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FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1905.

THE OREGON LEGISLATURE.

No Oregon Legislature has ever had a better opportunity to do creditable work for the state than has the Legislature of 1905. With no Senatorial contest to take attention from the more important work of lawmaking, and with no strong partisan or factional strifes that supplant reason, there seems to be nothing to hinder careful and judicious enactment of laws. The people are in a mood to indorse and uphold progressive measures and will not complain at reasonable appropriations if the expenditures authorized are for the general good. Oregon has entered upon an era of development and the spirit of optimism pervades every department of our industrial life. Matters of large importance to the state are presented for consideration, giving the members of the Legislature work that is worthy of their best endeavors. The way is clear for the Legislature convening today to make a record of which it may be proud and for which the people will have no criticism.

There has recently been talk of threats that the result of the contest over the organization of the Legislature will determine the action of some members upon important subjects of legislation. It is to be hoped that such threats, if made, were expressed in the impulsiveness of a vigorous contest and have no permanent resting place in the minds of men who are charged with the task of making laws for half a million people. The exercise of legislative power is not a personal matter. Personal interest should exert no more influence in the legislative branch of the government than it should in the judicial or executive. In principle, the legislator, who permits his vote upon any measure to be determined by favors to be granted to himself or friends is as corrupt as a Judge who lets his decisions be governed by similar influences. There is no reason why a higher standard of honor and official conduct should not be established for the judicial department than for the Legislative or executive. The three departments are co-ordinate.

There is nothing more pernicious in popular government than the practice of trading votes in order to secure the enactment of laws. Every measure should stand upon its own merits and not pass or fail according to the pressure its friends are able to wield by supporting or opposing bill of another character and purpose. To make support a normal school appropriation conditional upon compensating support for a coyote scalp-bounty law is an acknowledgment that the members making the trade are giving or withholding their votes against the dictates of their sense of duty. If a member believes a proposed measure is wise, it is his duty to support it even though all of his own bills meet defeat. If the proposed measure is unwise, it should not be supported upon any consideration.

The session of 1905 will probably be memorable for the number of important bills considered. This Legislature will probably inaugurate the flat-salary system for state officers and require that all fees be turned into the State Treasury. It is also likely that at this session the plan of indirect taxation will be extended so as to require express, telephone, telegraph and Pullman companies to bear a greater proportion of the burdens of government. The proposed bill granting to the United States title to all the lake-bed lands in Klamath County it may uncover in its drainage and irrigation work will doubtless pass, and thus one of the greatest reclamation projects in the state be made practically certain. An irrigation code will be enacted, promoting the economical distribution and use of water for irrigation in the arid region. It is also probable that juvenile courts will be established in populous counties and trial courts will be authorized to impose upon criminals indeterminate sentences, both measures

having for their purpose the encouragement of reformation.

The measures here mentioned are of large importance and will have a lasting influence upon the affairs of the state. There is a multitude of minor laws proposed which have been given less discussion or which will be less permanent if enacted. The game laws, fishery laws, pure food laws and election laws will call for attention at this session, as they have many times in the past and will many times in the future. Whether gambling should be made a felony or the regulation of this evil should be left to municipalities; whether a uniform system of public accounts should be adopted and state supervision of private banks and fraternal insurance societies should be undertaken, are questions that will also be presented at this session and require consideration from future Legislatures as well as this. The work before the Legislature is extensive and yet it would seem that within the forty days all business of importance can be transacted with such care as to have the laws enacted free from serious defects. If trivial matters are avoided and the business of the state entered upon with that broad and liberal spirit which is now dominant in Oregon, the legislative session of 1905 will be productive of much good to this state, its people and its industrial welfare.—Oregonian.

LAW SHOULD BE AMENDED.

The Roseburg Plaindealer is being sued for \$10,000 damages for alleged defamation of character, all because that paper published a communication signed by a fictitious name in which the correspondent said some plain things about another citizen who was worsted after participating in an extended inter-change of correspondence. It is a safe wager that the Plaindealer will win out in the action as it should. If the injured man has any grievance, he might proceed to take it out on the party who is directly responsible for the alleged injury.

There is urgent need for amending the statutes of this state with reference to criminal libel. Several actions, similar to that in which the Plaindealer finds itself involved, have been prosecuted against a number of the publishers of newspapers in this state in recent years, and thanks to the intelligence of the different juries, in every case, with but a single exception, verdicts have been returned rendering appraisements as to reputation and general character that has made the individuals instituting the actions, thoroughly ashamed of themselves.

THE YEAR IN AMERICA.

