

The Twice-a-Week
Roseburg Plaindealer

Published Mondays and Thursdays.

PLAINDEALER PUBLISHING CO.

W. C. CONNER, Editor and Publisher
FRED WRIGHT, City Editor, Solicitor
T. G. RUTH, Foreman
S. C. BARTON, Traveling Solicitor.

Twice-a-Week Plaindealer, per year, \$1.50

Entered at the Post Office in Roseburg,
Ore., as second class mail matter.

Advertising Rates on Application.

JUNE 12, 1902.

GEER'S LITTLE SCHEME.

Geer is now showing his hand in an effort to call a special session of the legislature that would cost the taxpayers at least \$25,000. He claims the principal object sought is to enact a flat salary law but those who read between the lines can see plainly that the primary object with the governor is to put in force the initiative and referendum before the regular legislature meets believing this would force the legislature to recognize his claims to the senatorship, says the Eugene Register. His chief claim for the special session is to enact the flat salary system but this proposition is the veriest farce. The new legislature is pledged to the flat salary system, the old was not. The old legislature is not under obligation to touch the salary system and if called together there is no assurance that they would care to assume a responsibility that belongs exclusively to the new legislators. As to the initiative and referendum to make that the law of the state is a duty that also belongs to the legislature elect.

In view of these facts what right has Geer to call a special session to pass on measures that fall within the province of the regular session. Do the taxpayers of Oregon want to plunk down \$25,000 just to satisfy a whim of our disgruntled retiring governor? Because Geer's name went on the ticket for senator by petition from three or four counties it does not follow that he is really the choice of the people for that office. The petition was signed no doubt by democrats as well as by republicans. If the petitions had come up from every county in the state it would have been a fair test of the initiative.

Suppose in another part of the state petitions had been circulated asking that Fulton's name be also put on as candidate for senator. They would have been as freely signed and, in our opinion, when the votes had been counted Senator Fulton would have led Geer. Consequently we say the vote for Geer is not a fair test of public sentiment on the senatorship. He was the republican candidate and republicans, preferring a republican to a democrat voted for Geer in preference to Wood.

We understand petitions are being sent out over the state asking that Geer will call a special session. Democrats may sign it to force a special session upon the people thereby incurring unnecessary expense but republicans should let these petitions severely alone.

The new legislature is pledged to adjust state salaries and they will do it. More than that the new state officers elect will accept these adjustments and they will apply during their term of office. There is no assurance that the old legislature would touch this question at all, as they were not elected on that issue and the state would be put to needless expense for nothing. Geer has a big joke up his sleeve and the people will be wise if they let him keep it there.

When consulted recently regarding the call of Governor Geer for a proposed special session of the legislature, State Senator A. C. Marsters said he was strongly in favor of flat salaries as expressed in the republican state platform and believes that the new county members-elect of the legislature are also. He further expressed himself as in favor of making the initiative and referendum operative, as soon as possible, however, he does not believe that a special session of the legislature called on the eve of the regular session could accomplish the work mentioned more effectively than the regular session. He says special legislative sessions, at best, are very expensive affairs for the taxpayers and when one is proposed to be called so very near to the date of the regular session, there ought to be an extraordinary occasion to demand it, and as no such reason is known or announced he does not at present favor it.

HO, FOR NEWPORT!

Oregon's Favorite and Popular Seaside Resort.

Recognizing the advantage of Newport as a summer resort over other seaside resorts in the northwest, and to make it possible for all who desire to do so to spend their vacation by the ocean waves, the Southern Pacific Company in connection with the Corvallis & Eastern railroad, will place on sale, effective June 15th, round trip tickets from all points in Oregon on the Southern Pacific to Newport, good for return until October 10th, at specially reduced rates.

For full information please enquire of your local agent.

Pasture! Pasture!

As was announced in the last issue of The PLAINDEALER, Mr. Geer is very anxious that a special session of the legislature be held. He seems to think he can have the initiative and referendum put in force, believing it will help his fight for senator. The people will be opposed to putting the state to the extra expense of a special session so close to the regular session, especially when there is no urgent matter to be considered and when the propositions that would be brought up at the extra session are due to belong to the regular session and for which the new legislature was elected to perform.

President Roosevelt has said many a good word for the soldiers who are not allowed to speak for themselves.

The Salem Journal, which before election, yelled itself hoarse over extravagances of the last legislature now wants a useless special session of the same legislature held at an expense of \$25,000 just to please our retiring governor, T. T. Geer. The people won't stand for it.

Ingram, the convict who saved the life of a guard by receiving a bullet in his own leg during the outbreak at the penitentiary Monday, is still alive with good hopes of recovery. The leg was amputated. He will probably be pardoned for his heroism. He should be, at any rate.

The next governor will be the appointment of superintendent at the penitentiary and the officers of the soldiers' home, besides his private secretary. Otherwise the offices will be filled by the board, which will be republican. There are already several candidates for superintendent of the penitentiary.

Company E should hold itself in readiness for active service in the field. Governor Geer has just ordered out the Salem and Woodburn militia companies to assist in capturing convicts Tracy and Merrill who are said to be hiding behind a haystack in an open field near Gervais. It appears that nothing less than the whole Fourth Regiment will be able to effect the capture of the murderers.

