

Some of our patrons have mistaken the motives which led to our criticising the action of the county court in allowing the bill of the estate of Byron Springer, and have charged that we were actuated by malice toward the members of the court, which charge is entirely unfounded. We have no cause for any ill feeling toward any member of the court, and if we had we would certainly be free from venting our individual spleen through these columns. We have always considered the members of the court as personal friends, and are personally desirous that every act they perform, either as private citizens or public servants be commendable. But their acts as public servants, as members of the county court, especially in auditing bills—a matter in which every taxpayer is interested—are subject to the closest scrutiny, and if found to be irregular, it is but justice to the members of the court that their attention be called to it, so that similar errors may not again occur. It is also justice to the taxpayers that they be kept informed as to how the funds of the county are being expended. It is the duty of a paper to keep its readers informed on these subjects, and if it believes the county funds are being wrongly appropriated it has the right to criticise the acts of the officials who are responsible for such appropriation. This was the cause which led to our criticisms last week. We believed that \$136 67 of the county funds had been wrongly appropriated, and in justice to the taxpayers we asked that it be refunded.

Since the last issue of the REVIEW we have examined the bills allowed at the last term of county court and find the one allowed the estate of Byron Springer to be as follows:

"Sept. 4, 1890.	
"Crook county to estate of Byron Springer.	
To mileage, 800 miles	\$106 67
Telegraphing	30 00
Total	\$136 67

Above bill is for services of Byron Springer, special deputy, for serving warrant of arrest at Red Bluff, Cal., said warrant issued by Justice Bd., of Prineville precinct. G. SPRINGER.

On the back of the bill is the following indorsement:
"Filed Nov. 8, 1890. ARTHUR HORGES, clerk, by J. SEMNER." * "Allowed."

* County Clerk Hodge was sick and absent from his office on Nov. 8.

There are several reasons why this bill should not have been allowed, the principal one of which is, we believe, that the county did not owe Mr. Springer a cent. But suppose he was entitled to mileage, allowing him fees for 800 miles was too much. It is not 800 miles from Prineville to Red Bluff; in fact, it is not to exceed 375, and he could certainly have been entitled to mileage only for going, as he never returned. If he was ever in the service of the county and entitled to mileage, it could only have been while he was pursuing the supposed criminals, and his services must have ceased when he reached Red Bluff, for his death occurred there, and his dead body being brought back to Yamhill county for burial could not have served Crook county in any official capacity whatever, so if entitled to mileage at all, he could only be for the actual distance traveled while alive. The \$30 allowed for telegraphing is, to say the least, unusual and unjustified.

The warrant issued for the payment of this bill has passed out of the hands of the estate of Byron Springer, having been sold to an innocent purchaser, hence while it is in that condition there is no way an action at law can be brought to test the authority of the county court for ordering it issued. But if County Commissioner G. Spriner is satisfied that the county court was justified in its action in this matter, let him, as representative of his brother's estate, again take personal possession of the warrant so that an action can be brought enjoining the county treasurer to not pay it. By so doing an opinion of both the circuit and supreme court can be had, which will decide the question definitely. A number of the heaviest taxpayers in the county are desirous of testing the legality of the court's action in this matter, and speaking for them, we assure Mr. Springer

that if he will give them an opportunity an action will be brought to test the case. He certainly does not want Crook county to pay his brother's estate for services not rendered, and could not object to allowing the matter being settled in the higher courts. True it is asking a good deal of a man to request that he engage in a lawsuit which he can avoid, but in this instance we are justified in making the request of Mr. Springer, since it is a question in which the official acts of himself and the other members of the county court are involved.

GOV. PENNOYER'S VIEWS.

Governor Penoyer takes this view of the recent democratic victory at the elections held on the 4th: "I will say in regard to the late election that, while several other things conspired somewhat in aid, it was the McKinley law, in the main, that caused the revolution. The law is worse than the Mills bill. The latter only allowed the manufacturer to levy upon the consumer, by aid of the law, while the former allows both the manufacturer and the producer to jointly prey upon him. The McKinley law, in order to inveigle the farmer, proposes to him, if he will only stand in with the manufacturer, that he may rob the consumer a nickel for every dollar robbed by the manufacturer. But the farmers have been smart enough to discover that for every nickel this protection robbery puts in one pocket, there is a dollar by it taken out of the other pocket. Hence the deluge. Whatever party will first plant itself upon the sound doctrine that there shall be no robbery by law of one class for the benefit of another; that all tariff taxation shall be entirely removed from all necessities of life and levied upon the luxuries, while the wealth of the country shall be compelled to bear, as it ought, the burden of taxation through an income tax, they will win a victory, such as has never been seen in this country."

