The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, FEB. 24, 1908.

TAFT AND THE COLORED VOTER.

The Oregonian is constrained to remark that it is not a little interested in the letter printed today from Rev. W. W. Matthews, presiding elder of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Conference, California and Oregon. It is obvious that Mr. Matthews holds an important and influential position among colored people. It may be believed, therefore, that his sentiments, religious and political, are shared by many in his church, and doubtless by many out of it. He protests against the nomination of Mr. Taft as Republican candidate for President, because of the Brownsville incident. "Will our Republican brothers in white allow themselves to make the awful and irreparable blunder of nominating a man like William H. Taft, who they know has so unjustly treated their brothers in black by his recommendation for the dishonorable discharge of three companies of our soldiers?" asks Mr. Matthews. It may be that the Republicans will make just that mistake, as Mr. Matthews calls it; and if they should, will Mr. Matthews and his friends make the "awful and irreparable mistake" of voting against him?

The error made by Mr. Matthews and his sympathizers is in assuming and declaring that the colored soldiers were discharged because they were colored. Perhaps it is natural that they should think so, and perhaps also it will be impossible ever to convince them conclusively that it is not so. But The Oregonian has no sort of question that the President, who dismissed "without honor"—not "dishonorably"—these soldiers because they were in a conspiracy of silence to protect certain criminals among them, would have pursued the same course if they had been white; and Secretary Taft, too, was certainly not influenced for or against the Brownsville soldiers by the circumstance that they were black. It may be hoped that the colored people—those whom Mr. Matthews represents—will be brought to a more reasonable attitude toward Mr. Taft if he shall be nominated, for the alternative confronting them in that event will be Bryan. If Foraker, whom they ardently support, should be the Republican nominee, there would then be a certainty of Bryan. Does Mr. Matthews prefer Bryan to Taft or any Republican? Probably not; certainly not after the enlightening debate on the negro question in the House of Representatives last Saturday. There the real attitude of the Democratic party towards the colored man and brother was plainly revealed. The Jim Crow car and the color line everywhere will be realities, humiliating and unavoidable, if the Democratic party is permitted to have its way.

A satisfactory solution to the perplexities of the colored voter will be the nomination of Mr. Hughes, of course. He could and would support Hughes with fervor and unanimity. But his plight would be sorry indeed if he were permitted to have his way in the nomination of Foraker, who would in all probability be defeated by Bryan.

London cables say that an unprecedented number of tourists have already booked passage on the steamers sailing from New York throughout the coming season. While the season is seldom considered as begun before April, the big liners Baltic and Mauretania have already carried capacity crowds. This is additional evidence of the widespread effect of the recent hysterical panic; Harriman builds a $4,000,000 palace; Morgan buys up the last remaining vestige of competition to the steel trust; Grand opera in New York draws larger crowds than ever before; and the idle rich in record-breaking numbers sail to a foreign shore to spend their money. Meanwhile it is not the "predatory rich," the founders of "swollen fortunes," or even those who got their money by "vulpine cunning" that are suffering by this pressing demand for a cessation of the practices by which one set of Wall-street thieves rob another set of Wall-street thieves.

THE LOCATORS' HARVEST.

When the movement to recover from the Southern Pacific lands which it is said to hold in violation of the law began, The Oregonian suggested that intending settlers on these disputed lands would do well to proceed with as little expense as possible, as there would for an indefinite term of years be a contest the results of which could not accurately be predicted. This warning against buying a "pig in a poke" was not heeded, and the occasion has enabled a number of enterprising timber "locators" to collect fat fees from about as large a number of dupes as ever engaged in any kind of a hunt for land in the Pacific Northwest. It is perhaps better late than never that the Government should take some action toward protecting the eager victims who have paid these fees to the locators in the belief that they were to secure, for an expenditure of a few hundred dollars, land worth $5000 to $15,000.

