Weekly Corvallis Gazette.

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 6, 1885.

The *Benton Leader* in its last issue of last Feb. 26th, abuses and vilifies Joint Senator J. D. Lee in a very unbecoming manner, simply because Lee, while in the late legislature endeavored conscientiously to discharge his duty as a true republican and because the democratic bourbons could not induce Mr. Lee to betray his party and connive at the election as United States Senator a democrat or a republican who would disburse democratic favors. There was such a plan on foot at Salem among democrats who desired to impose such a disgrace upon republican members of the legislature but as Joint Senator J. D. Lee would not consent to the disgrace of himself or party in that manner but voted, after a long contest, for the man who by degrees and without a caucus had gradually obtained the support of a large majority of his party, thus hoping to break a dead lock and serve his party, as nine out of ten republicans would have done under the same circumstances. Benton County's representatives Conner and Henkle also voted for Hirsch under similar circumstances because they felt it a duty to elect a United States Senator and finding that Hirsch had acquired a majority of the votes of the republican wing of the legislature they voted for him because they feared that unless they did so that the legislature would fail in electing a Senator. They did right and what almost any other consistent and unprejudiced republican would have done. Such infamous falsehoods as was told in Salem the next day after Lee voted for Hirsch in order to prevent Connor and Henkle from voting for him, to the effect that Lee had been burned in effigy here for his vote, the party who told it knowing at the time that it was utterly false, did not work and because it did not work is the reason that the *Leader* and its hangers on are dissatisfied and abusing Lee for his action. As to the other accusations that Lee "while at Salem identified himself with the worst rings and most grasping monopolies in the State" is only another base lie with as little truth as the one told to Connor and Henkle above refered to. The fact is that all true republicans that we have heard of who stood by Lee, Connor and Henkle in electing them are ready to stand by them yet for their action at Salem in the legislature. Some democrats who could not use them as tools to break up and disorganize the republican party are mad, because such democrats are out of humor with them is is the strong reason why faithful republicans should stand by them.

How ridiculous it is for that paper to talk about the influence of monopolies and the interests of the dear people to anyone that knows some things of the past and present and how certain things came about and the hand that sustains it. It is not our disposition to abuse any member for their action in the late legislature for so far as we are able to learn we grant that all tried to do their duty as best they could with the lights before them. And far less should any republican be abused who has tried to elect a straight republican for United States Senator.

