# OREGON MIST.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING

—BY—

DAVID DAVIS.

**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, FEB. 25.**


COLUMBIA county people intending to go to Alaska might read and consider the contents of Gus Ostby's letter printed last week. Information from such a source can but receive due consideration, and perhaps those who heed the warning will be greatly better off in the future. There are too many people interested in luring others in that direction, and Mr. Ostby undoubtedly sounds the warning with but the kindliest feeling for those with whom he had associated.

MR. DINGLEY is more than vindicated by the early appearance of a surplus in the monthly revenues, as well as by the constant gain month by month and by the good work his tariff has done in reviving industry. Confidence in the new tariff as a deficit destroyer will be strengthened by this month's showing. The four years's continued deficit produced by the Wilson act footed up $163,000,000. The only question now is not whether the Dingley tariff will pay the running expenses of the government, but whether it will be able in four years to produce a surplus as big as the Wilson bill's deficit and pay off the bonds issued during the Cleveland administration.

FOR the past ten years as regularly as every two years rolled around the hue and cry has been raised: "There's a ring in the republican party thwarting the will of the people." Two years ago, however, it was claimed that the ring was effectually busted. But mark the result! How about the democratic-free-silver "ring" that is today dominating affairs in this county? One has but to keep his eyes open to become thoroughly convinced that the so-called "union" move is in the hands of three or four men who are using the lash of their party whips to bring into line all elements that it is possible for them to control. And this they do under the cry of "reform!" It is the greatest piece of fol-de-rol buncombe that has ever been attempted upon an unsuspecting public, and one calculated to deceive the average voter in an unguarded moment. We ask no man to take Transcript's word for this, but simply call attention to the fact, and ask every voter to be on the alert and see if what we have said is not true; if the so-called "union" of this county is not domineered by as much of a "ring" as ever existed under any party in this county—or a little more so.—McMinnville Transcript.

TELL us, pray, why the populist press of the country does not chronicle facts about the welfare of the country, and be honest in their assertions as regards the public good? Is there politics in their silence? No! Such news is not to their liking. It is not looking for information of that character. Its attention is turned in another direction. Is there politics in their silence? Yes; and dishonesty of purpose. It avoids the acknowledgement of these truths and hopes to continue to mislead the public by statements which do not contain an element of truth. There are many excellent news articles lost to the public because of the dishonesty of purpose of that element. It would not chronicle a news article alike the one in regard to the lumber and shingle situation appearing in the last issue of this paper. In that article mention is made of a little business revival over in Washington wherein 8000 men are put to work at wages averaging $2 per day, aggregating about $416,000 per month from one source. Is there politics in the silence? The facts in the case are it is all politics. If it were not mention would be made of the great business revival that is sweeping over the country, scattering populism in hopeless confusion. More facts in the case are that the advent of advanced wages and the increased demand for products which require many hands to produce, have knocked the wind out of the spanker sheet of the populist ship, and the canvass hangs limpsy hoping for the silver breeze to fan it taut. The underpinning is gone. The silver gale has spent its force. The phenominal advance in the price of sheep, of wool, of hops, of lumber, of shingles, of wheat cordwood, of sawlogs, of beef cattle; of the wonderful revival of each branch of industry that helps us locally, has dealt the death blow to populistic fanaticisms. It is gasping for the last breath, for the handwriting is embossed upon the wall.

IT is a question carrying with it some speculation as to what issue or issues the populist party of Oregon is going before the people of the state with in the next campaign. According to Dr. Embrie, of Polk county, a leading populist, the free-silver fad is dead. This is the only thing left, however, for that party to cling to. Their "cheap" wheat and "cheap" every other staple product cry is no longer an argument to present to the people. The voters of Oregon are too well convinced now to listen to such statements. On every hand are to be seen arguments against their fads and isms. There is not a thing left to do but to return to their "referendum," which was lost sight of so completely in their frantic efforts to win on the free-silver fanaticism. Local conditions are against them. Prices and conditions are so changed that no hope remains for them from that quarter. The same is said of the entire state. There is not one convincing argument left for them. Conditions are so wonderfully changed from eighteen months ago that the honest voter will consider well his action before casting his ballot with them again. Every condition has resulted absolutely reverse to the populist predictions and in such, people have lost faith. That their strength is weakening there is not a question. There is not one thing for them to base an argument upon. The stroke that has the paralytic effect has been received in the fact that the country is forging ahead in a business sense at such a rapid rate as to render all adverse argument unconvincing. Their battle cry will certainly be "We want the offices; they, at least, are desirable."

