

## THE Roseburg Plaindealer

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### CRIMINAL LIBEL.

Baker City was the scene last week and the week before of two exciting trials in which the sheriff was tried first for stealing \$10,000 of the county funds, and the jury disagreed; and last week his deputy was tried and was acquitted. There was a shortage of \$10,000 and the Baker City Herald caught on to the fact and published the news of the shortage. A grand jury, consisting of a lot of grand—investigated the county finances and found a shortage of \$10,000 and then returned indictments against the sheriff and his chief deputy for embezzling county funds. The trials were held with the result as before stated. But that grand jury not content with finding the shortage and two indictments against officials but that august body went to work and found two indictments for criminal libel against the Editor and Manager of the Baker City Herald for saying a shortage of county funds existed. The plain facts are the citizens of Baker county have been robbed and robbed by a set of thieves and the Herald when it exposed the steal was exposing the corruption of an aggregation of thieves and their supporters. The exposure of the rottenness of the Baker county affairs caused public sentiment to demand the indictment and trial of officials; but another set of officials had the county by the throat and by packing juries, justice was defeated and the criminal law court was turned into a white washing machine for favorites and to wreak a most damnable injustice upon the Editor and Manager of the Herald. The quicker the people of Baker county arise in their might and wipe out the corruption and base methods of that county the better it will be for all concerned. Now we do not know or care what is the political complexion of Baker county, but we know enough of human nature to know that whenever a corrupt gang gets entire control of any county, community or state, that the people suffer; and as we said last week the trouble with Oregon is its muzzled press. Previous to locating in Roseburg we had seven other papers under consideration for purchase and every one of them was owned or controlled by a gang of politicians, and the various papers to be a success or thinking that "standing in" with the gang could only pay expenses were not representatives of the people but politicians and scoundrels. Our experience and knowledge of politicians convince us that every dishonest official wants the press muzzled and outside of these the only persons having a kick against the press and desire to muzzle it is men of impure lives who in fact are moral lepers, or in political circles men whose only hope is to control affairs by chicanery and corruption and Baker City—in political affairs and in the enforcement of good government it is a charnel house.

The people of Baker City had better stand in with the newspaper exposing corruption than in bolstering corruption. Instead of jailing the Editor who said that the county funds were short, they had far better jail the thieves whoever they are republican, pop or democrat, who stole the money.

### APPROACHING WAR IN THE ORIENT.

The British government and the kingdom of Japan have issued a joint

note to China informing that country that Russia must at once withdraw troops now stationed in the province of Manchuria. In other words: Russia must evacuate the position now occupied by her forces in the Chinese empire or fight the combined forces of England and Japan; and Japan is about equal to a very small but plucky bantam to a powerful game fighting cock, relatively as to armament and forces, compared to Russia. As regards England that country is far superior to Russia in war ships, but would not be able to make any progress with her army.

So far as China is concerned it is not known by mortal man what that government will do in case of war between the powers named. From appearances it seems that her mite in the contest will be thrown with the victor.

The object sought to be attained by Russia is to establish a great naval station and seaport on the Pacific ocean. Russia's present naval station is at Vladivostok but it is so cold there and the port is blocked for so many months in the year as to be practically worthless for naval purposes; and to offset the difficulty the Russian government has built a line of railroad from Vladivostok on the sea of Japan to Port Arthur on the Yellow sea, thus commanding the very heart and integrity of China. If ever Russia becomes thoroughly established at Port Arthur the power of the little kingdom of Japan will be crushed and Corea, Manchuria, Mongolia, Pechili, Shan Si and Kan Su will become Russianized and made part of that Empire. It is with Japan a question of fear for the future and with England a determination to stop the onward movement of Russia that has prompted sending to China the joint note protesting against the occupation of Chinese territory by Russia. What the future will bring forth at present no man can even guess. If our readers will look at a map of Europe and Asia they will find that in Europe, Russia has recently acquired entire control of Lapland and Finland and is now encroaching on the borders of Norway and Sweden and it will only be a few years unless checked before seaports will be established on the Atlantic coast. On the Black sea Russia has built up naval ports and has a very strong fleet and step by step has the gradual armament been made until today Constantinople could be seized at any time. In Central Asia Russia has advanced her forces until today they knock at the gate commanding the mountain pass from Afghanistan to India and in the Orient Russia bids fair to rule the seas.