A dispatch from Palouse, Wash., in yesterday's Oregonian says that the locating business is being investigated by a Portland postoffice inspector, who found in the small towns of Palouse and Portland alone 45 victims who had paid fees of $58 to the locators. There is an almost infinite range of legal obstacles, running all the way from the fabled "possession-is-nine-points-of-the-law" to the protection of the "innocent purchaser" who, in the form of a Southern Pacific stockholder, has fallen heir to the Southern Pacific timber holdings which were originally secured by the "wicked partner" several "transfers" ahead of the one by which it fell into the hands of those who are now fighting to retain it. Now comes Mr. Riches, the Government inspector, who is endeavoring to protect the speculators from their own cupidity, and he says that, even should the Government succeed in regaining possession of the land, the applications now being filed would give the people of Palouse, Potlatch and a hundred other localities in the Pacific Northwest no prior rights over any other settler who might come in when the land was thrown open, and get some of the choicest quarter sections for which other settlers had paid large locators' fees.

The Oregonian would like to see this land restored to the public domain, and fall into the hands, not necessarily of timber-land speculators, but bona fide settlers. The present status of the controversy is such, however, that we fail to see where the dupes of the "locators" are making an investment in any way superior to the "gambler's chance."

POULTRY AND EGGS.

One of the recently issued bulletins of the Oregon agricultural experiment station is devoted to a discussion of the "Poultry Industry of Oregon." While the pamphlet does not undertake to set forth in detail the methods of feeding and caring for poultry it contains much that will be helpful to farmers and encouraging to those who contemplate enlarging their flocks. The bulletin presents numerous pictures of movable and stationary poultry houses, and discusses in a general way the opportunities for development of the industry in this state. Every farmer who has not already received a copy of the bulletin should apply to the experiment station at Corvallis. Bulletins are sent free to residents of Oregon.

With fresh ranch eggs quoted at 40 cents a dozen in Portland, there should be no question as to a market for poultry products at remunerative prices. When it is learned that in 1907 Oregon imported from 75 to 100 carloads of eggs from the East, there should be no fear of oversupplying the market. At a conservative estimate Oregon paid to Eastern producers last year $225,000 for eggs and $100,000 for dressed poultry. One would naturally suppose that importations of eggs and poultry from the East would be solely for the purpose of supplying the Portland market, but it appears that a part of the importations go to the small towns in farming communities, where it should be expected that more than a local supply would be produced. When the Eastern farmer hauls his eggs to town, sells them to his local commission man, and the eggs are shipped to Portland and then from Portland out to the rural towns of Oregon and sold to consumers within a mile or two of Oregon farms, there is something radically wrong with our farming methods.

While the new bulletin, prepared by Professor James Dryden, does not discourage poultry-raising as an exclusive occupation, it particularly encourages this industry as an adjunct of general farm operations. The author remarks that poultry and fruit-growing may be well undertaken for the reason, apparently, that the fowls do no harm to the crop, as they would in the case of grain or garden. Moreover, poultry should run upon cultivated ground, for if the birds run upon ground that has become filthy they soon become diseased. Since an orchard is cultivated all Summer, it is an almost ideal place for poultry.

The movable building is the most approved poultry-house. When properly constructed a team may be hitched to it and the building drawn in a few moments from one part of the farm to another, thus securing new running places and permitting the plowing up of the ground upon which the poultry house formerly stood. The illustrations in the bulletin show all kinds of poultry houses in use by successful poultrymen.

As said before, the tendency of the bulletin is to encourage all farmers to engage more extensively in poultry-raising. A few men engaging extensively in the poultry industry would make but little difference in the total product, but if a large proportion of the farmers increase their flocks to 50 or 100 hens, there will be a very perceptible increase in the output of eggs and dressed poultry. The man who keeps 100 hens will not notice the work of caring for them. To keep 500 to 1000 hens would require much of his time and interfere materially with his other farm work. The comparatively small flock will get much of its feed on the range. The large flock must be carefully fed. The opportunity for development of this industry is one to which attention has been called quite frequently. Spring is now approaching, and soon the hens will be ready to set. Now is a good time for farmers and their wives to consider the subject of increasing the flock and providing better facilities for caring for the fowls. A good way to begin is to read the experiment station bulletin herein mentioned.

OREGON'S TAXABLE PROPERTY.

