

Oregon City Enterprise

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SECRETARY CROSS, of the Willamette Valley Chautauqua Association, has issued the program for the annual meeting of the Association, to be held July 14-26, inclusive. As an educational feast the Chautauqua Assembly this year will eclipse all efforts of the past.

THE local Fourth of July celebration committees held a meeting this week and apportioned to the various attractions their share of the \$800 that has been raised for the demonstration. All of the committees are working faithfully that the celebration may be a record breaker, and the people of the entire county are invited to unite with the Falls City in bringing about that result.

THERE is great rivalry among the baseballists of this city this year. The result will likely be the organization of an opposition team to the nine that is playing in the Interstate League. As competition is the life of trade so opposition increases interest in sports of all kinds. Oregon City is large enough to support two good ball teams, and lovers of sport will enjoy the benefit of the increased activity in these circles.

THE people of Oregon City loyally came to the relief of the unfortunate citizens of Heppner and this week raised more than \$200 which has been forwarded. The awful consequences of such a catastrophe as that which was visited upon Heppner is more fully realized because it happened so near at home. Fearful were the loss of life and destruction of property. Our citizens gladly contributed to the relief of the needy survivors of the flood.

THIS has not only been the longest tour which a President ever undertook, but it has been one of the most interesting. It is said that the President made about 265 speeches on the trip. Some of the Democratic papers called it an electioneering tour, but this accusation need not bother the Republicans. They are in the ascendant under any conditions that are possible at present, and need not care for any flings which the Democrats can make.

SUMMER has arrived but the public band stand has not been erected and the prospect for a series of delightful open air band concerts in this city is as far removed as ever. The band boys meet regularly and are practicing faithfully and only ask that some suitable place be provided for the giving of concerts. It seems that the music-loving people of the community should show a sufficient appreciation of the efforts of the band boys to supply the band stand and insure the giving of concerts.

THE deadlock in the matter of the building of the South End road continues. This subject will likely receive the further consideration and definite final action at the hands of the council at the special meeting to be held Monday evening. Those charged with the expenditure of the money owe it to the community to take some action. It is understood that the members of the council committee on streets and public property, every member of which is opposed to the building of the road, will decline to officiate as one of the joint committees in expending the fund.

CONSOLIDATION of rural school districts, because of natural conditions, is probably more feasible in Clackamas county than in any other Willamette Valley county. This subject is engaging the attention of the educators of the state in an effort to promote the efficiency of the public school system. At the last session of the state legislature a law was enacted, authorizing the consolidation of rural districts. In uniting two or more adjoining districts several results are attained. A larger school, a longer term and an improved course of study are the substantial and satisfactory results.

THE researches of the German Agricultural Society, whose delegates recently toured Oregon, has no counterpart in the work of any society in America. The only thing that could be compared to the thorough organization of German agricultural societies would

be an alliance of boards of trades representing each city of a state. Each province in Germany has its agricultural societies, and these send delegates to the national assembly. In turn, the national gathering designates a commission, which annually visits some other country to gather facts relative to agricultural methods, and to report them to members of the society. These visitors are men of means, who have devoted much of their time to science. They are land-owners, though many of them served Germany in the army. In the party which visited this state the number of men of noble rank is surprising, and all have gained fame as scientists.

