

Clackamas County Record

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UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE.

The sudden death of Hon. Thomas H. Tongue, congressman from the first district of Oregon, in Washington, D. C., yesterday noon, struck deep into the hearts of the people of his state. A little past the prime of life, in the very midst of a fast enlarging sphere of usefulness, a profound thinker, he will be mourned by his constituents. While not a brilliant speaker, Mr. Tongue always had something to say touching upon public matters, and his public utterances always commanded attention from his hearers and from the press of the country. Aside from the grief his passing away brings to the people of Oregon, a grave loss is felt by reason of being deprived of his services in congress. He was the chairman of the committee on irrigation of arid lands, and at this time, when a determined effort is being made to reclaim the arid tracts of Eastern Oregon, his death may mean the giving up of all hope for arid land legislation at this session of congress. In Mr. Tongue's position as a member of the river and harbor committee, he has done a great deal for the streams of our state and has secured for Oregon far more money in appropriations than was due as her proportionate share.

In the natural sequence of things Thomas H. Tongue would have been United States Senator one day. He had a laudable ambition for the position. He would have been head and shoulder over many of the men who have represented Oregon in the upper house of congress. To be thus suddenly cut off, when he was doing the most good for the state and when the way was ripe for higher honors, is a blow from which his family and his Oregon will not soon recover.

REFORM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

State Superintendent Ackerman publishes a general summary of educational work. He calls attention to many needed reforms, among them being a revision of the school law, or certain sections of it. His suggestions in regard to the rural schools are well timed. The pupil in the country school is deprived of many educational advantages that fall to the lot of his more favored city cousins. In the city schools better teachers, as a rule, are employed, being paid better salaries; better school rooms and better apparatus are in use. Tardiness and absenteeism in the city school is reduced to a minimum, owing to a large extent to judicious supervision. The city schools are provided with libraries, which are very valuable aids in stimulating a desire on the part of the student for investigation. The city student, if judiciously directed by his teacher, is in touch with the general information of the day, especially in the higher grades, as most of our school rooms are supplied with at least one daily newspaper, at any rate those of Oregon City are. The careful teacher first looks over the paper, marks the items of greatest interest and at some time during the day a short general discussion is had on these topics. The country student is deprived of most of these advantages, because there are not sufficient funds for these purposes in the district treasury. There is no valid reason why these and other helps to gaining an education should not obtain in the country school. The demand of the age is for a liberal education, rather than a classical one. The education of today is broadening in its tendency rather than narrowing, and a broad education comes from wide knowledge of general subjects. These needed reforms can only be brought about by careful direction on the part of the instructors. In order for us to secure the very best talent in a pedagogical sense it will be necessary to raise the salaries of the teachers in Oregon. We are preparing for a great exposition in this state, which will attract visitors from all portions of the country.

Many of these visitors are coming here with a view to locating in our midst. One of the first questions asked will be as to the status of our public schools. The public school is so important a factor in our civilization that men have come to look upon it as secondary only to the constitution itself. "The Public Schools, the Bulwark of Our Liberties." Citizens of Oregon, let us unite in one mighty, continued effort to make our schools better.

TO FILL VACANCY.

Speculation is rife as to the means to be adopted to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Congressman Tongue. Mr. Tongue had not yet filled out his third term, and was elected for still another term. The governor will issue a call for a special election, which will probably be held before the first of March, the date upon which the new term begins. The judges and clerks of the general election who served in June will be required to act again in the same capacity at this special election. The state constitution says "The sheriff of the county or several counties within the district shall notify the judges and clerks of election to conduct a special election in accordance with a time to be designated by the governor."

If the members of the legislature from this county carry out the instructions and wishes of their party as set forth in the platform, they will have no time to lose, and will have accomplished much good for the county. There is a demand from all over the state for a precinct assessment law, and in the platform adopted at the last county republican convention, it is urged that the members of the legislature from this county strive for enactment of such a law. Another very important matter, too, is that portion of the platform recommending the nullification of the special law for this county whereby the county judge is deprived of his right to take part in the conduct of the business matters of the county. The law legislating the county judge out of office should not have been created in the first place. The same thing was tried and really accomplished in Multnomah county, but was soon remedied, as the special act for his county should be, at once. These statements are not made because the board of county commissioners is considered in the least incompetent for the transaction of county business. Far from such an idea; but because the county judge should be a part of and have some voice in the deliberations of that body. His entire time is occupied anyhow, and the compensation he receives is not commensurate with the dignity of the position, by any means, and by replacing him to his former position, at a slight increase in salary, would be doing no more than simple justice.

