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The Editor of the PLAINDEALER has no intention of making a false statement reflecting upon the life or character of any person, officially or otherwise and any statement published in these columns will be cheerfully 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.

FEBRUARY 25, 1904.

THE PRIMARIES AND COUNTY CONVENTION.

The PLAINDEALER has received a communication regarding the above subject which had to be assigned to the waste basket because it was only signed "Republican." And again we desire to impress upon our correspondents, under no consideration will we print a communication the author of which is unknown to us or who fails to sign his name—not for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Regarding the enquiries made in the communication, and other affairs, we desire to state: The PLAINDEALER is a newspaper to publish items of news and to advocate measures of interest and benefit to the members of the Republican party in Douglas county, and every Republican or office-holder or office-seeker can have just as much interest in the columns as any other man, by paying two dollars per year. That is the amount of subscription, and for the past year no man has had any greater interest or pull than that amount.

The writer of the communication is evidently an office-seeker, for he complains of "rings not giving any man a chance." There was every chance offered by the PLAINDEALER for any man who was a candidate to come to the front, and if there was a ring, to smash it. The columns of the PLAINDEALER were offered to any man who wanted to announce in a manly manner for any office in the gift of the people, and there can be no complaint made on that line. The facts in the case are, the Republican factions of Douglas county love to be humbugged and as individuals to humbug themselves, and there is no place on earth like Douglas county that we have ever dreamed of, for men to humbug themselves. For seventeen months there has not been a single day that we can remember that we have not heard about rings. We hear of rings at Drain, Oakland, Roseburg, Myrtle Creek, Riddle, Canyonville and Glendale and even at Lookingglass, and every man who wants an office today is forming a ring to down some other ring; and three out of every four aspirants for office advance the theory that the proposed primary election bill, if it becomes a law, will be the means of doing the other rings up.

Price of Proxies.

The correspondent wanted to know if the past record would be kept up and how much would be paid for proxies in the county convention? We do not know, but if there are proxies for sale the correspondent had better make his wants known by inserting an advertisement. As a general proposition the price to be paid for a proxy depends upon the amount the other fellow will pay for it and then raise him one. But to show the hollow mockery of the entire proxy business, there are quite a number of republicans who are eternally kicking against the proxy business whose only hope to sit in the county convention is by virtue of a proxy and this is true of members of both factions in the party. If either faction sincerely desires to do away with the proxy plague why do they not cause to be introduced before the County Central Committee a resolution stating that the various precincts are entitled to elect so many delegates and alternates to the county nominating convention and no proxies will be recognized. A measure of this kind would purge the party of such a deplorable state of affairs and unify the party at once. If a precinct has no interest enough to be represented by delegates or alternates, it should not be represented by proxies sent to Roseburg citizens or the citizens of other precincts, thus enabling them to build up rings and combine not dreamed of by the unrepresented precincts.

Regarding the Primaries.

We do not know when the primaries or the county convention will be held, but the want of that knowledge is not working any harm to any candidate, for the longer the matter is deferred the shorter will be the agony of suspense and the more time the candidates will have to get in their work before the people of the various precincts. In a widely scattered county, like Douglas, there are many clashing interests among candidates, and while ten thousand start-

ling events and changes have occurred in the history of the world, the United States and in Oregon, we have here in this county the primary election and convention methods adopted at the first settlement of the country, and without a change in the program, with the venerable moss of ages clinging to it, we have the primal purity of before-the-war tradition, so pure and spotless that as the aroma ascends to heaven the kickers of both factions declare that the incense stinks. The kickers have had a chance—were impertinent to overthrow the ring, if ring there be—to come before the people and have their say; to tell the people what they aspired for, and all that, to change the order of political affairs and get before the people in a modern manner, but the effort was too great. They all want plums, but are afraid to tell the people that they have a longing in that direction, and then they whine and kick because the people have not caught them and forced the plums down their longed throats, and when one man does break away from tradition and snatches a worm from the mother bird and throws out the weaklings like a young cuckoo in a sparrow's nest, the ousted candidates, like the birds thrown out of the nest, curse long and loud in mournful note until for them time is no more.

