

OREGON CITY COUNTRY

29th YEAR.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1911.

No. 1

WHAT IS A FRIEND?

There are Every Day and Sunny Day Kinds.

THE MAN WHO RINGS TRUE

Who Stands by Until the Last Whistle Blows is the Friend.

When things break right for you, when you can wear tailor-made glad rags, smoke three-for-a-quarter, drink champagne and tell the chauffeur to bring the benzine buggy around to the club at 3:30—well you won't want for friends.

When a man has a golden rod he doesn't have to carry it. There are plenty to drink his champagne and help to spend his washers. He's all aces as long as the golden coins rub together in his purse and his friends will stay by like these around the molasses barrel.

But such friends are only the royal flush variety and the minute you hit the chutes they will quit you as rats quit a sinking ship. As Ella Wheeler Wilcox says:

"Drink and the gang drinks with you, Swear off and you go it alone."

But once in a while a real friend will bob up, one of those thousand year friends, eighteen karat, solid gold, who will stay with you until there is good ice skating in the warm places.

And if you have such a friend, keep him, merit his friendship. They are few and you don't want to waste them.

In this game from shuffle to cash in, better known as life, there are times when the most of us will get up against the ragged edge, up against conditions that will have us facing sideways, and where everything goes dead wrong. And this is the time that separates the fair day and the stand by friends. I'd rather have one man who would come across when I whistled, one friend who would stay by whether it snowed or whether an army of the champagne gazebos who fade away like Diaz's friends.

The man who stands by when you can't buy a cupful of water if the Willamette river was offered for a quarter; the fellow who goes against the collar with you and helps you to pull out—that's the kind of stuff.

The sunny-day friends are, leeches, not friends. They hang around until the drinks and lunch are served and then hike out. They are of just about as much weight as a feather fan in stopping a cyclone or a lung in a prize fight. It's almost worth going broke to get rid of them.

But the man who will always back your play, who is there with the help when you are trying to come back to life. He's the friend. Keep him.

Mr. A. B. Combs, a former resident of the city, is seriously ill at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland.

LIKE TO BE FOOLED.

A Little Incident that Proves the Wisdom of Barnum.

Barnum never said a truer thing than that the American people like to be humbugged. Or perhaps 'twas U'Ren who said it, but it doesn't matter.

The other day the Courier made an interesting display of Cliff Dwellers' relics in the front window—a display of genuine relics that the writer himself took from the abandoned Puye Cliffs of the Jemez plateau in New Mexico.

The display attracted considerable attention, and one of the wags in the office thought he would break it up, so he grabbed a whisp of hay from a passing wagon, put it inside the relics in the window and labeled it "Hay, over 2,000 years old."

And it went. Man after man and woman after woman stopped, glanced at the genuine historic relics and then jumped from the stone age to compare the Oregon hay of the present day with never a question or doubt.

Yes, we like to have the spear thrown into us, but not spears of grass. We've been brought up so, and we like it.

Next time you look at the counter-feit, catch the decimal point that the hay is two and no one-thousandths years old, and then laugh at yourself.

ALL BUT FATHER.

He Doesn't Get a Raise, but He Pays the Others' Raise.

Teachers in the different grades in this city want more wages—want a 25 per cent increase—and the high school instructors want a raise to \$90 per month.

You can't criticize them for asking for the raise. They need it and we all need it. Our dollars have lost nearly half their purchasing power and we want more of them to make up the loss.

Ordinarily such a condition is met by advancing the price on the output, and granting the raise, but the output of the schools cannot be measured in ready dollars and cents, so that methods can't be applied.

And the farmer, the workman, the merchant and property owner want to know where their raise is coming from to meet the increase in the teachers' wages.

Eminent Speaker Coming.

Sunday, June 18, a noted Christian Science lecturer will be at Shirely's opera house, Francis J. Finno, M. D., C. S. of Boston, and the society extends to all a cordial invitation to hear the address. The lecture is free and there will be no collection taken.

Miss Eula Schubel will leave shortly for Arizona, where she will spend her vacation, visiting with relatives.

READY NOVEMBER 1

Trains will Run to Mulino on This Date.

TIE CONTRAS TO BE LET.

Something Doing all Along the Clackamas Southern.

These bright days make things move in railroad work and from now on every week will mark material progress on the Clackamas Southern.

Wednesday a gang was put on at Beaver Creek, next week a crew will start at Mulino, and all the while the force of forty men are working from this end. All that is now needed is a big start at Molalla, and the beginning of the end will be in sight.

The hardest, slowest and most expensive part of the grade work is now over, and Mr. Swift, chief of the construction department, states that the next three miles of grading can be done in about one-half the time and with one-third the expense of the grades out of this city.

The contract for the ties will be let this month and the officials give it out that trains will be running over the road, as far as Mulino at least, by November 1.

Interest is daily increasing all along the line, and it will continue to increase. For years and years the people have lived on railroad rumors and when this work was undertaken they took it on trust—they hadn't much confidence in it. Now they know it is a certainty, that the road will be built and built soon, and every property owner, and any number of real estate speculators, are taking all kinds of notice of the road's progress.

And don't any of you ever doubt but what this road will be a big card for Oregon City and a big boom for every rod of land between here and Molalla. Markets for products regulate the price of land and this road opens to the best markets in Oregon.

It takes money to build railroads, but the money always comes back where the road file a demand.

The Molalla road today promises far more than any real estate investment, and the wonder is that the project, now a certainty, is not over subscribed.