The assessment figures on the total value of taxable property in Oregon in 1907 in some of their details show a decided change in the alignment as compared with those of the preceding year. The most startling changes appear in Umatilla and Columbia Counties. The former, which stood in eleventh place last year, this year ranks next to Multnomah, while Columbia has jumped from eighteenth place in 1906 to eighth place in 1907. Marion, while showing a substantial gain in valuation, has been passed by Umatilla and is third on the list. Douglas, with an increased valuation of more than $5,000,000, remains in fourth place. The other counties, which last year appeared on the assessment rolls with property valued at more than $10,000,000, show but little change in their order.

On account of the widely different methods of assessment it is difficult to explain some of these striking changes. In the Willamette Valley, where diversified farming has supplanted wheatgrowing, values of both farm and city property are increasing naturally and normally. Some of the wonderful advance made in Umatilla is due to the improved system of farming, but much of it is apparently the result of a more equitable system of taxation than was in vogue when Umatilla was trailing near the foot of the list of counties on the assessment roll.

On Multnomah County falls 40 per cent of the burden of state taxation, and the prestige will of course be expensive for the Portland taxpayers. It should be sufficiently impressive, however, to entitle this city and county to due consideration from other portions of the state. The representatives of Baker, Lane, Wasco and one or two other counties at the last session of the Legislature joined hands with Clatsop County in an effort to defeat the Port of Columbia bill, a measure in which Multnomah, Columbia and Clatsop alone were interested. The assessment figures printed yesterday show why the opposition was not warranted. To meet the demands of the bill, Multnomah would have been taxed on a valuation of $233,141,058, Columbia $16,786,355, a total of $249,927,713 for the counties favoring the bill. Clatsop's share of the cost would have been based on a valuation of $5,695,368.

ENVIRONMENT'S DISADVANTAGES.

The appropriation for the North Pacific pilot chart was recently stricken out of the appropriation bill at the solicitation of Representative Mann, of Illinois. The chart is of inestimable value to the commercial interests on both sides of the Pacific, contributing, as it does, in no small degree to the saving of property, and even of life, at sea. Its cost is but little more than the salary of any one of the many thousand superfluous clerks who clog the Governmental departments at Washington. The gentleman from Illinois held up the appropriation on the ground of economy, but, as the saving at most would hardly equal the value of the free seeds distributed among his constituents, it is strange that Mr. Mann did not inaugurate his policy of economy with something with which he was familiar.

Expert knowledge as to whether a North Pacific pilot chart is needed could be obtained more advantageously at a point less far removed from blue water than Illinois. The gentleman from Illinois protests against something that our maritime interests actually require, for much the same reason that many innocent supporters of the ship subsidy scheme, which we do not need, are in favor of it, not because they really know that a ship subsidy would help us, but because they are ignorant of the conditions which govern the maritime commerce of the world. It was this proclivity for "butting in" on a subject with which they were unfamiliar that induced the commercial organizations of Wichita, Kan.; Denver, Colo.; Oshkosh, Wis., and a number of other inland cities to "resolute" in favor of the graft, while at bona fide seaports, where the subject was actually understood, aside from interested parties, there never has been a strong sentiment in its favor.

This is a free country, and there is no law which compels the shoemaker to "stick to his last," but it would seem much more appropriate for opposition to such a useful feature of our maritime interests as the pilot chart to come from a quarter where environment would admit of the objector having some knowledge of the matter. In this particular case, it is needless to say that, had Representative Mann been in possession of such knowledge, he would not have asked for withdrawal of the insignificant appropriation needed.

On the one hand we have a strong organization of the liquor interests girding themselves for the coming conflict and asserting that National prohibition would be "a calamity only equalled by the Civil War," and on the other we see the anti-saloon forces perfecting an organization in every county of every state in preparation for the battle that is certain to come, and declaring that the liquor traffic is a National disgrace and economic error scarcely excelled by the institution of human slavery. The situation seems to be about as critical as that in which a negro found himself when he had been chased twenty times around a tree by a bear. At last, despairing of escape by flight, he turned to the conflict with the prayer, "Lord, if you won't help me, don't help that bear, and I'll show you the greatest fight you ever saw."

