

Corvallis Gazette.

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FRANK CONOVER.

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THE NEW CITY CHARTER.

The new city charter prepared by the special committee was read at the meeting of the council last Monday and Tuesday evenings and after being discussed by the council and citizens present was adopted.

It is broad and progressive in its provisions, and, as far as we are able to ascertain, it meets with the general approval of the taxpayers of this city. Almost every provision contained in it has been thoroughly tested by other progressive cities, that have lived and prospered under them. It is clear of many objectionable features contained in the old charter and is certainly a great improvement over it. Hence we see no reason why it should not pass the legislature without opposition. Under its provisions the city will be enabled to make many of the much needed improvements so necessary to the future progress and growth, if the people so will it, which were hindered by the penurious provisions of the old charter. If Corvallis is to be a live progressive and prosperous city, which she has every opportunity to be, then let us have the new charter. If we are to continue in the same old ruts and let the weeds and moss grow on the roofs of our houses, (it is a notable fact that some three years ago a good crop of weeds and moss could be seen growing on some of the business houses on Main street), then go down to Salem and defeat it.

The new city charter changes the system of city government by doing away with the office of marshal and recorder and creates the offices of police judge, chief of police, street supervisor, and city surveyor, who shall be elected by the council. It provides for the issuing of bonds by a vote of the people, for the purpose of purchasing and operating a system of water works, electric light plant, the building of a bridge across the Willamette, constructing sewers, and public buildings for the city. It gives the city power to improve the streets and sidewalks and assesses the cost for the same to the abutting property; also numerous other minor changes relative to the city's government.

The constitution of the state of Oregon was the recipient of an airing in the national congress recently in which the old absolute color line clause was brought up and discussed. The dead and long ago buried out of sight idea of excluding colored men from citizenship in this state, seems to be the live idea with Senator George, of Mississippi. Oregon has progressed far enough not to observe the old obsolete clause although no repeal of it has been made, and leaves it to less progressive states to haggle over such points of disagreement.—Herald.

The death of Senator E. L. Eastham last Saturday at Oregon City, removes from the stage action one of Oregon's most enterprising citizens. There will be no election to fill the vacancy in the senate until the general election one year from next Jan. as the present legislature will be ready to adjourn before an election could be held.

The distinction is Representative Meussdorffer's of raising the biggest sensation so far over a bill introduced. It is his bill to punish a fellow who buys goods on the installment plan and makes small payments, and then sells or runs away with the goods.—Statesman.

AN EFFECTIVE CRITIC.

The Farmers' Alliance has grown strong numerically by confining its purposes to glittering generalities. It is against hard times and oppression upon the part of transportation companies, and in favor of good times and just control of the railroads. That is a creed broad and pliable enough to take in any fair-minded man.

The object of all physicians is to banish disease and restore health. That far all might belong to a single school, but when it comes to ways and means we find an irreconcilable conflict of opinion which has resulted in the formation of rival schools of medicine.

The alliance has now arrived at that stage of its existence where something more tangible is demanded than mere promises. It now devolves upon it to accomplish its object, to bring about those reforms which, for more than a century, have resisted the stitismanship of the old parties. This is the critical point in the life of the order. Demagogues and selfish tricksters who have long ago been kicked out of the old parties will elbow their way to the front seats and attempt to run the new party in the interest of their own selfish ends, and to further the objects of men who want to go to the senate, to be elected governor, etc.

The alliance will find that in order to achieve the promised reforms it will have to confront precisely the same problems that are confronted by the old parties. Then the democrats will demand democratic remedies, while the republicans will naturally favor republican curatives. It is vain to say that a homogeneous platform can be devised out of the best clauses of both old platforms. The democratic and republican parties are already in harmony upon everything excepting the tariff, the treatment of the Southern ballot box outrages, and one or two other points of contention. Political platforms nowadays are largely made up of statements of well accepted political truths, combatted only by cranks and impracticables.

After all the alliance will probably find itself marching in a circle, and ultimately will arrive at the starting point. And yet it serves a useful purpose. It startles the old parties, and has a tendency to send them back to the higher ground of correct principles, from which there is always danger of their wavering. It serves as a rebuke to those bosses who grow to believe that the people are incapable of entering an effective protest against their misdeeds.

In brief, the Farmers' Alliance may aptly be compared to a literary critic, who is himself incapable of writing a great book, but who can detect the errors and weaknesses of the author and sting him into better effort.—Spokane Falls Review.

