

TWICE-A-WEEK ROSEBURG PLAINEALER

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THE PLAINEALER PUBLISHING COMPANY

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W. C. CONNER, Editor. F. H. ROGERS, Manager. W. D. STRANGE, Foreman.

SUBSCRIPTION AND ADVERTISING RATES.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1905.

NOTE.—The management of this paper will positively assume no responsibility for the utterances and statements of its correspondents or contributors. The editor endeavors to make no false statements which wrongfully reflect upon the character of any person officially or otherwise, and he will cheerfully correct any erroneous statement which perchance may appear in this paper, if the matter is called to his notice.

THE PLAINEALER LIBEL CASE.

That the people generally regard a fearless, free and untrammelled press as one of the greatest safeguards against boodling, grafting and all manners of official corruption and violation of the laws, was again effectually demonstrated last Saturday night when a jury composed of twelve of Douglas county's representative citizens after listening to the evidence introduced in the \$10,000 libel proceeding instituted recently against the Plainealer; the arguments of able counsel on both sides and the instructions of the trial judge, returned a verdict of acquittal, thereby exonerating the Plainealer of the charge of libel preferred against it.

While such revelations and incident developments are regrettable, especially when of a local nature which involves home people and institutions, it nevertheless becomes the duty of a real newspaper if cognizant with facts which tend to indicate official misdoings, violations of the common laws, wanton waste or extravagance in the handling of public funds or anything having a tendency to impose upon the public or taxpayers, to show up such irregularities and thereby protect community and public interests. The Plainealer, as its name implies, has long been recorded in this class of aggressive and fearless newspapers, and while it would not knowingly or willingly persecute or wrong any person, corporation or political organization, or willfully speak one word derogatory to the character, reputation or good name of any person or persons, it cannot knowingly submit to impositions being imposed or practiced upon the people, by excluding discussions of public interests from its columns or editorial reference thereto. As is stated at the Plainealer's masthead, the publishers of this paper endeavor to make no false statements which wrongfully reflect upon the character of any person officially or otherwise, and they stand ready and willing to cheerfully correct any erroneous statement which perchance may appear in the Plainealer if requested to do so.

While an editor should always endeavor to guard against libeling anyone, he should not go so far in his apprehensions, which a great many newspaper men do, as to become so apprehensive of danger in this direction as to see libel in every spicy story or just criticism of an erring official, company or corporation, which attitude renders a newspaper a mere nonentity and of no influence or service whatever to the community in which it is published. Just so soon as a newspaper becomes intimidated or muzzled it loses its prestige, its worth to the public and its true mission in upholding the right and condemning the wrong.

"With charity for all and with malice toward none" the Plainealer will continue to "hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may."

OREGON'S EVIL GENIUS.

What is the peculiar brand of evil genius that is persecuting Oregon anyhow?

After breaking up the lethargy of the ages and beginning general state development, now we are to be indicted as a nest of unworthy land stealers.

For the first time we get a big appropriation and have a delegation working in political harmony, when all are to be branded and retired from usefulness, says the Capital Journal.

A few years ago we lumbered along with a one-junged representation in the senate and two congressmen who could not agree on anything.

Then when we begin to build the canal at The Dalles and open the Columbia and prepare to hold a world's fair, the interior department starts a war on the whole state.

Then we give President Roosevelt for thousand and fire the opening gun in his triumphant Presidential campaign only to have John Hall summarily removed and the merry war goes on.

Are we then so much more corrupt politically and lacking in general honesty and integrity than the other Pacific Coast states that all the infamy of the land fraud business is to be heaped on poor old Oregon?

What crime have our forefathers committed that all the harsh things should come our way? Say, Mr. President, can't you shy a few bricks at one of the other states in the Union? We've had about all the bad advertising we can stand up under and keep in the happy family of progress and expansion.

Of course, Oregon gets a whole lot of advertising out of it all. The whole world is learning where we are and that there must be rich resources here which everybody is trying to steal.

MITCHELL DEMANDS TRIAL.