Washington dispatches state that before the Senate committee on the Philippines, Senators Hale and Teller produced figures in support of an argument that the increase of Philippine trade with the United States had been so limited that it did not warrant removal of the shipping restriction now in force on trade between that country and the United States. This is logic of the true Senatorial brand. The trade with our island dependencies cannot increase because we refuse to permit the islands to have adequate transportation facilities irrespective of the nationality of the carriers. On the other hand, the trade has not increased, so why should we grant them the better facilities which are demanded? The Philippine Islander is in a position similar to that of the Indian in the story who had the choice of the owl, while the white man got the turkey, and it made no difference which way the offer came up to him. He always got the owl.

Richmond P. Hobson, whose fame rests about evenly on his Merrimac episode during the war and his kissing episodes afterwards, insists that this country will never be safe until we build a continuous pontoon of warships around the globe. Now comes U. S. Grant, who shines by the reflected brightness of his illustrious father's name, and assures us that 500,000 troops would be insufficient to garrison properly the Pacific Coast, and that the Japanese army is so "well trained" that "I do not think we could get along with less than 1,000,000 troops." Naturally these warlike gentlemen would like to see this country put on a war footing on sea and land, but if Japan ever becomes careless in her conduct toward the United States, the affair will be settled long before it is necessary to put 1,000,000 men in the field, or a Hobson fleet on the ocean.

Even men who have made a special study of fishery conditions, and who have means of investigating the merits of the claims of the upper river salmon fishermen, and also of the lower river fishermen, are unable to decide as between the two. How, then, can the whole people of Oregon be expected to act intelligently and understandingly upon the two conflicting fishery bills now before the people under the initiative? Fishery problems are as perplexing to the farmer in the interior as horticultural questions would be to a man who spends all his time catching salmon in nets in the Columbia River.

The death of Crosby S. Noyes, the veteran editor of the Washington Star, has caused a feeling of regret in every newspaper office throughout the country. Mr. Noyes was 84 years old. His career in journalism was long, useful and brilliant. He set his stamp upon his work and it was that of "a purveyor of clean, sound, active facts." This in addition to his record in benevolent, educational, charitable and reformatory work made his name a synonym of good citizenship, not only in Washington—the field of his active endeavor—but in the ranks of intelligence throughout the land.

Students at Willamette University who insulted the president by adopting a blank sheet of paper as a resolution of appreciation of his work should remember that it is an old saying that chickens come home to roost. Quite likely, in two or three years, some of these students will be out teaching country schools, or city schools, for that matter, and their pupils will get into the notion of adopting resolutions. It is well not to violate the rule, "Whatsoever ye would that others should do to you."

Idle workingmen who have energy enough to participate in a riot ought to have strength enough to get out into the country and get jobs cutting wood, grubbing stumps or doing other work that the farmers want done. Perhaps the wages would not be quite as large as they have been accustomed to during the years of labor scarcity, but the average farmer sets a good table and the farmer never fails to pay his laborers. Still, if a man insists upon going hungry, there is no way to prevent his doing so.

The Oregon Electric road from Portland to Salem cost $2,000,000. As one speaker at a Salem banquet said, the company has bet $2,000,000 on the future of the region which that road traverses. There is certainly evidence that some pretty good judges have confidence in the resources and natural advantages of the Willamette Valley and the enterprise of its people.

The prohibition wave is still rolling on, and now it is announced that the sale of whisky on Pullman cars will be prohibited. It is probable that if the men who are managing the business of the late Mr. Pullman were to take the matter into court, they could prove by chemical analysis that the stuff sold on the cars under that name is really something else.

It has been many months since Anna Gould got rid of the nasty little Count she bought a number of years ago, but she is still paying bills that he owed. The French Court of Appeals has, just ordered her to pay $24,000 to an opera singer from whom Boni bought some jewels before he was divorced.

If Salem people should fail to "get together," it will not be due to a lack of effort on the part of the more enterprising people of the staid city. Some good work has been done in Salem in the last two weeks with a view to arousing civic pride and stimulating the dormant to activity.

Though Washington's Birthday does not lend itself to outdoor celebration except in favored regions like Oregon, it still is the peg on which American statesmen hang more or less valuable guide boards for the benefit of future generations.

Some popular magazine may make a hit by asking McKinley and Puter to contribute a joint article on the influence of prison life on creative literature.

Two live issues were overlooked in the new declaration of principles by the National party—prohibition and the political ambitions of a man named Hearst.