In the history of the World the central part of western Asia and the extreme eastern part of Europe, has produced the mighty, propulsive movement of immigrating hordes that has overthrown the more advanced civilizations. These movements have always been from the north to the southwest or west. Today the Gog and Magog of the dawn of history and their descendants, the Huns and Goths and Visigoths and the nations springing from the latter are not resting easily because they fear the power of Russia, and it is only a question of time before every nation of Europe will unite to protect a common cause against Russia. In the Orient the United States has a great interest. We must have a market for our goods in China, and open ports must be kept at any cost, and it does seem to the Editor that this government with the Philippine question to be satisfactorily settled will not want to see Russia build up her mighty empire in the Orient, and if the moral support of this government is given to England and Japan in the coming war—and a war there will be at no remote period, then Russia will abandon from the present position in the Orient or suffer defeat. If on the other hand Turkey continues to mass her army

on the Bulgarian frontier, then the scene of impending war may be changed from the Orient to the Bosphorus. If the United States says

hands off, then the great campaign will take place on the north shore of the Yellow Sea.

### AN EXCELLENT IMMIGRATION PAMPHLET.

The passenger departments of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company and the Southern Pacific railroad lines in Oregon have united in issuing an eighty-eight page pamphlet, with a most excellent map and cover under the title page of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and their Resources. The subject matter is well prepared and the illustrations are excellent. The description of the country is true to life and it reflects great credit upon the progressive passenger departments circulating it. We advise everybody who wants information or who wants friends in the states to receive information to send four cents in stamps to A. L. Craig, General Passenger Agent of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company, or W. E. Coman, General Freight and Passenger Agent, Southern Pacific Company, Portland, Ore.

### Railroad From Drain to Coos Bay.

It is reported on good authority to the PLAINDEALER that a surveying party consisting of eighteen men left Drain last Thursday, surveying a railroad line down Elk creek to Scottsburg and from Scottsburg to Coos Bay and that on Monday morning thirty extra men commenced to cut brush and fell trees for the surveying corps. It is said that the work is being done for the Harriman lines and that is the best route known from the Southern Pacific railroad to Coos Bay.

If the above report is true it means that the Southern Pacific system has determined to supply the Coos Bay country with railroad facilities and instead of making there a large seaport it will simply be a trading place for Portland. What is needed is East and West transcontinental connections and such railroad connections would make a town of Coos Bay of vast proportions.—Plaindealer.

### THE UMPQUA RIVER FRANCHISE.

The PLAINDEALER learns that the Commissioners' Court has practically decided to grant the franchise, but upon entirely different conditions from the conditions proposed by the Oregon Boom and Timber Company. Provided the franchise is granted the company will give bond to expend so much money in improving the river and also to erect a sawmill of a large capacity at or near Winchester. We learn that every man's interest will be protected and before the franchise is fully granted that a vast sum of money will have to be expended. Attorney General Crawford is looking after the legal aspect of the case and will pass upon the bond. With proper restrictions and a definite understanding of what is to be done and the performance of the provisions of the amended or new contract, there can be no opposition to the franchise.

### A POLITICAL POINT.

It seems that the Oregon Penitentiary is going democratic.—Salem Statesman.

The State Penitentiary has always been democratic by a vast majority.

In the interest of health and cleanliness an effort should be made to put Roseburg in a thorough sanitary condition, and every citizen should willingly respond to and back up the county health officers in their effort to have every village in the entire county put in the same condition. These officials are not working for a money consideration but only from a

sense of patriotism and for the good of the entire community; and their effort to prevent sickness and death by preventive as well as protective measures should be backed up by every citizen of the county.

The chief prophet at the Lick observatory has recently discovered a comet with two tails. To see the comet thought a 12 inch glass a man must get up at 2:30 o'clock in the morning and look due south 53 degrees above the horizon, but we were aware there were more tails in the sky than was necessary by the amount of cat a wailing done by Tommy on our back yard fence and so laid abed till sunrise.

### General News.

President Roosevelt sent the first telegraphic message around the world.

The Pacific cable was successfully spliced, connecting Manila with Washington, on July 4.

Last Saturday at New York in an eleven mile beat to Windward, Shamrock III beat Shamrock I.

Torrid heat in the eastern states, a blizzard in Colorado and rains on the Pacific slope is the record for July 4.

It is said that Congress will be called in extraordinary session on November 9, to take up the Cuban question.

Policeman pay only \$125 to secure their position in Washington. There is not much of a graft in that sum. It is straight forward booting.

The Hon. Binger Hermann delivered the Fourth of July oration at Forest Grove, and when he got through there was no need for fireworks.

Last Friday, the Pope was taken ill with an attack of pneumonia and it was reported that he was very low, but he has surprised everybody by living through so many sick spells that he appears to have a charmed life.