It is stated in a dispatch from Washington that Senator Mitchell will return to Oregon and demand a speedy trial under the indictment brought against him by the Federal grand jury in the land fraud cases. This action on Mitchell's part is due to the report current that through dilatory tactics on the part of the prosecution his trial is to be postponed from time to time for a year. Is further evidence necessary to convince the general public that there is some politics at the bottom of this whole procedure against Mitchell.

It seems to be the mission of professional politicians who have had pull enough with the interior department to get into authority, to come to Oregon and smash the political organization controlling the state, to "vindicate" and satisfy the whims of Mr. Hitchcock, rather than get to the bottom of the most flagrant, gigantic and pernicious land steals perpetrated by the big railroad companies.

Partisanship is a good thing sometimes, but patriotism is a better thing all the time. In the discharge of official duties, let us be Missourians before we are anything else. Exact from Governor Folks message.

Here it is stated in San Francisco that Oregon is under the domination of a corrupt political ring. Does he consider it is his mission to smash the alleged political circle or to prosecute real land fraud cases?

A MOST MERITORIOUS MEASURE.

It seems to us that the press of the state is taking too little interest in the very meritorious measure designated as House bill No. 103, which was recently introduced by Hon. H. G. Sonneman, of Douglas county, and which provides for the just taxation of telephones, telegraphs and the Wells, Fargo Express Company on their gross earnings. This bill is particularly meritorious in that it creates another source of revenue for the state, and after looking into the matter pretty thoroughly we find that it is about the only bill introduced thus far at this session of the legislature, which provides a revenue for the state treasury. There are numerous measures to drain the treasury of the state, but none have so far been introduced to produce revenue, except Mr. Sonneman's bill. Mr. Sonneman, it is understood, as chairman of the Railway and Transportation committee, to whom the bill is referred, will push it through as vigorously as possible and to the utmost of his ability and will receive the hearty support and co-operation of his colleagues of Jackson and Douglas, Representatives Vawter and Gray. This is another bill which the Plainealer most cheerfully and heartily endorses and we would urge the Oregon papers to encourage and hold up the hands of their respective representatives in the legislature who favor it just and worthy measure. We would also urge members of both the upper and lower branches of the legislature to support this measure, which only tends to throw a just proportion of the burden of the state's expenses upon persons who are well able and who should bear their share of this burden from the earnings they receive from the tax payers and general public.

THIS BILL SHOULD FAIL.

The bill introduced at this, as well as several former sessions of the legislature, providing for the creation of the office of county attorney to supplant the office of district attorney, is apparently, upon investigation, useless and without any merit whatsoever. True, it would create a few more official positions for the office seeking legal fraternity, and the bill was probably originated with this sole object of some disappointed candidate for the office of district attorney. There is however, no apparent demand for such an office as the present district attorneys about nine in number in the state, are quite able to take care of the official business of their respective districts without increasing the number to thirty-three at least, which at the same time would add a great "additional" expense burden upon the taxpayers, especially in remote and sparsely settled counties. Under such a regime it is very quiet improbable that the present high standard of efficiency which is found in this state judicial department could be maintained. This is a bill which apparently deserves no support, at this particular time at least.

Senator Miller, by request, introduced a bill to make the labor of the convicts such as to fit them for honest work after their discharge, the product so far as possible to be used in the penitentiary and reformatories. Crushed rock is to be furnished free to various bodies having charge of road work in the different counties; no prisoner labor to be contracted or used for the benefit of private persons or corporations. Violation of this provision is punishable by a fine from \$500 to \$5,000 or confinement of not less than four months nor more than one year or both. If the violator is connected with the penitentiary or reformatory he shall forfeit office. The bill authorizes an appropriation of \$10,000 for the purchase of a rock crushing plant.

By introduction of a bill in the house by Milt Miller of Linn county to abolish three of the four normal schools in Oregon and centralize normal education in one school the issue on this question is now fairly joined. A bill has also been introduced in the house to reduce the normals to two, eliminating the normals at Drain and Ashland. Both bills will and should fail as their passage would bring about a retrogressive step in Oregon's educational matters. We should not build for the present alone, but for the future, and the time is not far distant when our normal schools and other educational facilities will be taxed to their utmost capacity. Oregon is moving forward not backward.