What an old-fashioned crowd they have in charge of Stanford University. They think drunkenness is a proper cause for expulsion of a student.

If he had suspected how hard the Illinois Cannon was going to kick, maybe Senator Ankeny wouldn't have touched the match.

Debating societies will now be taking up the subject, "Resolved, that it is better to be Oslerized than to be Waymired."

Tendency of National finances is shown by $14,000,000 gain in New York bank deposits the past week.

THE PEOPLE AND PRIMARY LAW

They Stand By It, But They Don't Believe in Statement No. 1.

Lebanon Criterion.

We believe we voice the sentiment of the people generally when we say that in the main the people approve the direct primary laws of Oregon, or some similar law which takes the nomination of candidates out of the hands of the professional politicians. And yet there are many features of the Oregon law which are both cumbersome and expensive and distasteful to many men, and the result is often that the best men and those qualified for office will not allow their names to be used. It may be set down as a fact that the undesirable features which had crept into the old convention system were not so much the fault of the system as of the carelessness of the people in taking little or no interest in political matters and allowing a few persons to run things.

Just how Statement No. 1 got into the primary law in the shape it did few seem to understand. We believe the mass of the people at the time it was made a law little understood it. The mass of the Oregon people believe the matter of electing of the United States Senators should be as far removed from the Legislature as possible, and they have abundant reasons for such desire, as evidenced by only too many examples in Oregon election of Senators. The people never understood when they were enacting the primary law that a Republican Legislature was bound to vote for a Democrat for United States Senator or a Democratic Legislature should elect a Republican to that place. It might just as well be set down now as a fact that they will never do it. No one believes a Democratic Legislature would ever elect a Republican Senator and no one should expect a Republican Legislature to give the office to a Democrat.

SHALL PARTY BE ABANDONED?

Or Shall Republican Legislature Vote for Republican for Senator.

Junction City Times.

We do not wish to deviate one iota from the provisions of the primary law, we are in favor of its enforcement. With the Republicans of Eugene we want Republican voters to designate their choice for United States Senator and all candidates for the Legislature are expected to pledge themselves to support the choice of the Republicans of the state. What more is necessary? Do you as a Republican expect a Republican member of the Legislature to vote for a Democrat for United States Senator under any circumstances? We do not. Would you take him by the hand and commend his course were he to support a Democrat? Well, hardly.

We are not condemning any one who chooses to espouse the cause of Democracy. It is his right and we have the profoundest respect for his opinion. In the past a few Democrats have voted for a Republican for United States Senator. By that act they lost the respect of the Republican members of that body and were received with contempt by all self-respecting Democrats, and have not been heard from in a political way since.

For the Legislature and for the distinguished office of United States Senator we believe in Republicans supporting Republicans and Democrats supporting Democrats. Two parties are as necessary to good government as our Winter rains are essential to good crops.

Statement No. 0.

Grant County News.

After all, isn't it illogical to fight out a question on personalities first and on principle afterwards? The hard feelings engendered obscure the issue of the principle. Therefore, the News proposes to have all this changed by initiative laws, providing that the first test shall be the strength of parties and the second one of persons. Thus: At the primaries the question submitted to the voters shall be: Do you vote for a Democrat, for a Republican, for a Populist, for a Prohibitionist, and a blank for scattering. That will eliminate the principle element, which is the principal element. Then, at the election, candidates of the chosen party stripe can fight it out ad gloriam.

Merely in order to allow this to precede Statement No. 1, this shall be called Statement No. 0.

How the Real Estate Agent Got Even.

Lebanon Criterion.

A man last week who was looking for a farm to purchase ascertained a certain tract he desired was listed with a local real estate man for sale. In order to save, as he thought, the commission of the real estate man, he goes out to see the owner of the farm. The dealer in dirt found this out and got in communication with the owner and told him the party greatly desired his place, and he thereupon raised the price $5 an acre. The man bought the place, paying $300 more than he would have paid if he had purchased it from the real estate man, and still he got his commission.

People Don't Want Cannon.

Albany Democrat.

Harry Murphy had a remarkably good picture in The Oregonian: Cannon standing pat, his speech made 34 years ago, his gavel nearly mashed to pieces, his cigar chewed at the end, suggestive of his career. Put these together, says the artist, and make a President. No thank you, the people don't want Cannon. He may be a genius after a fashion, but he is not of the Presidential timber. Give us almost any one but Cannon. He might burst.