If any man wants an office and wants the people to know that he desires to serve them, and to inform them, so that they can instruct the precinct delegates to the County Convention, of their choice, the proper place to make his desire known is the public press, and this is the essence of the new primary law which all the candidates of Douglas county long for, but have not the moral courage to advocate by their own personal example because they are bound by mass of political tradition. The PLAINDEALER has opened up the channel to the County Convention nominations, and after the convention is over it will support the nominees of the party to a man.

"REPUBLICAN"—A POLITICAL SCALAWAG.

From the tenor of the articles a man who aspires to the office of State Senator on the Republican ticket, acts the part of a political character assassin and attacks the present incumbent.

Regarding the personal attack on the present Senator, we have nothing to say, as he is able to defend himself, or should be.

The PLAINDEALER does not know who is hiding behind the masks, "Republican," "Taxpayer" and other disguises, nor has it tried to find out, but from the tenor of the articles published in the Review, it is clearly apparent that it is a creature who wants to tear down one man to build himself up. The fellow's only strength is another man's weakness, or what he supposes to be weakness. And here we take occasion to reiterate, any man attacking another man in the columns of the public press, who will not sign his name to the article, is a self-confessed moral coward and character assassin.

The creature who signs himself "Republican," says:

"It does not matter whether the writer of the article signed 'Republican' is a republican, a democrat, a populist, or a relic of the old A. P. A. organization which attempted to control politics in Douglas county several years ago."

Yes, it does, because if the writer is a democrat and he signs himself "Republican," he is a self-confessed falsifier to start with. If he is a Republican, he is attempting to court favor with the democrats and to supply them with information to defeat the Republican nominee, if he, "Republican," is not the nominee, and he is committing political fornication with the Democrats, to be elected to office at the expense of honest, upright, straightforward Republicans.

And we want "Republican" to remember this fact: no man or combination of men controls or advises the utterances of this paper, and regarding the editor being a "recent arrival in Oregon," we have been here eighteen months and have found out this fact: there is no difference in a cowardly, political scalawag who works with base methods and tools and attempts to assassinate by striking in the dark and in the back, in Oregon, than in any other part of the world. If there is any difference it is of a darker hue, and to such creatures as "Republican," in the Review, must be awarded the charcoal.

Cruel treatment constitutes the ground of complaint upon which Mrs. Ida May Ferree seeks a divorce at the hands of the State Circuit Court from Sylvester Ferree, whom she accuses of also threatening to kill her. Mrs. Ferree expresses a fear that her husband will carry his alleged threat into execution. The couple were married at Grants Pass in 1902, and have no children.—Portland Telegram.

First Congressional District Convention April 13.

Republicans of the First Congressional District will nominate Representative Hermann's successor at Salem, April 13. That date for the convention was chosen Wednesday by the central committee of the district. The committee met in the Imperial Hotel in one of the rooms far up the elevator.

When the gentlemen began their labors they were comfortably settled in the parlors of the hotel on the same down cushions where the Democratic State Central Committee had rested its bones the day before. But a weird presence made the gentlemen uneasy—perhaps the rustle of a lady's skirts who had been scared out by their advent, or an unpalatable relic of Sam White's halo, or the fear of some snooping democrat behind the piano—at any rate, the gentlemen adjourned to the room of the chairman, Dr. T. W. Harris, upstairs.

The district committee adopted the same apportionment for the district convention as did the state committee for the state convention. The apportionment compared with that of the district convention at Eugene last April, will be:

	1902	1904	1901	1904
Benton	7	7	Lane	19
Clackamas	17	18	Lincoln	4
Cool	8	9	Linn	14
Curry	5	5	Marion	22
Douglas	14	14	Polk	8
Jackson	12	12	Tillamook	8
Josephine	7	7	Washington	34
Klamath	4	4	Yamhill	11
Lake	4	4		
Totals			172	177

Two counties, Coos and Curry, were not represented at Wednesday's meeting. The 15 other counties each had a voice, seven of them through proxies. The rollcall was as follows: Benton—W. E. Yates, by J. M. Stark, proxy.

