

THE MEDFORD MAIL

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A. S. BLITON.

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MAN WAS BORN TO HUSTLE.

He is of few days; but quite a plenty.

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A YOUNG man was held up in Portland the other night, and because he had pluck enough to object forcibly to being robbed, his assailant slashed him twice with a knife and then fled. The highwayman escaped, of course.

WHEN Mr. Meserve did local work on THE MAIL last summer, warm weather seemed to have a peculiar effect both on his temper and his imagination—inflamed both of them. The editorial page of the "Sentinel" of last week shows that the high temperature of the past week has been getting in its work again.

It is a noticeable fact that the criticisms of Frank C. Baker, as chairman, of the Republican central committee, are all printed in papers of opposite political faith. It's a shame that the gentlemen composing the committee didn't elect some one chairman who would not be so obnoxious to our Democratic friends.

J. WATERMELON RIDINGTON has again entered the newspaper arena on the Coast, having purchased the Tacoma Sun, and people who remember his pungent style in the days when he was the presiding genius of the Heppner Gazette, will be looking for something to be happening in the journalistic field in the Sound country.

THE race problem assumes some peculiar phases on this Pacific coast. In Central California, just now, there are quite a number of white children—boys and girls—employed in picking berries for Chinamen. The white men lease the land to the Chinamen and the Chinamen hire white children to gather the crop.

THE executors of the estate of the late H. W. Corbett have filed the inventory of the estate, showing a total valuation of \$2,621,538.85, of which \$1,390,788.85 is personal property, including stocks and bonds in various enterprises, and \$1,130,750 is real estate. Besides this there is a long list of personal bills owing to Mr. Corbett, many of which are marked as valueless.

IF AN Oregonian succeeds in securing almost any kind of a federal appointment he is immediately criticized in unmeasured terms by people of opposite and some of them of the same political persuasion. John Barrett is a case in point. But the fact remains that Barrett has held many positions and has never failed to discharge the duties of his office creditably to himself and to his government.

"THE Woodburn Independent remarks that Ex-Senator Simon cannot make political capital in Portland by claiming that President Roosevelt is against the Jews. The President has recently clearly demonstrated that he is a friend of the Jews in time of trouble, when there is real value in friendship. But the Senator is a man of sagacity and will surely no longer antagonize Mr. Roosevelt."—Eugene Register.

TOLEDO, Ohio, is after the man who takes the end of a seat in a street car and compels the rest of the passengers to climb over him in order to get a place to sit down. An ordinance has been passed, which provides that a person taking a seat in a car where the seats run crosswise, when another passenger enters, "shall move over and keep moving until the seat is full." Now if the city council would compel the street car company to place a derrick in each car, so that the passengers on the inside of the

seat could be lifted out at his destination without disturbing the rest of them, they would have the street car business down to a system.

AT EUGENE, one night last week, a youngster, whose identity was not established, presented a few bouquets to the "Quaker" doctors, during the progress of their show. As the principal—in fact the only—ingredient of said bouquet were ancient and malodorous hen fruit, the result, while it may have been highly satisfactory to the donor, was not so to the recipient thereof. The doctor proceeded to score the perpetrator unmercifully, and incidentally accused the baseball boys of being the instigators. The Eugene Register took the matter up and for several days scored the doctor, while the latter with a vigor in quite violent contrast to the usual quiet demeanor of the "Friends," got back at the Register at the evening performances.

THE news dispatches of Sunday in one column announces that the Harriman syndicate and J. J. Hill are about to engage in a fight to a finish over the control of the Northern Pacific railroad, and in another the information is given that the two magnets are engaged in a timber deal that will result in the consolidation of the vast holdings of the Southern and Northern Pacific land grants and will control the lumber market of the world. When the big trust magnets fight, the rest of us can look on with a considerable amount of enjoyment; but after the battle and they make up, then it is a good time to "stand from under," because somebody is going to get squeezed, to make up what the defeated magnate has lost.