Makes the Plug Better Than Ever.

Eugene Guard.

Did you ever notice that tobacco is always clean? If a man drops a piece of meat, no matter how clean the floor may be, he will either give it a kick or pick it up and lay it to one side. He will never eat it. But let him drop his plug of tobacco on the ground and no difference how dirty the spot where it fell, he will pick it up and give it a careless wipe on his coat sleeve or the bosom of his pants and then take a chew with a greater relish than ever.

What Does a Poor Man Want?

East Oregonian.

Take an acre of arid land covered with sagebrush and worth but $2.50 per acre in its raw state and add just a little "elbow grease," a little water, a few fruit trees and a little alfalfa, and you have all the way from $200 to $400 worth of property. And still there are pessimistic cusses who say there is nothing for a poor man in Umatilla County. How much does a poor man want, anyway?

Think of It—Only Seven Years Old.

Silvertonian Appeal.

Fred Niggli, the 7-year-old son of George Niggli, who has been hanging around the city for some time, will probably be sent to the Boys' and Girls' Home in Portland. Monday afternoon the authorities took the matter in hand and the wayward young man will be taken care of. He has not been home for some time, and it seems that his parents cannot, or do not want to manage him.

COLORED MAN'S VIEWS ON TAFT

Hopes Republicans Will Not "Make the Mistake" of Nominating Him.

PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 22.—(To the Editor.)—I noticed Wednesday morning, February 19, an editorial article in The Oregonian under the heading, "Mr. Taft and the Colored Vote," in which the colored voter was taken to task for his apparent reticence in not falling into line with the Taft faction in the present political struggle that seems to worry both Mr. Taft and his friends. The editorial advances a thought that is both interesting and serious. Not alone is it so for the colored man, but equally as much so for the white man, especially the white Republicans.

I am really glad to see that the time has come, and that it has made manifest its presence at the door of the Portland Oregonian and other thinking and leading journals, that the negroes' vote in this country has become a factor that the National campaigners will have to reckon with if they would successfully carry the National elections. That the next election will mark a close contest between the National Democratic and Republican parties is obvious. And if the Republicans should make the blunder in the National convention of nominating the wrong man, why to be sure the Democrats will win with hands down.

But will our Republican brothers in white allow themselves to make the awful and irreparable blunder of nominating a man like William H. Taft, who, they know, has so unjustly treated their brothers in black by his recommendation of the dishonorable discharge of three companies of our soldiers, a part of whom had not even been charged with having taken any active part in the Brownsville disaster, while those who were charged with the crime have never as yet been proven guilty of the crime as charged.

But in order to satisfy a discriminating and unjust Southern populace our brave soldiers who have ever stood by the old flag, and who fought bravely to maintain the glory of her brilliant stars and stripes against the insults of any and every foe, were themselves ungraciously insulted, and brought to disgrace mainly by the dictations of Judge Taft. And until he or his coadjutors can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the colored voters that such action was not the basis of either a disliking or a total disregard of the honor, rights and privileges of our race, our attitude toward him as a public officer will remain the same.

That such an attitude of the colored voters is dubbed "revenge," as The Oregonian would put it, we most respectfully but emphatically deny. The matter is this: A contention for equal justice and equal rights before the law, a principle which the Republican party boasts of guaranteeing to every man and citizen of the United States.

Mr. Taft covets the highest and most responsible place of honor in the gift of this party or Nation—the Presidency, and yet he has not fully kept the faith with his party, nor party principles as Secretary of War. Should any fair-minded man vote for Mr. Taft?