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It seems as if daily target practice should be one of the requirements of the guards at the Oregon state penitentiary or else only men employed in this capacity who can practically demonstrate the fact that they can at least hit a convict once while he is climbing over the high wall, in fifteen shots. The late prison guards were certainly very poor marksmen or else they were supplied with very poor guns.

Violated Fish Law.

Burr Jones, a railroad engineer, was arrested Sunday by deputy fish and game warden, E. G. Hodson, for unlawful fishing at the dam just south of this city. Mr. Jones was tried before Justice Robinson Wednesday, and was fined \$20 for the offense. Mr. Hodson visited the PLAINDEALER office this morning and left a copy of the fish laws of Oregon and requested that we publish the following sections as he wished all to understand that if the law is violated he who commits the offence will be fined \$20 for the offense.

UNIQUE RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.—See, page 3. It shall be unlawful to take or fish for salmon in the Umpqua river or its tributaries from 6 p. m. Saturday to 10 a. m. tomorrow. Interment will be had in City View cemetery.

THE WOUNDED CONVICT.

Frank Ingram, serving a life sentence for murder was the hero of the outbreak. When the two desperados suddenly appeared with rifles in their hands, Ingram grappled with Merrill, thus saving the life of Shop Guard Frank Girard, and receiving the bullet intended for Girard, in his own limb, while Girard escaped from the room. The officers and friends of the man intended to petition Governor Geer to pardon the man as a reward for his loyalty to the officers. Ingram has been a model prisoner for about eleven years, since he came to prison, and a pardon for him would have been an act of justice.

ENDLESS ALIVE.

It was erroneously reported that F. S. Ingram, the life termor, who undoubtedly saved Guard Girard from being killed by grabbing Tracy's gun, thereby receiving a shot in the knee from Merrill's rifle, was dead. Ingram has survived the necessary amputation of his leg and it is now believed that he will recover. Public sentiment is nearly unanimous for his pardon. In all his eleven years' confinement his deportment has been so good that not a black mark has been placed against his record.

\$1,500 REWARD OFFERED.

For the capture, dead or alive, of Harry Tracy and David Merrill, or \$750 for each one, who escaped from the Oregon State Penitentiary on the morning of June 9, 1902.

FEARED BLOODHOUNDS WOULD GET WET.

At 4 o'clock Wednesday morning August King, a wood-chopper residing one mile east of Gervais was awakened again by the convicts, who demanded that he get up and get breakfast for them. King promptly obeyed, and upon demand presented the bareheaded convict with a hat.

King lost no time in reporting to the town, where he imparted his news and within a few minutes the posse and the bloodhounds were again upon the trail.

After a few moments' work the hounds, on running on each track, located the men's trace and followed it till they reached the place where the convicts had crossed a fence going again into the thick brush, leaving behind them a trail of crushed ferns which showed that they had passed but a few minutes before.

Fearing that the convicts would cut the dogs' throats, the tracker called them off, and a circle of men was at once posted, completely surrounding the block of bush, after which requests for reinforcements were sent to Woodburn and Salem.

The situation at 8 o'clock was that the convicts are undoubtedly lying concealed in the immediate vicinity of the King house, and as there was no doubt that any attempt to enter the house with an insufficient number of men would cost many lives, it was decided to wait until the arrival of reinforcements before making any attempt to effect capture.

MILITIA ORDERED OUT.

Salem, June 11.—Governor Geer has issued an order to Company F, Oregon National Guard, to muster in and proceed to Gervais to join in the chase of the fugitive convicts. Captain Kurtz is gathering up his men and will lead in a carriage as many as will hold and drive down as fast as possible. The remainder of the company will go down by the afternoon train.

WOODBURN, June 11.—Captain Finzer has been ordered by Governor Geer to take Company D, of Woodburn, to Gervais, and there assist in the capture of the two convicts, Tracy and Merrill. The military company left this afternoon for the woods, where the escapees are being held.

C. H. Finzer is quite ill at his logging camp, it is hoped he will soon better.

RELEIVED.—That while we bow with submission to the will of our Heavenly Father we do most sincerely mourn the loss of our Brother whom we loved so well.

RELEIVED.—That as a token of esteem the charter of this lodge is draped for a period of 30 days, and be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be speed upon the minutes of this lodge a copy forwarded to Arago Lodge, a copy to the Commandant of the Soldiers Home and also to the papers of this city.

Submitted in F. L. & T.

J. C. TWICHELL,
W. H. RICHARDSON
N. T. JEWELL
D. S. K. BICK
JOE HARTEY,
Committee.

SCOTSBURG NEWS NOTES.

Will Murphy was in town last week. Do not forget the school meeting on Monday, June 16th.

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Will Murphy was in town last week a guest of Mrs. Wm. W. Smith.

The school at this place will give an entertainment and box supper on the evening of the twenty-eighth.

Mr. Brandt of Gardiner, was in town recently en route to Portland, a delegate to the Order of the Eastern Star.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer are down on a visit to their old home and to their relatives. Mr. Palmer wishes to sell his property while here.

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