

# Oregon City Enterprise

CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

Published Every Friday.

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Entered at the postoffice at Oregon City, Oregon, as second-class matter.



SHERIFF SHAVER is all "swelled up." The Courier last week gave him first page prominence in dishing up its weekly roast.

With the ratification of the Panama treaty by the United States senate, there will probably be no further delay in constructing the Isthmian canal. Since the canal will in its course in all probability penetrate a mountain range there will be engineering difficulties to overcome in its construction that will make the cost of building the canal enormous. But the advantages to the Pacific coast commercial interests alone will perhaps justify the expenditure that will be required.

If the management of the Portland Woolen Mills, recently burned at Sellwood, decides to rebuild at some other point, an effort will be made by Harvey E. Cross to secure the mills for this city. That is, a site on the Clackamas river, about two miles north of this city and on the main line of the Southern Pacific railroad has been offered. An investigation has shown that with a 12 foot head, a minimum horse power of 1108 can be obtained. This power is sufficient to operate three such mills as those of the Oregon City Manufacturing Company which are the largest on the Coast. It is the intention of the Gladstone Real Estate Association people to install a dam in the Clackamas river at the point indicated, generate the power and then interest one or more manufacturing enterprises in the situation and induce them to locate at Oregon City.

In the discussion of public affairs and the criticism of officials, there should at all times be shown a spirit of fairness. At the beginning of the campaign on county affairs the Courier professed a desire to be fair and impartial in its criticisms but it has followed anything but a consistent course in adhering to that announced policy. Instead, it persists in misrepresenting conditions at the sheriff's office. Last week the Democratic paper made the statement that Sheriff Shaver had nine deputies employed in the tax collecting department. The statement is erroneous and false for the largest number of deputies the present sheriff has ever had in his office was six. So far as that is concerned, the collection of taxes this year is being made more expeditiously and economically than any other administration in recent years. The Courier should be fair and give even the Devil his dues.

COMMENTING on a suit recently brought by a maiden against her fiance for breach of promise, by which she recovered three thousand dollars, "An Old Maid" of New York says: "At the trial the plaintiff's diary was produced which showed the remarkable entry of 1,243 kisses having been bestowed during the courtship. How was such a record kept? Was the diary worn as a chatelaine, and after each osculation did the blushing damsel toy carelessly with the pendant pencil and succeed in making some sort of mark which was ultimately to confront the unsuspecting fiance in court? Or did the kisses keep tally by the dozen, and after twelve kisses had been delivered to the kisser, did she coyly excuse herself on the plea of rearranging her hair, and seize the opportunity to mark "1 doz." in her diary under the correct date? Then there is another point to be considered. By a little division—the multiplication seems to have been previously attended to—it will be seen that if 1,243 kisses are worth \$3,000, one kiss would be worth \$2.41 and a fraction. Is this the legal value of a kiss in any part of the country, or simply in the Saratoga jurisdiction of the supreme court? Upon this decision a new field of industry might be opened up for the 'new woman,' also fresh laurels to be won by any one inventing an unerring comptometer for unobserved use on the scene of operations."

### BANQUET WAS A SUCCESS.

Success crowned the efforts of the Oregon City Board of Trade at its Merchants' and Business Men's banquet at Willamette hall last Wednesday night. One hundred and thirty of the prominent business and professional men of the city participated at the banquet which marks the reorganization for active work of the local commercial body. After the splendid feast, which by the way included only Clackamas county or Oregon produced edibles, indicative of what our county is capable of producing, the banqueters were thoroughly inspired for the intellectual part of the programme that followed. Toasts were offered by

sixteen of the city's ablest speakers and each subject was handled right to the point. Co-operation and persistent effort are the requisite qualities, insisted the speakers, for the upbuilding of any locality.

Genuine enthusiasm was generated among the business interests of the city as represented at the banquet and the Board of Trade is to be congratulated upon starting its work anew under such auspicious conditions. If the interest and enthusiasm in the work that is contemplated by the Board that was demonstrated at the banquet is not allowed to lapse, much good for Oregon City and Clackamas county will be accomplished through this organization. Harvey E. Cross, the energetic president of the Board, has been laboring most faithfully. He has always been willing to sacrifice his own time and interests to any movement that had for its purpose the advancement of the city and the county. Having evinced this spirit, Mr. Cross is entitled to the very hearty co-operation of every other business man and public-spirited citizen.