NEXT week—on August 4th—the Portland Crater lake party, led by Will G. Steel and composed of many distinguished citizens will be here. What are we going to do about it? Going to let two U. S. senators and the governor of the state pass through the town without trying to let them gain some idea of what kind of a country we have in this end of the state? Going to set back and let some other fellow do the rustling before hand, and then get right up in the front row when the people come? Let's not do that any more. Of course there is no necessity for us to make any kind of fools of ourselves, but we can give Gov. Chamberlain, Senators Mitchell and Fulton and the other prominent gentlemen a cordial reception—one to which they are entitled and which it is due the town and our own self respect that they should receive.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATION.

Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Jackson County will hold the regular examination of applicants for state and county papers at Jacksonville, as follows:

FOR STATE PAPERS.

Commencing Wednesday, August 12th, at nine o'clock a. m., and continuing until Saturday, August 15th, at four o'clock.

Wednesday—Penmanship, history, spelling, algebra, reading, school law. Thursday—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, bookkeeping, physics, civil government.

Friday—Physiology, geography, mental arithmetic, composition, physical geography.

Saturday—Botany, plain geometry, general history, English literature, psychology.

FOR COUNTY PAPERS.

Commencing Wednesday, August 12th, at nine o'clock a. m., and continuing until Friday, at four o'clock.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD GRADE CERTIFICATES.

Wednesday—Penmanship, history, orthography, reading.

Thursday—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, school law. Friday—Geography, mental arithmetic, physiology, civil government.

PRIMARY CERTIFICATES.

Wednesday—Penmanship, orthography, arithmetic, reading.

Thursday—Art of questioning, theory of teaching, physiology.

P. H. DAILY,

County School Superintendent.

Grain Sacks.

I have received a good supply of grain sacks, and I am now in the field for the purchase of grain.

J. A. PERRY,
Medford, Oregon.

BIG BREAK AT FOLSOM.

SACRAMENTO, July 27.—A special says: Fourteen desperate prisoners confined in Folsom penitentiary made a break at the breakfast hour this morning. They seized Warden Wilkinson, his grandson, Harry Wilkinson, Captain of the Guard R. J. Murphy, and several other officers and guards, and using them as a shield against the fire of the gatling guns, proceeded to the armory post, overcame a guard who sought to stay them, armed themselves with rifles and pistols, and escaped across the prison ranch into Eldorado county.

A desperate fight took place in the captain's office, where the prisoners made their break. The convicts were armed with knives and razors, and with these they assaulted Warden Wilkinson and his officers. The warden's clothing was slashed into shreds with a razor, but the blade did not touch the flesh.

C. J. Cochran, turnkey of the prison, entered the office during the assault and seized a chair, with which he made for the assailants of the officers. He rained blows upon them right and left, but he was felled with a thrust in the back. It is thought he may die.

William L. Cotter, a guard, was out in the abdomen so that his entrails protruded. It is thought he also may die.

W. C. Chalmers was severely cut in the head by the razors in the hands of the convicts. The floor of the captain's office was covered with blood.

Warden Wilkinson, in telling of his experience, said: "After I had gone about a mile they let me go, although they took my hat away from me. They were very kind to me and told me they would see that no harm came to me. They took with them Captain of the Guard Murphy and four or five others, including my grandson, Harry Wilkinson.

"After they had gone a little way again they took his clothes off and he had to don convict's garb and return to the prison in it. They took Murphy a little further along and made him divest himself of his trousers. Murphy was obliged to come home without outer garments. The convicts took the rest of the officers with them so as to guard themselves against capture. The men they took were General Overseer McDonough, Guard Glendon, Guy Jeter, foreman of the rock quarry; Tony Brown, stage driver, and Guard L. S. Vertrees."

Folsom penitentiary is known as the prison without walls. It is situated in a rocky amphitheater close to the American river, about twenty miles from Sacramento. The prisoners are locked up at night in the cellhouse, but during the day they labor in the stone quarries under the supervision of the armed guards. On the hills surrounding the prison grounds are watch towers in which guards armed with Gatling guns and rifles are stationed. Mounted guards are also stationed about the hills. Nearly 1500 men are confined at Folsom and it has been the practice to send the most desperate criminals there, instead of San Quentin, the other state prison. The American river runs through the prison grounds, but its waters are rapid and deep, with high, precipitous banks, and an escaping prisoner stands but little chance of crossing.

