

Oreg. Historical Society  
City Hall



# Jacksonville Post



VOL. II.

JACKSONVILLE, JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON, JANUARY 16, 1909

NO. 37.

## EXPLOSION AT THE ICE PLANT

A frigid wave visited that part of Medford located near the ice company's plant, just before 7 o'clock Saturday morning. At that hour the ammonia compressor of the plant exploded and blew up, and the ammonia gas escaped from the building in a white cloud, turning whatever it touched which was of a liquid nature into ice. The floor and walls of the plant, which were wet at the time of the explosion, were coated with ice as the result of the loosing of the ammonia gas.

Just what caused the explosion has not been determined yet. C. A. Brown, who is employed at the plant opened up Saturday morning at the usual hour of 6:30, and some time afterward was engaged in work back of the compressing plant, when the explosion occurred. Strange to say, he was not hurt by the accident, although he was less than six feet away from the heavy cylinder which was hurled to the ceiling and landed ten feet away. D. V. Byrd, another employee of the company, had just left the room when the explosion occurred, and the cylinder landed in the very spot in which he had been working, and broke a hole through the floor at that point.

People in the vicinity of the plant thought for a while that a fire had broken out, from the great volumes of white ammonia gas which escaped from the building in great clouds. The ammonia could be smelled almost a mile away from the plant.

The employees of the company were nearly overcome by the escaping gas while they went through the building shutting off the various pipes of the plant. The amount of the damage has not been ascertained. The cast iron cylinder, which was blown off, weighs several tons and it will take some time to have another one made at the foundry. However, the plant will not be compelled to stop work long, because the compressor has a second cylinder.

## OFFICES BURN AT BLUE LEDGE

The main office building of the Blue Ledge Mining company, erected at their mines near Eileen was entirely destroyed by fire at 10 o'clock Saturday morning. The fire started from a defective flue and spread rapidly, and in spite of the efforts of the men employed at the mine nothing was saved beyond a few papers from the office.

It was with the greatest difficulty that near-by buildings were saved from the flames. The 55 men who are em-

ployed at present by the company were handicapped in the efforts, as no large water supply was available, owing to the snow, which covered everything. Still this was a great aid in checking the spreading of the flames.

The building was erected at a cost of \$7000 and aside from this a number of valuable papers were lost. The amount of insurance could not be learned.

## REGARDING SIDEWALKS

The matter of sidewalks in this city has been talked of on the streets but nothing definite has been done. Sidewalks should be put in at the earliest possible date leading from California street to the court house, and suitable crossings and gutters installed.

The charter provides for side walks and all that is necessary is to pass an ordinance, publish the same for four weeks, advertise for bids and proceed to build the walks.

We cannot expect to keep up our dignity as a modern city without the necessary sidewalks. Strangers coming into the city will judge the character of the people by the appearance of the town. If you go into a neat, clean little town you make the remark that the people are enterprising and rustlers. Can you object to strangers coming into this city and make remarks about our sidewalks? They unhesitatingly say that our sidewalks are in exceedingly poor condition for a town of the importance of Jacksonville.

### WHAT THE CHARTER SAYS

"The Trustees shall have power to compel, by ordinance, the owners of lots to construct and repair sidewalks along the streets adjacent to said lots at the cost of owners thereof; and to provide for selling the lots adjacent to which any such walks may be constructed or improvements made, to pay all costs and expenses thereof in the same manner as like property is sold on execution, under and in pursuance of the laws of this state."

There is no necessity or excuse for delay in this matter. Let us have sidewalks.

## ABOUT THE CHARTER

Jacksonville needs a new charter, which fact no one doubts. The charter under which the city is governed was passed by the legislature on the 28th day of November, 1860, and printed in pamphlet form February 1, 1886.

The conditions of the city have changed or should be changed, since 1860. If Jacksonville is to keep pace with the business world we must have a charter, modern and up-to-date. This vast region of wealth west and southwest of Jacksonville comprising Steamboat, Applegate, Buncom, Sterling and Watkins must depend upon



MEMORIAL ERECTED ON SPOT WHERE LINCOLN WAS BORN.

The Lincoln memorial on the old Lincoln homestead near Hodgenville, Ky., is almost completed and will be the scene of a great dedication ceremony on Feb. 12 next, the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. President Roosevelt will be the principal speaker of the occasion. The memorial building incloses the little log cabin where the great emancipator first saw the light of day. The new structure was built entirely through popular subscription by the Lincoln Farm association, of which Governor Joseph W. Folk of Missouri is president.

the development of Jacksonville in order to receive their just share of improvement. Develop Jacksonville and these cities will develop, and when these cities develop Jacksonville will receive the reward through business transactions.