The success of the banquet was shared by the members of the different committees, all of whom worked hard. The executive committee, however, consisted of Harvey E. Cross, Grant B. Dimick and John Adams.

### A PULL TOGETHER.

Oregon City has practically abandoned the project of organizing a baseball team and entering the Oregon State League. Lack of available finances and the disinclination on the part of any representative person to assume the responsibility of the team's management, are among the excuses assigned for failing to form a local team.

As a matter of fact the old time contention between the North and South ends of the city asserted itself in this controversy as it does in every question that arises, pertaining to the general welfare of the city. Because the ball games under the schedule proposed might be played at Caemah Park, the residents of the North end of the city would not encourage the movement while the possibility that the games would be pulled off at the park on the West Side tended to diminish the interest of the South end people in the movement.

This is cited as an instance of what hampers the growth in many ways of this community. When the residents of this city can temporarily forget in which section of the city they hold their residence, then and then only can something be accomplished towards upbuilding the city and advancing its interests. Speakers at the business men's banquet emphasized the need of co-operation and persistent effort on the part of all people of a community if anything is to be gained.

It is to be regretted that Oregon City is not to have a team entered in the State Baseball League this summer. In a business way it would have been a good thing for every interest that is represented at Oregon City. With an interesting schedule of games here every week during the baseball season it would have been the means of not only keeping a large number of local people at home who now seek recreation elsewhere, but would attract hundreds of visitors to this city weekly.

Let's "pull together" and have a well developed "push" behind the pull.

### ELECTRICITY FOR SWISS RAILWAYS.

The Swiss government is considering the advisability of substituting electricity for steam as a motive power on all the railroads of that country. The proposition now under consideration is the utilization of the abundant waterfall power of Switzerland to generate the electrical power necessary to operate the five main railroads which are owned and operated by the government. Careful consideration is being given the matter, because of a report of Mr. Thormann, a prominent Swiss engineer, to the effect that the project is entirely feasible. In going this far Mr. Thormann takes a much bolder stand than the eminent engineers of this and other countries, who are not ready to say whether electricity can be made to do the work of American steam railroads. Engineers in this country are generally of the opinion that if practicable the substitution would entail such added expense that it would not be warranted.

In this respect Mr. Thormann does not agree, for after stating that the substitution of electricity for steam is quite practicable and that it would result in many advantages, he adds only on the subject of expense that "it would not bring about any considerable reduction in the cost of operating the road." This implies that the cost would at least be no greater than that of steam, whereas the added cost has been one of the main obstacles operating here against electricity in its battle with steam. The Swiss engineer's investigation was made on account of the fast increasing cost of coal, which is now imported for railroad use. He states that the five main Swiss roads would require over 30,000 horse power daily, and that in order to organize a complete electrical service it would be necessary to obtain about 60,000 horse power in the form of the alternating current of high tension, not counting the reserve supply, which is indispensable.

Switzerland has today a total of twenty-one large hydraulic plants, which can originate a total of 80,000 horse power, and possesses a considerable number of waterfalls which have not been utilized as power producers. At Siel and Lanfenberg, for example, there are plants, each having 20,000 horse power capacity, and Mr. Thormann states that it would not be necessary to create any additional plants in order to supply the Swiss railroads with all the electrical power they need. An experimental installation is to be made on twelve miles of railroad, with a view of ascertaining if Mr. Thormann's deductions are correct.

## Plain Talk to Plain People by Plain people

The plain people are the producers, the bone and muscle, the mainspring of commerce. We realize they are our best customers, and try our utmost to protect them. This year the plain people shake hands with prosperity abundant harvests, with a ready market and work for every one puts money in their pockets; but good harvests and good markets will come to naught unless you use discretion in the expenditure of your earnings, unless you use forethought in selecting your druggist as well as your grocer, butcher, etc., unless you trade where your money goes farthest.

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