

DISHES FREE TO YOU

Yes, we are giving them away--one with every \$2.00 cash purchase, and the dish \$4.00 worth of goods is twice as good as the dish with \$2 worth, and so on up to a \$10.00 purchase, with which you get a 3 piece set, consisting of Cream Pitcher, Sugar Bowl and Butter Dish.

Jas. Muckle & Son's Department Store
St. Helens, Oregon

The Oregon Mist

Founded 1881

Entered at the Postoffice at St. Helens, Oregon, as second-class matter.

Issued Every Friday by
The Mist Publishing Company
George H. Flagg
Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One year.....\$1.50
Six months......75
Advertising rates made known on application. Legal notices 25 cents per line

County Official Paper

THAT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Will we ever have a fire department in St. Helens? In the fire last Monday night this city had a narrow escape from destruction. There was a high north wind blowing, and had the city hall or the Deming residence caught the whole of the block in which they are located would have inevitably been burned. When the hose cart was brought and the hose attached to the hydrant it took about five minutes to unwind the first fifty feet or so owing to the fact that when it was put on the cart it had not been wound properly and one of the couplings stuck out so that it interfered with the drum on which the hose was wound, keeping it from unwinding. If the hall had caught at that time it would have had a good start towards destruction before anything could have been done, and the way that the sparks were falling on it the chances appeared to be good for its burning.

It appears to be hard to find some plan that would serve to hold a company together, as the ones who make the best firemen are not really interested to the extent of the merchants and business men of the town. To get these men to drill and take an active part in the matter of fire protection there must be some sort of an inducement be-

sides merely hard work and being on hand every time that their chief calls a drill. We have heard a number of plans suggested but as yet none of them have been tried. Before the Fourth of July, when the danger from fire is always great, a strenuous effort should be made by the business men to get the boys together in this matter.

PENNY POSTAGE IN SIGHT

Washington (D. C.), Post.

For the first time in 30 years, according to Postoffice Department figures, the Postoffice Department is self-sustaining, and Postmaster General Hitchcock has returned to the Treasury \$3,000,000, that had been set aside from the public funds to defray the expenses of the department for the current year.

The department has a surplus of \$1,000,000, gained from its own earnings, and a handsome surplus is looked for at the end of the fiscal year.

The postal deficit at the end of the last fiscal year was \$17,500,000. To change this into a surplus is a remarkable piece of executive and administrative work, of which President Taft and Postmaster General Hitchcock have reason to be proud. It is not a promise, but a performance, and as such it puts all other Government experts in economy and efficiency upon their mettle.

Now that the postal service is paying its own way, why should not one-cent postage be introduced? The department makes money on first-class mail carriage, and the immense increase of business following one-cent postage would go far to keep first-class carriage profitable. At any rate, the deficit would be insignificant in comparison with the benefits derived by the public.

Postmaster-General Hitchcock has already earned enduring credit for his administration of his department, but it would be a crowning achievement if one-cent postage could be established

during his incumbency. At the rate he is now saving, this great improvement could be made during this administration without causing a deficit.

Boost for that Fourth of July celebration at St. Helens.

The settling of the titles to the land along the Strand is the talk of the town, and there seems at the present time to be some difference of opinion as to the probable outcome of the suit brought by the City. We understand that at present Mr. Harris is the only one who has been served with any papers in the matter, but the people owning lands at the foot of the other streets will of course be made parties to the suit. In the case of the suit on the land at the foot of Cowlitz Street the main matter for contention seems to be as to whether that street runs clear through to the river or ends in the Strand, and in one case already tried the judge held that it ended in the Strand. The property at the foot of the other streets will be easier to quiet the title to than at the foot of Cowlitz. M. C. Gray also owns a small building at that point.

Help to make the Rose Show at Clatskanie tomorrow a success. This has become an annual event, and in past has always been one of the big things of the year at the down river town.

ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING

State Superintendent of Public Instruction L. R. Alderman is sending out pamphlets and letters this year with the object of arousing more interest in the annual school meeting that is held all over the State on the 19th of June. Part of the pamphlet is as follows:

Please take the time on the morning of the 19th to go over to the school house and look over school grounds and buildings. See if you can help to have conditions improved if they do not, may improvements; if they do not, may I ask you to show your appre-

ciation to the members of the School Board who brought about these conditions without pay or without thanks. Some of our school buildings are very unsanitary, and our schools will not be what they should be until we have the united support of all our school patrons.

Yours for the best schools possible,

L. R. ALDERMAN.

We have heard considerable comment as to the necessary qualifications to vote at a school meeting and print the following for the information of those who are in doubt;

Any citizen of this State, male or female, who is twenty-one years of age and has resided in the district thirty days immediately preceding the meeting or election, and has property in the district as shown by the last county assessment, and not assessed by the sheriff, on which he or she is liable or subject to pay a tax, shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting or election in said district; provided, that, for the purposes of this section, any man who has declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and has resided in the State for six months immediately preceding the meeting or election where he proposes to vote, shall be considered a citizen of this State; provided further that any person shall be deemed to have complied with property qualifications imposed by this section who presents to the directors or judges of election satisfactory evidence that he or she has stock, shares or ownership in any corporation, firm, or co-partnership which has property in the district, as shown by the last county assessment, and not assessed by the sheriff, on which such corporation, firm or co-partnership pays a tax, even though his or her individual name does not appear upon the tax roll; provided further, that in districts of the third class any head of a family who is otherwise a qualified elector, and having children of school age, may vote at such election without property qualifications.



Out of Order

NO USE TALKING

When you want the best in Job Printing the proper place to go is

THE MIST PRINT SHOP

ST. HELENS, OREGON

FINE STATIONERY For PARTICULAR People

We Are Confident of Our Ability to Please You.

A NEW LINE OF FOUNTAIN PENS
From One Dollar to Five

A Large Assortment of Post Cards

Deming's Drug Store ST. HELENS, OR.

Columbia County Abstract And Trust Co....

Abstracts, Real Estate, Insurance, Loans, Conveyancing

St. Helens, Oregon

Subscribe for "The Mist."