Article VI, Sec. 4.—"The board of trustees shall have power to levy and collect taxes EXCEEDING ten mills on the dollar, if an ordinance or bill for that purpose be first submitted to the legal voters of the town, after ten days notice of the time and place of such voting, and a majority of such voters shall vote in favor of such tax."

The people want sidewalks and should have them. Now it is up to the board to order the necessary repairs.

### DIED

COSS—At the family residence in West Medford, at 5 a. m., January 8, 1909, James F. Coss, Sr., aged 85 years 11 months 1 day. Funeral services held from late residence, Saturday January 9, 1909, at 1:30 p. m. Interment in Jacksonville cemetery.

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE READ TUESDAY

Governor Makes Several Recommendations in His Message --- Calls Attention to Statement No. 1 Pledge--- Public and Normal Schools.

The governor's message was read in the legislature Tuesday and contained many recommendations. Following is his message in part:

### ELECTION OF A SENATOR

The fact that a majority of the legislators subscribed to pledges promising to vote for the people's choice for senator, supplemented by a law enacted by the people commanding all members of the legislature to vote for the people's choice for senator, is a sufficient guaranty that the election this year will be as summarily disposed of as it was two years ago, and the time of the legislature devoted to the consideration of measures of public interest.

### FINANCES

The money now in the hands of the treasurer belonging to the different funds of the state is on deposit in the numerous banks of the state, but in case the treasurer holds securities therefor exacted by him under the depository act of 1907, and the bond of the treasurer to the state for the faithful performance of his duty is held as additional security. The duty of approving the securities taken by the treasurer from the several depositories is vested not in the executive, but in the treasurer and the attorney-general. I do not believe there is any danger of loss to the state in the future if the provisions of the depository act of 1907 with respect to deposit of state funds is strictly observed.

### TAX LEVY

It must be expected in the very nature of things with the steady increase in population and the consequent increase in burdens and expenses of the government that the tax levy will be higher, unless subjects which now escape taxation are brought within taxing power. I fear to recommend any revision of the assessment laws of the state, but is unfortunate that some system has not been adopted to bring about a uniformity of assessment and taxation in the several counties of the state. The question requires that taxes shall be uniform and equal, but it is a well known fact that in most of the counties of the state, personal property and money almost escape taxation. In some counties land is assessed at from one-third to one-half of their actual cash value, while in others it is assessed at two-thirds of its value, and in none at the actual cash value as required by law. Until some uniformity of assessment is devised there must be inequality of taxation, and so long as some property escapes taxation entire-

ly and real property is not assessed at cash value, the levy for state and county purposes must continue to be high and taxation must lack the constitutional requirement of equality and uniformity.

EDUCATIONAL FUNDS OF THE STATE  
Irreducible School Fund—The irreducible school fund of the state has increased during the past two years from the sale of land and other sources, \$430,720.21, the principle thereof on the 30th day of September, 1908, being \$5,429,930.60.

### STATE LANDS

The report of the state land board and state land agent with respect to school, indentity and other state lands. The price of school lands has been raised to \$5.00 per acre, and in some cases a slightly larger price has been obtained, while the price received for indemnity lands is \$8.75 per acre which covers the expenses incident to perfecting the selections, netting the state about \$8.65 per acre. At no time in the history of the state has so large a price been received, for it must not be forgotten that the prices now being obtained are for lands that are left over after the best of the princely grant which was made to the state had been disposed of in former years. It is very greatly to be regretted that the school lands were not years past held for higher prices, for had this been done the irreducible school fund might have been large enough to have made it unnecessary to levy a tax for the support of the public schools.

### ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE

The report of the superintendent deals at length with the present conditions and needs of the institution, and I invite your particular attention thereto. It will be necessary, as is suggested by the superintendent to expend quite a considerable sum of money in order to place the asylum in a condition to properly care for and treat the inmates along the lines of improved methods for care of the insane.

It cannot be too persistently urged upon your attention that better facilities must be installed for protection against fire. The state has had one warning, and nothing but prompt and vigorous action on the part of the officers and attendants at the asylum, ably assisted by the fire department of the city of Salem, prevented the entire destruction of the main building of the asylum, and the possible loss of a number of lives. The institution is now crowded to its limit, and moneys must be appropriated either to build a new asylum or enlarge the facilities of the present one. The population thereof increases in proportion as the population of the state increases, and it is safe to predict that in ten years the population will increase 100 per cent.

### THE PENITENTIARY

Acting upon the assumption that the purposes to be subserved by the administration of criminal justice are threefold, namely: First, the protection of society; second, the punishment of wrongdoers, and third, his reformation, the penitentiary has been conducted during the last six years along lines entirely at variance with those heretofore in vogue. Stripes have been done away with; cruel and unusual punishments have been abolished, and although strict discipline is maintained, the prisoners are treated more humanely than ever before. The result has been good, and it has been found that where a disposition on the part of the officials is evidenced to put some confidence in the prisoner, it is appreciated, and is not apt to be betrayed.