## WAR WITH SPAIN.

While speculation is rife as to probable war with Spain, we believe the matter may not be considered with any great degree of seriousness. Of course, we will admit that relations between the two nations are in a strained condition, but greater pressure will have to be brought to bear before America will advance the aggressive foot. Seriously speaking, for the first instance, Spain is quite unable, in a financial sense, to declare war on America. That nation is now almost upon the verge of bankruptcy, and the insurrection in Cuba is proving quite all Spain can handle, in other ways as well as in a financial way. Again, Spain is not seeking disturbance of that kind with America from the fact that there is as yet no provocation. In reality, the provocation, if any, lies with America, and if that action were resorted to by this government it would be foolhardy in the extreme. The wrecking of the Maine has given rise to no legitimate provocation for a declaration of war until such time as the investigation develops facts sufficient to found the belief that treachery was resorted to, and not then until Spain has refused to make reparation in a financial way. Should circumstances so develop that America would be compelled to demand of Spain an indemnity sufficient to cover loss of life and property and Spain refuse to comply, then might America properly take steps to force the former into submission.

The fact of the Spanish fourth-class armored cruiser being in New York harbor carries no importance with it in this connection. Spain too well realizes her inability to cope with America in a naval contest. Her navy is far inferior to that of this country. The presence of the Viscaya in the harbor of New York created some speculation; and while, perhaps, that vessel was ordered there, we have no means of restricting such action under present conditions.

Spain as fully realizes her naval inferiority to America as do all other nations, and certainly that manner of warfare would be the only kind that nation could hope to carry on successfully at all. In comparing the navies of the two countries it is seen that Spain has but one first-class battleship, as compared with nine of America's. Spain has twe second class, same grade as was the Maine, compared with one of America's, the Texas, the Maine being her sister ship. Spain has no seagoing coast-defense ironclads, while this nation has six. America has thirteen non-seagoing coast-defense ironclads, while Spain has two. In the line of armored cruisers, Spain has seven, while America possesses but two of this class, and in the line of armored rams, America far outnumbers Spain, and quality is not to be compared. Of this class America has twenty-seven steel and two wood, while Spain has five steel, eight iron, and three wood.

It is plainly to be seen that Spain's naval strength is not sufficient to warrant her taking any serious step against this nation, and she will not, unless those in charge of her affairs lose their heads and rush frantically at a foe which they have no hope of conquering.

IT is with apparent delight that certain patriotic so called Americans point to the deficit of $45,000,000 for the first half of the fiscal year as due to the Dingley law. It is found by reference, however, to the treasury receipts that during the last four months of the operations of the Wilson law nearly $40,000,000 in excess of the normal receipts was poured into the treasury, owing to excessive importations to escape the increased duties of the Dingley law. This $40,000,000 would otherwise have come in under the new law, and there would have been little if any deficit. The Dingley law is, however, getting rapidly on its feet, and its friends are satisfied to smile at these populistic screams, knowing full well that they cannot endure long.

## Who May Vote.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
SALEM, OR., February 15, 1898.

Heretofore there has been a difference of opinion upon the very important question, "Who are legal voters in a school district?" This question has been agitating the minds of the people in the past, and said agitation has grown more intense.

This office desires to call special attention of all parties concerned. County superintendents and boards of directors of the school districts throughout the state, to the strict statement of the letter of the law. Section 43, school law edition, states:

"First—Any citizen of this state shall be entitled to vote at a school meeting who is twenty-one years of age, and has resided in the district thirty days immediately preceeding the meeting, and who has property in the district upon which he or she pays a tax, or has children of school age to educate, but this section shall not be applicable to districts with a population of one thousand and upwards."

"Second—In all school districts in this state with a population of one thousand and upwards, any citizen of this state shall be entitled to vote at a school meeting who is twenty-one years of age, and has resided in the district thirty days immediately preceeding the meeting, and who has property in the district upon which he or she pays a tax."

The matter of women voting has, during the last year, been going through the courts, and reached a decision in the supreme court in the form of an opinion of the full court, handed down by Wolverton, J., February 14, 1898, in the case of Laura A. Harris vs. Sherwood Burr, et. al. of the school district of the city of Eugene, Lane county, Oregon.

Said Laura A. Harris offered to vote at a school meeting held in Eugene, March, 1897, and said vote was refused, whereupon said Laura A. Harris began action against said judges of election. The circuit court of Lane county sustained the right of taxpaying women to vote, and the case was appealed to the supreme court, which court affirmed the decision of the court below. It is therefore established that in all school districts, women who have property in their own name, upon which they personally pay tax, are over twenty-one years of age, and have resided in the district thirty days immediately preceeding said meeting, are entitled to vote.

As the law in the case of districts having a population of over one thousand inhabitants provides that having taxable property and paying tax thereon is a condition of the right to vote, it is evident that no one can vote in said district who does not own property and pays tax thereon as provided by law.

In regard to school districts with a population of less than one thousand, the law provides other conditions of the right to vote.

All who can vote in districts of a population of over one thousand can vote in all other districts, but it is also provided that in the lesser districts persons who are parents of children of school age, even though they have no taxable property, can vote. This, according to the opinion given by the attorney-general, applies to both father and mother.

