

BUTTE CREEK LETTER.

Editor Jacksonville SENTINEL.—Dear Sir:—I saw an article in last week's Ashland "Tidings" about the Linkville road. That article went after Judge Day and the Commissioners because they did not give more money to fixing up that road. Now as we have no paper over here I thought I would write to you. I think so does a great many more people over this way that the best thing the Commissioners can do is to put some of their surplus money into the new road that was run through this way to Linkville. This is a better road, is more open, has not so much mountain nor snow as the one from Ashland and it settled for a greater distance than that one. Now I think the county has put about enough money on that and it has done no good and it ought to give us a show. Jacksonville gets a court house provided they can get any body to build it and now Ashland wants a road and where are we to come in. Suppose the mail does go over that road? Does the county build roads to accommodate Uncle Sam or her own citizens? And what if Ashland mills does want it to ship their flour over does the people keep up county roads for that? There ought to be a good road to Lake county but it ought to be kept up over the best route and Judge Day if he has so much money to build court houses ought to find a little to put into a road to Lake county but it ought to be made to accommodate the people and not U. S. and Ashland. It ought to be made over the Butte creek route for that is the best and cheapest and will accommodate the most people. Day and Cook ought to open this road at once and then let U. S. and Ashland come to this road or build one of their own if they want it. CHIMNEY ROCK.

TRESPASS LAW.

The new trespass law is now in force. It is of special interest to sportsmen and they should understand its provisions. It provides that if any person shall go upon the land of another and shall fail or refuse to leave when notified to do so by the owner or occupant thereof he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. The notice to leave may be verbal or printed or written. Printed or written notices posted up in three conspicuous places on the premises shall be considered sufficient notice and any person going upon lands upon which such notices are posted is guilty of a violation of it shall be fined not less than five nor more than fifty dollars. All such fines when collected shall go into the common school funds of the county in which they are collected. Any person who cannot pay any fine assessed under this law shall be committed to jail until such fine is paid at the rate of two dollars a day.

President Arthur dictated the nomination of Folger which was made against the wishes and in opposition to the opinions of nine-tenths of the Republicans in New York. It now behoves Arthur to continue his consistency by setting the machines to work to dig his candidate out of a snow bank about 200,000 feet deep.

A good many well meaning people are finding fault with Arthur because he went to New York to help to elect Folger. They say the president should not have done that. President Arthur is of the opinion that nothing disturbed the New York election—not even his own candidacy.

Cleveland received 200,000 majority but if the President had not gone home to vote his majority would have reached the enormous number of 200,001. And yet there are those who doubt the patriotism of the President.

What is an American election asks a philosophical writer in a foreign exchange. Well, in the light of recent developments, it may be described as a great number of Democrats putting little slips of paper in a tin box.

Secretary Folger has resumed his position in the treasury department. He will continue to discharge the duties of his present office and all this talk about his probable successor seems to have been a little previous.

It would now be in order for the smart leaders who have been so active in the late campaign to read the little ball that tried to get the engine off the track.

THE MORTGAGE TAX LAW.

The mortgage tax law passed by the late legislature has provoked considerable discussion upon the matter embraced in it. The money lenders, so far as heard from, have, with affectionate unanimity, pronounced it a mistake. Per consequence the "Oregonian" pronounces it a mistake. Of course the money lenders do not care for themselves. They never do. It is the poor dear suffering people who want to borrow money, for whom they are so exercising their philanthropic souls. The people want money, say these sympathetic sages. We have money to loan them (at ten per cent on first-class security, interest payable annually and attorneys fees if collected by suit) but we cannot consent to accommodate them under this law. The people might reply, very well you grumbling, growling, old Shylocks we don't want your money. If you do not want to loan it there are plenty of others who do, and we will go to them. This exacting interest in the borrower on the part of the lender is really quite touching. Verily labor and capital are not so far apart after all when money bags can thus bubble over, so to speak, into the very lap of labor. But somehow it always happens that your tender hearted money lender never discovers the extent of his sympathy for the poor borrower until he sees a few pennies of interest, either present or prospective, threaten to escape from the clutch of his capacious hand. Then it is, that he discovers that his great heart is wrung with the possible distress of the borrower and his soul reaches out and yearneth violently for his brother, and he rushes to the office of his chosen paper and publishes the story of his sorrows. Whereat the said paper straightway proceeds to put forth its protest (and thus save being protested) against the unseemly outrage which has been perpetrated upon the people.