They took the trail over the hills to the south fork of the American river and headed for Salmon Falls. After reaching Salmon Falls they started north for Pilot Hill, where, after taking possession of the Post-office and mercantile store, they were given battle by the posse, which had been pursuing them since noon, shortly after five o'clock. Convict John Allison was killed and two others wounded. From Folsom to Pilot Hill is practically twenty miles. Under cover of the night they made their way to Lotus, a distance of ten miles. During the journey from Pilot Hill to Lotus

Monday night the convicts freed the guards they had kidnapped.

Folsom, July 29.—Eight, and possibly eleven, of the convicts who escaped from Folsom Monday morning, were surrounded last night in a gulch, near Greenwood, by posses of manhunters commanded by Sheriff Bosquit, of Eldorado county, and by Sheriff Kenna, of Placer county. At daylight this morning the convicts attempted to move out of the gulch in the direction of Placerville, but they were met by a raking fire from the men under command of Sheriff Bosquit, who had, under the cover of darkness, stationed themselves in the brush along the ridge overlooking the side of the gulch.

The convicts were taken completely by surprise. They returned a few shots and fled back into the brush in the creek bottom. They remained there a few minutes and then attempted to escape up the slope of the ridge on the opposite side. As they emerged from the cover they were met by a rain of bullets from the men of Sheriff Kenna's posse, who had, during the night, taken up points of vantage along that side of the gulch that the convicts had selected for their campsite.

The two posses had come hot on the trail of the fleeing convicts late yesterday afternoon, and they traced them into the gulch. There they surrounded them and held their positions until daylight, when it was expected the hunted men would come from the cover in the creek bottom in the search of food.

The convicts avoided a decisive encounter, and are supposed to have made a circuit and are now thought to be working back in the general direction of Coloma.

The gulch in which the convicts were surprised this morning extends for several miles, and its bottom is a thick tangle of brush. The hills on both sides are covered with greasewood, with here and there deep ravines that are almost impassable from wood growth. While the posses were waiting for reinforcements, the pursued convicts sneaked away under cover of the brush, up and down the ravine, and again the chase is on, more baffling than ever. The convicts have scattered, every man for himself.

CARRY MAIL BY MACHINERY.

From the Pike county (Ill.) Democrat.

The rural mail carrier is doomed and already his days are numbered! In the near future mail will be distributed through the country by means of a system of electrical carriers run on wires.

Under the present system the former puts his letter in the mail box and waits for the carrier to get it and carry it to the postoffice. Under the new system he drops his letter in the box without leaving his doorstep, then presses the button and the box goes buzzing over the wires to the central office. Then, after the railroad mails have come in the operator in charge of the central office puts into each box thus sent into him whatever mail may be received from the trains addressed to the owner of the box. The current of electricity flowing through the wires is then reversed and the boxes are carried back into the country.

Right here is where the ingenuity of the inventor is displayed. On each box is a selecting mechanism that enables it to travel back over exactly the same route it came in on, the same principle as the return of matices on a typesetting machine. Consequently, there will be no confusion, no box going to the wrong place, but every box will go right back to the man that sent it in.

W. N. Fisher of Cedar Hill, Tenn., is the inventor. The system has been tested on a small scale and works to perfection, even with the machinery Mr. Fisher made himself.

Negotiations are being made with capitalists to put the scheme in operation throughout the United States.

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H. B. NYE & CO.

NEWS OF THE STATE.

The Salem flax fiber mills have been compelled to employ Japanese laborers in order to have the large crop of flax pulled. Pulling flax is hard work as there is so much stooping, and it is very hard to get white laborers to do the work.

It seems to be the general opinion that nearly all of the legislation at the last session of the state legislature is null and void. This may be hard on the legislature, but it will make business for the lawyers, and will not load the statute books with bad and unnecessary laws.

The State Land Board has made an order directing the clerk of the Board to notify all persons holding certificates of sale of school land upon which there is due \$50 or less, that they must pay the balance and take deeds from the state. The purpose of this act is to clear up the records and render the land subject to taxation.