The year 1904 has been one of unchecked material progress in the United States. We have gained two million inhabitants—equivalent to annexing a third of Canada—and our total population has increased to nearly 85,000,000. We have added about three billion dollars to our national wealth, which is now estimated at over \$111,000,000,000. The expenses of the general government has risen to nearly two million dollars a day. The value of the year's crops has been the greatest ever known. Our foreign commerce has surpassed all American records, and our domestic commerce has exceeded the total volume of the foreign trade of all the nations of the world combined. Our shipping tonnage has reached a new high-water mark. We have begun at last to develop the remnant of our public domain on scientific lines. We have maintained peace at home and extended our influence abroad. We have made some progress, too, toward the solution of our moral, political, and social problems. We are recovering a public conscience. We are extending the benefits of higher education to a greater proportion of the population than ever enjoyed such advantages in any other country in the world. On the whole, America can look back upon the year with cheerfulness.—Collier's Weekly.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL.

A deserved honor was conferred on Councilman Koerner last week when his colleagues unanimously named him president of the city council. Mr. Koerner is the senior member of the city council and a most faithful representative of the city's best interests. While we have not always agreed with Mr. Koerner on subjects of great importance, it is to be said that he is a conservative man, always on the alert for the improving of the public service. As a member of the finance committee, Mr. Koerner carefully guards the interests of the taxpayers in the auditing of all bills against the city. Besides he is at all times takes a real interest in anything that pertains to the growth and development of the city.

Oregon City's Big Cash Store

ADAMS BROS.

Oregon City's Big Cash Store

Our Fifth Anniversary

CLEARANCE SALE

Our Great Clearance Sale still continues with prices lower than ever. Lower we know than any store in Portland. Our patrons have learned from past experience to expect a great deal from our annual sales, but this year their expectations will be more than realized for we intend to make our Fifth Anniversary Sale one to be remembered.

Every Article in the Store Reduced

We have just completed our fifth year of successful business life in Oregon City, and in order to celebrate it in a way, we have purchased four of the highest grade Singer Sewing Machines, valued at \$65.00 each, and will give them away during the month of January. With each twenty-five cents the customer will be given a ticket entitling them to one chance in each drawing during January. Awards made January 14th, 21st, 28th, 1905. In addition to this, we will offer the greatest values in merchandise ever given the people of Clackamas County. It is impossible to enumerate all our stock in a single advertisement, but the following items are a sample of the values given. With no desire to put our honesty above that of any other advertiser, we can honestly say we have never marked our stock at ridiculously high prices in order to make the selling price seem a greater bargain.

MEN'S CLOTHING

The Famous Crouse & Brandegee Clothing Included in this Sale

All \$6.50 Suits AT	All \$10.00 Suits AT	All \$13.50 Suits AT	All \$16.50 Suits AT
" 7.25 "	" 10.50 "	" 14.00 "	" 17.50 "
" 8.00 "	" 11.00 "	" 14.50 "	" 18.00 "
" 8.50 "	" 11.50 "	" 15.00 "	" 18.50 "
" 8.75 "	" 12.00 "		" 19.00 "
	" 12.50 "		" 20.00 "

Dress Goods English Broadcloth, \$1.25 quality, now 85c French Flannel, 65c quality —all collars. 45c	Sundries Battenburg Thread 3c Hooks and Eyes, per card 1c Safety Pins, 5c grade 3c Hose Supporters 8c	Shoes Our fentire line of Brown's famous "White House" \$3.50 and \$4.00 grade of shoes in box-calf, Velour calf, French enamel, vici and patent colt leather at \$2.60	Knit Goods Our entire stock of hand knit Shawls, Children's Leggings, Socks, etc., 1-3 off regular prices.
Dress Silks Silk Taffeta Dress Silks— all shades, 75c quality. 58c	Boy's Caps Regular 25c, 35c and 50c values to close quick. 10c	Men's Hats Choice of any \$1.50, \$1.75 or \$1.85 Hats, all sizes and shapes. 95c	Special in Skirts About 100 Walking Skirts mostly heavy weights to be closed out at \$1.78
Outing Flannel Regular 10c grade during this sale. 7c Regular 7c grade during this sale. 4c	Boy's Clothing 25 Per Cent discount on our entire stock of Boy's and Children's Suits and Overcoats.	Cotton Blankets 10x4 size, good weight, regular \$1.00 grade. 69c	Wrappers Our entire stock of \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2 wrappers 98c
Women's Knit Underwear We will place on sale our regular 25c and 35c grade of Fleece Underwear at low price 19c	Men's Shirts 75c values in Madras and Percal Negligee Shirts, spe'l 39c	Mittens Children's Knit Mittens, 10c per pair.	Bath Towels Extra Heavy double thread Turkish Towels 25c
Hosiery Regular 25c and 35c values, black hose, at 19c	Children's Underwear A Special lot Children's Fleece Lined Vests, During this sale. 12c	Quilts Full size, made of White Batting, reg. \$1.25 grade 79c	Ticket No. 2407 Draws the First Sewing Machine. Every ticket issued participates in each drawing during month, so save your tickets.
Fleisher's Yarns Shetland Floss, skein 7c Domestic Saxony, skein 3c Germantown Zepher, skein 7c	Fancy Chinaware At Fifty Per Cent Discount	Cloaks and Skirts Our entire stock to be cleaned out at greatly reduced prices.	
Toilet Soaps J. B. Kirk Co. Witch Hazel Soap, cake 3c	Children's Sweaters All Wool, Fancy bright colors, sizes 18 to 24, regular 75c grade —while they last at 49c	Toys and Holiday Goods. Our entire stock to be sold at Half Price.	
		Towelling Russian Crash, regular 10c values. 6c	