The Oregonian mentioned Mr. Bryan as the man allied with the party that stands for negro disfranchisement and "Jim Crowism." Those are facts that we know and cannot deny; but suppose we should play the fool to jump over to Mr. Bryan and his party, it would simply be a case of jumping out of the "frying pan" into the fire. But if the grand old party will maintain its sanity by nominating Mr. Hughes, if they conscientiously feel that they must turn down the honorable Senator Foraker, then the colored voters can feel that it has not thrown to the winds its manhood, nor surrendered their claim for equal rights before the law as American citizens by voting with the Republican party. Mr. Foraker and Mr. Hughes both stand for such principles, and such men can be safely trusted. The Oregonian is of the opinion that the negro has no ethical motive for opposing Mr. Taft. To speak the truth we as a race entertain no personal feeling of dislike against any man in this matter, but are unremittingly opposed to any man's election to office who shows a single scintilla of bias to men on account of their color or previous condition. The colored race is not as criminal as some one would make himself believe, especially in this matter. It is simply a case of fair play and equal justice that we call for, and not a toleration of criminality.

The colored voter holds the balance of power in such states of the North and Middle West as will give such a number of electoral votes as will affect for weal or woe the party gaining or losing such a balance. We propose to make use of our ballot in an intelligent way, so as to secure our God-given rights as American citizens. Not personal revenge, but equal rights is our shibboleth.

REV. W. W. MATTHEWS,
Presiding elder A. M. E. Zion conference, California and Oregon.

Yew Tree 3000 Years Old.

The Scotsman.

The oldest yew tree not only in Scotland, but in Europe, grows at Fortingall in Perthshire. According to a scientific calculation of its age by the late Sir R. Christison, it is at least well over 3000 years. If Sir Robert's estimate is correct the Fortingall yew must have been of "goodly size" at the time when King Solomon reigned over Israel.

Some of the cypress trees about the Bay of Monterey, California, are believed to be even older. What is really surprising is the smallness of the district in which these trees grow.

Advice for Democratic Governor.

Silvertonian Appeal.

If Governor Chamberlain gets into the United States Senate he will do so on the strength of the Republican vote of Oregon, and the interest manifested by him in the Heney-Fulton difficulty would seem to be an unwise movement right on the eve of the greatest fight for political honors that he has ever undertaken. The Governor would act wisely if he should encourage Fulton's candidacy.

What Harriman Should Do.

Forest Grove Times.

If Harriman would use a small per cent of the money which he receives from the farmers in placing the Southern Pacific Railroad in a safe condition, and not quite so many millions in the lawing of other roads and the construction of elegant residences, we would not be compelled to chronicle so many fatal accidents.

Where Will the Third Occur?

McMinnville Telephone Register.

Tuesday seems to be an unlucky day for the West Side road. The Sheridan local was wrecked on Tuesday near Forest Grove, and the local freight was wrecked at Whiteson on Tuesday just one week later.

How the State Looks at It.

Cottage Grove Leader.

Portland is to have a $4,000,000 packing plant. Score a big success for the metropolis. Every such enterprise secured by Portland has its corresponding benefit to the balance of the state.

Storm and Calm.

Clinton Scollard in Smart Set.

Not always for me the calm.
And the breath of balm—
Blue skies over vale,
And the nightingale
Singing its silvery psalm!

Rather, to pitch my blood
To the flow of flood,
The wild wind-welter and strain
Of the driven rain,
And the thunder's clash and thud!

Without some tang of strife,
With fervor rife,
Tame indeed is the taste
(Good brew gone to waste!)
Of the wine in the cup of life!

NATIONAL GUARD

NEVER in its past history has the Oregon Guard been in so satisfactory and efficient a condition as at the present time, according to accounts given by Colonel James Jackson, of his annual tour of inspection, which is now drawing to a close. While Colonel Jackson, who is making the inspection on behalf of the War Department, has made no formal report on his work, it is learned from him that he is more than satisfied with the showing made by not a few commands. With only two or three companies yet to be heard from, the Eugene Infantry organizations at this time stand at the head of the list. Both A and C of the Fourth Infantry reported for inspection with an attendance of 100 per cent.

Nearly every command inspected has had an attendance of more than 90 per cent. Further than that, the discipline, military appearance, condition of equipment and bearing of officers and men have been all that could be desired. It is assured that no command will be mustered out for inefficiency because of this year's inspection.

Next to Eugene, the largest infantry turnout was at Pendleton, where Captain Kern had 96 per cent of his men on hand. Captain Wilson had 93 per cent of Company B out at the local Armory; Captain Sam White, at Pendleton, scored 92 per cent; Captain Murphy, at Salem, had a turnout of 95 per cent. Cottage Grove, Captain Johnson; Albany, Captain Wynn; Woodburn, Captain Settlemier; Company H, Portland, Captain Doble, and the companies at Ashland and Roseburg each got an attendance rating of not less than 90 per cent. Those to fall below 90 were G, at Oregon City, and F and C, of Portland, and these three went above 80.