Ed Stewart, an employe of Stoddard Bros., of Baker City, had a narrow escape from death last week. While engaged in repairing a belt, the sleeve of his jumper caught on a screw on one of the shafts. He caught hold of a timber and was able to hold on while the cloth of the jumper was torn in shreds. The shaft was turning very fast and had he lost his hold he would have been dashed to pieces.

While excavating on a part of the ground included in the donation land claim of Robert L. Shortess at Astoria a pipe was unearthed. The view is expressed that the grave was that of the Indian wife of Shortess, but inasmuch as aquaws did not use weapons of the chase or of warfare, two or three of which were found in the grave, it is plain that the testimony of some of the old-timers to the effect that the grave was undoubtedly that of Chief Concomly, is worthy of belief.

The man who is reported to have shut up a band of 500 horses in a wheat field in eastern Washington and left them to perish of thirst is a monster of cruelty, for whose act there is, unfortunately, no adequate punishment. It is difficult to construe or conceive a motive for such an act, and until the owner of the wretched animals is discovered alive and well, it is charitable to think that accident inducing unconsciousness or death has overtaken him. It is hard to believe that any man in the possession of his senses would deliberately subject helpless, unoffending creatures to death from the tortures of thirst.

Thursday of last week the Roseburg-Myrtle Point stage came near having a fatal accident. While going down More hill, just this side of Camas valley, the driver attempted to put on the brake, but in some manner it had become out of order, and the four horses attached to the stage started down the hill on a dead run. Duncan, the driver, in missing the brake was thrown forward off his seat, the two wheels passing over his right leg. Ollivant, an elderly gentleman who was a passenger, was thrown out and severely bruised. The injured passenger and driver were taken to Camas valley and are getting along nicely though Mr. Ollivant is still pretty badly bruised up. The horses were not injured.

Grasshoppers have appeared in large numbers on the farm of L. O. Stratton, at Millers Station, four miles northeast of Albany. A great horde of the voracious pests have attacked a 70 acre field of clover. When Mr. Stratton cut the first crop of clover from the field he

noticed that there were thousands of young grasshoppers on the ground. They were then just large enough to be plainly seen, but in a short time, when they were of sufficient size to hop about, they began to eat the young clover, which was growing up where the first crop had been harvested. In the place where the shocks of hay had stood and where, consequently the young clover was more tender than in other places, the grasshoppers destroyed everything, leaving the ground as bare as a floor.

EDDY'S CORPORATION LAW

From the Eugene Register.

The Eddy corporation law which a Baker City editor, through influence of the O. R. & N. sought to have knocked out, will yield the state about \$80,000 in revenue this year.

The law is a good one, preventing inflation of stocks and keeping corporations exempt from "wild cat" basis. Already good results are shown in the fact that the 8500 corporations have been forced down to 1063 and this number will probably be swelled to about 1200 legitimate corporations.

This thing of incorporating some enterprise with a million of capital when an office desk and a prospect is all the capital in sight, has about seen its day in Oregon, and the corporation law will make Oregon a desirable place for all kinds of legitimate enterprise that has the capital and backing to support it.

TWENTY-FIVE ARE KILLED.

LOWELL, Mass., July 29.—An explosion destroyed the magazine of the United States Cartridge Co., located in this city, today, caused the death of probably 25 persons and injured more than 50 others; set fire to a number of buildings in the vicinity and caused a general wreck of houses within a radius of half a mile. The concussion was felt in Boston, 40 miles away, and at Exeter, N. Y., which is a greater distance from Lowell. At many points a score of miles distant window glasses was shattered and other damage done. In some cases there were reports that there had been an earthquake.

Notice Dissolution of Partnership

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing by and between L. B. Brown and O. D. Owen, under the firm name and style of Brown & Owen, is, by mutual consent, this day dissolved, Mr. Owen retiring from the business. All accounts owed to the firm are payable to Mr. Brown, and all accounts owed by the firm will be paid by the said Brown, who will continue the business.

O. D. OWEN
L. B. BROWN.