

OREGON SENTINEL.

JACKSONVILLE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1882.

THE COURT HOUSE.

The Ashland "Tidings" seems to be somewhat displeased at the action of the County Commissioners in ordering the building of a new court house. It repeats its old assertion that at the late election there was no issue on the court house question and that the people—the poor, dear people, whom it so loves,—are opposed to the building of a court house. It accuses Commissioner Cook of double dealing in this matter, says that at the nominating convention, though he would not pledge himself against the court house, yet he gave the rural voters to understand he was against it or in its own language was "their man"; and that since the election he has assured Ashland people that he had no intention of acting contrary to the wishes of the people. Now, it says, he has been weighed in the balance and found to be just about the calibre of the man needed to build a court house. Just how the calibre of a man can be determined by weighing him we confess ourselves unable to see, but we do know, and so does almost every man in Jackson county, that the court house question was an issue in the last election. If the "Tidings" editor does not know it, his failing recollection on this subject will be somewhat revived by consulting the files of his own paper. If it was not an issue, why was the "Tidings" before the election, talking about the probability of the vote for County Commissioner being "largely sectional", insisting that outside the County seat there was general disapproval of the movement to erect a new Court House, and bending every effort to defeat Mr. Cook, because, as it said, he was "on the fence," and to elect Mr. Satterfield and Mr. Alford, because they were opposed to building a court house? Why was it that just before election several gentlemen from Ashland were riding night and day throughout the county, warning the country people against Cook? And why does the "Tidings" now claim that Cook gave the country people to understand that he was "their man"? What use had they for a man? If the court house was not an issue, what was the issue that made Ashland precinct, which gave George a majority of 40, give Alford a majority of 206 over Cook and not cast a vote for Ficke while it cast 202 votes for Satterfield? And why was it that Little Butte, and Evans Creek, and Manzanita, and Rock Point, all of which gave majorities for Fenton, give larger majorities for Satterfield? And why did Grant's Pass, which gave George a majority of 8, give Alford a majority of 212? The "Tidings" mean now, by talking about Cook getting in by a "scratch"? The court house question was made an issue by the "Tidings" and its followers and fairly fought out in the election of Mr. Cook. He was elected by a majority of 212—a pretty large sized scratch by the way—and his election was a declaration on the part of just that majority of the people that a court house is desired. With the issue upon which he received, Mr. Cook, as an honorable gentleman, could not consistently refuse to build a court house whatever might be his own inclination. He desired to act according to the wishes of the people of the county and that is just what he is doing, and if the "Tidings" could consent to extend its vision beyond the limits of its native city, it might learn that even that highly favored metropolis, for whose benefit the county has expended so much money for roads and bridges, does not contain a monopoly of all the wishes and hopes and desires of the people of this county.

The Outlook.

From over the mountains we hear work on the new wagon road is progressing finely under the management of the proprietorship of Wimer & Sons. They have already about one hundred and twenty men at work grading and are having others as fast as they come along. The work of building the necessary bridges has commenced, and will be pushed to completion as soon as possible. Mr. Wimer intends to have the road completed in time for the fall freight for the Rogue River Valley and Josephine county trade to pass over this fall; in fact, we hear that the freighting of a large amount of goods has already been contracted for to go over the road. James Miller and son, who have the contract for carrying the mail from this place to Waldo, informs us that they will have a new six passenger stage in readiness to put on the road as soon as it is completed, connecting with the Jacksonville stage at Waldo, by which arrangement the trip will be made from Crescent City to Jacksonville in two days. It is expected that a great amount of travel will be done over this road, and that pleasure-seekers, and those from the other side of the mountains who wish to visit the coast to get a whiff of the sea breeze or a square meal of mussels, clams, or any of the variety of shell fish that can only be found on the coast, will not be obliged to turn back on account of bad roads, or in fact, no road at all. This is certainly the cheapest place to live at in the world. The tides are low twice out of twenty-four hours, and at every low tide you can get a square meal. But we would warn those who are not acquainted that they must not miss a tide.—"Del Norte Record."

There is one feature of the present tax law which deserves the attention of the Legislature at its next session. Under the law as it now stands, a person is allowed to deduct his indebtedness within the state, from the aggregate of his taxable property, and the balance only is the basis of his assessment. The principle of the law is, that no person ought to be required to pay taxes upon more than he is actually worth. While at first sight, this seems to possess many elements of equity, yet a closer examination of the law and its workings, develops opposing equities of greater force and far greater importance. All direct taxation is primarily divided into tax upon lands, and tax upon personal property. Of these, the revenue received from the tax upon land is, by far, the most uniform and most certain. This arises from the fact that land is more permanent and stable in its value, and is, independent of its owner, a part of the wealth of the community in which it is located. It is, really and necessarily, a part of the material wealth of that county in which it is situated,—no matter who is its owner or where he may reside—and, as a part of such wealth, it should, without reference to private ownership, bear its proportion of the taxes of that county. In the case of land, it is essentially the property itself, and not the person who owns it, that is, or ought to be taxed. The movable nature of personal property connects it more intimately with the person of its possessor. It has no permanent character. It may be here to-day and there to-morrow, a part of the wealth of this county one year, and a part of the wealth of another the next, and its taxable value may more properly be made contingent upon the financial condition of its owner. But in reference to lands, it is not a question of what the man who owns it, is worth, but of what is the value of the land itself. In the assessment of taxes, there is no such thing as the absolute or abstract rights of persons. All such rights are comparative, and should be adjusted upon the broadest principles of equity and fairness, and these demand that, in regard to real property at least, they should be adjusted solely with reference to the property itself.

