

Oregon City Enterprise

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ARE YOU a candidate? No, I am a Clackamas county Democrat.

Who was it predicted last week that we were to have at least two weeks of rainless weather?

The decisive defeat of Simon at the primaries in Multnomah county Wednesday eliminates him as a leader in Multnomah county politics and will probably result in new alignments.

R. D. Hume and Schiller B. Hermann will contest for the nomination of joint senator from Coos and Curry counties. These gentlemen served their respective counties in the House of Representatives at the last regular and special sessions.

A \$10,000 package of gold, carelessly thrown by an express messenger from a Great Northern train to a fellow passenger on another train, fell into the snow near Chiwaukum, in Chelan county, Wn., last Tuesday. Its loss was not discovered for several hours, and a two days' search was immediately inaugurated. A tramp found the gold and returned it to the railroad company. As a reward he has been given employment. And then we wonder why there are so many rogues in the country.

Who will be the Democratic candidates in Clackamas county at the June election? This is an unknown quantity. Diligent inquiries from the prominent members of this organization in this city goes unwarded so far as ascertaining just who will be sacrificed. But they all declare that the party will have a complete county and legislative ticket in the field. It really appears as though the Democrats do not know themselves just what they intend to do, or, if they do, they are keeping unusually quiet about it. Their convention will be made up of 216 delegates. In the coming campaign the minority party will endeavor to make some capital out of the high taxes. It will require a sort of a campaign of education on the part of the Republicans along this line to inform the voter that high taxes this year is the result of state and not local or county conditions. When this has been done, then will the main argument of the Democrats, and that upon which they have placed much dependence, be quite entirely exploded.

THERE appears to be a disposition to associate politics too closely in the personnel of the state board of agriculture and in the management of the state fair. The result is a state of friction and a dissatisfied condition of affairs generally. Of the five gentlemen who constituted the state fair board a few months ago, there remains but a single member of the five on the board at this time. G. A. Westgate, of Albany, has just tendered his resignation because of the extent to which politics is being introduced in the management of the board's affairs. This reported condition of affairs is unfortunate. It is to be regretted if the interests of state fair are to be sacrificed in order that a few Democrats from different parts of the state may receive a slight recognition to the displacement of Republicans who from years of active service have demonstrated their worth to the agricultural interests of the state by giving Oregon the best state fair it ever had. Under the former Republican Governor, Hon. W. H. Wehrung, a Democrat, was retained as president of the Board for a number of years and with the capable assistance of W. M. Wisdom, of Portland, provided a fair that was a decided credit to the entire state.

THE PARTY OF PROGRESS.

One reason why the Republican party should be continued in power is that it has never yet missed the true road in carrying forward national development, no matter how complicated a question may be when it first presents itself. As a rule, the London Spectator is not disposed to praise the people of this country, but it recently remarked: "An American may misjudge a situation gravely while his interest in it remains academic, but jones let him be trusted with the solution and the odds are he will go unerringly to the heart of it." It is a high compliment, for it touches practical achievement. Americans are successful men of action, according to the London Observer. As long as they hold that place they can rest easy on the score of theorizing. Americans must think more deeply than appears on the surface, if they choose the right course to pursue. No race is infallible, but it is much to be conceded a place second to none in dealing with important affairs.

For all but eight years since 1800 the judgment of the American people has been to keep the Republican party in control of the government. They regretted,

and had great occasion to regret, the exceptional eight years. That was a reactionary period, a time for ripping up a protective tariff by a mongrel of free trade and special favoritism, for pulling down the flag in Hawaii, and for devising means to relieve a countless army of men out of work. While there is but a small chance that Democratic folly and incompetence will be forgotten, it is well to glance back over the record of that party from time to time, in order that its real character, tendency and influences may be kept in mind. The fact that it is without issues or leaders makes it all the more easily the prey of some madness of the moment, of some fresh form of demagoguery to run a brief, but feverish, sensational race. Though some such surprise may be sprung, it will not travel far.