Representative Smith, of Josephine, though a Democrat of the "old school," eulogized President Roosevelt in an impassioned speech before the House, declaring the present National Executive the greatest factor that has ever operated from the White House in its effort to deliver the people from the thrall of the railroads. "He is the man of the hour," declared Smith, "and if he persists in his present course, I know not how long he may wear the political cloak now resting on his shoulders."

Senate bill No. 60, introduced by Senator Malarky providing for the regulation of hours of labor for the men in the train service, is receiving rapidly increasing support. A friend of the Plainealer who is a member of the lower house writes as follows: "I assure you I am in sympathy with the man at the helm of the iron horse—engineer, fireman, the conductor, brakeman and the flagman of the limited trains. I concur with you in this worthy measure and shall do all in my power to pass the same and have it become a law."

Good roads are conducive to good government. Each session of the legislature has enacted road law, none of which have been satisfactory. A constitutional amendment would be appropriate, providing for a tax whereby the road system can be put on the same basis as the public school system under state supervision.—Governor Folks.

President Jordan of Stanford has stirred up a hot discussion by declaring that life in fashionable boarding houses is conducive to divorce. The boarding house people have jumped all over him.

VERDICT IS RETURNED

FOR THE PLAINEALER

Intelligent and Impartial Douglas County Jury is Opposed to Muzzling the Public Press

After deliberating from 5 o'clock Saturday evening until a little after midnight, a greater portion of which time was occupied in the examination of documentary evidence, the jury in the \$10,000 libel case filed against the Plainealer by F. W. Woolley, chairman of the Roseburg school board, returned a verdict for the defense, acquitting the Plainealer of the charges preferred against it and throwing the costs in the action upon the plaintiff. The jury was composed of prominent and well known citizens of the county, representing the various political organizations as well as the various vocations in life. Few were patrons of the Plainealer, but all were simply broadminded, liberal and unbiased citizens, advocates of efficient honesty, good government and obedience to its laws.

J. H. Grubler, Phil Cooper, L. G. Dumbleton, Chas. Anderson, Ene Dixon, S. Van Houten, Harris Manning, John Keat, T. C. Johns, Scott Henry, Marion Smith, W. S. Britt.

As defendant in the action the Plainealer Publishing Company assumed the responsibility for the publication of the alleged libelous article signed "Taxpayer" and for a defense set up the following answer to the complaint filed by Mr. Woolley.

THE PLAINEALER'S ANSWER.
The following extracts are taken from the answer in the damage proceedings instituted against the Plainealer by F. W. Woolley filed in the circuit court last Monday:

"F. W. Woolley, plaintiff, vs. Plainealer Publishing Co., a corporation, W. C. Connor and F. H. Rogers, defendants."
Comes now the above named defendants and for answer to plaintiff's complaint in above entitled action deny and aver as follows: Deny that said publication was libelous or that the same was published by said defendant maliciously or with intent to thereby or at all injure or injure any name of, or any reputation of plaintiff or his business.

Deny that by means of said or any publication plaintiff was injured in his or any business or reputation or at all injured in the sum of \$10,000 or any other sum. That on the 26th day of March 1899 the said F. W. Woolley was elected school director of school district No. 4 in Douglas county, and ever since has been one of the duly elected, qualified and acting directors of said school district.

That during all the times and dates herein mentioned the said F. W. Woolley while acting as said school director as aforesaid by virtue of being a member of the hardware firm of Churchill & Woolley has illegally had a pecuniary interest in the erection of school houses, and in warming, ventilating, furnishing and in repairing of the same within said school district No. 4.

It is further alleged in the answer that F. W. Woolley as director of school district No. 4, and a member of the firm of Churchill & Woolley, furnished directly or indirectly to said school district, hardware, paints, oil, and other supplies at large profits to plaintiff, as a member of said firm made large profits.

