

WHY PAY TAXES?—If the county judges are clothed with authority to levy the law by withholding the state taxes and apply them on county debts then why have not they the power to set aside the law that requires the taxes to be collected? If it is the people whom Judge Northup and his associates would benefit, let them issue orders to sheriffs to not collect the state apportionment until the legislature meets, and thus allow the money to remain where it belongs, in the hands of the taxpayers.

WANTED, AN IDEA.—Editors who find themselves short of copy and ideas, should write to the Chronicle, and we will furnish them with shears and paste pot. Never mind crediting anything you find in the Chronicle. We're in the business to furnish ideas for editors who haven't the time or brains.—Portland Chronicle. Not to our knowledge has the Chronicle ever been accused of having an "idea," and if any editor has ever appropriated anything from the Chronicle he owes an apology to his readers only.

PROFIT AND LOSS.—Eastern Oregon farmers will probably profit this year by the misfortune of others, says the Times-Montaineer. The shortage in the wheat crop in India and Australia will cause prices to range high here next fall; the heavy loss of stock in the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming, will cause advanced prices for beef and mutton to prevail, and the damage that was done fruit trees by the November freeze in the sections to the east, will make fruit in demand. All these things combined, while they are misfortunes to others, will be beneficial to the people of this section.

TURKISH OBSERVATIONS.—Governor Thompson's lecture here Wednesday evening was greatly enjoyed by those who heard it. The speaker, in a very concise manner, explained the customs and characteristics of the inhabitants of Turkey as they appeared to him during the time he was envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to that far off monarchy during the Harrison administration. The lecture was given under the auspices of Plymouth Congregational Church society and resulted in an increased exchequer for the building fund.

BOUND FOR ALASKA.—Hundreds of men from all parts of the country are just now on their way or preparing to start for the gold fields of Alaska. Some are said to be very rich. One steamer left Port Townsend last week with 245 passengers on board bound for the Yukon country to engage in mining. Steamers sail every few days from San Francisco and other coast cities for the gold fields of the far north, carrying large numbers of passengers and a great amount of supplies. They return light because the traffic is all one way at present. Next fall it will reverse itself and all come back.

GOVERNMENT FORTIFICATIONS.—The fort being constructed at Seaboard Head, opposite Astoria, for the government will be one of the most modern fortifications for defensive purposes in the country. A dock is being constructed from the shore to the channel, a distance of 2400 feet. An electric railway will be placed in operation from the dock to the fort, to furnish transportation facilities. The fort will contain several heavy ordnance pieces, with disappearing gun carriages. About fifty men are at work at present, and as soon as the weather permits 500 or 600 men will be at work.—Cathlamet Gazette.

RAISED HAVOC.—The wind storm of Thursday week ago was a very severe and destructive one. In its path it is easy to discern the extent of damage done, many thousand feet of fine saw timber being blown down, and in many cases barns, fences and other property was destroyed. The fact of there being so much rain the few days just preceding the storm made many fine large trees easy prey before the force of the gale. Along the Wikstrom wood flume on McNulty creek there are at least twenty trees across the flume, and in some places the damage done is very great, which will necessitate much time and the outlay of considerable cash to make the repairs made necessary. Not often are we visited by such a severe wind storm.

TO PROTECT FISHING INDUSTRY.—The county court has taken up the question to protect the fishing industry this season, says the Astorian. It is contemplated to put on a patrol steam or gasoline launch in charge of the sheriff, which will see to it that none but resident citizens of the United States engage in fishing on the river, and that the net-stealing business is stopped. The court is confident that if residents who are entitled to fish will take out licenses and assist the officers in enforcing the law to prevent aliens and non-residents from fishing, that much good can be accomplished. The money derived from the licenses will be devoted to paying the expenses of a patrol boat, and in putting down net-stealing, etc. Final action in the matter will probably be taken at the next session of the county court.