The proposal to amend the city charter of Oregon City to authorize the city council to levy a 7-mill tax for street improvement purposes will probably meet its Waterloo when the property owners have their inning. The idea of the committee was to devise some means of deriving revenue with which to make some very urgent street improvements, but it is feared such a plan will not meet with hearty approval. The city is sorely in need of revenue for that purpose, or rather the demands for the improvements suggested are considered to be urgent. There are other means suggested for raising revenue, among them being a proposal to tax telephone and electric companies for the use of the streets by their wires. It is urged that inasmuch as the street railway companies pay liberally for the rights they enjoy in the operation of their extensive system in the city the electric company and telephone company, which, perhaps do not enjoy as great an amount of earnings as the former, yet, however, much revenue is derived, and it is proposed that the city should derive some benefit. It has been suggested, too, that the city levy an occupation tax, all of which would increase the revenues. Just how far the matter of devising means for raising revenue will go is problematical, but it seems certain that more revenue is to be had from some source.

The Multnomah delegation in the forthcoming legislative session is the

first to go on record in regard to choice for president of the senate and speaker of the house. The senators and representatives of that county met last Wednesday evening and declared unanimously for Senator Smith, of that county, for president of the senate, and for L. B. Eddy, of Tillamook county for speaker of the house. This action on the part of the Multnomah delegation, especially regarding the presidency of the senate, is somewhat of a surprise, and is of more or less interest to the politicians of Clackamas county, who have cherished a hope, at least, if not having felt an assurance that the members from Multnomah might support Brownell, who is an avowed candidate for the place. Of course Multnomah's members are not all of it, but they are one-fifth of the whole thing. With that influence in Mr. Smith's favor he may be able to capture the toga.

The action of the Patrons of Husbandry in endorsing the proposed appropriation for the Lewis and Clark Exposition is very significant. To a greater or less extent the rural population will be called upon to meet that tax, but the benefit they will derive will largely re-emburse them. Politicians might hesitate in taking action in this had there not been an approval of the plan sent in by the general population of the entire state. As a matter of fact, \$500,000 seems to be a large amount of money to appropriate for the cause, but the plan is a large one, requiring a large amount of money, and the benefit will be correspondingly large. No, we doubt very seriously if there is more than one-fourth of the population of the state opposed to an appropriation of half a million by the state for such a purpose. If we are to have an Exposition let it be a large one, a good one and an enthusiastic one. The only way to have such an affair is to pay for it. It's expensive, but all good things cost money.

The Oregon legislature met in regular biennial session today, and there is much for it to do. However, there are always a great many things a legislature does which it should not do, and a great many things it should do which it does, and there is no certainty in it. One of the important matters it should attend to at an early date is the election of a senator, and then get down to business in which the common people are interested. This matter out of the way, there will be no opportunity for swapping and bickering on legislation that should be enacted. The legislature should lose no time in making the Lewis and Clark fair appropriation. The success of the big undertaking depends upon what action the legislature takes in the matter, and it should act hastily. Other states, whose desire is to aid in this in a financial way, will be waiting to hear from Oregon's legislature.

Governor Geer is persistent in his statement that there is but one thing for the legislature to do in regard to the senatorial matter. He claims the people of the state endorsed him and no one else for that high office, and the members of the legislature can vote for no other one. But really governor, has not your experience in politics taught you that politicians do not always act in a consistent way and in accord with the expressed will and desires of the common herd? Mays law or no Mays law, endorsement by the people or otherwise, if the legislature does not choose to elect you senator you will not be elected. There may not be any valid or legitimate reason for the legislature acting otherwise than in accord with the expressed wish of the people, but it may not act that way just the same.

