minds, as well as that of the public, might be put at rest on this vital point. Mr. Young seems free to express himself as being pleased to meet our representative. Clearing his throat, and incidentally taking out his watch, he continued: "Of course, as I said before, I am on my way to Holsapple's, where I will do a little pruning, getting him started and will leave him to complete the work." Then with a significant wink, he said, as he rode off, "I will take in the dance tonight at Fowler's."

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