

## Corvallis Gazette.

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COUNTY primaries on April 5th, and the convention on the 9th.

Look at the drains in Corvallis. Where? where are they. Echo answers: Where.

SEVERAL of the principal streets in this city have a great deal of rubbish on them. Every property owner should be compelled to keep the roadway adjoining him in a clean condition.

Benton county must be ably represented in the Oregon legislature at the next session. A senator and two representatives will require some "tall" choosing by the delegates in the county convention.

"THE republicans of Benton county should select a strong candidate for probate judge. They can elect a capable man," so says the Yaquina paper. Yes he must be a CAPABLE man, one who will be neither too penurious nor too extravagant in county affairs. He should be from Corvallis precinct also.

THE business man who refuses to advertise in the local papers of his city or town, should have lived in Virginia over a century ago, when the governor of that commonwealth thanked God that there was not a single newspaper published in the old dominion. Look over the list of failures which daily occur and it will be found that, in nearly every instance, the bankrupt parties are men who do not patronize the press.—Welcome.

If the worst comes to the worst, we prefer a knave to a fool. If it must be DeLahm or Minto for governor let Van In.—Review.

Hon John Minto was a prominent man in Oregon long before the editor of the Review was born. In fact, he has forgotten more in one week than this suckling editor has learned during his lifetime. Mr. Minto could fill the gubernatorial chair in a more able manner than the past three governors have.

THIS would be a very good year for the "cow counties," the "sturgeon precincts" and the "hayseed districts" to get together and put up a good man for governor. It is easy enough to down Portland, if we outsiders choose to work in harmony. We have plenty of good men from whom to select and we can furnish the votes to elect our choice. Portland will be compelled to give us a republican majority in order to save her local bacon. We may be the tail of the kite, as it were, but we have been growing, and it will be easy to reverse the simile.—Astoria Columbian.

### A MUTUAL BUILDING ASSOCIATION.

It is well-known by most all citizens here that vacant houses are getting more scarce every year in Corvallis. Every day, nearly, there is a call for one. A prominent real estate agent of this city suggests that it would be a great benefit to all here to organize a mutual building association for the purpose of erecting dwellings for rent or sale. The monthly dues would be small for the individual member, but the aggregate, if the scheme was well worked, would be large enough to keep up the monthly payroll of carpenters and the other calls for money, and soon the rental would be coming in to swell the finances of the association. This organization could be so formed as to take in all classes and would be the means of giving all, who can spare a dollar or more a month, a chance to save their money and make it earn a large interest. Under a proper system, such an organization would prove a better plan for investing savings than the ordinary building and loan association, which is, as every one knows, mainly profitable to those who never borrow any money from it but who get all the benefit of loans at enormous interest and the losses of those who, at sometime, are compelled to drop out. Houses could be supplied to renters and those desiring to purchase on the installment plan could arrange it with the building association to purchase from them. There are plenty of lots that could be purchased cheap on which to build. Let all think over this matter, and then let something be done to effect an organization.

### A LOST CAUSE.

The lost cause is the theme of ex-President Cleveland in all his interviews which he manages to place before the public with seeming regularity since he has been relegated to private life, says an exchange.

His associations with the New England manufacturers, who are preparing for free raw materials, create a feeling of self-justification, and the fact that many of the republican manufacturers now sustain his position taken in 1884, strengthens his belief that the road which leads to power lies in the old avenue of free trade.

As a leader of his party, he hopes to organize victory out of defeat. This has seldom been accomplished in the political history of this country. New issues and new men as leaders usually absorb the attention of the people, rather than the elements of past defeat.

The fact is that the principles of protection are becoming more extended each year with the developments of the south and west. In times past, when the manufacturers of New England controlled the markets of this country, protection from abroad and free trade at home was considered the only safe theory to sustain the mechanical industries of this country. Now that those industries are becoming established throughout the south and west, and are comparatively in their infancy, the New England manufacturer sees an opportunity to obtain raw material from abroad for less money than the interior competitors can purchase material from the farmers, and thus re-establish a monopoly in his favor as against the American producer and interior manufacturer and free trade is advocated. These manufacturers are not satisfied to do their share, but wish to control the industry of the entire nation. They wish to become the England of America.

The sentiment which impelled the capitalist, laborer and farmer to establish and maintain manufactures in the east is extending to all parts of this country, and protection is regarded as essential to-day in the new states and the new south as it ever was in times past for New England. It is a conflict of interest which creates the controversy now existing between the people of the various sections on the question of protective tariff and free trade.

Mr. Cleveland moves in a circle of admirers who are advocates of his lost cause, and is led to believe that the nation is ready to surrender her manufacturing industries to the monopolies of New England and of foreign countries.

With a hope of obtaining political aid from his New England converts he sees in the solid south a chance to regain supremacy. He forgets that the party lines are drawn as close on election day in these manufacturing states as in any other parts of the country, and that the New England farmers who roll up the republican majorities will not vote away their opportunity to furnish these manufacturers with free raw material from their farms.

