

COOS BAY TIMES

AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAY, AND WEEKLY BY The Coos Bay Times Publishing Co.

Entered at the postoffice at Marshfield, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class mail matter.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES. In Advance. DAILY.

One Year \$1.50

The policy of the Coos Bay Times will be Republican in politics, with the independence of which President Roosevelt is the leading exponent.

Address All Communications to COOS BAY DAILY TIMES Marshfield Oregon

THE O. & C. LANDS.

The government could make no better disposition of the lands that are certain to revert to it, in its contest with the Southern Pacific Company, the old Oregon & California land grant, than to endow the public school system of the State with them in fee, says the Astoria Astorian, and in saying so accepts a suggestion made editorially by the Times several weeks ago.

That the railroad people have ignored and abandoned the original principle cherished by the government in the giving of this lordly domain, to wit, the development of the country, and Oregon in particular, furnishes no sort of pretext for the congress to transcend the high purpose; and we know of no better way to meet the paternal doctrine than in following out the apt suggestion of State Superintendent of Schools Ackerman, and giving the recovered territory to the very children of the state in perpetuity.

No such gift is ever misplaced. What is done in fullness and freedom for the generations that are to take over the future and use it to the pride and success of a commonwealth, returns a thousand-fold in the culture and graces and advantages inseparable from the breadth of the educative movement and doctrine, and gives imperishable impetus to the influence and power of the great community in the making of history and the accumulation of honors.

FRENCH FAMILIES.

Small families are the rule in France, but there are some striking exceptions.

The number of French families is 9,781,117, of which 1,314,773 are without children; 2,249,337 have but one child, 2,918,665 have two, 1,246,264 have three, 748,841 have four, 429,799 have five, 248,159 have six, 138,769 have seven, 71,841 have eight, and 33,917 have nine children. These figures represent, in a rapidly decreasing proportion, the number of families having a larger number of children.

For about two-thirds of the families of France the average number of children does not exceed three, while for about 1 1/2 per cent, of them the average number is seven, and for less than 1 per cent of the families eight children. Twenty-four families are recorded, however, as possessing seventeen and thirty-four as possessing eighteen children.—Chicago News.

A TRADE IN BRIDES.

According to statistics just issued the male inhabitants of St. Petersburg out-number the female by 124,000. The total population of the capital now is 1,454,704, showing an increase of 230,000, or nearly 19 per cent, as compared with the census of 1900. There are 315,632 children between the ages of one and fifteen, and of these 163,476 are boys and 152,158 girls.

A letter from Nikolsk-Ussurisk published in a London journal gives particulars of a profitable "commerce in brides" which is being carried on by enterprising peasants in the district. These matrimonial intermediaries bring a number of marriageable girls from European Russia, obtaining cheap tickets for them on some pretext or other, and play the part of father or guardian in the ensuing negotiations.

Their average cash profit on each bride is between 40 and 100 rubles (a ruble being the equivalent of 50 cents), and in addition to this they get presents and vodka according to the means of the bridegroom.

WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

GOOD EVENING.

Common place people have good memories. They never forget the good they do; the wrongs that are done them; nor the faults of their friends. Memory means misery, but heaven lies in faith, hope, and love; and love looks to the East with a finger to her lips. ELBERT HUBBARD.

Hugh McLain who is doing some campaigning in Curry county reports that one of the farmers down there has this sign posted on his fence: "Candidates will pass on. No time to talk to 'em."

One morning a little boy shouted from the garden-walk: "There's one o' them canderdates here, an' he says he'll come in any-naw!"

The old man looked toward the gate and said:

"Let him in. There's no harm in him. I know him. He's been runnin' ever sense he's been here, jest to be a-runnin'. It runs in his blood an' he can't help it!"

There was published recently in this column some definitions given by school children during examinations. A friend interested in those products of childish brains makes the following addition to the list as actual answers given in school work: "Stability is taking care of a stable."

"A mosquito is the child of black and white parents."

"Monastery is the place for monsters."

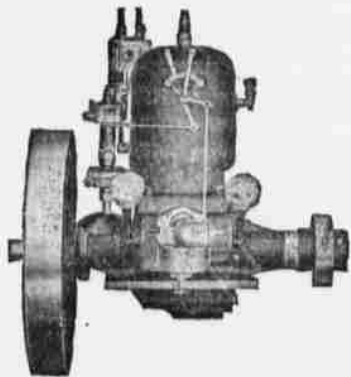
"Toesin is something to do with getting drunk."

"Expostulation is to have the smallpox."

"Cannibal is two brothers who killed each other in the Bible."

"Anatomy is the human body, which consists of three parts, the head, the chest and the stummick. The head contains the eyes and brains, if any. The chest contains the lungs and a piece of the liver. The stummick is devoted to the bowels of which there are five, a, e, i, o, u, and sometimes W and y."

The Gray



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