That in the year 1903-1904, large additions were erected to the public school building in said district No. 4, that the plaintiff's hardware firm did all of the plumbing and tinning in and about said additions. That plaintiff's firm made large profits on said plumbing and tinning and that the district paid said profits to plaintiff's firm, the prices charged therefore being in excess of those charges in the open market. That through plaintiff, the firm of Churchill & Woolley between the years 1899 and 1904 has also furnished District No. 4 hardware, paints oil, and other supplies at large profits to plaintiff.

That during the year 1903-04, the school board of district No. 4, of which plaintiff is a member caused to be erected in said district a new brick high school building; that plaintiff through his firm furnished directly or indirectly material for said building as well as plumbing and tinning; that bids were advertised for a hot water heating plant for said building, but that all bids were rejected and contrary to specifications and without calling for bids the board, including plaintiff, awarded a contract for a hot water heating plant, plaintiff having a pecuniary interest therein.

That plaintiff as director and member of the firm of Churchill & Woolley presented the bill of said firm to the said school board of which firm was a member and audited and allowed said claims and has collected large sums of money from said district No. 4, in payment of said claims.

That the matter complained of by plaintiff, and each of the articles published in relation thereto were matters between plaintiff and "Taxpayer" and each was gratuitously published for and on behalf of each of them and without malice on the part of defendants, or either of them, and without vouching for the truth or falsity of either or any of said articles by defendants or either of them and that said publication was and is a privileged publication.

Wherefore defendants pray the judgment of the court.

R. W. FENN
Civil Engineer
Lately with the government geological and geographical survey of Brazil, South America.

U. S. Deputy
Mineral Surveyor
Office over Postoffice, ROSEBURG, OREGON. Correspondence solicited.

Humor and Philosophy

By DUNCAN M. SMITH

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THE COLLEGE YELL.

Well, it's our old friend the college yell. It's again. Ten. To one you have heard. A word a time. From it e'er this. You couldn't miss. It's gone. Or sit. Around and ignore. It's going on. There is no way. Known to science or Secretary Hay. To escape the college yell. You may sell. Your household goods. And move to the woods. But even there. It will make jagged holes in the air. And your efforts to save. Every animal about the farm. You may dig a cave. In your efforts to save. Your pet cow. But even here. The cheer. Will come rattling through. And say, "Howdy do!" Get a living hell. And the yell. Will follow you to the bottom of the sea. While the game. Goes on at the old stand. The land. May as well take a back seat. And acknowledge defeat. When the college yell. Is feeling well. And shouts for you up fair. There is room for nothing else in the air.

Fable of the Girl Who Married the Man to Reform Him.

A Sweet, Patient girl with High Ideals had a notion that she had a Mission met up with a Wild Youth who had sowed Three Car Loads of Wild Oats and Concluded that she would Marry him to Reform him. As he was Dead Willing—in fact, had been the One who had first Broached the subject of Reformation, she was quick made, and they settled down in a Vine Cold Cottage to Try it On. Before his marriage he had Practiced All of the Different Ways of Sitting up Nights and Sleeping off the Day until he was accounted an Expert, but this was all to be Cut Out now, according to Agreement. All went well until One Night he met an Old Friend who had Just come to Town, and through a slip of Memory he Forgot to Come Home. Did she wait for him in Tears and Sighs the Night Following that she had taken the Job? Read on and See. She put on her Walking Clothes, and, going straight to the Den of Vice where he was Making Merry, she Seized Him Violently by the Ear and led him Home. Next Morning there was a Penitent Husband, but no Wife threatening to go home to Her Mother. She told him that at First she had not appreciated the Magnitude of the Job, but that Now she Understood it Better and that she would be Around on Pay Day for his money and would Allow him Car Fags and Ten Cents Extra a Day for Look.

AT THE Squirmed, but a Look in Her Eye told him it was No Use, and he Submitted. The Result was that he became a Sober and Substantial Citizen, though all of the Women in Town were Sorry for Him. Moral—It can be Worked, but Only One Way.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy the Best Made.

"In my opinion Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the best made for colds," says Mrs. Cora Walker of Portville California. There is no doubt its being the best. No other will cure a cold so quickly. No other is so sure a preventive of pneumonia. No other is so pleasant and safe to take. These are good reasons why it should be preferred to any other. The fact is that few people are satisfied with any other after having once used this remedy. For sale by A. C. Marsters & Company.