To represent irrigation and Land Company of Idaho at Oregon City. We offer an attractive investment and an attractive sales plan, and can make a proposition to a man of standing in this community that beats the highest salary paid in Clackamas county. The right deal for the right man. Give references when answering this ad. Address Fruitland Acreage Company, Ltd., Box 388, Boise, Idaho.

Miss Nell Swafford is visiting relatives in Eugene this week.

BONES AND STONES.

Relics of Poor Lo Unearthed on the Willamette's Banks.

When Lo, the poor Indian, was the whole works along the Willamette, when the river salmon bit only his hook and only his camp fire lighted the river's banks, little did he think that the coming white man would dig up his bones and pass them around a city for relics.

At the end of Twelfth street, where workmen have been excavating, a nest of relics and human bones have been unearthed, and the finds have been very interesting to many of our people. The skeletons were badly decayed and the bones crumbled on exposure to the air, but several fine stone pestles and many finished and unfinished flint arrow heads were found.

A large basin-shaped stone was found under five or six feet of sand, the use of which has caused considerable discussion. The stone is about three feet by four and around two sides of it are niches cut two inches apart. Some claim that the stone was used to pound hides and some think it was used as a shore anchor, because of the niches. Mr. Bush had the stone hauled out and he will preserve it as a subject on which to dig out an written history.

Don'tless in some dim day of the past the river bank at this place was a village or camping site of the Indians. Years of accumulation and wash from the river has buried it many feet. But what keeps one guessing is that the skeleton was unearthed three or four feet above where the large stone and stone relics were found. It would seem that the burial was made many years after the abandonment of the camping place, and perhaps the bones are but those of a common white man, buried many years later.

To those making the excavation time doesn't drag, for any shovelful of earth may turn up a handsome arrow head or stone implement, and the interest brings out many tales of old Oregon.

FULL MEASURE NOW.

Short Weights and Measures are Criminal in This City.

Monday evening the city council passed the weights and measures ordinance, and Mayor Brownell will appoint a board of inspectors of three men, whose term of office will commence July 1, and whose duty it will be to quarterly make inspection of the weights and measures used in this city, to determine whether or not they are standard.

The ordinance provides that any person who shall sell anything in Oregon City that is more than one per cent short of the amount represented, or who shall use any instrument or measure more than one per cent short of that which is the true weight or measure, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the city jail for not less than two nor more than fifty days, or by both fine and imprisonment.

This is a rigid but just city law. Any person has a right to receive all he pays for, and this ordinance guarantees it to him. But troubles will no doubt follow for the dealers who purchase produce, berries for instance, from outside concerns, and which the home dealer purchases in good faith.

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THE OTHER SIDE.

Supervisor Jagger Makes Answer to Charges.

INVITES FULL INVESTIGATION.

Says Work is for Best Roads and County's Interests.

Last week the Courier commented on the matter of the Enterprise making a rather belated answer to the road work and bridge work of the county, which has been under discussion, and invited that paper to go a little farther into the matter and answer some more of the questions asked.

Road Supervisor Frank Jagger called at this office this week and stated that he was dead willing and ready to answer any questions regarding the road and bridge work of the county; that the people had a right to ask for information and the officials would willingly answer any questions that were fair and courteous.

Mr. Jagger says the rock crushers are all running, that they have all been running when Mr. Jagger would permit, and that the statement that they stood idle was untrue and unfair.

Regarding the purchase of the road machine at Oak Grove he states that that report was complete and correct; that three different companies competed; that the county court went into the matter thoroughly before purchasing, and that a Reliance crusher, under a five years guarantee, appeared to be the best investment for the county.

The question of whether \$500 was paid to a Portland engineer for a report on the suspension bridge here, Mr. Jagger says the amount was paid, but that the work and report covered nearly three weeks than one day; that the report was complete and comprehensive, and that the county saved money by acting on and following same in rebuilding the structure.

He states that new bridges in the county have been erected without bids, but in at least two places the bridges were dangerous; that it was necessary for immediate work and that the court had a full right to take the action it has taken. He says this work is open to the fullest investigation of anyone or to the grand jury to determine if the work was in accordance with law.

The charge that the road machines are too heavy to cross bridges and that work is necessarily confined to this part of the county, Mr. Jagger says that the county must not buy machines to fit the bridges, but rather fit the bridges to the machines. He says it is necessary to have heavy machines to do good work, machines that will stand the requirements and produce results; that the bridges are being strengthened for the machines; that often it is necessary to go through fields, as it is with a traction engine, but that he can and will take any machine to any part of the county when so ordered. He says the country south of the Molalla river is more sandy and does not need the road work that other parts of the county need.

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DOGS OR CHILDREN?

The Danger Days are Here and the Choice is Yours.

THIS SOUNDS GOOD.

Big Cut in Electric Prices are Promised June 15.

Whether the recent supreme court anti-trust decisions, the Mount Hood franchise granted, or just pure generosity, nobody knows or cares, but the Portland Light and Power Company gives it out that June 15 they will reduce the price of lighting one-third, from 15c to 10c per kilowatt hour.

And before we recover from this unexpected generosity, the company further states that it has some more good things for us, a substantial reduction in power rates for consumers; that the completion of the Estacada plant enables them to make a cut.

This news comes as a pleasing surprise to our people—a sort of an unexpected present—and the results will no doubt be the installation of electric heaters and flat irons in many homes of the city.

The reduction announcement of the power company does not specify Oregon City as in on this deal, but it gives out for Portland, and of course the same rates will apply to all customers, and we will be in for our part of the red, white and blue.

And we are entitled to a lower rate—a rate as low as other places.

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