A SENSATION was caused in the Washington legislature last Tuesday by Representative Metcalf, a Squire man, who, just before the time to ballot for U. S. Senator, handed \$500 to the speaker of the house and in the presence of the assembly announced that he had been paid that sum to vote for W. H. Calkins for the United States senate.

The agricultural implement trust has been broken. The McCormick works and J. E. Deering & Co. having withdrawn the trust could no longer exist.

The bill introduced by Hon. C. E. Moor, of this county, to levy a one-half mill tax for Oregon's exhibit at the world's fair is a good one, and should be passed.

The amount appropriated for improving the Cascade locks and the mouth of the Columbia river is \$2,688,000.

DEATH OF BANCROFT.

George Bancroft, the illustrious scholar and historian of the United States, died at his home in Washington last Saturday. His demise had been expected for several months past, and when announcement came it occasioned no great surprise. For more than fifty years the name of Bancroft has been familiar to the people of the United States, as an author and publicist, but his reputation will rest upon the solid monument that he has raised in the composition of his incomparable history of the United States. This great work will forever hold rank with the best of English classics, occupying in style a place midway between the luminous conciseness of Gibbon and the wearisome diffuseness of Macaulay.—Statesman.

The following are some of the things Governor Penney favors in his message to the legislature last Wednesday: A state poll tax of \$2 and a state income tax; purchase by the state of the locks at Oregon City and the fair grounds at Salem; Australian ballot system; taxation of all debts due National Banks; a state portage railroad around The Dalles rapids of the Columbia river; the building of two state steam tugs for the Columbia river; a law regulating freights on railroads; the reduction of interest. And the following are some of the things he opposes: The fish and railroad commissioners; the tax to maintain the State Agricultural College and the State University and free scholarships to these colleges; any appropriation for the World's Fair at Chicago; Federal interference with state affairs.

A naturalization bill is now pending in congress that has attracted not a little attention throughout the country. It provides that an applicant for citizenship must prove by two witnesses that he has resided in the country five years, must be able to read and write English, and must be able to answer sixty per cent of the questions asked him about the constitution of the United States, the examination to be conducted in the English language without the aid of an interpreter. Comment upon such a measure is wholly uncalled for as it would meet with the approval of the people solely upon its merits.

The Salem correspondent of the Oregonian in referring to the personnel of the Oregon legislature says: Two members of the last house performed their duties so satisfactorily that their constituents elected them to the senate; Croso, of Benton, and Myers, of Linn; the former a most energetic republican, the latter an ardent democrat. The former has the good of the Agricultural college most at heart, the latter the interest of the farmers, of the lady clerks and of a bill to appropriate \$3000 for the improvement of a public spring at Sodaville, Linn county.

The refusal of the U. S. congress to pass a copyright bill in the past has resulted in our being dubbed pirates by the English. Now that congress is about to pass such a bill our English cousins set up a howl against such, claiming that the passage of the bill would result in the transfer of English printing and publishing to this country. It is pretty hard to please a Briton anyway.

The death of King Kalakaua, in San Francisco last Tuesday, is a matter of note in the history of our nation. He being the first king whose death has occurred in the United States.

JUDGE DEADY has allowed Receiver Simon to expend four and one-half million of the consolidated bonds to lift the floating indebtedness of the Oregon Improvement Co.

REPLY TO TAXPAYER.

ED. GAZETTE:—I wish to say a few words in answer to the article in the Corvallis Times of July 13, 1891, by some person signing his name as Taxpayer:

I wish to say that this present County Court did not make the contract for correcting the tax-roll as therein mentioned. But it was made by Judge Holgate and Commissioner Williams and Logan at a special term of court called by Judge Holgate on July 3rd, 1890, four days before he retired from office and four days before the regular July term.

When I took the office on July 7th, 1890, I found the said contract with Markley & Dunstan on the journal and those gentlemen at work preparing the description of lands. I don't doubt but what the work could have been done cheaper but that is neither here nor there for this present Court found the contract already on the books and the men to work under it. And now was it this Court's duty to say that the former Court were a set of dunces and block-heads and that this Court knows it all? We think not. It was only our duty to see that the work was done according to contract.