Musings.

"Lives of poor men oft remind us. Honest toil stands little chance; The more we work we have behind us. Bigger patches on our pants; On our coats one new and glossy. Now are stripes of different hue, All because our patrons linger. And don't pay us what is due. Then let us all be up and doing; Send in your note, however small; Or when the winds of winter strike us. We shall have no pants at all." And think of it! The women vote in Colorado. It doesn't take much grit to be a kick-or-a-knocker, and there is't any money in it. Be a booster. Ex-Governor Giver retires from the editorship of the Salem Statesman Feb. 1st. Just what is out of Gear has not been announced. Fairbanks, Taft, Root, Shaw, Foraker and perhaps others are already grooming themselves for the race in 1908. As to the Democratic candidate—well, he won't be Parker. Cleanliness is next to Godliness. What an ideal world this would be if cleanliness were the rule everywhere and in everything—clean homes, clean streets, clean bodies, clean hearts, clean accounts, and clean characters. Pass the bottle, gentle Mary; shove it lightly through the air, for in the cover of dust, flow, you will find a nut brown hair. What fond memories it awakens of the days e'er we were wed, when upon my fine coat collar 'at you have laid your little head. Lovingly I've smoothed those tresses in the days that have gone by; now I find them every meal time in the butter and the pie.—Ex.

FARMERS' NEEDS

GRASS SEED

Now is the time to sow your field seeds. I have just received a large supply of Alsylke, Red and White Clover, Alfalfa, Timothy, Orchard, Blue Grass, Etc.

HARROWS

Buffalo Pitts, Pan American, Spike, Spring and Disc Harrows, and Syracuse and Steel Chilled Plows.

SAWS AXES SLEDGES

Simmons, Webb's, Chinook, Eclipse, Hoo Hoo and Pacific Coast pattern Saws; Keen Kutter, U. S. A. and Phoenix Axes.

S. K. SYKES GENERAL HARDWARE

CASH FOR CLEANING UP YOUR PLACE

We will pay the highest cash price for Hides, green or dry, Belts, goat skins, furs, iron brass, copper, lead, zinc, rubber boots & shoes.

Have some splendid bargains in second hand Furniture

ROSEBURG JUNK AND HIDE CO.

A Few Holiday Hints

Suitable Gifts for Ladies
Suitable Gifts for Gents
Suitable Gifts for Children

Finest Line of Jewelry Ever Shown in Roseburg

SALZMAN'S

A TALE OF WOE

Many men have to tell that have their hands down at home. At no private laundry can you get the perfection of color and the beauty of finish that makes our establishments famous, for our facilities are perfect and up-to-date, and we employ only experts, that can show such evidence of their handiwork as is seen on the superb work done at ROSEBURG STEAM LAUNDRY.

GREETINGS OF THE NEW YEAR

OUR NEW YEAR RESOLVE

To continue selling hardware at a closer margin than and other establishments in Roseburg by which we expect to build up a still larger trade in 1905. Wishing all our customers a happy and prosperous New Year, we are, yours for Hardware & Farm Implements.

BEARD & CULVER

DO YOU WANT TO Buy Bonds?

If you want to know that the new investments in bonds, which are profitable, and that you can get a large return on your money, write to us for a booklet.

Garland Business College
SILVERTON, OREGON

W. B. GARLAND, Principal

GROCERIES

FRUITS: PROVISIONS

We keep the largest and best assortment of Staple and Fancy Groceries, Fresh Fruits and Farm Produce in the city, and can supply your wants at as cheap or cheaper prices than can be had anywhere.

Remember that we keep the Best!

KRUSE & NEWLAND

W. M. HODSON & CO.

714 OAK STREET

MACHINE WORK

OF ALL KINDS A SPECIALTY: BICYCLE REPAIRS AND REPAIRING: COOKING, SAW CUTTING.

List Your Ranches and Timber Lands with me.

R. R. JOHNSON,
I HAVE EASTERN CUSTOMERS AND CAN SELL OFFICE IN MARK BLOCK, ROSEBURG, OR.

READ THE PLAINEALER