It has been my policy to assist wherever possible in restoring convicts to useful citizenship, particularly where in my opinion the three purposes of punishment have been attained. I have also during my term, conceived the idea of conditionally commuting or pardoning a prisoner where the facts involved in the conviction seemed to warrant it, reserving the right upon condition broken to return him to the penitentiary. This conditional commutation or pardon has been sustained by the supreme court of this state, and it has been found to be a strong factor in restraining the released prisoner from the commission of a crime.

The administration of justice is uneven. To illustrate: There are ten judicial districts in the state. A man may be convicted in one of a simple felony, and sentenced to a long term in the penitentiary; while in another, where the crime committed is the same under almost identical circumstances, the prisoner may be given a very short term. It seems to me that it is a part of the duty of the executive branch of the government to equalize

where conditions warrant, this apparent inequality in the administration of justice. It may be that I have exercised too frequently the power of the executive in behalf of prisoners, and that an occasional mistake has been made, but in the aggregate the results accomplished have been most beneficial, for the public has been relieved of the support of a convict and he has been restored to useful citizenship, and in many cases he has returned to the support of a dependent family, who, during the incarceration, were the objects of charity.

### TAKING PRISONERS TO PEN

A great saving can be effected in the matter of bringing the prisoners to the penitentiary if the same system is adopted with reference to that institution as was heretofore adopted with regard to patients for the asylum. Convicts should be conveyed to the penitentiary by officials of that institution, without other cost than their actual expenses.

### STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

The annual fair held under the auspices of the state board of agriculture has grown to be one of the most important factors in industrial, agricultural and horticultural development. The last report showed an increase in receipts over any one previously held of about twenty-five per centum.

It may be safely claimed that no one factor has played a more important part in stimulating the live stock interest, in improving methods of agriculture and in horticulture, and in attracting the attention of people in the other states to the possibilities of soil and climate.

### WATER SUPPLY FOR STATE INSTITUTIONS

As the population of the state increases, that of charitable, penal and reformatory institutions increases in the same proportion. The question of a more ample and purer water supply is becoming a vital one, and particularly with reference to the insane asylum. The health of the unfortunate confined in this institution must suffer unless something is done in the very near future to relieve the condition as to water, for an epidemic of typhoid fever and other diseases always is imminent under the present conditions.

### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Agricultural college and the State University are in excellent condition, and the enrollment at both of these institutions is larger than ever before.

### NORMAL SCHOOLS

Under an act of the last legislature the normal schools of the state were

(Continued on Page Two)

## WEAK KIDNEYS MAKE WEAK BODIES.

Kidney Diseases Cause Half the Common Aches and Ills of Jacksonville People.

As one weak link weakens a chain, so weak kidneys weaken the whole body and hasten the final breaking-down.

Overwork, strains, colds and other causes injure the kidneys, and when their activity is lessened the whole body suffers from the excess of uric poison circulated in the blood.

Aches and pains and languor and urinary ills come, and there is an ever-increasing tendency towards diabetes and fatal Bright's disease. There is no real help for the sufferer except kidney help.

Doan's Kidney Pills act directly on the kidneys and cure every kidney ill.

A. R. Bly, living Cor. 4th & B. Sts., Ashland Ore., says: "Doan's Kidney Pills proved of wonderful benefit to me. At the time I began using them I was so lame and sore that I could hardly get around. My kidneys were disordered and the secretions gave me much annoyance by their frequent action. I would arise in the morning feeling tired and worn out and the pains in my hips were excruciating. It was while I was in this condition, that Doan's Kidney Pills were recommended to me and I procured a box. I had only used them a short time when I felt better, continued taking the remedy and was soon free from any trace of kidney trouble. I have recommended Doan's Kidney Pills to many persons suffering from this affliction and will continue to do so."

Plenty more proof like this from Jacksonville people. Call at the City drug store and ask what customers report.

For Sale by all Dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, Sole Agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

It is known by the way it makes you look—the distinctiveness which it gives you—that well dressed air, which speaks volumes when success and social worth are a factor.

Don't you know that the man who wears an INTERNATIONAL SUIT has always a good chance to become "The Man of the Hour" in his vicinity.

THE GOODS THE STYLES THE FIT THE FINISH THE PRICES

all together make that harmonious whole which has made the name "INTERNATIONAL" the standard for high class made to measure tailoring.

Don't waste money experimenting, when this magnificent, reliable, line is now on view at



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