The election of directors in the south district school last Monday was a no little affair. For several years past the directors elected in that district have steadily continued year after year to employ the same man as principal in the school. Many in the district have been dissatisfied for some time with such employment and some, although entitled to benefits of public money, have refused to send their children to the school because they did not feel they were doing justice to the education of their children by entrusting their training to the teacher employed, in short they did not feel that the life and conduct of the teacher was of such an exemplary nature as would afford a proper example for their children to copy and mould the future character of their children. This state of feeling on the one side coupled with the desire to elect a board who would dismiss the old teacher and the disposition on the other side to retain the same teacher in the same school at all hazards, culminated in a contest which is seldom equalled by any buttonholing and maneuvering hitherto heard of to get voters. Mr. E. A. Milner was the teacher who has been so long employed in the school and the only question in the whole contest was for or against retaining him, in which all questions in relation to the welfare of the school was lostsight of, one element working with all their power to keep him in, while the other side were just as desirous of putting him out. Messrs Jesse Huffman, Prior Scott and Emery Allen as directors and Thos. Bell as clerk were run and elected by the party who were in favor of retaining the old condition of affairs and continuing Mr. Milner as teacher while on the other hand Messrs G. W. Kennedy, F. A. Horning and Wallace Baldwin as directors with Wm. Groves clerk were run and defeated by the other faction who desired a change and a new teacher hired who could so harmonize the patrons of the school that all could see their way clear to send to and patronize the school. This is a very bad condition of affairs when we find that the harmony and prosperity of one of our principal public schools in the county and the real interest is all subordinated to the interest of one man. This certainly is wrong, for no matter what any man's qualifications as a school teacher is, if it should be regarded by some as first class and by others with disfavor, whenever the harmony and best interests of the school are to be effected, the general interest of the school should be regarded first and if any considerable number of patrons cannot send to school on account of some fault they find with the teacher, the teacher's interests should give way for the public and general interests of the school and should seek employment elsewhere, where his services can be better appreciated and a new teacher employed in the discordant school who can harmonize the elements and command the respect of all the patrons of the district. The main point to be kept in view with the public school questions is not what teachers shall teach, but how can we best advance the interests of education and disseminate knowledge the greatest number of children, and it certainly is unfortunate that an important public view should be lost sight of for the benefit of one man. A similar difficulty and opposition some years ago sprang up towards Prof. Walker in Philomath College which hung on so long that it materially damaged the school, and in the discord which more recently grew up in the Presbyterian church in opposition to Mr. Dunning being retained as pastor which came near breaking up the church. In both instances we maintained the better plan would have been for the incumbent against whom the opposition was waged to have withdrawn while the discord was only in its commencement, and this was not our idea because we had anything against these men, but because it was thought such withdrawal better for all parties interested, and time in these two instances has amply proven that such would have been the wisest course. When any man attempts to force his employment as teacher or minister upon the public where any considerable number of the people do not want him he is degrading his position which ought to be made noble down to the level of a neighborhood broil and quarrel which should be beneath the dignity of any man capable of maintaining such positions. By so doing he wastes his energies, does himself absolute injury which it is difficult to ever regain, and does the public a very grave and lasting injustice. We have noticed this kind of course in many instances and yet have to find the first man who attempted to force his empolyment, as indicated, on the public by creating a commotion in the community who did not finally rue his course when it is too late.

THE OREGON PACIFIC.

The Track, Cars, Engines, and Topography of the Country.

The Portland *Daily News* contains the following:

"A gentleman who has recently traversed the line of the Oregon Pacific from Corvallis to the ocean, reports that he was much surprised to find the road bed so perfect. Although the final blasting has not been done, the grade is even and regular. The rails are of the best steel, and the passenger cars, engines, and, in fact, all of the rolling stock are new and of the best make. Construction trains have recently commenced running again and passengers are carried thus from Yaquina to Corvallis. As before announced, this road is 70 miles long. The highest pass, which is over the Coast range, is but 600 feet high. As will be supposed, the country is not what is generally called rough. Although a mountain road, there are farms all through the several intervening valleys. On the west side the formation is largely volcanic. The hills both there and on the east side are low and rounded, and on this side they are of a sandstone, shale and igneous character. The bridges which were washed away in the great floods of two months ago were but of a temporary character, as they are at present. The permanent bridges will be built during the coming summer. The financial straightness of the road, it is thought, will be speedily over come. The managers obtained some advantageous legislation during the recent session, and expect to do some good work soon.

FROM A REPUBLICAN STANDPOINT.

CORVALLIS, Or., March 2, 1885.