The Indian Messiah has made his appearance upon this wicked world, and says all the dead Indians will be resurrected to begin their crusade against the whites. Old Sitting Bull has declared his intentions to go on the war path as soon as his dead braves come back from the "happy hunting grounds," but if Sitting Bull's followers do not go on the war path until the other braves are resurrected there is no immediate danger of an Indian outbreak, for the dead Indians are good Indians and they greatly outnumber the living, who are in too small a minority to do much damage, even if they have a Messiah to lead them.

A wealthy gentleman of Liverpool has become the owner of the garden of Gethsemane, near Jerusalem. It is gratifying to note, in this relation that the object of the purchase was not to make money by charging pilgrims and visitors an admission fee, but to prevent the spoilation of the grounds by relic hunters. At least this is the story given out in connection with the purchase, and the world is bound to believe it until the gentle voice of the ticket taker is heard at the gates of the sacred garden.

The republicans in the recent election have returned to the fifty-second congress, 2 from Kentucky, 2 from Tennessee, and probably 1 from North Carolina; and if any of these districts are contested they will of course, be given to the democratic claimants.—Oregonian

The Oregonian evidently bases this conclusion upon the action of the republicans in the last congress, who unseated every democrat but one whose election was contested, whether upon justifiable grounds or not. It no doubt has twisted its golden rule around to read "do unto others as they do to you."

Blaine thinks it will be a difficult matter to find a man who will take the nomination for president on the republican ticket in '92. Mr. Blaine's views on national affairs always carry considerable weight with them, but in this he is probably mistaken. There are always plenty of lambs ready to be led to the slaughter, and Mr. Blaine may be the infantile sheep who will lose his political life in '92. It is not unlikely he would take the nomination if tendered him.

Mr. Dana, of the N. Y. Sun, wants to be the next senator from New York, but his tirades against ex-President Cleveland are doing him no good, and he had about as well cool down his senatorial aspirations.

EXCESSIVE FEES.

The county court has been censured considerably for having expended so much money in examining and accepting the new bridge on Crooked river. To be sure it cost considerable to examine and accept the bridge, but it is better to have paid a little extra now and be sure that the work was properly done than for the court to receive it without knowing in what condition it was. The \$12 50 paid Mr. Connor as an expert for examining the work was probably unnecessary, as the entire court went to the bridge and personally examined it. It seems that it was either unnecessary to employ an expert, or it was unnecessary for the court to personally examine the work, though the county court cannot be justly censured for acting carefully in receiving any public improvement for which the taxpayers have to pay. But there was an item of expense connected with the accepting of the bridge, allowed at the last term of court, which seems to be incorrect, though it was no doubt an oversight of the court and will likely be rectified. It was in the commissioners' bills. Mr. Springer's bill for examining bridge, commissioner fees, six days, and 90 miles was \$33. Mr. Slayton's bill for examining bridge, commissioner fees, six days, and 56 miles, \$29 00. In the first bill commissioner fees for six days at \$3 a day amounts \$18 and 90 miles at 10 a mile to \$9, amounting in all to \$27, \$6 less than the bill allowed. In the second bill the excess is also \$6, making \$12 the commissioners have received which seems to be in excess of what they were entitled to, and there is also a question, if while traveling from Prineville to the bridge, they were entitled to both mileage and per diem. If they were not their bills for commissioner fees should not have been for six days, but for the time court was actually in session at the court house and not for time spent in traveling on the road.

The Oregonian says "the tariff question seems not to be understood elsewhere than on the Pacific slope." Looking at the result of last Tuesday's election from a different standpoint from which the Oregonian views it, one is led to believe that the Pacific slope is about the only portion of the country in which the tariff question is not understood. However, the people of this coast will learn considerable between now and '92.—East Oregonian.

Hon. J. C. Fullerton, one of the hold over senators from Douglas county, says he is going to vote for the repeal of the mortgage-tax law and possibly for the usury law, but he has not thoroughly made up his mind about exempting indebtedness. He says there is something the matter with Oregon, sure; that she's "not in it," while Washington and California are going ahead rapidly on account of the introduction of Eastern capital.

Henry Cabot Lodge, a republican member of congress from Massachusetts, who stood up so manfully for Reed and McKinley in the late congress and who introduced the Force bill, has been giving the reasons for the defeat of his party in the late elections. He attributes it wholly to the passage of the McKinley bill. He should also have added that his own little election bill had something to do with the defeat.

PURSE RACES.

To be run over the Prineville track November 27 and 28.
First race on Thursday, November 27.—Single dash 1/4 of a mile, free for all, purse \$75, entire purse to go to winning horse.
Second race on Friday, November 28.—Single dash 1/4 of a mile, free for all, purse \$75, entire purse to go to winning horse.
Races to be governed by Blood Horse Association rules.
Entrance 10 per cent of purse. All entries must be made by 7 o'clock on the evening before each race.

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