SETS A GOOD PACE.

Pendleton is setting a good pace for Oregon towns, by the practical manner in which it is advancing its material interests. There is an evident purpose among its citizens to profit in the utmost measure from the immigration movement that is setting towards this state. It is the declared intention of Pendleton people not only to invite the settler to abide in their midst, but to take such practical steps for his comfort and convenience as will obviate many of the discomforts of new homemaking and create in the newcomer an enthusiastic boomer of the advantages that the community offers. This Eastern Oregon metropolis is not satisfied with merely inducing the homeseeker from the East to locate in its vicinity and then shift for himself as best he may, but, going much further, it proposes to look after his welfare until his home is established on something like a comfortable basis.

Among the practical measures adopted for this purpose is the organization of a company designed to have special supervision in the matter of buying and selling real estate to new arrivals, with the additional purpose of erecting for the latter's habitation the needed new home. The conduct of the Pendleton people in this regard is surely a departure from the usual procedure of the average town of this section, or for that matter of any part of the country. Its wisdom and efficacy are as yet to be determined by its practical results, but there is every reason to believe that the latter will be entirely satisfactory. When the least is said, a movement of this character evinces the right sort of public spirit—an interest in the general welfare that should win. There can be no question that any effort expended in the line of attention to the new settler who has to face complete organization in making a new home in a strange country, will meet with appreciation that will prove a valuable asset to the community. This is not the only line in which Pendleton public spirit is being made manifest, but so far as we are able to judge it is one of the most important matters in which it is engaged.—Portland Telegram.

SOMETHING MORE THAN AN ACCIDENT.

A few days ago a 14-year-old Astoria lad playfully pointed a revolver at the family servant, pulled the trigger and instantly killed the young woman. Commenting on the fearful thing, the Oregonian has the following editorial comment:

"The tragedy enacted at Astoria Wednesday afternoon, in which a boy 14 years old pointed a revolver at a young Finnish woman in his father's kitchen, with the result that the weapon was discharged, killing her instantly, was something more than an accident. Such a deed cannot find cover under the ready cloak of carelessness, and to plead extenuation for it under the name of 'fun' is equally absurd. The lad is said to be distracted at the terrible result of his joke, but this is the usual thing. His regret, horror and remorse are in no sense a recompense for the life that was forfeited to his wanton spirit of mischief.

"The occurrence is, unfortunately, not a new one in this state. A few years ago a woman was shot in Albina while engaged in some household vocation by a man of mature or at least responsible years, because, having a woman's natural fear of a gun, her slayer thought it a good joke to frighten her by pointing a rifle at her. He protested at the inquest that he did not know that the gun was loaded, and professed profound sorrow at the outcome of his joke, the object of which was merely to frighten the woman and 'make her scream.' Brought to the test, however, this plea was not allowed to outweigh his responsibility in the matter. He was duly prosecuted and sentenced to a term in the penitentiary for manslaughter, which term he served.

"An effort was subsequently made to procure the enactment of a law making it a crime to point a gun, even if empty, at any person. This effort failed, but there is a law upon our statute books (chapter 11, section 1746, of the criminal code) which provides as follows: If any person shall, in the commission of an unlawful act, or a lawful act, without due caution or circumspection, involuntarily kill another, such person shall be deemed guilty of manslaughter. Whether this law will be evoked in the case of this lad or not, he is plainly responsible, morally, for the death of this young woman. His tender years may plead for him, and this plea is to a certain extent a valid one. It can hardly be said, however, that a boy of 14 is excusable in seeking amusement by frightening the smaller children of the household by firing a shot through the open door and continuing his sport by pointing the revolver, which he supposed to be empty, at the servant girl to complete her terror at his performance. Plainly stated, this lad is guilty of a crime clearly defined in the statute quoted. If a man, he could hardly escape arraignment before the court, conviction by an intelligent jury, and such punishment as the law directs. The tragedy is more than a distressing one; it contains at least the elements of a crime."