EDS. GAZETTE:—In its last issue the *Leader* goes out of its way to make a wanton and venemous attack upon Joint Senator J. D. Lee. The article appears as editorial, but the ear marks it bears convinces us that it was written or dictated by a democratic croaker who stands behind the screen from that paper but who is really a power behind the throne but who really dictates and moulds such malicious trash through its columns and has now taken this way of disgorging some of his gall. However we shall deal with it as editorial, and by reference to a few facts show its utter falsity. We will quote one sentence from the article "He (Lee) proved recreant to *every trust*, to every pledge made his people." Let us see. Benton and Polk counties were deeply interested in four local matters. 1st, Securing Extension of grant to O. P R. R. 2nd, Confirmation of the location of the State Agricultural College at Corvallis. 3rd, Establishing a State normal school at Monmouth. 4th, Extension of the Narrow Gauge R. R. to Tidewater. The proceedings of the Senate are not yet printed, but we assert upon creditable information that Mr. Lee worked with unabted vigor for all these measures. If so, the above declaration that "he proved recreant to *every* trust" is absolutely and unqualifiedly false in these four particulars. On matters of general legislation it is equally at variance with the facts. Take the following four being some of the most important questions which were discussed in the canvas. 1st, Regulating freights and fares on Railroads. 2nd, Opposition to repeal of Mortgage Tax Law. 3rd, Passage of a registry law. 4th, Amending of assessment law so as to secure equal taxation. On all these we find Mr. Lee working and voting exactly as he talked in the canvas, and the people may well be proud of his efforts. Here again the false witness is arraigned for four more bold faced misrepresentations. We feel safe in saying that his position on matters of legislation has been consistent throughout. But now we come to the great bug bear, he voted for the candidate for U. S. Senator, which had been named by the majority, hoping thereby to break the deadlock which has brought so mnch confusion into our State matters, and liable to produce many mischievous results. Of course the objection raised to Mr. Hirsch was that he was a Portland man, and not in sympathy with the people of the Valley, but how utterly baseless and hypocritical is such criticism coming from a democratic organ, when the members of that party in the legislature almost to a man cast their votes for such railroad attorneys as P. P. Prim, I. D. Haines and others, who on the floor of the senate argued for "vested rights" of the railroads and voted against the bill of Mr. Hoults for their regulation. The democrats also voted Gearin, Effinger, Bellinger, Shattuck, Kelly and others—Portland lawyers and some of them railroad attorneys.

The pressure of an election was not resting upon the democrats they could not expect to elect, but voted for the men through purely complimentary motives thereby showing their high regard and endorsement of that class of men. They have bursted a boomerang at an honest and efficient hard worker for the people which will recoil upon their own heads with increased force.

A REPUBLICAN.

We attended the school meeting in the North district last Monday, and everything went off quietly and nothing of an unusual nature seemed to be on the surface except the election of directors seemed to go off in a kind of one sided manner, where three candidates were running no apparent discord however seemed to ruffle the surface of things, just before going to press however it is learned that the teacher in that district had also betitled himself by taking the trouble to go around and buttonhole and log roll with the voters of the district to vote for the director who was elected, for fear perhaps that if he left the people to elect a director without his interference his services might not be sufficiently appreciated to be retained and employed in the district. It therefore seems that Prof. Milner of south district is not the only one who has undertaken by logrolling to control the school elections of his district, but the north district is in the same boat except the feeling had not grown to such an extent. It has been suggested in the past that school teaching was being brought up to a systematized profession, if so it would be better and more dignified for the profession but of great service to educational interest if they were taught to leave off the the button-holing process and ways of curbstone politicians who go round systematically to set things up. We know nothing but what Mr. Bennett the teacher of the north district is a good teacher in fact we have always regarded and understood him to be such but when he Mr. Milner, or any other teacher so far forget themselves as to undertake in any way whatever to influence the election of school district to their own advantage if teaching is a dignified profession there should be some punishment of such a contemptable interference with the affairs of public schools.

The legislature at its next session should take this matter in hand and so amend the school law that when any school teacher so far forgets his business as to go and set up school elections or procure any one else to do so that it should forever thereafter disqualify him from teaching. This is not said because there is any dissatisfaction with the directors elected, but simply because if teachers are to take the right of election out of the people's hands by a system of organized button holing it will eventually ruin the district school where such debasing practices are permitted.

A country editor, "who has been there himself," thus describes his class: "The country editor is a man who reads newspapers, writes on most any subject, sticks type, folds papers, makes up mails, runs errands, saws wood, works in the garden, is blamed for thousands of things he never thought of, works hard all day, helps people into office who forget all about it afterwards, and very frequently gets cheated out of half of his earnings. He puffs and does more to build up a town than any one else, and the miser and the fogy are benefitted; yet they will not take his paper, will borrow it, read it, and cuss the old fool of an editor."