

OREGON MIST.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING

DAVID DAVIS, Editor and Proprietor.

Subscription Rates: One copy one year in advance \$1.00, One copy six months .60, Single copy .25

Advertising rates made known upon application

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NOVEMBER 3, 1890.



OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER.

WHAT SHALL BE DONE?

The law requiring the election of road supervisors by the voters of the district will necessitate a radical change either in voting precincts or in road districts. The opinion is freely expressed that too many road districts already exist, and more than likely the reasonableness of such an idea will assert itself quite forcibly upon many persons when the time arrives for counting the ballots unless the number of districts is diminished. For instance, in Auburn precinct there are nine road districts, and there will undoubtedly be a candidate for supervisor nominated by each political party, which would add eighteen names to the regular official ballot for that precinct. This fact alone would prove cumbersome and tiresome, and could only be remedied by dividing the precinct into not more than two districts. In Union precinct there are a number of road districts, and the result would be the same in case the number is not decreased.

There are thirty-two road districts in this county, and we believe it is just about two times too many. In the first place the average amount of salary paid to supervisors is \$50 each, some less, some more, when, if the number of supervisors were decreased to half as many, each supervisor would then have to his credit about \$100, which would be some inducement to put forth an effort. Again, there are some districts within the county which contain but ten or twelve persons subject to road work. If such districts were joined with some other, better results would be had.

A revision of the road district matter is certain to be had by reason of a law which passed the last legislature, and while this is going on an effort should be made to adjust the matter as correctly as possible under the circumstances. Of course, this will prove a more or less perplexing problem, and it cannot be hoped to arrange everything absolutely satisfactory at first, and to facilitate matters those interested should have no hesitation in offering aid in way of suggestions.

These matters should be settled before the first of the year. Registering voters is to begin at that time, and if in order to properly arrange the road districts it becomes necessary to create new polling precincts, some inconvenience would certainly arise. Perhaps some polling precincts can be enlarged, others diminished in territory and the number remain as it is. A road district cannot extend into two polling precincts, that is certain, and the whole system, must, of course, be revised.

Tax expression so common among a certain class that the people are becoming weary of the methods of Mark Hanna in "plundering" the country strikes the absurd and comical rather than the serious side of life. If Mark's "plundering" continues to put hundreds of thousands of people to work at good wages, the country can stand a vast amount of it. May be a slight reversion to the manner in which the country was plundered during the years 1865, 1866, 1867 and 1868, when it became necessary for the government to issue gold-bearing bonds to the amount of \$62,000,000 in order to defray the expenses of government in a time of profound peace, may serve as a soothing application to the inflamed "brain matter" of the perturbed individuals. With the available cash balance in the treasury at almost \$300,000,000, and increasing daily, and the gold reserve being over \$250,000,000, it certainly looks as though the country were being plundered. The people will accept the latter methods of plundering the country with gracious hearts. Indeed they will.

BRYAN'S CHANCES.

No new states have been admitted since 1860, the number of electoral votes next year—unless Arizona and New Mexico are let in, which is improbable, will be the same—467. McKinley had ninety-five votes more than Bryan, who, to win next year, must carry all the states he did in 1896 and gain forty-eight besides. Banguine democrats figure that he will receive twelve of these from Kentucky, three from Delaware, and "perhaps" fourteen from Maryland and West Virginia. Then they fall back on Indiana for fifteen votes more, which leaves only four to be obtained, and these, one Eastern paper thinks, may be picked up in Oregon.

These estimates are silly, even without such preposterous conjectures. There is no more chance for Bryan to

carry Oregon next year than there is for him to carry Pennsylvania. Kentucky he may "redeem," and possibly the other border Southern States; but of the states he carried in 1896 he will lose Washington on this coast, and likely Nebraska and several other Western states.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the movement now on foot to unite the two school districts of Houlton and St. Helens will meet with public favor and approval. The action is now in the embryo, but as "great oaks from little acorns grow," so may the effort prove eminently successful. The school superintendent, of course, cannot act in the premises until the proper petition is presented to him, which is now in the course of preparation. The good to the community to accrue by reason of such a move warrants the statement that every qualified person within the two districts should favor the move and forthwith append his or her signature. The school facilities of either of the districts at present, we believe to be wholly inadequate to demands, and if the proposal is accepted and the aim reached, we will then be in a position to have conducted a school which will be a credit to us and our locality. On the prominence midway between the two towns can be selected a most suitable site for a large and commodious school structure, in a high, convenient, healthful and quiet location. Let unity of sentiment in this matter prevail to the end that all will be equally benefited.