Some Short Stories.

"I am disgruntled," said Senator Foster recently; "I'll never give money to a street beggar again as long as I live. There was a very pitiful-looking beggar in the avenue, a few minutes ago, and my heart going out to him, I stooped to hand him a few small coins. I had some difficulty, I admit, in finding my change, but was that any reason for the beggar to knock at me, and say, impatiently: 'Hurry up, sir. I've lost several customers while you've been muddling over them pennies.'"

Professor E. G. Dexter, of the University of Illinois, who has devoted much time to proving that football is a harmless game, is very popular among the students. He was entertaining a group of them at his residence one night, and during a space of silence, he took down and brandished a magnificent sword that hung over his fireplace. "Never will I forget," he exclaimed, "the day I drew this blade for the first time." "Where did you draw it, sir?" a freshman asked, respectfully. "At a raffle," said Professor Dexter.

When Senator Borrows was practicing law in Michigan, he was, one day, to a court in a small town. A country lawyer was arguing before an aged and solemn justice of the peace. "Now," said the lawyer, "if it please your honor, the defendant says he paid the money to the diseased, but I am going to show that the diseased never got the money. He didn't receive one cent, the diseased didn't." "Say," broke in the justice, "what is this man diseased of? Why don't you bring him here?" "Because, your honor, he is diseased of death."

During Richard Mansfield's preparation of "Ivan the Terrible," some one, who fancied he might presume on old acquaintance, came suddenly upon the actor taking a morning walk and plunging along with his head down and lips compressed as if in deep thought. It was a good time for an ordinary recognition and nothing more. But that was not enough for the individual in question and he paid the penalty of so much cordiality at the wrong moment. "Hello, Mansfield, old boy. What's going on?" "What's going on?" exclaimed the actor in a tone of thunder; "what's going on? I am." And he did.

Signor Zanetti, the magician, was performing in a Kentucky town, and during the evening announced that in his next trick he would need a pint flask of whisky. No move was made to supply the liquor. Said Zanetti: "I had received a different impression than this as to Kentucky customs. Perhaps you did not understand me. Will some gentleman kindly loan me a pint flask of whisky?" There was silence for a time, then a tall, lank man in the rear of the hall arose. "Mistah," said he, "would a quart flask do as well?" "Producing a bottle of that capacity." "Just as well, sir," replied Zanetti. And every gentleman in the house arose, with that size flask extended.

Inflammatory Rheumatism Cured

William Shaffer, a brakeman of Denison, Ohio, was confined to his bed for several weeks with inflammatory rheumatism. "I used many remedies," he says. "Finally I sent to McGaw's drug store for a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm, at which time I was unable to use hand or foot, and in one week's time was able to go to work as happy as a clam." For sale by G. A. Harding.

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The Happier Man.

A north Missouri paper asks, "Who is the happier, the man who possesses \$100,000 or the man who has seven daughters?" To which another exchange replies: "The man with the surplus girls, of course. The man with the money is not satisfied and wants more. The man with the seven daughters is satisfied. He has enough.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Labeled the Girls.

A good joke was played on the girls recently by the young men of a certain town. The boys had been rather remiss in their attentions, and the girls decided to show their independence. Consequently five of them hired a box at the theater and made a very charming theater party. The play was "Wanted, a Husband," and the girls sat serene through it all, never dreaming that the enemy had fastened one of the posters, "Wanted, a Husband," round the box so that the audience might read.

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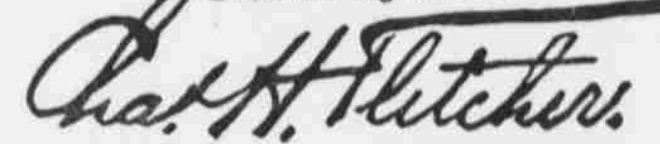
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