

Oregon City Enterprise CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER. Published Every Friday.

Subscription Rates: One year \$1.50 Six months .75 Trial subscription, two months .25

Advertising rates on application. Subscribers will find the date of expiration stamped on their papers following their name.

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



FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1905.

OREGON CITY'S GROWTH.

When the census for Oregon City has been completed, it is announced from the Assessor's office that the population of Oregon City will be shown to have increased about twenty per cent. within the last five years.

THE COUNTY'S FINANCES.

By promptly applying all available funds in the cancellation of the county's outstanding indebtedness, County Treasurer Cahill has succeeded in reducing the aggregate of Clackamas County's obligations to \$66,302.83.

These figures afford food for thought. By continuing the conservative policy of those now in charge of the administration of county affairs, it will be but a few short years until the county will be restored to a pay-as-you-go basis.

IMPROVE THE MAIL SERVICE.

If the Oregon City Board of Trade does not accomplish another thing besides improving the mail service for the people of Oregon City and Clackamas county it will have performed a most appreciable service.

John A. Stromgreen and J. J. Jones, farmers, residing at Colton, were in the city this week and they certainly had a grievance to make.

This sort of mail service is a farce. Colton is about sixteen miles distant from Oregon City, still five days are required for the delivery of mail that is posted at Oregon City.

This condition is not blamable to the Oregon City office for the reason that all mail posted at the local office is forwarded by the very first mail train.

At present the Colton mail goes via Portland to Estacada thence to Springfield and then by star route to the Colton people.

Wishing to market some hogs a few weeks ago, Mr. Stromgreen mailed a letter to an Oregon City butcher, to whom he makes sales regularly, notifying the dealer that the first of the

week he would bring some pork to market. He arrived with the hogs on the following Tuesday, but the butcher had not yet received the letter.

It would seem that the blame for this miserable mail service and of which the Colton people have complained for more than a year, should be placed where it belongs and a better service provided.

FAILURE OF LIBEL SUITS.

The Oregonian well and truthfully says: R. D. Hume, "King of the Rogue," defeats Representative Burnes of Coos, who brought suit for libel.

Recently a libel suit in Astoria came to nothing. A few years ago a libel suit against the Oregonian ended the same way. So with a suit brought against a newspaper in Baker county a year ago. Likewise other cases.

Largely because the publication and the resentment caused thereby were viewed by juries as the surplus fruit of political vitality. So long as a man engages in politics he is a public character and is subject to criticisms which would be libelous were he a private citizen.

The public and juries of Oregon have been lenient with the press. It behooves newspapers to use well the privileges they hold. The failure of libel suits in the past should make editors not bolder but more cautious and more considerate.

THIS YEAR'S ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS.

Commander Peary, who sailed from New York on his quest for the north pole, hopes to winter this year farther north than ever before, and so to be in better position than on any of his six previous expeditions to make a dash toward his goal.

From 1882 to 1895 the United States held the "farthest north" record, which had been made by a member of Greeley's party. Both Nansen, in 1895, and Cagni of Abruzzi's party, in 1900, have beaten that record, but Peary himself now holds third place by reason of his adventure of 1902.

There are in the arctic regions at the present time two expeditions, of which one, Piala's, seeks the north pole, and the other, Amundsen's, is searching for the magnetic pole. Not only Peary but also the Duke of Orleans begin voyages this summer, so that there are four parties for the world to watch.

Piala—who was equipped by William Ziegler—and the Duke of Orleans both have chosen the route across Franz Josef Land, but Peary has no confidence in the feasibility of that route. This time, as before, he goes by way of Greenland. If he succeeds, as he hopes, in attaining a point near the shore of the Polar ocean by boat, he will save himself the 400-mile march on land that he has previously had to make and have an excellent chance for ultimate success.

The world is impartial in the good wishes which it sends with all polar adventurers, however much it may think that they are making great expenditure of time, money, of comfort, and sometimes of life, for a reward of little real worth. But surely if fate gives it to Peary to win, the fame he gains may be considered especially well deserved, considering the years of his life and the great material sacrifices he has devoted to the effort.

THE TERMS OF PEACE.

Now that Sergius Witte has spoken, and we are getting an indication of both the condition and intentions of the Russian government, what was stated in these columns several weeks ago, immediately following the announcement of peace terms to be proposed by Japan, is clearly justified. The statement of the tentative propositions to be advanced by the Japanese commissioners included some propositions which it could

clearly be seen could not be accepted by Russia unless she were rent by internal discords and forced to abdicate her position among the great powers of the world. The Globe-Democrat expressed the opinion that Russia was not reduced to a condition of absolute submission, and the hope that some of Japan's preliminary propositions would be found to be advanced only tentatively.

Since then discussion has apparently drifted in the direction of the conclusion that Russia must have peace at any price. It is well that M. Witte disposes of this delusion as thoroughly as he does. Exaggerated reports of everything really occurring in Russia, and inventions of stories with no foundation in fact, account for much of the delusion concerning the internal condition of affairs in that country and its bearing upon the war situation. But even had all that has been told been true, the facts would not have meant revolution in Russia, which is, as M. Witte tells us, different in temperament and aspiration from all other nations of the Western world.