Surveyor-General Meldrum says he does not propose to vacate his office just because someone has seen fit to have charges preferred against him. He is as calm about the matter as it would seem possible for one in a similar position to be. Mr. Meldrum declares the affairs of his office to be in splendid shape, and says he courts investigation of all of his official acts. He seems to be posted in regard to a matter that politics is figuring to greater extent in this matter than anything else. And perhaps the surveyor-general is about right in his opinion. We, even, in our

humble position, might cast a little light on this subject if we were so inclined. Mr. Meldrum will probably give his "friends" a run for their money before they get his scalp, if they succeed at all.

Judge Ryan's endeavors in behalf of progress and the material wellbeing of this locality are worthy of commendation and encouragement. The utilization of the natural means at hand to increase our comfort and convenience and his wealth are things that will add to the attractions of the town and aid to a wonderful degree in increasing the population of that portion of the city which has been somewhat handicapped by reason of the difficulty in reaching it. Should the undertaking go through as planned the benefit will be mutual and lasting alike to Judge Ryan and the public.

The Fulton force in the legislature is said to be seventeen votes, that is, that number of the members have signed the call for a caucus. In order to have a majority Fulton must yet gather twenty more votes. There is an element in the legislature opposing a caucus, it being considered certain that Fulton will be the choice of a caucus if one is organized.

Highway robbery in our very door yards night after night may be carried on uninterrupted for a time, but the perpetrators cannot hope to run the gauntlet eternally. There will be an end to these unholty actions some of these days, and the penalty—it ought to make even a robber hesitate. At the least unexpected time the police will take a hand in this conduct.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS.

Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Clackamas County will hold the regular examination of applicants for State and County papers at Oregon City, as follows:
For State Papers.—Commencing Wednesday, February 11, at nine o'clock A. M., and continue till Saturday, February 14, at four o'clock.
Wednesday—Penmanship, history, spelling, algebra, reading, school-law.
Thursday—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, book-keeping, physics, civil government.
Friday—Physiology, geography, mental arithmetic, composition, physical geography.
Saturday—Botany, plane geometry, general history, English literature, psychology.
For County Papers—Commencing Wednesday, February 11, at nine o'clock, and continuing until Friday, February 13, at four o'clock.
First, second and third grade certificates.
Wednesday—Penmanship, history, orthography, reading.
Thursday—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, school law.
Friday—Geography, mental arithmetic, physiology, civil government.
Primary Certificates:
Wednesday—Penmanship, orthography, reading, arithmetic.
Thursday—Art of questioning, theory of teaching, methods, physiology.
J. C. ZINSER,
Superintendent of Schools.

New School House for Macksburg.

Macksburg is to have a new school house, an elaborate structure, that will accommodate the demands of the district for years to come. The action of the people of that district in this matter was taken last Saturday. Superintendent Zinser was present at the meeting to lend encouragement to the good work. The amount of the levy for that purpose has not been definitely decided, but the work will go forward this year.

Chautauqua Directors Meet.

The board of directors of the Willamette Valley Chautauqua Association held a meeting Friday night and authorized Secretary Cross to go to San Francisco and attend the meeting of the coast delegates of the four Chautauqua assemblies on the Pacific Coast. He will leave here today. Heretofore the Willamette Assembly has been at loggerheads with the other assemblies on the matter of securing talent but Mr. Cross expects to get together with the other representatives. The dates for holding this year's assembly will probably be from July 14 to July 26, but these dates are not certain as they must harmonize with the dates of the other three assemblies in order that the same talent may be utilized.

Graham's Body Recovered.

The body of Robert Graham, who was drowned in the Molalla river last Thursday, has been recovered two miles from where the accident occurred. The body was brought to this city and was shipped to Troutdale, the home of the deceased. Loggers discovered Graham's body under a boat in a foot and a half of water.

PUDDING RIVER AND ROCK CREEK

Declared Unnavigable and Leased to F. L. S. Bagby by Commissioners.

The Board of County Commissioners Friday declared portions of Rock Creek and Pudding River public highways for the transportation of logs, timber and lumber. The board also entered into a contract with Frank S. L. Bagby leasing the use of the two highways with the right to collect tolls for the rafting of logs for 25 years from the completion of such work as shall be necessary to render the highways suitable for the successful carrying on of the business. The contract provides that the lessee shall be entitled to a maximum of 75 cents per 1000 feet, board measure, on the Pudding River, and 50 cents on Rock Creek for the transportation and for booming of logs within one mile from the mouth of the rivers. The contract further provides that in consideration of the lease the lessee will secure the right of way and other necessary rights from land owners and make improvements necessary to carry on a logging business.