Suppose A and B are the equal owners of all the property in Jackson county. B becomes indebted to C, a creditor in the city or foreign, to the full extent of the assessed value of his part of the property. A, who is out of debt, must then bear the burden of all the taxes. This is a plain statement of the plan upon which our taxes are assessed, and it would seem, if of itself an unanswerable argument against it. Some of the farmers of this valley have borrowed money from persons residing in other parts of the State, for which they have mortgaged their farms—some of them to the full extent of their taxable value—and it is not beyond the possibilities of commercial transactions that others will become similarly involved. Now the taxable property of the county is decreased by just the amount of money so borrowed, and in just that proportion is the tax upon the remainder of the property advanced. It is, for taxable purposes, transferring the wealth of this county to some other county. The commercial tendency of the age is to concentrate the wealth of the country, in the cities and towns constituting the commercial centers. It is there, that capital accumulates, and from thence reaches out to absorb the substance of surrounding communities. As a commercial question, this is a matter with which Legislatures have no business to meddle, but in so far as it affects the interests of those who are not directly implicated, it is a proper subject for Legislative enactments. No person should be compelled by law to pay tribute to this commercial necessity. So far as the wealth of the State is concerned, it makes no difference whether the property is in one county or another, but it does make a material difference to the tax payers. If it is insisted, that it is unjust to compel a person to pay taxes upon property covered by indebtedness, because he is not in reality worth more than the amount left after deducting his debts, it may be answered, that it is an act of much deeper injustice to compel his neighbor to assist him in the payment of his debts. A man is poorly rewarded for careful and economical management by being compelled, because of this care and economy, to pay additional taxes on account of the mismanagement or misfortune of his neighbor. Under the present law, land is, for taxable purposes, deprived of its permanent and immovable character and converted into personal property. Though the land remains, its value is transferred to some other county and becomes a part of its taxable wealth. The principle for which we contend is recognized in the present law in reference to the State. Indebtedness out of the State cannot be deducted, because this would decrease the taxable property of the State. It is just this principle, that we ask applied to each county in the State. Each county has its separate expenses of government just as much as each State has, and is just as much entitled to retain, for taxation, its separate property.

MERCANTILE JOURNALISM.

A certain, so-called "independent," daily paper,—the "Oregonian,"—published in the city of Portland, is again spitefully snapping at the boot heels of ex-Senator Mitchell. This super-independent paragon of periodical virtue insists, in its issue of the 14th inst., that not only is Mr. Mitchell a very bad man, but that all the newspapers which have presumed to favor him, are "mercenary members of the guild of mendicant journalism," together with much more equally offensive and abusive falsehood.

We were disposed to descend from the reserve of expression, which characterizes gentlemen in the discussion of any subject, we might be unable for other reasons to cope with the "Oregonian" in its own favorite and familiar field. We own that our instincts and education have somewhat unfitted us for the task. To bandy Billingsgate with a blackguard, one must needs acquire the mental habits and master the vernacular of the social class to which he belongs; while to match the mouthings of a well trained, self-conceited ass, requires certain personal gifts of nature—denied to us—and a special training that we have had neither the ability nor the ambition to receive. Sensible of these deficiencies, both of nature and habit, we leave the "Oregonian" unassailed and unassailable in its peculiar line of wholesale and malicious lying, and asinine hardihood of colossal cheekiness. We will only pause to note the fatuity that made the "Oregonian" think it could palm off that old portrait of itself, which appeared in Monday's issue, as the likeness of any other newspaper in Oregon. But we suppose this is how it came about. Sometime ago, the "only paper" told the Republicans and the listening world, that whoever else might be senator, J. H. Mitchell was not the man—that Republicans would not follow his leadership, and that true and honest Republicans would not support him. But the popularity of Mr. Mitchell, already great, began rapidly to increase, until now the demand for his election to the Senate is widespread and well nigh universal. So too, the Republican press could neither be persuaded nor browbeaten into accepting the "Oregonian's" hatred of Mitchell, (the cause of which is so well known,) as a reason for refusing support to a great and able leader.

Then, incensed at the country news papers for not following the lead of His Onliness, the "Oregonian" appealed to its imagination to furnish a picture of the meanest and most despicable newspaper it could conceive, and Imagination, unable to outdo reality has merely drawn the outline of its own. Then the unbounded Conceit of the creature stepped in, and added a few touches here and there, because it couldn't endure that the country papers should be shown as identical with it, even in meanness.