Company G of the Third and Company E of the Fourth Infantry have received the highest markings of the outside companies for condition of arms. The Krags were found to be in perfect condition at those two places. Colonel Jackson says the military appearance of all the troops was excellent, except in Company D, at The Dalles, where the turnout was above 90 per cent, but there was a large number of recruits, who had not yet been whipped into first-class military shape.

Companies K and E, of Portland, and the McMinnville company are yet to be inspected. K will be inspected tomorrow night, and as it is one of the very best companies in the Guard, a good report is assured from Captain Scott's command. Company E, which will turn out Wednesday, is also among the crack companies, and will acquit itself with credit.

Battery A and the Hospital Corps both passed creditable inspections. The Hospital Corps had 90 per cent of its men present, and proved itself efficient in all lines of work. The Battery turnout Friday night was one of the finest military spectacles witnessed in a long while at the Armory. The attendance was complete, and the men demeaned themselves like regulars. It is doubtful if there is another battery of equal efficiency in the Guard service of the United States. Captain Welch and his officers merit the congratulations that were showered upon them following the successful inspection for all have been tireless in their efforts to bring the command up to its present high state of efficiency.

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All infantry in the state, together with the Hospital Corps and possibly the Battery, will participate in the big joint maneuvers at American Lake next August. All doubt as to the assignment of the Oregon troops was relieved yesterday by receipt of a communication from the War Department. This document was addressed to Adjutant-General Finzer, and advised him that the Government will furnish transportation and pay for the Oregon troops in a sum not to exceed $20,000. Sustenance must be provided by the state.

Just whether the Battery will go to these maneuvers is a question yet to be settled. There are no facilities there for artillery practice, and the officers may prefer to go to Gearhart, where target practice may be engaged in. Marksmanship is no less important in artillery than with infantry, and hence the desire of Captain Welch and his men to get the most valuable training possible. The maneuvers open August 3, instead of August 10, as previously stated through error, and will continue for a period of 10 days.

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The local troops made a splendid showing in the rose-planting parade yesterday. The turn-out was not large, but the men of the Third Regiment, the Battery and Hospital Corps did credit to themselves. Persistent applause along the line of march showed that the public attitude towards the Guard has undergone a marked change during the past few years since the Guardsmen of the country so amply demonstrated their worth in the Spanish-American War. The turn-out was in blue uniforms, with rifles and sidearms, and the column passed through the principal streets of the city in column of fours, headed by Colonel C. E. McDonell and staff.

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Major Frank S. Baker, State Inspector of small arms practice, filed his report with General Finzer yesterday on his investigation of range practice delinquency throughout the state. Major Baker's report shows that there were comparatively few cases of delinquency and that for the most part target practice was given its full measure of attention during the past Summer. McMinnville proved to be the principal offender, and 17 men were tried there and found guilty. Eugene developed three delinquent, Cottage Grove 1, and Pendleton 2. A number of important recommendations are made in the report, and these will be communicated to company commanders shortly.

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The most elaborate and most successful military ball yet held at the Armory was that of Saturday night, when the newly-remodeled ballroom and quarters were formally opened. Three hundred couples were on the ideal maple floor, and the event was a pleasant one in every respect. Splendid music was rendered by the regimental band and orchestra.

The purpose for which the ball was given was fulfilled, and a fund which insures complete apparatus for the new gymnasium is now at hand. Purchase and installation of this equipment will be taken up without delay.

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While the showing made by the Third Regiment and Battery in the parade Friday was excellent, officers have cause for complaint in the fact that many employers of Guardsmen refused to let the soldiers off for the parade. The result of this mercenary spirit was that at least 50 per cent of the regiment could not appear. A crusade against employers who are inclined to be arbitrary in such matters is to be taken up, with a view to impressing such men with the importance of Guard work in its every detail. Those who are loudest in talking of the lack of need for training in time of peace are generally loudest also in their clamor for protection when war comes.