But what is this terrible law which the people have been afflicted with? It is, that any person loaning money on real estate in any county in this State shall pay a tax upon such loan in the county where the land is situated and not elsewhere. There, is the whole law in a single sentence. Under the old law a person making such loan paid tax upon the mortgage in the county where he resided instead of in the county where the land securing the loan was situated. That is, provided he was in possession of a sufficient amount of honor to impel him to pay tax on it anywhere and not swindle the state, by some cleverly designed fraud, out of the entire tax. Now the tax is paid in that county where the land is. If we go no deeper than the very surface of the question, the law is eminently just and proper. The tax should be paid upon that part of the debt which gives it value. This is the mortgage, rather than the note which it is executed to secure. If it is not, why insist upon a mortgage at all? The legal principle that a mortgage is only an incident to the debt which it secures is not disturbed because, practically, the incident is that which gives value to the debt. It is not the borrower, but the value of the security, which concerns the lender. It makes no difference what sort of a man receives the money so long as the title is perfect, the mortgage legal, and the property sufficient. This lament of the lenders has been listened to with a sort of painful interest by the people. It is interesting because it confirms suspicion of long standing which partially accounts for the strange shrinkage in value which effects the property of lenders about tax time and painful because it betrays a trick of the lenders trade, which though suspected has never yet been so clearly seen, whereby he beats the state and saves himself a few shickels. If these gentlemen who are now complaining have, heretofore, honestly paid taxes on their notes under the old law why do they now complain? If they were honest they then paid the tax once each year and that is all the new law requires of them. It should be remembered, too, that most of the men who have honored this law with their opposition reside in counties where the percent of taxation is much higher than it is in the counties where their money is loaned. Under the circumstances, it would seem that if they could sufficiently suppress their anxiety for the poor people to permit them to take care of themselves, and could develop enough honesty to pay their taxes they would have no further occasion to complain of the new tax law.

St. Louis has produced the prize duck story. A steamer coming up the Mississippi river one foggy night ran into a flock of wild ducks. The electric lights were turned on when the ducks flew against the lights in such numbers, and with so much violence, that the decks of the steamer were piled up with dead and wounded ducks to the height of 200,000 feet. Twenty thousand of these ducks were at once sent to California and an order was received for 20,000 more from Massachusetts.

Chicago eclipses this, however, with a story of an immense sea monster seen in Lake Michigan on the evening of November 7th. It was 20,000 feet long, had a silver spoon in its mouth and was branded B. R. Mass. P. S. Our sporting editor wishes to present his protest to the above items. He insists that the political editor who wrote them has drawn on recent political occurrences for his numerical estimates.

THE ELECTIONS.

Complete and authentic returns have not yet been received from all the states. It is certain, however, that the Democrats have a large majority in the National House of Representatives. The latest returns place this majority at seventy. In the Senate there appears, so far as heard from, to be a small Republican majority. Stoneman is elected Governor of California by about 20,000, Cleveland Governor of New York by about 200,000, Ben Butler Governor of Massachusetts by about 20,000. In California Stoneman did not receive, by several thousand, as many votes as was polled for Hancock. Neither did Cleveland, though Hancock lost New York by about 20,000. In Massachusetts the Republicans were successful except for Governor. These, are singular circumstances, and clearly show a great deal of independent action on the part of Republican voters. They were disgusted with the recent election, and they manifested their disgust by staying at home. This election, so far from showing the weakness of the Republican party, has exhibited the great strength and sustaining force which underlies it. Instead of indicating the decay of Republicanism, it proves the superior strength of the spirit which inspires it. Moral courage is the life principle of moral manhood. To do right, because it is right, and for no other reason, is evidence of high moral courage in an individual. This is no less true of political parties than of persons. The party which is worthy to control the destinies of the greatest Republic this world has ever seen must be possessed of superior moral courage. No one expects perfection on this earth, either in men as individuals, or as members of political, or social, organizations. Abuses will arise in all societies, and especially in a political society in possession of a great government. This is to be expected. But when any party, possesses within itself, the moral courage to correct abuses and remove objectionable elements from its ranks, even at the expense of defeat, it proves itself possessed of those vital principles which will eventually rule, not by favor or by accident, but by the divine right of superior greatness. The recent defeat was deliberately invited by the Republican party, because it was the one immediate and effective way of disposing of certain men who were disgracing it, and certain methods by which it was being oppressed. Rank and poisonous weeds had grown up in the political gardens of New York and Pennsylvania, and had thrived by permission of the chief executive of the Nation; if, in fact, their thrift was not largely due to Presidential cultivation. In other states too, some abuses were beginning to take root. But the disaffection in the two former states, diffused itself over the whole country; and it was this, which decided the fate of the day. There were, it is true, in some of the states, local causes which contributed more or less to swell the majorities against us, such as prohibition, and local option agitations. But it was the spirit of opposition to the bosses, and the machine, which decided the contest. If the Republican party had chosen to continue the bosses in power, and had lent a hand at working the machine, there is no doubt that it would have been successful. But the soul and purpose of that great party forbids such a possibility. The Republican party is conscious of its own power, and it understands the importance of its own existence. It is, however, equally silly and useless to deny our discomfiture at this defeat. We were prepared for it. We had joined hands with the advance guard of Republican reformers and had said that we would prefer defeat without the bosses to success with them. This we will say. And if we knew that all the ills of Democratic misrule were to be multiplied by the ambition of their leaders, and the rapacity of the ranks, we would still say that it were better that the country suffer the affliction as best it can, than that the Republican party submit to the disgrace of being ruled solely in the interest of personal ambition. But there is no occasion for Republicans to be downcast and disheartened. It behoves them to accept the present defeat as a scourge sent by the wrath of a great people to purify the greatest political organization of the day. The Democratic party is the lash in the hands of the patriots of that great party with which they have driven the money changers from the temple. By this defeat a dangerous class of Republican politicians have been taught that the party to which they claim the honor of belonging will trust and honor men only so long as they direct the power which it gives them to the advancement of the country. Throughout the ever changing phases of political parties let it ever be remembered that the people themselves, alone, are sovereign. And let no man deceive himself into the belief that he is greater than they, or lay the flattering unction to his soul that he is the owner of the Republican party.

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