It may be asked why this man who calls himself "Tax Payer" is complaining and trying to make the people believe that he is standing like a guarding angel over Benton county's exchequer looking for leaks as he calls it, and declaring that any contract the County Court should make for correcting the tax-roll is illegal and void. I will tell you where the shoe pinches. By virtue of the said illegal contract it was found that this same man (Tax Payer) had about \$1,070 worth of property that he had not given in to the assessor and was not upon the tax-roll of 1890. And again he says that all the new court house warrants are paid when in fact there are about \$20,000 yet unpaid. He tries to make the people believe that all this indebtedness is just the current expenses of the county, and that the new court house and furniture warrants have been paid. But this statement is in keeping with all of his article. He has two objects in view, one is he wants a little cheap notoriety; he wants the people to believe that he is the watch dog of their exchequer, and the other is he don't like to pay this extra tax on the property found by virtue of said contract.

The greatest leak that I know of out of the county treasury is the one that this said illegal contract was made for the express purpose of stopping. That is to require every man in the county to pay taxes on all the property he had and not leave about half unassessed and offset the balance by indebtedness. And every man you hear complaining about that contract being of no benefit to the county, nine times out of ten, by examining the present tax roll in the sheriff's hands, you will find that he has land that he has not paid any taxes on for several years.

W. S. HUFFORD.

GENERAL MILES has demonstrated his value as an Indian fighter by not fighting. The recent trouble with the Sioux which threatened to develop into a bloody warfare has been settled with but little bloodshed. General Miles was prepared to even exterminate the hostiles if it became necessary, but he adopted pacific measures and has been gratifyingly successful.

The democrats are trying to bluff the republicans by claiming that they have no objections to an extra session of congress, when the truth is that it is the one outcome of the present session that they fear most, and this fear will probably prove a powerful factor in retarding the natural obstructive tendencies of that party.

DURING

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

WE WILL CLOSE OUT OUR ENTIRE Stock of Men's Winter Clothing, Overcoats, Furnishing Goods and Rubber Goods, at

Greatly
Reduced
Prices

In order to make room for our New Spring and Summer Stock, of which we will have a large and elegant assortment.

One Price
Wants Cash
Store

Corvallis,
Oregon.

"Bill of Fare" at the "New Era."

The Old Credit System Must Go.

The old credit system must go. The people are awake to the fact that credit and long time means Long Prices. At the end of the year the merchant that sells on time draws over his books and draws off all worthless accounts, tools them up and adds them to the loss account. Now those accounts must be paid for, and those that pay for their own must help pay for those worthless accounts. Again, if a merchant sells on time he must buy on time thus making him pay big prices for his goods; then he adds his enormous profits to cover the losses of those worthless accounts. Now.

THE "NEW ERA"

Neither sells on credit nor buys on time, so are able to offer Matchless Bargains in all classes of goods they carry. The following are a few of their sledge-hammer prices:

Ladies' and Misses' Gossamers, \$1.00, \$1.17, \$1.50, and \$2.25, worth 25 per cent more.
Rubber Overcoats, \$3.70, worth \$5.00.
Ladies' Overshoes, 38c, 42c, 48c, and 55c, worth 25 per cent more.
Men's Overshoes, 57c, worth 75c; 67c, worth 85c, &c., &c.
Overalls, 45, 50, 53, 63 and 75c, worth 20 per cent more any other place in town.
Men's Hats, 30, 30, 35, and 40c; \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, &c.
Towels, 5, 8, 10, 12, 18, 23, 25, 35, and 42c.
Ladies' Shawls, from 25 to 50 per cent below regular prices.
Ribbons, Laces, Embroideries 50 to 100 per cent below regular prices.
Corsets, 26 48, 85 and 88c each.
Gents' collars and cuffs at 100 per cent below regular prices.
Mouldings. Must close out this stock to make room for Large Stock of other goods to arrive from the East in February.

Come and get prices—we can't enumerate them in this space. No trouble to show goods. All goods purchased at the "New Era" warranted. Give us a call.

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FURNITURE HEADQUARTERS!

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This is the great Emporium for Modern Furniture at reasonable prices. His stock is large, and selected with special care with an eye to Comfort, Beauty, Style and Durability. A glance at his elegant wicker, plush and fancy chairs, convenient folding wardrobe beds, stylish center tables of antique oak and walnut, will convince those in quest of Furniture that his store is the place for bargains in anything of the household furniture line.

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Fire-Backs Warranted for 15 Years.

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Ventilated Ovens.

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