To those realizing this important truth it was clear that the war party at court could not be bowled over as easily as many supposed. M. Witte makes this even clearer, pointing out that the war party is hardly less strong now than at the beginning of the war, and intimating that the acceptance of any degrading terms of peace would at once restore it to full ascendancy. What Russia will be apt to consider degrading terms has already been indicated in the Globe-Democrat discussion of Japan's tentative propositions. That she can not consent to turning over her Pacific railroad to Japan, or even to an internationalizing of that property, is as true now as it was six weeks ago.

COCKRELL ON 1908.

Gen. Cockrell has been giving out some Delphic utterances about 1908. He says he has an "abiding faith in the Democracy," declares that "the percentage of men who believe in Democratic principles is just as large now as ever," says his party "will be strongly in evidence when 1908 rolls round," confesses that he does not know what the issues of that year will be, but adds that he looks forward to the election of that year with "high hopes."

If either Gen. Cockrell or anybody else gets any comfort out of these out-givings he must have a buoyancy which would make Mark Tapley look like the melancholy Jacques in the comparison. His abiding "faith in the Democracy," for example, is not shared by all his friends. If the Democracy had carried Missouri in 1904 it is not at all certain that Gen. Cockrell would have been returned to the Senate. When his party found out that it could not elect anybody, its members of the legislature put up Cockrell. The element, however, which deluded Cockrell into posing as a presidential aspirant at the St. Louis convention of 1904 had his defeat for the senatorship in mind, and that element would have worked hard against him in the legislature had the Democrats won a majority of that body. There are more Benedict Arnolds and Capt. Kidds in Missouri Democracy than in any political sect extant in any other state. Cockrell's old friend, Bland, could testify to this if he were alive.

It is all right for Gen. Cockrell to look forward to 1908 with "high hopes." Hope springs eternal in the breast of every well-regulated American—Democrat, Populist, Republican and everybody else. The ex-senator had high hopes in 1904 also. He said Parker would be elected. Cockrell's piratical friend, Captain Roaring Ralph Stackpole, the Ring Tail Squaler, of Pike County, went all the way to Esopus to tell Parker that his majority in the electoral college would be the biggest since Pierce cleaned out Scott. Roaring Ralph will say the same thing to the poor fellow who chances to get the Democratic candidacy in 1908, whatever his name happens to be. But if that prediction of 1904 had turned out to be true, and if Missouri had joined the bulk of the other states in the Democratic columns, Roaring Ralph would have worked very hard in Jefferson City last January to write that bar sinister of an "ex." across Cockrell's name. — St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

THE BUSINESS OF LIVING.

At this writing an army of youths with banners, is marching from college to join the ranks of the fortune-hunters.

Very many of these youths came from country towns where life has a wide and pleasant margin, and is still democratically conditioned with one honest man who can earn a living as good as any other. But not many of them will consent to do their fortune-hunting at home. Most of them will go to the city, where existence has some ginger and there are prizes worthy the beneficiary of higher education.

There they will live in hall bedrooms up dingy streets. They will nearly break their necks morn and night to catch the elevator, and wish they had quite broken them after they are ground into its jam. They will find that the city knows democracy no more, but is a place of classes that

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fight one another over the spoils. Business and the professions will look as overcrowded as the elevated. Many times they will yearn for the shade of the oak in the yard at home and a taste of mother's pie.

In the fullness of time a certain proportion of them—let us hope it will be ninety-nine per cent—will succeed in some measure, and by that time they will find that their measure of success is this: to be able to go back to the country and live where they might have afforded them little. The country town afforded them little. They could only get an interest in a dry goods store, or work into a practice at law or medicine that would pay two or three thousand a year. But it required very little, and the two or three thousand would go as far as six or eight in the city.

They knew this very well, but it seemed to them that life in the city. Perhaps it is—until the time comes when it seems just as clear that life in the country. It is more and more a matter of every-day experience that country youth is no more anxious to get into the city, where a man has a chance to do business, than city middle age is to get into the country.

It hurts the small boy to get a stone-bruise on his heel. Also, it distinguishes him. He can show it to admiring companions who never had a stone-bruise. When the man has lived in the city and gets back to the country he is distinguished. He can show his stone-bruises.—Saturday Evening Post.

Easily Explained.

"I am happy to say that I have never had a cross word with my mother-in-law." "Remarkable!" "Not so very. She died a good many years before I was married."



If You Don't Forget to Mail It

A letter can save you lots of time, trouble and travel. We will be glad to call upon you promptly, if so requested. Find out just what you want and in a day or two, we will send you our low estimate covering the cost of any large or small plumbing job, on which you desire figures.

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Table with columns: Depart, Time Schedules, ARRIVE. Rows for Chicago-Portland, Atlantic Express, St. Paul Fast Mail.

Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Co. Leaves, UNION DEPOT, Arrives.

Ocean and River Schedule For San Francisco—Every five days at 8 p. m. For Astoria, way points and Portland, Oregon.