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CURRY BROTHERS, EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS

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NOT WELL FOUNDED.

The article herewith reproduced from the Morning (?) Star under the heading, "Handwriting on the Wall," is basely illogical and does the county an injury that is beneath respectable journalism.

It would be just as logical to lay the foundation as a premise to an argument that because John Doe pays no county tax at all, and that Richard Roe pays a good many thousand dollars every year, that the entire system of the distribution of wealth was greatly at fault and should be wiped out, as to state that because the tax levy of Umatilla county is only 6 mills and Union county is 2 1/2 mills, that all of the Union county officials were guilty of official misconduct and should be retired.

To illustrate, a 6-mill tax in Umatilla county produces a total revenue of \$252,335.13, while a 2 1/2-mill tax in Union county produces only \$173,308.

The total assessed valuation of Umatilla county is \$42,955,856.48.

The assessed valuation of Union county is \$6,483,942.

Reference is also made in a similar way with Wallowa county as a basis of comparison. This is not fair, for several reasons. One is, that Wallowa county is assessed practically as high as Union county. Wallowa county is out of debt, and her state tax is \$8395, while Union county's state tax is \$25,645. Again, it should not require as much expense to provide for about 7000 people as it does for a population of 18,000.

Union county is necessarily an expensive county to maintain, and always will be, from the fact that there is not another county in this section of the state that is forced to build and maintain as many county bridges as we have in Union county.

Again, had not the taxpayers of this county remonstrated in mass meetings and before the county board of equalization and demanded that the assessment as made two years ago by Assessor J. H. Morton, which totaled in excess of \$11,000,000, be cut in two, and was so reduced, our tax levy this year would have been not to exceed 13 mills, but what difference would that have amounted to, the total receipts of taxation would have been the same. It is not the rate of taxation, but it requires just so much money to provide for the proper administration of the county and the rate is made to produce this result, whether it is 6 mills or whether it is more.

Union county has been hampered with an enormous debt for many years. It was only a few years ago when its debt was so large that the interest had accumulated to a point where it required \$1.48 to retire every outstanding \$1.00. This debt is now below the \$100,000 mark, and the present 2 1/2-mill tax is so apportioned and specified in the levy, so as to reduce not less than \$32,000 of this debt. At our present rate of debt reduction Union county will be entirely out of debt within less than three years.

Baker county, a few years ago, was considered hopelessly in debt, but she went at it the same way as Union county is now doing and wiped it out. Baker county has also, during the past two years, greatly increased its assessed valuation.

It is the right of the press to crit-

cise the official acts of public officers, but to print a lot of rot about alleged "reckless extravagance," and then in proof of such allegation, submit the tax levies of a few counties which have nothing in common as to a system of valuation, indebtedness or natural conditions, is an injustice to all of the county officials. The Star's article follows:

Handwriting on the Wall.

Economy, not party affiliation, will win. In the coming county election the matter of party will be of small moment. It will be the candidate who is competent and who pledges himself to economy in county matters who will receive the support of the people. A glance over the present administration will show that reckless extravagance, not economy, has ruled. For the year 1908, Union county has a 2 1/2-mill tax to look in the face. On the other hand, Umatilla has but 6, Baker 18, which includes an extra 7 mills for a new court house, and Wallowa 11 1/2. This looks dark for Union county and speaks more forcibly than words that there has been innumerable leaks in the county crib.

The tax burden of Union county has developed into a penalty and is so being looked upon by the people. No wonder the real estate firms are going out of business and the school census shows a decrease in Union county. No booster club can work effectively against a tax burden which is almost five times greater than that of our neighbor, Umatilla.

The handwriting on the wall is plain, the people will not stand for a continuance of the present system and the man who will win in June is the one who will pledge economy.

Who said we were not going to have any winter this season. This falling weather will be fine for our fall sown grain. The snow in the mountains will keep up the water supply which in a very large measure sub-irrigates the entire valley.

With the Pacific coast as the possible scene of military action in case of war, the militia of the coast states is taking on renewed interest and in most instances the companies are being recruited to the maximum.

Preparations are being made for a poultry show in Wasco county, to be held in The Dalles in February. This is a true sign of progression.

Baker City needs a James A. Fee in the mayor's chair for two years. He cured the gambling evil in Pendleton. —Pendleton East Oregonian.

CONTROL OF SMALLPOX.

Under the new rules for the control of smallpox there seems to be a misunderstanding, and many have thought the board of health was abandoning all restraint of this dread disease. The following letter from Dr. Bracken of the state board of health, will set clear any wrong impressions of the new rulings, says the Paribault (Minn.) Journal:

The impression seems to have gone abroad that the state board of health is abandoning all restraint of smallpox. This is not true. The last sentence in the new regulation No. 11, reads as follows: "The patient must not leave the house until after the removal of the warning card."

The two important changes in the methods of dealing with smallpox are: 1. No quarantine on well people living in a placard house. The quarantine of the well but the exposed individuals has proven unnecessary and unwarrantable hardship. The old quarantine methods have been a source of great expense to both municipalities and individuals.

2. No fixed detention period for smallpox cases. With mild cases it is not practical to have a fixed length of time for quarantine (not less than four weeks under the old regulations). The new regulations place the responsibility for the time of release upon the attending physician. (See Reg. 11). The time of restraint will be short or long according to conditions in each case.