Clackamas—T. F. Ryan.

Coos—Not represented.

Curry—Not represented.

Douglas—Z. L. Dimmick, by T. W. Harris, proxy.

Jackson—H. D. Kubli, by H. E. Ankeny, proxy.

Courthouse, Roseburg, at 11 o'clock on Saturday, March 13, 1904, to arrange for the primaries and county convention of Douglas county.

K. L. MILLER, Chairman County Central Com., Roseburg, Ore., Feb. 25, 1904.

Coming Conventions.

Republican State Convention, Thursday, April 14, at Portland.

Democratic State Convention, Tuesday, April 19, at Portland.

Republican Convention First Congressional District, Wednesday, April 13, at Salem.

Republican Convention Second Congressional District, day and place not yet fixed (probably April 13).

When Will the Goods be Delivered?

During the past two months quite a number of men have been approached by the Booths and asked to come out as a candidate for either the office of Register or Receiver of the Land Office and the promise was made that at the proper time the candidates should receive "endorsement." All this was done to build up "Booths" fences in the coming political contest for State Senator.

As a result of the decision of the United States supreme court, giving to the Northern Pacific railway absolute title to the land embraced in the "overlap" district, about 300 settlers are left without title to their homes and may be ejected. The "overlap" district contains 48,458 acres in Clarke and Cowiata counties, Washington, most of which is rich land. Some of it has been under cultivation for years, and been improved into valuable farms. Great orchards, hop fields and dairies have been developed and some of the farms are worth thousands of dollars.

China is moving troops to the front and is preparing to attack the Russian cruiser Mandjur, now at Shanghai. There are renewed reports of an attack on Port Arthur, and the

THE ELKS ENTERTAIN

H. P. O. E. Roseburg Lodge 326 Presides at Annual Reception.

For years Roseburg society has been a unit in conceding that the annual ladies social given by the order of Elks is always the big society event of the winter, and they have been anxiously looking forward to this social which was given Monday night, Washington's birthday, and while the affair was somewhat simpler than those undertaken on former occasions, the pleasurable anticipations of both Elks and guests were fully realized, for a more delightful and charming social function could not be imagined than this proved to be.

In honor of the immortal Washington, the decorations in the banquet hall, aside from numbers of potted palms, consisted entirely of flags and bunting in the National colors, draped gracefully from the center chandelier to each wall and four corners, forming a double cross. In the theater below, where the dramatic sketch, "Dearest Mamma," was presented and where dancing was later participated in, the decorations were more elaborate and pleasing indeed. Purple bunting, royal color of the order was draped gracefully from the frieze. Mirrors of huge proportions rested on the wainscoting about the room, their frames hidden beneath fern fronds which also formed a beautiful fresco reaching from the mirrors to the drapery above. In the center of each wall and on either side of the stage were great National flags, the charm of their glorious red, white and blue being enhanced, if possible, by the beauty of the setting. Above the center of the stage, resting against "Old Glory" was an enormous elk head, each antler tipped with a tiny purple light. Another such head above which were the portraits of George and Martha Washington framed in a semicircle of electric light, was placed at the center of the balcony rail, while on either side was "Welcome Ladies" and "B. P. O. E. Lodge 326" also in glowing incandescents.