CANDIDATE FOR WHIPPING POST.—"It is not the province of a newspaper to publish each infraction of the moral code, but there are cases where to remain silent is an insult to public decency. It is the testimony before the grand jury be true, one J. F. Heckert, a late resident of this town, is not worthy the companionship of average depravity. His victim is said to be a young girl, but little past sixteen, bright, and ambitious to make her way in the world by honorable labor, and it does seem as though society is painfully direct in not demanding statutes to cover such cases. The existence of such a moral leper is a standing menace to the purity of homes and the sooner we provide a penalty for such crimes, the better. Mothers should not lose this object lesson, and when they observe a man nearly thirty paying assiduous court to a child, they should be more than watchful. Such a man is either a knave or a fool. The public press in this county has been too lax in the publication of these public disgrace and it is time the people realized it. Our recent grand jury experience is evidence of this. What we need is a whipping post."—Hillsboro Argus.

SCHOOL REPORT.—The following is the report for school district 39 for the month ending March 28: Pupils enrolled..... 35 Average daily attendance..... 30 The pupils receiving higher percent for attendance and deportment are James Opal and Charles Cox, Anna and Mary Wikstrom, Albert and Frank Kelley, Eugene Murphy, Clyde and Charity Urie, Eugene Smith, Clara Frantz, Walter Campbell, Norman Dodson and Leslie Bailey. Visitors at school were Mr. J. B. Godfrey, N. A. Perry, C. I. Hazen and Miss Laura Pusy. On two occasions, the first and fourth Fridays in the month, Dr. Ross kindly responded to an invitation from the school to lecture on "Respiration and Circulation." These subjects he handled in a manner which was well comprehended and appreciated by the school. Mrs. S. S. WAT, Teacher.

TOO MUCH AUTHORITY.—State Superintendent Irwin is somewhat peculiar in his methods and, while his office is in Salem, he undertakes to sit as a board of examiners for every county of the state. At the last quarterly examination for teachers a young lady took the examination in Portland and the superintendent of Multnomah county sent the papers to the board of examiners of this county and asked that a certificate be issued thereon. The papers did not arrive, however, until after the board here had adjourned. Superintendent Watts returned the papers and declined to issue a certificate unless the law should be complied with, which directs that applicants shall present themselves for examination in the county where they expect to teach, and therefore as the applicant had not passed the examination in Columbia county no certificate could be issued to her. The Multnomah county superintendent then sent the papers to the state superintendent and that official, without authority of law, issued a certificate for Columbia county. This proceeding is without precedent of law and the state superintendent has, no doubt, exercised authority with which he is not invested and in direct conflict with the letter and spirit of the school law. If the superintendent of public instruction is to continue this method, why have a county board of examiners and a county school superintendant, or hold quarterly examinations? Let the state superintendent have full charge of the matter.

RATHBONE SISTERS.—A temple of Rathbone Sisters, auxiliary to the Knights of Pythias, was instituted here on Thursday night of last week with thirty charter members. The instituting officer was Mrs. Alice P. Richards, of Albany, grand chief of the Oregon jurisdiction, assisted by the following ladies from Orphic temple at Portland: Mrs. James H. McKibben, Mrs. Simon, Mrs. A. O. Sinks, Mrs. Gustin, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Merrien and Mrs. Morse. The officers elected and installed for the current term were: Mrs. Ida Harris, P. C.; Mrs. Susie B. Dow, M. E. C.; Mrs. Clara Cliff, E. S.; Mrs. Alice Davis, E. J.; Mrs. Lillie Perry, M. of T.; Mrs. Jennie G. Muckle, M. of B. and C.; Mrs. Lucy Gray, M. of F.; Mrs. Alma Beagle, P. I. T.; Miss Marie Watts, G. O. T.; trustees, Mrs. Maud Cleston, Mrs. Eliza Switzer, Mrs. M. L. Davis. The work of instituting was concluded about 11 o'clock, when all present were invited to Masonic hall where an elaborate luncheon was in waiting, and owing to the lateness of the hour, ample justice was done around the festive board, after which addresses were made by Drs. Ross and Cliff, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. McKibben and Mrs. Dow. For once the ladies seemed to be the orators of the occasion. This was particularly noticeable on the part of Mrs. Richard, Mrs. Dow and Mrs. McKibben, the latter making the hit of the evening in an address of some length in which the good name of the order and its prominent features were dwelt upon. The speaker did not fail to impress her hearers with the fact that on that occasion, at least, woman was in her own castle hall where men were to be "seen and not heard," except by the gracious permission of the ladies. Her ready wit and logical conclusions won the hearts of all and for the time being her auditors seemed to forget that there was a "Mr." McKibben. The speeches were all delivered in the best of good humor and at their conclusion a general hand-shake was followed by the festivities being brought to a close. The visiting ladies remained in the city over night and enjoyed a little more excitement next morning, when it was necessary to run a foot race in order to catch the morning steamer for Portland. Mrs. Richards, however, remained over until Saturday to give some necessary instructions to the officers of the new temple.