OUR FUTURE WEALTH.

That Columbia county has a magnificent future before it is a statement that needs no reassuring assurance. The magnificent showing of her wonderful natural resources which are almost daily brought to our attention in one way or another by the natural chain of circumstances occasioned by the activity in farming, dairying and lumbering industries, means that an era of prosperity has set in scarcely dreamed of by the county's most enthusiastic friends and supporters. Wealth is all about us, and needs only development. Solid men with capital are directing their attention our way, and quietly taking hold of the problems in a practical manner by building mill after mill of logging railroad and lumber flumes, and starting the machinery that will convert our wealthy forests into ready cash, our farm lands into genuine, good farms by the introduction of modern and lucrative methods. All this is not talk and bombast, but it is intelligent work, bringing rich returns. Very little is heard about all this because prospects for future greatness and the accumulation of wealth are the thoughts uppermost in the minds of those now interested in this great and good cause.

All this means that many more men are being given employment at good, living wages, homes are consequently being opened up, and the rate of development is naturally rapidly on the increase. Business is being extended, manufacturers will be induced in greater numbers, and, of course, our agricultural resources developed to the highest degree in order to supply the natural increase of population with the necessary products of the soil. Agriculture in this county has undoubtedly made great strides in the way of development within the last few years, and is destined in the very near future to be brought to such a scientific and profitable stage as will itself support and maintain a large rural population.

There seems at this time to be nothing that can prevent this country's onward march, with all the wealth of farm, factory and timber combined to make thousands of people independent, happy and contented. People will naturally come and settle among us; those especially, who are looking for profitable employment and investment. Our people need only to be united and loyal to each other, direct and untiring in their efforts to get the right kind of people here, and then treat them honestly, to make the busiest and most prosperous section in the Northwest.

But let us offer this one brief, honest admonition: Continual bewailing of business conditions, unwarranted charges of commercial stagnation, depicting poverty and starvation in our midst, will never accomplish what each good citizen naturally hopes to bring about. The conditions exist which now warrant us to proclaim to the world that we are doing business on a good, solid commercial basis, and we invite capital and industries to our doors, that the era of prosperous times now with us may be so firmly anchored on so permanent a foundation that reverses cannot dwarf us. All this is now within the scope of possibilities, and eminently certain of promotion if proper business-like methods are pursued. Inviting people to our threshold and warning them not to enter under penalty of certain financial destruction, by crying poverty and depressed business conditions, even though it were so, is unpardonable. First of all, let us study that we may know our duties and responsibilities, and let each one be loyal, at least to his own household.

Is this state the best of politics will be at its height next spring. By having elections in June, it is made necessary to go to the expense and annoyance of two elections during the year of a presidential campaign. We can learn of no good reason why all elections should not be held in the fall. There are only a few states that deviate from the rule of holding elections in November, and Oregon is unfortunately one of them.

There is not a single business, so far as known, which is not prosperous. There is not an idle workman anywhere who is not idle from choice. There are no closed factories and none in imminent danger of closing. There is not a railroad which does not find its freight

cars too few to accommodate the overcrowding traffic. There is not a single discouraging sign anywhere. Our prosperity is stable, and will be lasting, because it rests on a sound foundation. It has its origin in our present system of giving protection to American industries against the assaults of foreign manufacturers who employ low priced labor of their own countries. It will take more than Wall street speculation to disturb either the protective tariff or our prosperity. And the man who sees signs of a crash is the victim of a disordered imagination and of hopeless pessimism. Either that or else he presides the thing which he hopes to see. There are men who would gladly see prosperity disappear if they could in consequence thereof see republican and prosperity wrecked.—Cambridge (Md.) Era.

ROAD LAWS.

It comes to light that the last legislature adopted a measure calculated to affect the administration of road matters in all the counties of the state. Although the new law does not repeal any of the laws already on the statute books, that is, in so many words by a specific repealing clause, it practically repeals the others or parts of them. The statutory provisions of this state for road business appear to be somewhat mixed. At the present time there are three road laws upon the statute books. One provides for the old system of road supervision by road district supervisors appointed by the county court, and each one absolutely independent of every other one.