For the proper and legal transaction of business of school districts, and especially in the matter of school elections, this circular letter should be studied and kept on file in the school clerk's office for the information of school boards.

Let one other thing be born in mind, that the school laws are just as mandatory as are other laws on our statute book, and they should be most carefully observed.

County superintendents should take special pains to inform school boards in regard to their duties under the law.

G. M. IRWIN,
State Sup't Public Instruction.

## Polk County Populists Have a Time.

The Polk county populists met in county convention in the county court room in Dallas on the 9th of the month for the purpose of nominating candidates for the various county offices.

The silver fusionists went into the convention with a "stuffed" delegation, and, much to the annoyance of the middle-of-the-road populists, sought to control the convention. If there is anything that makes a genuine pop mad it is to try to force free-silver doctrine down him, and this attempt of the fusionists in this instance was not different than on former occasions.

It is evident by the remarks of the chairman of the convention, Dr. Embrie, that free silver is as dead to a populist as it is to anyone else that is not trying to ride into office on this pretext. In addressing the convention he said: "Free-silver is dead; so dead that the youngest child will be rotten in his grave before the coinage of free silver will be obtained."

It seems that the middle-of-the-road men agreed with their chairman, for when the "stuffed" delegation undertook to force free-silver onto them it precipitated a row that made it necessary to call on Sheriff Plummer and his deputies to quell. The sheriff was under the necessity of locking up his office and going to the rescue. This, of course, settled matters in a way that the sheriff of Polk county does business, and the demo-free-silveri-fusio-Bryanocats withdrew from their convention and held one of their own.

The middle-of-the-roaders then proceeded to nominate a full ticket.

## RAINIER NEWS.

Mrs. Clear, of St. Helens, is visiting with the family W. J. Muckle.

M. Both is salting some fine, large salmon for foreign shipment. Nothing less than a thirty-pounder is good enough for him.

Honeyman, Dehart & Glenn are about to pack up the few goods remaining in the railroad commissary and flit to Portland.

Rev. Gray Phelps, late of the Idaho conference, is the last minister of the Methodist church to locate at this point. Hope he will stay.

Patch & Plue have the sash and door factory about ready to begin operations on a large scale. The delay in driving their bolts down the Cowlitz is all that prevents an immediate start.

Tracklaying on the A. & C. R. road is being pushed with energy. The boarding cars have been moved from Rainier to a point about five miles below, where there is no whisky but plenty of slough water.

Tuesday morning, near the residence of B. P. Morton, who resides about two miles west of Rainier, a man was found lying dead in the road. When found his body was still warm. There being no marks of violence on his body it is supposed he died from heart trouble. Subsequent developments prove the man's name to be Wise.

Pursuant to call there was a citizen's convention held in the town hall Monday, Feb. 21, for the purpose of nominating candidates for town officers, when the following-named persons were placed in nomination for the respective offices: Trustees, M. Both, W. J. Deitz, C. F. Willis, C. M. Brooks and F. Trow; for recorder, A. F. Hildreth; for treasurer, J. A. Schumeson; for marshal, Charles L. Clark. The nominations were not entirely satisfactory to all present and it need not be a surprise if another ticket is placed in the field.

## HOULTON HAPPENINGS.

Mr. and Mrs. C. I. Hazen have gone to Portland to reside for a time.

Mr. William Howard has sold one of his valuable horses to I. N. Stanwood.

Miss Annie Burlingame is visiting with Mrs. Dorr Keasey, at Goble, this week.

Mr. Petty and family, who resided in the Baker cottage, moved to Goble Monday.

Mr. P. G. Baker, of Portland, was visiting with friends in this place last Sunday.

George Emerson and Johnny Lamberson took a trip to Grays Harbor last week, returning home Saturday.

Mrs. May Mitchell left for Grays Harbor last Monday to join her husband who has employment at that place.

N. A. Perry has purchased the stock of goods owned by George Perry, and Houlton now has only the one store.

Mrs. W. Smith, who has been quite low with paralysis, is reported to be improving, and her recovery is quite hopeful.

Mrs. Lizzie Kelso has returned from the hospital in Portland, and is now stopping with her grandmother, Mrs. C. S. Emerson.

Rev. N. Shupp will be here today (Friday) and stop over Sunday, holding services at the church, and during his stay will hold the Evangelical quarterly conference.


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Karl's Clover Root Tea, for consumption it's the best and if after using it you don't say so, return the package and get your money. Sold by Dr. Edwin Ross.

For constipation take Karl's Clover Root Tea, the great blood purifier. Cures headache, nervousness, eruptions on the face, and makes the head clear as a bell. Sold by Dr. Edwin Ross.

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Stop that cough! Take warning. It may lead to consumption. A 25c bottle of Shiloh's cure may save your life. Sold by Dr. Edwin Ross.

Shiloh's Consumption Cure cures where others fail. It is the leading cough cure, and no home should be without it. Pleasant to take and goes right to the spot. Sold by Dr. Edwin Ross.

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