VERNONIA VARIETIES.—City election next Monday. The Heaton-Vernonia mail carrier reports 100 trees across the road on the route. F. A. Zillgitt has a model of a section of the proposed new railroad on exhibition at his store. Rev. F. Fisher came in from Portland last week to hold quarterly meeting at the Evangelical church in place of Rev. Shupp, presiding elder. Mr. Solomon has sold his ranch to Frank Tracy and talks of going through Mexico and New Mexico, to see if he can find a better place than Nehalem. The wind storm last week did considerable damage to the roads in this vicinity, the new bridge on the Rock creek road had a large tree smash through it. Sam Ballard, who got a considerable of a shaking up and bruising by getting caught on a shaft at the Pittsburg mill several weeks ago, is able to be about again. County Commissioner Peterson passed through Vernonia last Monday. He had been inspecting the bridge across the Nehalem river just above this place, which had been reported as damaged. It is now thought that there is nothing wrong but the upper stringers slightly warped. Mr. John Hartman, the Vernonia jeweler, has just received a new lot of jewelry's tools from the East. He now has a very fine set of tools, and as he turns out first-class work at very low prices, he is kept busy. Mr. Hartman is a mechanic of rare ability, and he is working on several inventions which will be beneficial, not alone to himself but to the county at large.

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PERSONAL AND LOCAL.—Mr. G. A. Brodie, a prominent attorney of Portland, was in this city Tuesday looking after business interests in connection with the wood flume. Mr. A. Tucker, a former resident of the Nehalem valley, but now of Oregon City, has been in this city several days visiting his daughter, Mrs. A. Robinson. A season of activity on the river in fishing business, attended by good prices, good weather and other favorable conditions is anxiously hoped for. The river has been raising very rapidly owing, probably, to the effect of the heavy Chinook wind of last week, melting the snow in the Blue mountains. The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Judson is quite sick, having a complication of diseases emanating from an attack of whooping cough several weeks ago. A caucus will be held this (Friday) evening at the court-house for the purpose of nominating candidates for city officers. The meeting will be called at 7 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. S. Ramuson, of Oregon City, spent several days visiting Mrs. Ramuson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Gilmore, in this city this week. The Dingley tariff bill was passed by the house of representatives last Wednesday, every republican voting for the measure, the vote stood 205 to 122, 21 fugislonis refusing to vote. The public school of Rainier has been temporarily closed on account of the measles having charge of the majority of the pupils. Rainier can truly enough be dubbed the measles town in the county. Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Dillard went to Reuben yesterday morning where they will visit with Mr. and Mrs. Watts. In the meantime the gentlemen will attempt to make life interesting for the flabby tribe in Goble creek. The comedy drama "A Fisherman's Luck," will be played by local talent in this city Saturday evening, April 24th. This is a four-act drama, and will furnish two and a half hours pleasure for the amusement-loving public. General Ruiz Rivera, who succeeded General Maceo, as leader of the Cuban forces in Pinar del Rio province, has been captured by the Spaniards and will no doubt be shot. It is not thought that this will, in any degree, cripple the Cuban cause. During the wind storm last Thursday Mr. J. R. Watts, of Scappoose, who, for many years, has been almost entirely helpless from paralysis, was blown to the floor of the porch at his home by the force of the wind. Mr. Watts' feeble condition, coupled with slight injuries sustained in this last accident, is lying at home in a very critical and helpless condition, and our informant stated that it was a very grave question whether Mr. Watts would ever rally from the shock or not.

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