That is, the "Oregonian's" Imagination, in drawing a picture for which the "Oregonian" sat as model, found out how mercenary we, the country newspapers are, and the "Oregonian's" Conceit found out how cheap we are, by paraphrasing the popular rhyme thus: "As these country papers Must be cheaper than we, What very cheap papers These cheap country papers must be."

The Democrats are loudly declaiming against the extravagance of the River and Harbor Bill, and are endeavoring to manufacture campaign capital out of it, by charging the responsibility of its passage on the Republican party. The truth is, that the responsibility of that bill is about equally divided between the two parties. On the passage of the bill over the veto, the vote in the House for the bill was as follows: Republicans 64, Democrats 53, Greenbackers 5, total, 122.

Against the bill, Republicans 30, Democrats 27, Independent 1, total, 58.

In the Senate, for the bill, Republicans 19, Democrats 22, total, 41.

Against the bill, Republicans 11, Democrats 5, total, 16.

In both houses, the bill had: Republicans, 83 votes; Democrats, 75 votes; Greenbackers, 5, total, 122. Against the bill, Republicans, 41 votes; Democrats, 32 votes. It will thus be seen, that of those voting, the proportion of Republicans who opposed the bill was larger than that of the Democrats. If there is any blame to be borne as the consequence, neither party is in a position to charge the other with the whole of it.

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A. McKinnie, Manager For Oregon, Washington and Idaho Territories. Office--102 First St., Portland, Oregon.

References: CHAS. HODGE, of Hodge, Davis & Co. JAMES STEEL, Cashier First National Bank. J. A. STEWART, of E. Wholesale leather & findings. C. A. DOLPH, of Dolph, Bronson & Co. Col. J. McGRATH, of J. McGrath & Co. C. G. HENRICHSEN, of Henrichsen & Greenberg. Dr. G. E. NOTTAGE, M. D., Examiner a Physician. J. H. HILL, of Hill, Hill & Co. FRANK ZANOVICH, of Zan Brothers.

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Calendar. First term begins... September 4, 1882. Second term begins... Nov. 12, 1882. Third term begins... January 23, 1883. Fourth term begins... April 9, 1883. Twenty-two new and elegant rooms are now being added to the Woman's College, and will be ready for students by first term. Send for catalogue and information to THOS. VAN SOOY, President, Salem, Oregon.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT! MAX MULLER TO THE People of Jackson County.

MY ENTIRE STOCK, CONSISTING OF GROCERIES, BOOTS & SHOES, FURNISHING GOODS, DRY & FANCY GOODS, TOBACCO & CIGARS, CROCKERY, ETC. MUST BE SOLD IN Sixty Days For Cash

The time being short in which to dispose of such a large stock, I guarantee to the people that at no former time have such sweeping and Marked Reductions been made as I propose to make in order to close out my entire stock within the time specified. SETTLE UP. All those indebted to me by note or book account are requested to call and settle immediately. MAX MULLER. Jacksonville, March 11, 1882.

ASHLAND HARNESS SHOP. C. K. KLUM, MANUFACTURER OF, AND DEALER IN Saddlery and Harness, ASHLAND, OREGON. KEEPS A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF goods in his line of trade. Ladies', Mens' and Boys' Saddles, a Specialty. TEAM, BUGGY AND PLOW HARNESS, WHIPS, ROBES, DUSTERS. HORSE BLANKETS. WINCHESTER REPRATING RIFLES (commonly called Henry Rifles) of model of 1866, 1873, and 1876. Pistols, Cartridges, Etc. Wheat taken at the Highest Market Rates in Exchange for goods. Interesting to Farmers! I have the agency for the latest improvement in HAY ELEVATORS, AND THE LITTLE GIANT HAY HOOK. This hook has been pronounced by all that have seen it as work Superior to Anything Else in use. As it will take a Large Wagon Load at Three Lifts, causes no scatterings, and Weighs Only 2 1/2 lbs. I also have the agency for the CHICAGO SCREW PULVERIZER. This, no doubt, is one of the most valuable Farm Implements ever introduced in our Valley, as any sensible man will be convinced when he has seen it at work. A Railroad Track in a Barn, to elevate and carry back the Hay, saves time and hard work, and now, while barns are full of hay, a track can be put up at less expense than at any other time. Persons in want of any of the above articles should let me know, and I will order them at once. W. C. MYER. Ashland, Oregon, August 5, 1882.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. In the matter of the estate of Eli Judd, deceased. NOTICE is hereby given that the Undersigned has been appointed by the County Court of Jackson county, Oregon, sitting in Probate, Administrator of the estate of Eli Judd, deceased. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to settle the same immediately, and those having claims against the estate will present them with the proper vouchers at the office of the undersigned in Jacksonville, Oregon, within six months after the first publication of this notice. B. F. DOWELL, Administrator of said Estate. Dated June 30, 1882.

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