Ex-Deputy Sheriff Whitney, of Baker City, who was indicted charged with getting away with \$10,000 county funds was acquitted on trial on Saturday. Nobody knows who got the money, the sheriff or deputy, but the money is lost to the county. A few days before the sheriff was tried and the jury failed to agree standing 11 to 1 for conviction.

Full reports from firework accidents on the glorious Fourth of July show the death list to number nearly sixty, while the injured number over two thousand. Even in Roseburg we had one victim; "nuffed" Lawson was touching off a bomb and it exploded too quick or he did not get his hand away in time, and as a consequence he is carrying it in a sling in a very inflamed condition.

Speaking at Oyster Bay, last Saturday, President Roosevelt said: "We only need a small regular Army, but we need a first-class Navy; a navy adequate to the position we have in the world; and it is absolutely necessary that we should keep on with the building up of that Nation, that we should keep the Navy that we have at the highest point of efficiency in ships, in guns, the men in them and behind them. Then we shall all go steadily on along the course we have mapped out for ourselves as a people."

It is announced that Mark Hanna has severed himself from all business pursuits, and will devote his entire time to run the republican campaign.

If there were speedy trails of all felony cases, less packing of juries, firm judges and lawyers, not shysters, to prosecute or defend the accused, and the best citizens forced to serve as jurors, there would be no need of lynch law in this country.

Portland which recently underwent the throes of vibrating culture is now enjoying lectures by a free love apostle who is advising the married women, of Portland, that marriage is a failure, and giving joy to old maids by promising them that a good time is coming.

Umatilla collected and sent to Heppner over \$60 to the relief fund and those sixty odd dollars are "lost strayed or stolen" and if that is the lamentable condition of that donation is it not possible that other donations are in the same fix?

Grants Pass can always be counted on to furnish something to go the rounds. This time it is a daddy at 72 and a mother at 55 at the first rattle out of the box. The happy parents are true republicans and went to help along President Roosevelt's anti-race suicide campaign and as the niggers down south would say: They have "gon dun dun it."

Miss Marie Ware and Horace McKinley who were bound over to appear before the Federal Grand jury at Portland, have taken a trip to Denver, Colorado, to attend the convention of Christian Endeavor. It may be that they will endeavor not to return to Portland. It seems that McKinley cannot be convicted except on Miss Ware's testimony, nor can she except upon his. What a good chance there is for them to double up if Horace has no other alliance.

At Oakford, Penn., on Sunday, a dam broke and 25 persons were drowned.

Count Cassini the Russian ambassador to this government left New York, yesterday, for St. Petersburg. The politics of the various governments of the world are very hard to solve in their international bearings and all seem to point to unrest everywhere except in the United States.

George Wayman fifty days ago left San Francisco on a motor cycle for New York City. He reached that place on Tuesday without any mishap, riding through the states of California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania and New York. This is the first trip ever made across the continent on a motor cycle.

The Columbians have violated the agreement regarding the canal and want more money and other considerations in order to sign the necessary documents. That government like all other greaser governments does not know the meaning of the words honor or justice; and Uncle Sam would do well to force them to the original terms and take the expense for the enforcement of the agreement out of the sum total to be paid for the concession.

Agitation regarding the currant monopoly is daily growing more serious in Western Peloponnesus, or Morea, south of the Isthmus of Corinth. The peasants in the neighborhood near Pyrgos are practically in revolt. They have destroyed the railway at several points, because they were prevented by troops from securing trains on which they wished to go to Athens and present their views to the king in favor of granting a monopoly.

By the confession of Robert Olin, 19 years old, who has been arrested, the police believe that several hundred bicycles stolen in the last year will be recovered. According to the police the boy has admitted that he stole bicycles in New York, St. Louis, Buffalo and St. Joseph, Mo., and that an accomplice disposed of nearly all of the wheels. The prisoners whose home is in Chicago, is said to be of a wealthy family, but according to the police, they refuse to have anything to do with him. The boy is an expert stenographer and is also an artist.

### Piano Buyers.

You will notice that we do not have to be continually striking out for a new make of Pianos. The Needham has been our leader for 14 years and is today a leader among the high grade pianos of the world. Some cheap pianos are made high grade simply by getting a boost in the Oregonian or some other leading paper, through those big dealers who think they can, and do make the majority of people believe it simply because they say so. It doesn't take ink, boost or high commissions to make a good piano, but instead the very best mechanics, and the very best material such as are always used in Needham pianos.

T. K. RICHARDSON,  
Roseburg and Cottage Grove, Oregon.