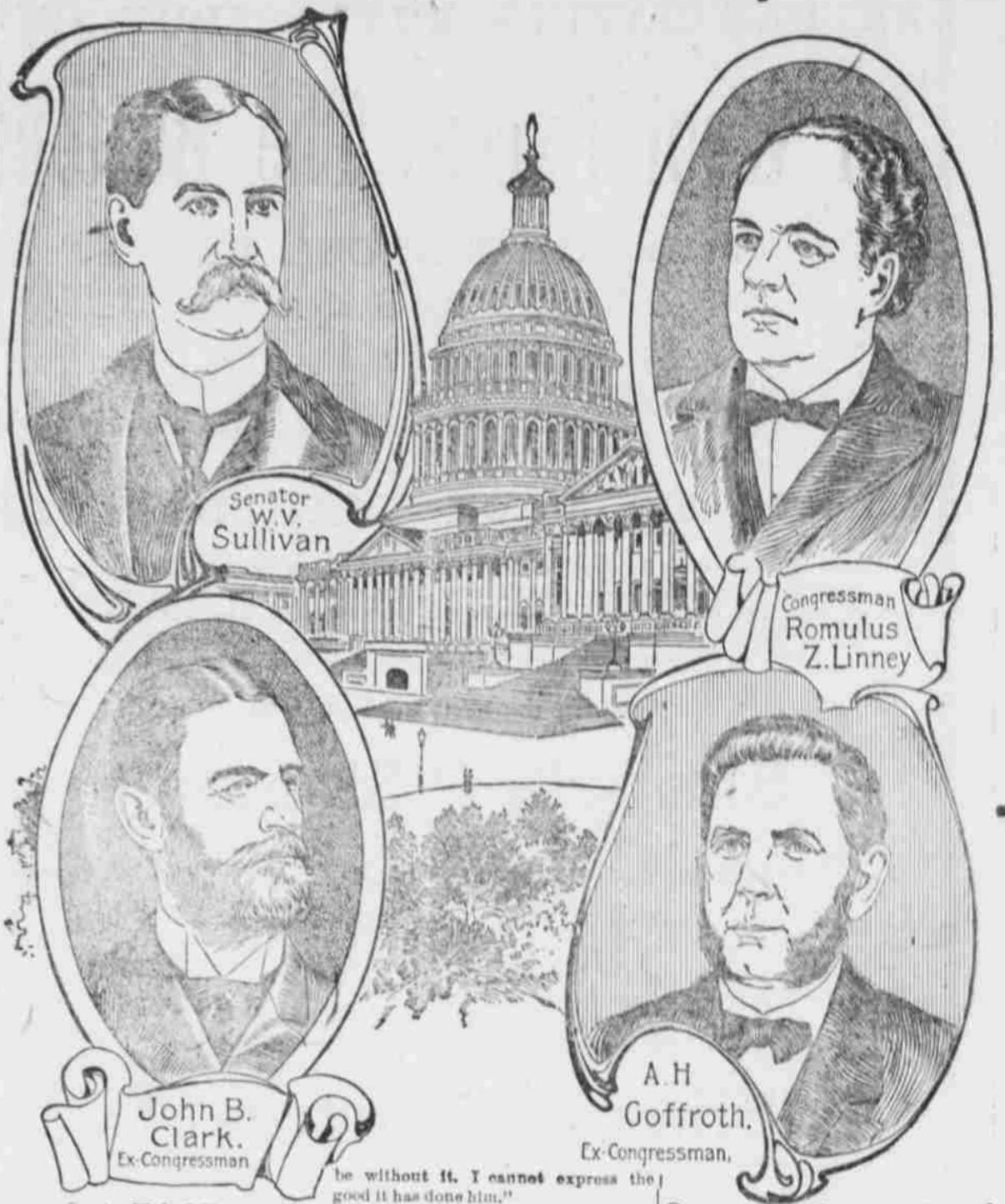
THE Pendleton East Oregonian has this about the Northwestern mill combine: "The proposed merger of Northwestern woolen mills marks an epoch in that great industry on the Pacific coast. The new combine will include nine mills and will capitalize at \$3,500,000. The object of the merger is to do away with the cost of salesmen and the sharp competition of trade. Each mill will be specialized and will turn out but one article and the output of this article will be gauged by the demand. At present each mill is manufacturing all the various articles produced by a modern woolen mill. Each mill has its salesmen fighting for trade in territories necessarily covered by competitors. Each mill divides its efforts by producing stuff that is not wanted, and in order to reduce expenses, reduce the output to the actual demand and to simplify management, the merger is resorted to. It is the universal tendency in all the great industries and will ripen into co-operation in time."

GRADUATION DAY is the happiest day of all to the public school graduate. Kinsmen and friends are invited to attend the commencement exercises that mark the close of his public school career. It is to be naturally expected that on such occasions the pupils will take some part in the exercises of the evening other than occupy seats on the platform and at the appointed time acknowledge the receipt of a well earned diploma with a graceful bow. In this respect the closing exercises of the Oregon City high school this year were a disappointment. Not a number on the program was contributed by a member of the class. At the close of a classical program of music and impersonations by imported talent, diplomas were awarded the members of the class. This criticism is not directed at the persons who furnished the program, which was one of the best ever given in the city, but it appears that the pupils themselves should have been a little more prominent in the exercises of the evening.

THE members of the Oregon City school board are being very generally commended by the patrons of the district for their action in consolidating the tenth and eleventh grades in the course of study and otherwise revising the general management of the city schools. Limited finances require careful management. The district is in debt and it is the policy of the present board to contract only such further indebtedness as is actually necessary for the maintenance of the high standard of work in the schools of the district. Without the uniting of the two grades, additional rooms would have been necessary and the crowded condition of the rooms could only be solved successfully by the employment of additional teachers, and all this at greatly increased expense to the district. Instead, the board by dispensing with the services of one instructor, by revising the course of study and consolidating the high school grades, has accomplished a saving to the district without impairing in the slightest particular the efficiency of the schools.

EX-SENATOR MARION BUTLER, who was at the head of the Populist national committee at one time, says that that party will nominate a presidential ticket in 1904. He is not saying that it will be elected, but he merely remarks that it will be in the race, and that many persons who otherwise would be found in the Democratic ranks will be in a sect by themselves. Butler for a time was a man of some consequence in politics, but he is not quoted to any great extent now. His present prediction will serve to call to mind the fact that there was a time when the Populists were an element of some importance in public affairs. In 1902 the third party which will attract most attention will be the Socialist. In the elections of 1902 the Socialists of the country at large cast something like 400,000 votes. There are, of course, two or three divisions of the Socialist party. The larger branch, the Social Democrats, polled nearly 90,000 votes for Debs in 1900. Judging by the strength which they have displayed in the congressional and in some state canvasses since then, the Social Democrats ought to be able to cast 200,000 or 300,000 votes next year. For a man like Debs that party would be able to make a canvass that the country would be compelled to notice. But the Populist party is as dead as the anti-Masonic party or as John Randolph's Quids. Most of the Populists of the West have come back to the Republicans, where they belonged before the revolt in 1890 and 1892. In the South the bulk of the Pops have gone to the Democrats, from whom they were drawn originally. None of them under the name of Pops are anywhere extant in the country. Even Leather-lunged Allen of Nebraska has got out of the Pop camp, and nobody hears of him any longer. In its brief career, the Populist party threw some queer people to the surface of politics, but nearly all of them have been dropped back into oblivion. Butler is the last of the Pops which the country will see. His place is among the Socialists, where he will have to go if he is ever again to get any political recognition.

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