Then the other law was enacted empowering the county court to appoint a county superintendent over all the public roads of the county, and to impose a cash road tax for the maintenance of the highways, in place of the toll of labor with which it has formerly been the custom under warrant of the statute to permit the payment of the annual road assessment.

Then, later still, at the last session of the legislature, a third law was enacted, making these provisions: The county court "must" divide the county into districts, according to its discretion, and at the general state election of 1900, and annually thereafter a supervisor must be elected by the voters of each district. One provision of the law is that no voting precinct may be partly in one district and partly in another. Another provision of the law is that when a candidate is elected to the position of road supervisor, and refuses to serve in that capacity he shall be fined \$25 by the justice court in his district, the fine money going into the funds for the maintenance of the roads of that locality.

All these various laws leave matters somewhat confused. The provisions for the election of supervisors next year is mandatory, but what is to be done between now and the next general election is a question. In the meantime our public roads are being neglected, and the traveling public is entering complaints continually of the unsatisfactory condition of highways.

DEPUTY SHERIFF DAY, of Lane county,

has absconded with over \$2000 tax money, collected during the last two months. He has probably bought a phonograph and gone south. After he has recovered from the almost certain attack of jungle fever, he will return to Washington, buy a farm, go back to Eugene, be tried and acquitted. That's history repeating itself, isn't it? Day undoubtedly kept close track of matters in other parts of the state. Precedent of that character is a bad thing to establish, but then the "people in general are satisfied with such proceedings." Some "good," "honorable" sheriff will steal an entire county some of these days, take it to Africa and establish a refuge home for the "poor" and "ignorant."

We are undergoing an absolute re-incarnation of patriotism such as has imbued American citizenship in every time of war. If today the edict should go forth that American arms should rise in power to conquer the known world, there would a Napoleon spring up to lead our forces in the Herculean struggle. At this very hour the ties of home are not dearer than our patriotism and love of country, and nothing tends to add fuel to the flame more than the mouthings of carping demagogues, who by their treacherous utterances, seek to throttle patriotism and trail the stars and stripes in the mire of national disgrace.

FAILURES continue to decrease both in number and in the amount of liabilities involved in spite of the democratic denial that there is prosperity in the land. Last month was a record month in that respect, beating the record of the past seventeen years. When it comes to failures, republican times make no pretense of competing with democratic.

The president of the United States has issued the annual proclamation designating and setting apart Thursday, November 30th, as Thanksgiving Day. In accordance with his proclamation, Governor Geer has also called upon the people of this state to observe the day designated by the president.

HURRAH for Admiral Dewey; he is going to wed. Mrs. W. B. Hazen, of Washington city, is to be the bride. Both parties have before been married, but the nation will bow its approval of the latter incident. If Mr. Dewey is as successful on the matrimonial sea as he has been on other seas, he will be eminently successful.

THE authorities of Lane county have offered as an inducement for the capture and retention of the absconding deputy sheriff, a reward in the enormous sum of \$100. They certainly are afraid he will be apprehended.

CLATSKANIE ITEMS.

A. S. Graham and wife, of Marshland, are in the city Saturday.

Mrs. C. H. Wheeler and child are in town spending a few days with the lady's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Z. Bryant.

A drama is in course of preparation to be given before long by some of our local talent for the benefit of the Artisans.

Rev. Dr. Gue, of Portland, was in the city Wednesday of this week attending to the business of the quarterly conference.

Marshal Shearer has been back from his trip to California for a few days, and makes frequent trips to town to tell us about that country.

Watson Elliott and wife passed through town recently to visit Mr. Elliott's sister, Mrs. Clark Allen, who has been quite a sufferer recently.

Band practice is in order again since the boys get a chance to get together often, and the sounds of the horns, melodious and otherwise, can now frequently be heard coming from the city hall.

Rev. Winters has just arrived from Seattle to take up ministerial work here, as successor of Rev. Smith. A reception is to be given the new pastor and wife at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Hall on Friday evening of this week.

Mrs. J. J. Johnson and family have returned to our town after a protracted absence in Southern Oregon. It appears as though Johnson can do no better elsewhere than here, and contemplate taking up his residence here again.

There seems just now to have been a shortage of carpenters in town as some had to be imported to do the building that is now going on. Clatskanie is a hive of industry at present, and persons who are hunting the article can find employment.