### VERY TRUE.

There is no reason why Republicans and Democrats should hate each other. Doubtless the rank and file of both parties, taken as a whole, are patriotic and honest, only they differ on certain questions of public policy. With a few exceptions, we believe the great mass of all parties desire to advance the glory and well-being of this nation, and the prosperity of its people, but they cannot agree as to the proper course to pursue to obtain the common end. Mistaken views are cherished just as strongly and honestly as correct ones, and as a general rule, the right is more good-tempered and catholic in its spirit than the wrong, even though the latter be the error of the head instead of the heart. When we differ we should discuss our differences frankly and fully, with a view to advancing the truth and the course of good government. It is a pity that men will too often feed their prejudices instead of opening their minds to enlightenment, and it is a source of regret that a certain class of political partisans will persist in aggravating the minds of one class of people against another.—S. F. Alta.

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## BENTON COUNTY.

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## Investors.

Benton county has an area of about twelve hundred square miles, and extends through from the Willamette river to the Pacific ocean. The coast mountains traverse the county north and south through the middle, thus giving it widely diversified characteristics. On the western slope there are a number of small valleys that are considerably improved. Chief among these is the Alsea valley, in the south-western part of the county, which is about fifteen miles long and four miles wide, and is well adapted to general farming, fruit growing, dairying and stock raising. There are located in this valley two grist mills, two salmon canneries, and several small lumber and shingle mills. Coasting vessels ascend the river a number of miles and ply a lucrative trade. The Yaquina valley, further north, is a similar country, and it has the advantage of being on the railroad, which runs down the valley to the bay. Yaquina is a town of about four hundred inhabitants, situated on the bay of the same name at the mouth of the river, and its shipping facilities as the terminus of the Oregon Pacific railway on tide water make it an important place. It has the best harbor on the coast between San Francisco and the Columbia river, and the nearest harbor to the Willamette river. The government is improving this harbor to meet the growing demands of commerce. The railway company has a line of steamers plying between Yaquina and San Francisco, and coasting vessels do more or less business there. The only bank in the county outside of Corvallis is located there. A few miles down the beach is the Seal Rock summer resort, which is well patronized every season and is rapidly gaining in popularity. Newport is an incorporated town about the same size as Yaquina. It is a few miles nearer the ocean and is quite widely known as a summer resort. The Siletz Indian reservation takes in a small portion of the northeastern part of the county. The western slope of Benton county is not so well settled as that portion in the Willamette valley, but it contains many choice tracts of farming land and vast forests of valuable timber.

In the Willamette valley portion of the county there are several sub-valleys, separated by low hills that are not too rough for cultivation. In the northern part of the county are Blodgett's and King's valleys, drained by the Luckiamute river. The King's valley settlement is the larger of the two, and includes a considerable area of well-developed country. The Mary's river valley is the largest in the county and comprises the country about Corvallis and extending westward into the mountains fifteen or twenty miles distant. Then the Long Tom country occupies an important portion of the southeastern corner of the county. All these small valleys are merely portions of the rich Willamette valley, the divisions between them being somewhat imperfectly defined watersheds trending from the mountains to the river.

On the Willamette slope the forests decrease as the river is approached. The mountains are, for the most part, heavily timbered with white fir, cedar and yew, and down the slopes are maple, ash, oak, alder and balsam. Nearly all localities of medium altitude bear a light growth of oak and maple. All the creek bottoms have ash, alder and balsam. This entire list of wood is suitable for manufacturing purposes, such as lumber, furniture, woodenware, etc.

Benton county has by no means reached a state of full development. Its agricultural resources, which are chief, are susceptible of great growth, and it needs many more people than it now has to till the soil. The land is very productive. No section of the west excels this county in the abundance and variety of its farm products. The climate is mild and healthful, with the same pleasant features that characterize the climate of the Willamette valley in general. The summers are dry and moist and extremes of temperature are unknown. The climate of the portion west of the mountains is a little more moist than in the valley, and vegetation is green there the entire year. Sometimes there is snow in the valley for a very brief time in winter. During nearly half a century that Benton county has been cultivated there has not been a single failure of crops and the ordinary yields are proverbially large. All the common grains, vegetables and fruits are raised, and even the more sensitive grapes and peaches are successfully grown. The fruit interests could easily be quadrupled by the establishment of curing facilities. There are large quantities of cultivable land still unoccupied on both sides of the mountains, but the western slope has fewer settlers than the eastern, because it is a newer section and has not the modern conveniences of the valley. For grazing purposes, the foothills of the mountains contain the choicest lands; but for cultivation the more level surface down in the valley is preferred, and such farms may be obtained in good locations near market for from \$15.00 to \$50.00 per acre. Improved farms, of course, cost more than the wild lands. Many of the land holders now own hundreds of acres more than they can use, and they are now manifesting a desire to cut up these large tracts and dispose of the surplus land to immigrants seeking homes in the west. This section has superior attractions for home seekers, and it is that class of people more than any other that is becoming interested in Benton county.