Mrs. Edward Califf Dead.

Word was received Thursday from Edward Califf announcing the death of his wife, at Phoenix, Ariz., of consumption. The deceased was well known in this city and leaves a large circle of friends, who will deeply mourn her demise. The remains were shipped from Phoenix Saturday and will reach this city tomorrow.

Death of Beaver Creek Farmer.

The funeral of W. R. Roberts, who died Friday at his home in Beaver Creek, after a lingering illness, took place this afternoon. Services were held in the Presbyterian Church at Beaver Creek and the interment took place in Beaver Creek cemetery. The deceased leaves a wife and five grown sons. The former is seriously ill at her home, and fears are entertained for her recovery. Several months ago Mr. Roberts was thrown from a buggy and was seriously injured, and he never recovered from the effects.

Comes to Locate.

William Umbrugh and family arrived here Saturday from Iowa. They disposed of all their possessions in that state and come to Clackamas county to make it their future home, expecting to engage in stock raising and agriculture. Mr. Umbrugh left Iowa last Wednesday, and says it was so cold at that time that one could hardly exist out of doors. Mr. Umbrugh is a son-in-law of S. G. Dick-ey, of Ely, and the newcomers are located for the present at Mr. Dickey's home.

Black Calla Lily.

There is a wonder, a genuine prodigy, in this city in the way of flowers. At the home of County Clerk Sleight a large lily, as black as night, is in full bloom. This plant and its bloom have grown from the bulb since last September. Many of our town people are paying visits to see the rare specimen. These peculiar freaks of nature are as scarce as the visitation of angels, and are truly wonderful. Some years ago a black calla lily was in bloom in Portland, and much attention was paid to the matter through the local press. The possessors of this rare plant are very proud of it and prize it very highly.

Judge McBride Saturday handed down a decree of divorce in the case of Grace Rexroad vs. John A. Rexroad, and adjourned court until to-day.

PAROLES NOT REVOKED.

General Grant Laid Down the Law to President Johnson.

Daniel R. Goodloe, for many years a distinguished resident of Washington and chairman of the commission to free the slaves of the District, once told this story:
"One morning soon after the surrender at Appomattox I was one of a group of gentlemen standing on Pennsylvania avenue, discussing the momentous questions of the day. As we talked General Grant rode toward us, smoking his usual cigar. Recognizing several of us, he dismounted and joined us.
"What's the news?" he asked.
"I answered, 'We are discussing a piece of news which comes to us directly from the White House and which gives me no little concern.' 'What is it?' asked the general.
"I understood that President Andrew Johnson intends to revoke the parole of General Lee and other generals of the late Southern Confederacy."
"Who was your informant?" asked General Grant.
"I gave him the name of the gentleman who had given the information."
"General Grant quietly said, 'Thank you, gentlemen,' remounted his horse and rode rapidly away toward the White House.
"We leisurely turned our steps in the same direction, and as we entered the portico we saw Grant coming down the steps looking more excited than I had ever seen him before. I went upstairs and met a friend who had been in conference that morning with Mr. Johnson on the subject above mentioned. He said to me: 'If you have any request to make of the president this morning, keep it until some other time. He is angrier than I have ever seen him. A moment ago General Grant strode into his presence and peremptorily demanded, 'Do you intend to revoke the parole of General Robert E. Lee and other officers of the late Confederacy?'
"I am considering the subject." Johnson replied. "You need not consider it. Those paroles were signed by me as general commanding the army of the United States. My promise to them shall be kept in good faith if it takes the army of the United States, plus the army of the late Confederacy, to enforce it."
"Saying this, Grant retired and left Johnson white with rage."
"We never heard any more of the revocation of the paroles."—Indianapolis Sentinel.

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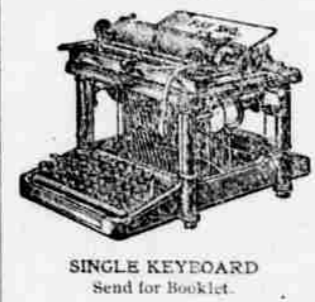
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