The guests, numbering over three hundred, were received in the banquet room where the program was opened at 8:30 by an orchestra overture followed by the address of welcome by Exalted Ruler B. F. Waite, whose happy remarks and pleasing delivery won much applause. After another orchestra selection Miss Audrey Bridges and Win Van Leuwen, besides whom there are no more popular young people in the city, sang, "O Tell us Merry Birds," followed by a tenor solo by Mr. Al Yeatch who was compelled to respond to an encore, as the applause was unceasing and insistent. After another husband and wife team, a soprano solo in her usual charming manner, the orchestra played that pleasing melody, "Southern Melodies" and the social session was begun, during which many unhappy Elks were forced to part with much coin as fine for all manner of imaginary offenses. At 10:30 the guests were ushered into the theater where for an hour "Dearest Mamma," a comic sketch amused them. Although the characters are all rather inexperienced amateurs the presentation could not have been bettered, save for a few unimportant details. Miss Kathryn Fullerton as the loving, mistaken, tearful wife was excellent, while Miss Gertrude East, the foxy widow was clever, brilliant, amusing. Nels Omandson as the misunderstood and forgiving husband, maintained the character in a faultless manner, while Earl Gaddis a cynical bachelor was all the lines required. Warren McWilliams was an absolutely correct butler and L. A. Sanctuary was imitatively funny in the good-natured, comical presentation of "Uncle Browner." The affair was directed by Mary K. Brooks, who appeared as "Dearest Mamma," the meddlesome mother-in-law.

Following the farce the banquet rooms were again opened and a pleasing picture was presented by the long tables where an elaborate banquet was spread and about which more than three hundred guests sat. At the close of repast, Toastmaster B. F. Waite called upon District Attorney George M. Brown whose brilliant and eloquent toast was "Our Order." District Judge J. W. Hamilton followed with a toast, "Our Guests, the Ladies" and his remarks, bright and clever, might be summed up in "they halve our sorrows, double our joys and triple our expenses," but probably the brightest, wittiest after dinner speech was that of Mrs. Marsters, wife of Senator A. C. Marsters, who responded to Judge Hamilton. Judge J. C. Fullerton closed the toasts with "Our Own Great Washington," and while there is probably nothing new to be said on the subject, the height of cleverness is to do as did Judge Fullerton—say the old things over in an altogether new way.

Following the banquet the dance in the theater was formally opened with the grand march led by Miss Mary K. Brooks and L. A. Sanctuary, and it was here, mingling in the figures of the march that the pretty, multi-colored frocks of the women showed to the most pleasing advantage. Dancing began at one o'clock and despite the lateness of the hour was continued with unflagging pleasure by the younger of the guests until the orchestra in the tiny hours of a coming day played "Home, Sweet Home," and dispersing, the dancers happy though weary realized as they stepped into the cool air, the earth a sparkle under a frosty mantle, that the Elks' big social was but a memory, a happy memory and one which will be cherished until another has come to take its place, for nothing can eclipse the brilliancy, the pleasure, the joyous remembrance of an Elks' social, save another one presided over by the same genial hosts. Great is the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks!

The Cornerstone.

The laying of a cornerstone under the auspices of the Masons is an interesting and impressive ceremony. At the exercises at the High school building last Monday this fact was most beautifully exemplified. Invoking the blessing of Almighty God on the undertaking, and asking His preservation of the building for thousands of years, Grand Master Mason S. M. Yoran announced that the stone should be tested as to its perfection. It was tried with the instruments and pronounced to have been, perfectly

and skillfully wrought from the hand of the shaper. On the end of the stone was engraved the Masonic emblem of the square and compass and on the side the figures, "1904."

The copper box containing the enclosures of documents was then placed in the cavity made for its reception. "May long ages pass away ere these papers and jewels are again seen by men," was the brief prayer of the Grand Master.

Then with the trowel the Grand Master proceeded to spread the mortar that had been prepared, on the masonry on which the stone was to repose. The cornerstone was then placed in position and leveled.

From silver urns first was poured out wheat on the top of the stone. "This I do as an emblem of abundance," were the accompanying words. From similar urns was poured "the wine of refreshment," and "the oil of joy."

