

MEN OF OREGON.

WE present this month portraits of two of the most enterprising, public-spirited and successful men of Oregon, both citizens of Grant County, and, at times, incumbents of important official positions, and men whose reputation extends far beyond the limits of the county in which they live.

HON. PHIL METSCHAN.

This gentleman was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, on the 24th of March, 1840. He attended with much profit the common schools of his native land until fourteen years of age, when he bid adieu to his parents, brothers, sisters and friends, and sailed for America, to woo fortune in the New World. December 27, 1854, he landed in New York, and proceeded at once to Cincinnati, where he served as an apprentice to a butcher for three years. In the spring of 1855 he journeyed Westward, working at his trade in St. Louis, Mo., and Leavenworth, Kan. The discovery of gold on the banks of Cherry Creek, where now the bustling city of Denver stands, drew him to the mines of Colorado. From early in 1860 till the summer of 1861 he followed his trade in California Gulch, now the famous Leadville, when he again headed toward the Pacific Coast. After a brief sojourn in California, Victoria, B. C., and Portland, he arrived at Canyon City on the 18th of July, 1863. He essayed mining for a time, with financially disastrous results, and then engaged in his old business, which he pursued till the 1st of September, 1873, amassing a small fortune. At the general election in June, 1870, Mr. Metschan was elected Treasurer of Grant County on the Republican ticket, being one of but two successful candidates on that ticket. In July, 1872, the gentleman chosen to succeed him having died, Mr. Metschan was appointed to the vacancy, his second term expiring in July, 1874. In 1876 he was elected County Clerk, and filled the position most acceptably for two years. In 1878 Mr. Metschan embarked in merchandising, bringing to bear the same qualities of integrity and business tact which had rendered him so successful in other pursuits. He gradually built up the business till now the house of which he is the head is the leading mercantile firm in Grant County. In June, 1882, Mr. Metschan was chosen by the people to serve them in the capacity of County Judge by one of the largest majorities ever given in the county. His term of office expired in 1884. Both the Masonic and Odd Fellows fraternities claim him as a member. In the latter he filled the position of Grand Master of the State from 1881 to 1882, and Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment of Oregon from 1882 to 1883. He has also been Master of the Masonic lodge several terms. Mr. Metschan has a family consisting of a wife and eight children.

HON. P. C. SELS.

Mr. Sels was born in 1837, in Merschede, Westphalia, Germany, which place he left while yet a youth and came to America. December 31, 1854, he arrived in California, and July 1, 1862, reached Canyon City, where he still resides and enjoys the fruits of a life of honorable business activity. In the summer of 1862 he mined at Prairie Diggings, about four miles northeast of Canyon City, and in the spring of 1863 opened a general merchandise store in Canyon City in partnership with Mr. E. J. Stemme, under the firm name of Sels & Stemme. In the fall of 1866 he sold his interest to his brother, Henry R. Sels. July 28, 1870, he purchased the Canyon City Brewery from John H. Stahl, which was two weeks later destroyed by the great fire of August 12. He at once rebuilt, erecting fire-proof buildings, cellars and ware-

house. In 1883, having been very successful, he sold the property to John Kuhl, the present proprietor. He is heavily interested in Grant County, and intends making his home there for an indefinite time, perhaps to the end of his days. Mr. Sels has been prominent in the political councils of the Republican party of Grant County, and has held many important and honorable positions. From 1864 to 1866 he acted as Justice of the Peace, when he was appointed Postmaster. This position he soon resigned to accept the office of County Judge, to which he was chosen at the June election, 1866, being the only Republican elected. In 1868 he was chosen State Senator, leading John Dribblesby, the Democratic nominee, by five votes, and again being the only successful Republican candidate in Grant County. Mr. Dribblesby contested the seat, and as he had also an undecided contest on hand with L. O. Sterns from the election of 1866, the Senate seated him under the first contest, Mr. Sels thus losing his seat. In 1870 he was elected County Judge, and served two terms, till July, 1874. Since then he has never been a candidate for office, but is still looked upon as a staunch and influential Republican.

LITERARY NOTES.

The intelligent and earnest efforts of a corps of trained writers, aided by good management in every way, have placed in the foremost ranks of trade journalism the *Northwestern Miller*, a weekly newspaper published at Minneapolis, Minn., the milling centre of the world. The holiday issue is a departure from its usual course. Illustrated profusely, containing several stories of great interest and a number of poems of merit, together with descriptive articles and correspondence, and sketches by humorists like Bob Burdette and Bill Nye, the whole forms a book of over 100 pages. An interesting feature is an exhaustive description of the milling industry of Minneapolis. The cost of publication is placed at \$5,000. Single copies are mailed to any address for 25 cents.

Babyhood is the title of a new magazine which occupies a field as yet uncovered in literature. It is not a story or picture book for the amusement of the babies, but a magazine filled with sound advice and practical suggestions to mothers and all who have the charge of little ones. Edited by Dr. Leroy M. Yale and Marian Harland, and filled with scientific information and the results of the experiences of many thinking people, it should commend itself to every one who is responsible for the physical and mental development of a child. Parents owe it to those plastic minds and delicate organizations to fit themselves for the task of caring for and instructing them aright. Subscription price, \$1.50 per year. Address "Babyhood," 18 Spruce street, New York.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS.

January.

- 3—Coaling works at Plymouth, Mass., burned; loss, \$400,000.
- 3—Train broke through trestle at Salem, Or.; 3 injured.
- 4—News of defeat of Chinese, with great loss, near Chu, by the French.
- 6—Fire at Oregon City, Or.; loss, \$10,000.
- 11—Destructive cyclone in Georgia and Alabama.
- 13—Death of Seluyler Colfax at Mankato, Minn.; riot at South Bend, Ind.; 1 killed and several wounded.
- 15—Revolution progressing in the Republic of Colombia....Forty-eight men killed by explosion in a coal mine in France....Earling, Iowa, nearly destroyed by fire; loss, \$30,000....Failure of bank of John J. Cisco & Co., New York, and of Oliver Bros. & Phillips, of Pittsburg.
- 16—Steamer *Admiral Moorsom* sunk by collision on Irish Coast; about 20 people drowned.
- 17—Death of Edmond About, the French author....Egyptian rebels defeated by English under General Stewart, near Abou Elia Wells, Egypt.
- 18—Twenty people killed by an avalanche at Carinthia, Austria....Ship *Deusa* wrecked on bar at Shoalwater Bay, W. T....Infirmary of Insane Asylum at Kankakee, Ill., burned; 17 patients burned to death.
- 19—\$15,000 fire at Tacoma, W. T....Egyptian rebels again defeated.
- 20—News of extensive avalanches in Italy and France; many lives lost.
- 24—Party successful attempt to blow up Tower of London and Parliament buildings, in London; many people injured.
- 26—Slight earthquake in San Francisco.