

THE Roseburg Plaindealer

Published Mondays and Thursdays.

PLAINDEALER PUBLISHING CO.

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

Subscription \$2.00 per Year.

Advertising Rates on Application.

The Editor of the PLAINDEALER has no intention of making a false statement relative upon the life or character of any particular individual or organization. Any statement published in these columns will be carefully corrected if erroneous and brought to our attention by the aggrieved party or parties. Our intention is that every article published of a personal or political official nature shall be news matter of general interest and for the welfare of the State at large.

DECEMBER 24, 1903.

CLOSE THE HONK-I-TONKS.

The PLAINDEALER has been asked the meaning of the word "honk-i-tonk." The word is taken from the language of a tribe of Indians of Oklahoma and means degraded abandonment. It first came into use at Fort Elliott, near Mobeetie on the eastern line of the Texas Panhandle, near which is the Cheyenne Indian reservation. From Fort Elliott the word spread over Oklahoma, Indian Territory, Texas and New Mexico and wherever it is known the general acceptance is; a place where spirituous liquors are sold and a gambling establishment is run and lots of females who did not purchase enough material to make proper dresses so that they had to be cut both high and low, ply their degraded business.

Now we do not know that there are exactly the counterpart of such establishments in Roseburg, but there are far worse than the PLAINDEALER's authority is correct; and that authority says, that there are saloons in Roseburg where gambling is carried on day in and day out, night in and night out and where girls and women congregate at night with all the abandonment of a Parisian dive in the Italian quarters. Be this as it may, we know enough to state that some saloons are withering blights upon the city at large and should be compelled to close up everything not contemplated by law.

There is a house of prostitution beginning in the very heart of Roseburg which will be a regular den of iniquity. From telephone messages received in Roseburg between parties interested, the PLAINDEALER is able to state, that a Roseburg man has been in Portland this week to bring a flock of lewd women to the city. On Wednesday morning in talking over the matter with a saloon keeper in our office, we were told that he had leased the rooms over the Office saloon to a Mrs. Kate Clark to run a respectable lodging house. Who in Roseburg does not know this woman and her reputation? He said, and we have the statement signed by him, that for months past he had rented the rooms to various parties and with the exception of three persons none had paid rent; and that they had turned the building into a regular "doghouse" and at night in the rooms, men consorted with other men's wives and daughters. In conversation he stated that if he told all that he knew about matters there would be a lot of shooting and a large number of divorce cases and Roseburg would be torn wide open. He gave names that surprised us somewhat, but we have been around the world a little and know something of human nature and while we are no saint, but about as tough a piece of rawhide a coyote ever chewed on, we can truly state that the notoriety Roseburg has received for being a wide open town keeps away scores of good men from locating, and as men with business sense and enterprise, the men who own vast property interests in Roseburg are a set of "rat-a-fink" fools. They want all they can make out of their property and will back up and countenance a state of public immorality that would make hell itself vomit in their desire to grasp more gold when by having a town renowned for right living and a high state of civilization and public and private morality their property would be worth three times as much as it is at the present time. The fathers and mothers who are raising families in Roseburg have something to demand, and that is, that the laws against saloons running wide open on Sunday, against saloons running gambling halls, against saloons running brothels, and against places of prostitution and that all be closed and kept closed by law.

The PLAINDEALER can produce the evidence that city officials are standing in with and protecting crime in Roseburg. It can prove a state of demoralization that is appalling and it is high time that our citizens awoke and demanded that the Circuit court by its grand jury and under charge of the Circuit Judge went to the bottom of the rottedness and the court should see to it that no man sympathizing with crime is on the grand jury. Let the watchword of every self respecting citizen of Roseburg be "Close the sinks of iniquity," and keep them closed.

If the courts want to suppress the demoralization and iniquity in Roseburg, the matter can be done and if the officers will not do their sworn duty it is time that others be elected to the positions they occupy, but do not fill. Now we do not know that there must be some adequate relief for the terrible evil cursing Roseburg and Douglas county at large.

The Pendleton Tribune, Republican, says editorially: J. Henry Booth, the rejected applicant for land office honors and perquisites at Roseburg, has been thought unfit because of his connection with the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company. Quite a natural conclusion can be drawn by the secretary of the interior since this big lumber company has acquired much timber and its appetite has been whetted by former acquisitions for more. The Booths are considered honorable men, but the bacilli for land grabbing in Oregon has become imbedded in the system of so many of the citizens of the state, that no risk can be taken.

Initiative and Referendum Valid.

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 21.—The Supreme Court today handed down its opinion in the case of Kaddele v. Portland, in which the validity of the initiative and referendum amendment to the constitution was involved, confirming the decision of the lower court and holding in substance that the amendment to the constitution was legally proposed and properly adopted, and that it is the province of the Legislature, and not of the court, to declare an emergency.

This originated in the Circuit Court for Multnomah County, and was instituted by the plaintiffs to enjoin the authorities of the city of Portland from collecting the expenses of certain street improvements which were assessed to the abutting property-owners, under the provisions of the new charter of the city of Portland, upon the ground that the Legislature had no power to declare an emergency in the case of the Portland charter in that it was contrary to the provisions of that clause of the initiative and referendum amendment to the constitution of Oregon, which provides that no emergency shall be declared unless public peace, health and safety is involved.