With the history of smallpox as it has prevailed in Minnesota during the past nine years the board should have the support of the entire state in these two changes. We have an illustration in our own state of the ineffectiveness of quarantine as a means of controlling smallpox, for during the past nine years there have been at least 50,000 cases of this disease in spite of the rigid quarantine demanded by the old regulations. The new regulations should relieve both officials and individuals of much needless expense and annoyance that were unavoidable under the old reg-



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The regulations still require careful disinfection of the premises.

CONVICT MAKES BOLD DASH

(Continued from page 1.)

his guard, while the limited was stopping here, Henry Martin, a federal prisoner from Goldfield, Nev., escaped from the train. He dragged a 16-pound shot and chain, which was attached to his leg, for two miles before he was able to release himself from it by breaking the chain with a heavy rock.

The local officers took up the chase and Martin was captured in a thicket about four miles from here.

Martin was convicted of robbing a postoffice at Columbia, Nev., and was being taken to the Salem penitentiary for confinement.

CONSERVATISM IN INDIA.

A native journal of British India says:

"Within five short years a great change has come over a section of the native population of Lahore. Certain bold men have begun to take out their wives in the evenings for a drive in open vehicles. A week ago we saw the daughter of a man of position walking with her father on the railway platform at Lahore. She was dressed in what seemed like an English gown, had English shoes on, and when her husband came up she left her father and walked about with him. Her face was quite uncovered.

"Let those who have relatives in Lahore go there and see for themselves the state of things. They will see wives going out shoulder to shoulder with their husbands in the evenings, having said good-by to old restrictions. A man who would dare to reimpose the old manners on his womenkind would receive scant courtesy."

An American reads this with a smile; but is the conservatism of India any more ridiculous than the conservatism of America, which forbids a woman to go to the polls with her father or her husband and drop a slip of paper into a ballot box? The arguments put forth today against woman suffrage will be as amusing to the next generation as the consternation of this East Indian editor over the "advanced" women who are so bold and unfeminine as to walk in public with uncovered faces and in company with their fathers and husbands.

FINISHED IN A MONTH

In about one month the new Grande Ronde hospital building will be ready for occupancy. Workmen are engaged today in laying tiling, while other are finishing the painting and adding finishing touches here and there. It is safe to say, according to one of the interested physicians, that a month hence the hospital will be officially opened and ready for use.

Jersey Democrats to Dine.

Newark, N. J., Jan. 29.—A democratic "harmony" banquet to celebrate the reduction of the republican majority in New Jersey from 50,000 to 8000, will be held tomorrow night and is expected to attract leading members of the party from all over the state, as well as several national democratic leaders. The democratic party in New Jersey, as in other sections

of the east, is divided between the radical and conservative elements, and it is hoped that the dinner may result in harmony between the two factions.

READY FOR ELECTION.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 29.—Before the convention of the United Mine-workers of America closes today, the canvassing committee will have completed its work and the election of officers made known. At this time Thomas L. Lewis appears to be in the lead for president, to succeed John Mitchell, who refused to accept the office another term owing to ill health.

Hear Tobacco Suit.

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 29.—Following hearings in New York and Cincinnati, the federal suit against the American Tobacco company, or tobacco trust, was resumed here today. Additional testimony will be taken in Nashville tomorrow and in Richmond Saturday. Records of numerous subsidiary companies will be produced at all these hearings.

Cold Weather Prevails.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 29.—The coldest weather of the winter prevails today throughout the middle west. The coldest place in the United States is Devil's lake, N. D., where the mercury dropped to 20 degrees below zero.

Submarines to Pacific.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 29.—The navy department has decided to send two submarines to the Pacific coast, and they will be brought around the horn within the next few months. The boats selected are the Porpoise and Shark.

Who would venture upon the journey of life, if compelled to begin it at the end?

TIMBER LAND, ACT JUNE 3, 1878. NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land Office, La Grande, Ore., December 13, 1907. Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892,

LEWIS H. RUMILHART, of La Grande, county of Union, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 5841, for the purchase of lot 4, Sec. 22, lot 1 of Section No. 27, in township No. 2 S., Range No. 37, E. W. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the register and receiver of at La Grande, Oregon, on Monday, the 9th day of March, 1908. He names as witnesses: R. D. Hamilton, J. E. Neukirchner, Albert Neukirchner, and D. F. Gillstrap, all of La Grande, Ore.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 9th day of March, 1908. E. W. DAVIS, Register.

TIMBER LAND ACT, JUNE 3, 1878. NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land Office, La Grande, Ore., January 10, 1908. Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892,

MARY A. VAN BLOKLAND, of Island City, county of Union, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office her sworn statement No. 5891, for the purchase of the E 1/2 of the SW 1/4, and lots and E of section No. 6, in township No. 4 south, range No. 38, E. W. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish her claim to said land before the register and receiver of the U. S. land office at La Grande, Oregon, on Monday, the 30th day of March, 1908. She names as witnesses: John Van Blokland, of La Grande, Ore.; George Pierce, of La Grande, Ore.; John Schilling, Jr., of La Grande, Ore.; Daniel B. Clapp, of Island City, Ore.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above described land are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 30th day of March, 1908. E. W. DAVIS, Register.

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

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