LIVE WITHIN OUR MEANS.

In the annual report submitted by the retiring city recorder, it is shown that the aggregate of the city's obligations now exceed \$100,000, having increased about \$10,000 during the year 1904. This condition is shown to follow, notwithstanding the fact that during the last twelve months the amount of warrants issued on the general fund were \$1500 less than for the preceding year. Mayor Sommer hits the situation squarely on the head when he says that the expenses of the municipality must be kept within its resources even if additional taxation must be resorted to. That is the only possible way in which the city's debt may be reduced or at least kept from getting larger. At the present time the city is annually paying about \$5000 for interest. This is practically one-third of the city's income. Without minding matters or seeking to find fault, it is a fact that the indebtedness of this city has been gradually increasing for the last ten years until it has reached the alarming sum of more than \$100,000 or a per capita debt of about \$25. Any policy Mayor Sommer may propose that promises to reduce the indebtedness of the city will be welcomed by the taxpayers of this community.

RECORDER DIMICK.

Walter A. Dimick, who was elected City Recorder at the meeting of the city council last Wednesday night, is a young man of ability. He is a cousin of ex-Mayor Grant B. Dimick, and was admitted to the bar before the Oregon Supreme Court last June. In his two years' residence in this city, Mr. Dimick has formed a wide circle of warm friends who congratulate him on his position he has attained. Mr. Dimick is a bright, capable young man and as a native of Oregon is made of the right kind of stuff to step into the official shoes that were so satisfactorily filled by his predecessor.

SOME INDEPENDENCE SARCASM.

The Oregon City Enterprise takes this paper to task for publishing the statement that Clackamas county officials have asked for a raise of salaries and strongly intimates that the statement should be taken back. Back she goes. The county officials of Clatsop county were meant. A death sentence hangs over the proof reader, a sentence of imprisonment for life over the printer that permitted the error to occur while there's a chromo coming to the writer whose turkey tracks can confound

the word "Clatsop" with "Clackamas." The facts are, the salmon run was poor at the mouth of the Columbia the past year and it is the officials of Clatsop county that want a raise in salaries. The officials of Clackamas have asked for no raise and probably deserve none.—Independence Enterprise.

A FAITHFUL SERVANT.

The defeat of Bruce C. Curry for City Recorder was a surprise. Oregon City never had a more capable and obliging official. Mr. Curry at all times took an active interest in the city's affairs and was of great assistance to the members of the council in framing important ordinances and in suggesting the proper course for their enactment. Mr. Curry would have proven of incalculable worth to the new Mayor and the newly organized council. Mr. Curry retires as recorder with the satisfaction of knowing that he has served the people of Oregon City faithfully and honorably.

Now for a combined Fourth of July celebration and Firemen's Tournament July 3-5, next. It has been years since Oregon City has held a genuine Independence Day celebration and it has been even longer since a firemen's tournament. Years ago firemen tournaments

were held at Oregon City, railroad and steamboat excursions being required to transport the crowds. An energetic committee has been named to solicit subscriptions from the business men of the city. Do not turn the committee down but subscribe what you can afford to. Talk about the proposed Tournament and boost it along. Let's have a demonstration that will be a credit to the people of Oregon City as well as the anniversary to be celebrated.

The annual report of Postmaster Randall shows that the receipts of the Oregon City post office are increasing annually, the aggregate of the receipts for 1904 being \$9,743.93 as against only \$8,034.45 for the preceding year. When the receipts amount to \$10,000, then the city will be entitled to a free delivery of mail within the city limits. As may be seen the receipts of the local office during the ensuing year must be increased less than \$300 and this service will be gained for Oregon City. Write more frequently, girls, and in a small way contribute to the movement that is certain to secure for the residents of Oregon City a free mail delivery.

The little folks love Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. Pleasant to take; perfectly harmless; positive cure for coughs, colds, bronchitis, asthma.