When the initiative and referendum amendment was passed by the Legislature in 1899, there were four other proposed amendments pending, and the constitution of the State of Oregon provides, while one, or more, amendment is waiting the action of the Legislature or of the people, that no amendments thereto shall be proposed; therefore the validity of the initiative and referendum amendment was questioned.

Secretary Hitchcock Revokes Ruling.

A telegraphic dispatch of Tuesday's date from Washington says:

The Secretary of the Interior has revoked the order under which final action on entrances under the timber and stone act were suspended and all such entries, aggregating a large number, will now be acted upon in the regular order by the General Land Office.

The order involves several hundred thousand acres of public domain in the West, all entries on which have been held up because of the big frauds perpetrated on the Government under the timber and stone act. The suspension which has been in force many months has served a good purpose, and in the view of the Interior Department has been the means of protecting a lot preventing many fraudulent entries. A rigid scrutiny of all entries under the act will be continued, but the revocation of the suspension order will have the effect of allowing all valid entries to be patented. This indicates that the Government believes that the backbone of the alleged ring that has been speculating in and taking unlawful means of acquiring lands under this act has been broken.

Democratic Banquet.

The prominent democrats of the country will on Monday, January 4, 1904, at a public banquet in New York City sound their campaign banner for national honor. It seems to be an anti-Bryan affair. A dispatch says:

"For several days the members of the committee which has for its chairman W. Bourke Cockran, have been communicating with Democrats of prominence in National affairs, and it has been ascertained that the men to whom invitations are being sent and from whom acceptances are practically assured, include Chief Judge Parker, of the State Court of appeals; Senator A. P. Gorman, ex-United States Senator David B. Hill, Congressman John Sharp Williams, leader of the party in the House of representatives; William C. Whitney and others.

The committee in charge of arrangements for the dinner include Angus Belmont, ex-Secretary of the Treasury John G. Carlisle, John D. Crimmins, Ashley D. Fitch, Hugh J. Grant and Edward Simmons.

Crabbies are Most Profitable.

The telegram of Portland says; Cranberry culture in Oregon has a promising future, it would seem, from a late bulletin issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. This bulletin was prepared by L. C. Corbett, and in a table he has prepared to illustrate the average yield of the berry in the various states, Oregon stands at the head. The average yield throughout the country is about 50 bushels per acre, but Oregon is credited with an average of 119 bushels per acre. Massachusetts comes next with an average of 117 bushels. No other state reaches the hundred mark.

It is the opinion of a Portland man who understands the cultivation of cranberries that there are flattering opportunities for their production in the Willamette Valley. The bulletin issued by the Government, he says, while valuable for instruction is not complete. It does not credit

any place in Oregon except Southwest Oregon with growing cranberries, while there are many other places where they are raised with almost equal success. Idaho does not come in for any credit, although it has some localities.

For many years the price of cranberries has gradually risen. In New York markets in April, 1879, they were quoted at \$3.50 to \$4 per barrel, while at the same place they were quoted last January for \$10 to \$12 a barrel.

There are three bushels to a barrel, thus the average per acre yield in Oregon is almost 40 barrels, which at \$10 would make the income amount to about \$400 per acre. It is believed they are far more profitable than strawberries under ordinary conditions. Cranberries are grown in very wet ground, the plants being submerged during the early part of the spring. Their planting and cultivation are very simple. Their keeping qualities are good and they can be shipped from our part of the country to the outside with little danger of loss.

Portland merchants are compelled to ship in their cranberries to a large extent, and as California does not yield a good market here that cannot easily be congested by an over-supply. Even at a yield of 50 bushels per acre, it is asserted by those who know, cranberries are exceedingly profitable, and why they have not had more attention paid to them in the Willamette Valley is a matter for speculation.

Mysterious Disappearance.

Information is desired by the undersigned of John J. Flick, dead or alive, who disappeared from his train while enroute to the Union Stock Yards, somewhere between the C. B. & R. crossing and the Union Stock Yards station, Monday, November 23, 1903, between the hours of one and three a. m.

DISAPPEARED: Height, 5 ft. 7 in. Weight, 168 lbs. Age, 33 years. Hair dark, parted on right side. Eyes dark, medium weight, dark sandy mustache. Upper front teeth decayed. Lower front teeth crowded together. Slight scar on scalp. Scar from steam bath on hip. Slight scars on right ear. Scar on front of neck, right side. Scar on back of neck, right side. Scar on right thumb nail from stripping razor. Left hand. Stub toe nail on second toe of left foot. At time of disappearance wore a heavy cloth winter cap, dark color; heavy weight, dark colored sack coat; dark colored vest and pants; laced shoes; turn down celluloid collar; blue

THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature has done good work and the following bills are made laws:

TAX—Phelps law is repealed; the old law, with minor changes, is re-enacted; the \$300 exemption from taxes is restored; difficulty as to Recorder's fees is removed.

CRIMINAL—Law relating to penitentiary executions is amended so that crimes committed prior to the taking effect of the new law shall be punished according to the law then in force.

CHARTERS—Bills passed in both houses for Adams, Gold Ray, Beaver Hill, North Bend, Marshfield, Lebanon, Cottage Grove, Athena, Lostine and Dallas city.

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