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**La Grande Evening Observer**  
KEY BROS., Editors & Pr ps

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**Why Republican?**

A Democratic contemporary expresses a wonder that Oregon should be so solidly Republican. If the editor of that paper and all other Democrats in Oregon will take the pains to read up on the history of Oregon and acquaint themselves with what the Democracy has done for this state, and how the carrying out of Democratic doctrines would have thwarted the growth of this state had they been carried out in national legislation they will cease to wonder that there are so many republicans in the state and begin to wonder how any Oregonian can be a Democrat.

It is fair to judge a party by its record and to determine therefrom what national policies it will carry out if placed in power.

The first record that the Democracy, as a party, made concerning Oregon in its national platform was made in 1844 when in the 12th resolution in its platform made at Baltimore on May 2nd it

"Resolved, that our title to the whole of the Territory of Oregon is clear and unquestionable; that no portion of the same ought to be ceded to England or any other power, and that the reoccupation of Oregon and the reannexation of Texas at the earliest practicable period are great American measures, which this convention recommends to the cordial support of the Democracy of the Union."

There are old persons in Oregon, yet alive, who will remember the political campaign of 1844, as carried out in their old home states, and that in the Democratic rallies the enthusiastic Democratic procession bore aloft gaily lettered banners declaring "All of Oregon or none" "Fifty four forty or fight" and shouted for "Polk and Dallas," the Democratic nominees for president and vice president.

The claim then made by the Democratic orators, press and platform makers was that our title to the whole of Oregon meant all the country west of the summit of the Rocky mountains to the Pacific Ocean between the 42 degree of north latitude on the south, the same being the north line of Mexico,

and 54 degrees 40 minutes north, the same being the south line of Russia's possession, Alaska.

When Mr Polk became president as a result of the campaign of 1844 in the language of the platform on which he was elected, he "ceded to England a broad belt of Oregon, to which our title was clear and unquestionable." That is from the 49th degree north latitude to the 54 degree 40 minutes north, a belt over 400 miles in width, from the Rocky mountain to the Pacific ocean. But he did secure the reannexation of Texas, that is in redeeming his platform pledge to reannex Texas he had to contend with a weak and impoverished Republic but to have stood out for "All of Oregon" would have aroused Great Britain a rich and powerful monarchy, and he waged war on the enfeebled Republic and abandoned our claim to a large part of Oregon to appease the wrath of an enraged but powerful king.

But remembering that the inner circle, the controlling powers of the party that elected Mr Polk had its own reasons for extending the dominion of the United States over Texas and as much of Mexico as possible, and no reasons for wishing that Oregon should remain other than a wilderness and were indifferent under what flag, theoretically, the Indians stalked or the wild beast prowled, will not criticize Mr Polk for ignoring his platform pledge.

But ignoring the deep disappointment the Oregonians felt when they learned that the treaty of June 15th 1846 not only abandoned all of Oregon north of the 49th degree of latitude, but curved south at its western terminus so as to give to England the whole of Vancouver Island and a site to build a fortress thereon which would command the entrance to Puget Sound, let us look back at other things which the Democracy has done or omitted to do to the hindrance of the growth of Oregon.

1st Let us recall the numerous graves along the old immigrant trail between 1842 and 1862 marked "Killed by Indians" and remember that so indifferent was the ruling party during that twenty years to the protection of the only road by which people could reach Oregon that there were no U S garrisons thereon from Fort Laramie to Fort Dallas, a distance of one thousand miles through the worst Indians in the United States, and that during these bloody years more than two thousand immigrants and citizens of Oregon were killed by Indians.

2. No Democrat can point out a single law placed on the U S statute books by the Democracy

that enabled a homeseeker to acquire a home in Oregon. The donation law that gave homes to the old settlers though advocated for eight years 1842 by Dr Linn Senator from Missouri was not passed until 1850 in the whig administration of Fillmore, two years after the Democracy had declared in their platform that "the proceeds of the public land ought to be sacredly applied to the national objects specified in the constitution." What this resolution meant was the veto messages of James Buchanan of Dec 24th 1859, when he vetoed a bill granting land to Agricultural Colleges, wherein he declared that it was unconstitutional to donate lands to the states for such purposes, and also his veto message refusing to sign a Homestead Bill on June 23rd 1860 wherein he declares it unconstitutional to donate public lands to private citizens. Had the Democracy remained in power Oregon would have no State University or Agricultural College for both these educational institutions were erected by funds derived from public lands granted Oregon by a Republican Congress; neither would there have been a homestead law passed on May 20th 1862 had Democracy been in power.

3rd. Had the Democracy remained in power our rivers and harbors would have remained unimproved, for the Democratic platform of 1840, reaffirmed in 1844, 1848, 1852 and 1860 "Resolved, that the constitution does not confer authority upon the Federal government the power to commence and carry on a general system of internal

improvements." To reach a clear conception of what this resolution means see the veto message of Gen. Jackson of May 25th 1830, his 2nd annual message of Dec 6 1830 and his veto message of Dec. 6th 1832 and his veto message of Dec. 4th 1833 and his 6th annual message of Dec. 1st 1834. From all these it is manifest that what is meant by Jacksonian Democracy is that appropriations for internal improvement are unconstitutional.

The questioners are seriously urged, what would Oregon be today had the Democracy remained in power, and why should an Oregonian be a Democrat?

If Union county is to receive any benefit from the Lewis and Clark Centennial which is to be held in Portland next year, it should be represented by a creditable display of our products. The Lewis and Clark Centennial is a local undertaking and if the residents of Union county do justice to themselves and to the management of the affair they will see that the products of Union county are placed on exhibition. Of course there is considerable expense attached to getting up a good display of fruits, vegetables, grain, etc., but if our citizens do not feel able to raise the necessary expense by popular subscription, the county court should be asked to appropriate a sum sufficient for purpose. Union county is able to make as creditable a showing as any county in the state, and the matter should be taken up at once.—Elgin Recorder.

How dear to my heart is the old-fashioned washboard  
That mother used to wash on when I was a boy,  
With its zinc-covered ridges the suds used to play in  
And soap bubbles gambled to my childish joy.  
Ofttimes have I watched her when wearing her knuckles,  
As over the ridges our duds she would rub,  
I never will forget how she slashed and she slathered  
The old fashioned wash board that stood in the tub.

**CHORUS**  
The old fashioned washboard;  
The zinc-covered washboard;  
The back-breaking washboard that stood in the tub  
Some folks always kick about up-to-date laundries,  
And say they wear out their clothes every day;  
But give them to me, so I will have a hot dinner  
At home, with the smell of the soap suds away  
I know that the washing machine is much easier  
On all of our clothes than to take them and rub  
Till the buttons and bosoms are lost and worn out  
By the old-fashioned washboard that stood in the tub.  
We are not the old fashioned kind

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" .75 to 2 50 Dining Chairs	.60 to 1.85
" 3 50 to 9 50 Rockers	2.50 to 9.25
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