With words of deep meaning the Grand Master then made a brief address on the vows made by Masons, to help further the erection of all public buildings. Taken all together the ceremonies were most instructive, and the down-pour of rain was to say the least, most inopportune.

One of the most interesting spectacles that has been presented to Roseburg people for many a day was the procession of 600 school children in line last Monday in the march to the High School building where the cornerstone was laid.

The school division was headed by Principal A. M. Sanders with the high school students in classes, seniors leading and followed in succession by each class and grade of the lower denomination, in charge of the teachers, the little tots bringing up the rear.

The common colors of the High School, Orange and black and the class colors, green and white for the seniors, violet and white for the juniors, blue and old-gold for the sophomores and pink and green for the freshmen, were variously displayed in the form of banners, streamers, and ribbons. All of the lower grades carried the Stars and Stripes and when the long line was in motion with the banners waving it made a scene that satisfied the patriotic spirit.

Arrangements had been made for the entire school to sing several songs but on the account of the rain this with much of the other interesting plan was not carried out.

The names of the pupils of the Roseburg Public schools who had the highest standing in their respective classes and whose report cards were sealed in the vault of the High school cornerstone are as follows: 1 A. William McCoy; 1 B. Mary Townsend, Einar Mitchell; 2 A. Wallace Singleton; 2 B. Florence Kohlhaugen; 3 A. Lesta Rhodes; 3 B. Harriet Lytle, Helen Wollenberg; 3 C. Merle Matthews; 4 A. Hazel Lytle; 5 A. Guy Gordon; 6 B. Sibyl Gibson, Mabel Clements; 6 A. Grace Marsters; 6 B. Kate Gordon; 7 A. Archie Jackson; 7 B. Edith Clements; 8 A. Dollie Jackson, Lulu Hanan; 8 B. Virgil Shupe; High School: Freshman, Ruth Ballerree; Sophomore, Mar Hanan; Junior, Emma Schilbrede; Senior, Edwin M. Moore.

Another Case of Rheumatism Cured by Chamberlain's Pain Balm.

The efficacy of Chamberlain's Pain Balm in the relief of rheumatism is being demonstrated daily. Parker Triplet, of Grigsby, Va., says that Chamberlain's Pain Balm gave him perfect relief from rheumatism in the back when everything else failed, and he would not be without it. For sale by A. C. Marsters & Co.

Jubilee Singers.

It never makes any difference what the weather is, people always go in battalions to listen to the sweet, wild, slave songs of the South, and the pieces the best known and the oldest, such as "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "Gideon's Band," "Keep me from Sinking Down," and "I'm Rolling Through an Unfriendly World," are the ones which provoke the loudest and longest applause, for they touch the hearts of the listeners, who seem to catch the enthusiasm and excitement of the wild rhapsody, and to forget everything else. For a moment everything is shut out from the mental vision except the picture of rice and cotton fields and the dusky nation in their humble cabins singing the songs which are now the property of the world.

The Jubilee Singers will entertain the citizens of Roseburg in the Opera House Feb. 25.

News was received here today that Arthur Lawrence who formerly traveled through Roseburg for Allen & Lewis, wholesale grocers of Portland, fell dead at Boise, Idaho, today, after having been indisposed for several days. Mr. Lawrence made Roseburg for his home for years and there was not a more popular knight of the grip on the route than he and news of his death will bring deep regret. The condition of his health caused him to be transferred to the East Oregon route.

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Installation Of Pendo.

The lately organized Roseburg Council, Order of Pendo, held installation ceremonies last Tuesday evening in the banquet room of the Odd Fellows' Hall. The installation was followed by a program and social session and a banquet served. Fourteen additional members were received and the number on the roll now totals 50 names. Addresses were made by Dr. Freeman, F. F. Patterson and Special Supreme Organizer M. O. Brittain on the workings of the order. Vocal and instrumental selections were rendered.

Trustees of the lodge were selected as follows: Joe Carier, L. H. Faldwin and C. A. Gibbler.