Miss Myrtle Jones, teacher at the Barr district, has been working up an entertainment for some days, which was given at Conyers' hall Saturday evening. A large crowd attended and were entertained by music, tableaux, cakewalk and more music. The evening was generally enjoyed.

T. W. Norby laid away his little fare-book for a day or two, and came to Clatskanie on the morning train. He seemed to collect the fare down here, and apparently enjoyed it. Then in the evening he was on the programme for a song at Miss Jones' entertainment, and acquitted himself in a masterly manner.

Dr. Hall went to Portland Monday evening to meet his wife and boys returning from the East. The family reached Portland in time to catch the evening train for home, and reached Clatskanie about the time he reached Portland. The meeting occurred the next evening at Clatskanie instead.

A load of live pigs was noticed passing down our street last Friday with W. K. Fiebor as engineer and Captain Davidson as conductor. The caravan seemed to be heading for the steamer Shaver, where the squealing creatures were deposited later for shipment, probably to some pork factory about Portland. The captain has his commercial eye on all the livestock he sees about here, and will try to arrange the figures with the owners.

A large audience greeted Rev. Smith last Sabbath evening to hear his farewell sermon, as it was learned that he had decided to go to Juneau, Alaska, during the present week to take charge of a congregation there in response to the earnest request of Rev. Walters, superintendent of missions in Alaska. A balance of \$10 due on his salary here was promptly made up, and he leaves with the best wishes of the people he has served for a little over a year.

VERNONIA ITEMS.

H. K. Shirk, of Pebble creek, was in town Monday.

T. B. Denslow made a business trip to Seapooose last Wednesday.

A. Bergerson, of Kist, was doing business in Vernonia last Saturday.

Rev. Stroup preached his regular fifth Sunday sermon at Kist last Sunday.

Mrs. A. Johnson went to Portland on Wednesday of last week via St. Helens, returning Friday.

U. M. Beeghley, Chas. Mellinger, Israel Spencer and C. S. McNeil visited St. Helens and Portland last week.

D. M. Holbrook, who has been visiting at W. M. Wilson's, returned to his home at Philomath, Benton county, on Tuesday.

Grandpa Eastlick, who has been sick for over a year, is gradually growing worse, with very little hopes of getting any better.

R. Sesseman, A. Sward, R. M. Ward and Chas. Peterson went to Pittsburg Monday to work on the new dam, which will be pushed to completion as fast as possible.

Voracious Octopus.

The attention of the populist party is respectfully called to the existence of a Wood Sawyer's Trust in Kalama. Here is something else for the populists to "view with alarm." Men used to saw cordwood in Kalama (during democratic times) for \$1.00 a cord; but since the Wood Sawyer's Trust has been organized the price has gone up to \$1.50. It's enough to bring tears to the eyes of a populist agitator to see the poor man, with nine or ten hungry children to feed, have to pay this voracious octopus, this unrighteous, avaricious monopoly \$1.50 for sawing one little cord of fir wood! But hold on; let's see! This trust is a laboring man's trust, and is composed largely of populists; therefore it's a good trust, so push it along.—Kalama Bulletin.

3,000,000,000 Feet of Lumber.

J. I. Campbell, a well-known Texas lumberman, has received an inquiry from his representative in the City of Mexico that will doubtless startle the lumber world. The agent wired that he could secure a contract for 3,000,000,000 feet of lumber, and wished to know how much time it would take Mr. Campbell to fill this engagement. Such an order is unprecedented, being larger than any lumber deal ever made in the world. It would exhaust the present supply of every mill in the state, and would cause prices to soar. Mr. Campbell is making inquiries as to stocks held by the mills, and hopes to be able to fill the order.

Does This Strike You?

Muddy Complexions and Nauseating Breath from chronic constipation. Karl's Clover Root Tea is an absolute cure and has been sold for fifty years on an absolute guarantee. Price 25 cts. and 50 cts. Sold by Dr. Edwin Ross, druggist, St. Helens, and N. A. Perry, Houlton.

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Has she lost her beauty? If so, Constipation, Indigestion, Sick Headache are the principal causes. Karl's Clover Root Tea has cured these ills for half a century. Price 25 cts. and 50 cts. Money refunded if results are not satisfactory. Sold by Dr. Edwin Ross, druggist, St. Helens, and N. A. Perry, Houlton.

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