

The Madras Pioneer

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ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION

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THURSDAY JUNE 18, 1908

IMPROVING OUR SCHOOL

That the voters in the Madras school district appreciated the importance of adding the 9th and 10th grades to our school was evidenced by the unanimous vote for the additional grades at the election held last Monday. There was no opposition and there should have been none to this much-needed improvement in the school facilities of one of the largest districts in the county. The Madras school is centrally located and will afford improved school facilities to the surrounding districts, each one of which will have several pupils who have advanced beyond the eight grades taught in their own schools.

The addition of the two grades in the Madras school will necessitate an increase in the number of teachers employed, and the additional expense will require the levy of a liberal school tax in the district, but the taxpayers will stand the increase in their taxes cheerfully because of the benefits to be derived. Not only will the efficiency of the Madras school be increased, but the town of Madras, from which most of the tax will be derived, will also come in for its share of the benefits.

It will be an edifying spectacle, to see a number of dyed-in-the-wool Republicans line up and cast their votes for a Democrat for United States Senator, when the legislature meets next Winter, and it will be well worth a trip to Salem to witness it. But that is what all those Republicans who signed Statement No. 1 will have to do, regardless of the fact that they were elected from Republican districts, by Republican voters who believed in a continuation of Republican policies, and who voted the Republican ticket as an expression of their political principles. But there's the rub. What have principles to do with U'Ren politics? And what business have the voters with notions and opinions about governmental policies? They have U'Ren to give them laws, and Statement No. 1 to give them United States Senators, and opinions and principles would be so much dead weight.

When California was in the hands of the old political ring, a certain politician who had to be "taken care of" was appointed Official Clock Winder at a salary of \$8 per day. His duties were to wind the clock in the senate chamber when the Senate was in session, the clock being one of the eight-day kind. Since Crook county is to have a large time-piece on its new court house building, it is discouraging to reflect that ring politics is no longer tolerated in the county. What a fine job there might have been for some of our discarded politicians!

Spokane will offer a prize of \$1000 for the best single apple, at the meeting of the National Apple Show Association to be held in that city next December. This will be the biggest prize ever offered for a single specimen of fruit.

HARRIMAN'S OPPORTUNITY

With the exception of the information that the Harriman lines have authorized the issue of a hundred million dollars of railroad bonds, and that the Gould interests have gone them some better and authorized one hundred and fifty million dollars worth of bonds, there doesn't appear to be as much railroad news, touching Central Oregon's transportation problem, as usual. Possibly it is the lull before the storm. At any rate the residents of Central Oregon will continue to hope that from this feast of millions a few crumbs will fall this way.

In spite of the lack of definite announcement of railroad plans for Central Oregon, there is much in the reports of these big bond issues to stimulate hope and keep the heart alive.

The Harriman interests must within a short time build into Central Oregon in order to hold that territory, and the big bond issue of the Union Pacific, fifty millions of which is to be used in the completion of lines projected, may mean that the Central Oregon line is to be started at once. This opinion is strengthened by the report that a crew of 25 surveyors crossed the mountains last week, and resumed work on the location of the Natron-Ontario line.

The press dispatches are unusually barren of railroad news for Central Oregon these days, but that should not be discouraging. The newspapers have been building roads into Central Oregon for 20 years, and none of them have materialized. The present inactivity may be Harriman's opportunity.

POLITICAL LIBEL

If the passage of the Huntley bill or corrupt practices act, by the people of Oregon has the effect of hushing up the mouths of political liars, that will be sufficient justification for the initiative and referendum amendment.

Under the corrupt practices act just passed, it will hereafter be a crime for one politician or his friends to lie on rival candidates or their friends. Political slander will hereafter be a serious crime and everybody is glad of it.

The disgraceful lies which gain circulation during campaign times are really degrading to citizenship. Apparently respectable men will hatch up and circulate political lies which should put them to shame. The same men would not think of cheating or lying in business affairs, but they feel that political lies are justifiable.

If the Huntley bill stops this shameful practice and places the political campaign on a high, pure, clean, honorable level, that will repay the people for all the mistakes made under the initiative and referendum amendment.

It will keep politicians busy to dodge all the political crimes.—East Oregonian.

The people of Crook county have expressed themselves in favor of prohibition by a vote of 1140 to 556, a majority of 784, or more than two to one. That is the decision of the majority and hence, under American government, it becomes law. It now becomes the duty of every law-abiding citizen to abide by this decree of the majority and to see that the law is enforced. The man who persists in the sale of intoxicating liquors after July 1 is a criminal and should receive the criminal's portion. There may be an honest difference of opinion as to the efficacy of prohibition, but there should be but one

opinion as to obedience to law. We have a sheriff who has promised to enforce prohibition if the people voted to adopt it. Then let the law be enforced.—Bend Bulletin.

Antelope, which voted "dry" in the election June 1 by a majority of only 2 votes, stands a good chance to flop over into the wet column, as the election has been contested by two saloon-keepers of that place on grounds that may be sufficient to set the result of the election aside. The notice of the contest of the election was to be served the first of the week, and the law provides for a hearing within 10 days. It is claimed that 27 voters who did not live in Antelope precinct voted there on election day, voting on the prohibition question as well as on the state and district ticket. The fact that they voted on the prohibition question will probably be sufficient cause to set aside the election, even though each one of them may have voted "wet" anyway.

Residents of this section returning through Sherman county over the Columbia Southern railroad, say that the wheat crops in Sherman county were not looking as good the first of the week as they are in this section, as rain is needed badly. Last week when the heavy soaking rain fell in this district Sherman county got no rain, and the crops are beginning to show the effects of the hot dry weather. This is not true of all the grain, for many fields do not show that they are yet suffering, and the reports from all sections of Sherman county indicate that the farmers are expecting a good average crop. In this county last week's rain was worth thousands of dollars to the farmers, and crop prospects are greatly improved.

Not much has been heard of the operations of Hatfield, the "rainmaker," in Sherman county this season, although it is said that he claims credit for the unusual precipitation in the month of May. He began his operations in Sherman county, May 9, and between that date and the 25th the precipitation was 1.23 inches, whereas during the previous 20 years the precipitation in May had never exceeded .5 of an inch. If Hatfield could produce a good rain in Sherman county now they would doubtless call him thrice-blessed.

If the Madras Oil Company should strike oil on the West slope of old Grizzly, there will be a number of budding Rockefellerers living here in Madras. With the first "prospect" hole just begun, prices of claims range between fifty thousands and—less, according to the amount of optimism in the locator's make up.

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From the Hay creek ranch, about six weeks ago, a lemon-colored shepherd dog, with white ring around neck. Answers to the name of "Highball." A reward of \$10 will be given for his return to me at Hay creek.
JOHN FOLEY.

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