

COOS BAY TIMES

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THE PRIMARY LAW.

BACK IN IOWA they have just had a nominating election under the direct primary law, which they secured after many years' efforts. In that State, as in Oregon, there is some opposition to the plan. The opposition comes from the same class there as here, and the following from the Aurelia Sentinel of that State is as applicable to Oregon as to Iowa:

"A good deal is being said in the papers about the failure of the primary. It is evident that there is a studied attempt to create a prejudice against it in the public mind. The voters were negligent and did not come out to the primary in such numbers as was expected; consequently we are told the primary has failed of its purpose and should be abolished and the old corrupt caucus system set up in its place. It must be admitted that the voters did not use the primary as they should have done, but that is not the reason for the clamor against it. There are a lot of small-bore politicians who have been put out of business by the primary, and they are hungering for their old job. They think they see a chance to delude the people into giving it back to them. They long for the good old days when the most disreputable man in a community could make a living by caucuses and throwing the nomination to the candidate, who would come down the handsomest. It is not strange that these fellows should indulge the hope of some time getting back into power. They were able to fool the people so often that they naturally have a very poor opinion of their intelligence. The primary is the peoples' defense against their methods. It was inaugurated distinctively for that purpose. The disappointed one-horse politicians seem to be the only ones who do not understand it. Whatever may be the failings of the primary, the people will uphold it and stay by it so long as it serves as a bar to the influence of this despised crowd in the politics of the State.

A TRUE MINISTRY.

WITHIN THE WALLS of the federal prison near Atlanta, Geraldine Farrar recently sang to an audience of upward of a thousand convicts. Though all alike were crop-headed and clothed in the striped garments of the penitentiary, not all of them were low criminals of the common type. Among them were men who had been magnates of finance, captains of industry, associates of aristocratic circles, leaders of society, patrons of art, box-holders of the grand opera. Some of them in days not distant had heard her in great roles at the Metropolitan; had showered flowers upon her; had extended to her the grace of their social and financial patronage.

These men of fortunes broken or by sin, the great singer sang simply as to the lowly ones ways to crime had been all inevitable from infancy. She sang to them, not the grand arias and operas to excite admiration by the marvel of her voice in the excellence of supreme song, nor yet melodies without sentiment that might merely have amused them. By a fine instinct she knew that the one form of song that charms high and low, cultured and rude alike, and makes the whole world kin, is the ballad that tells of simple love and is sung to a melody as sacred as the dearest harmonies of infancy and home.

So, to the convicts she sang, to the music of her own accompaniment, "Annie Laurie," "Swanee River," "My Old Kentucky Home," and other ballads of a similar sweetness and grace. It goes without saying, that in the prison walls and before these forlorn men her heart was stirred by the thrill of a genuine emotion, and that her beautiful voice was never more true or more tender in its tones. The convicts heard a music sweeter than any ever sounded in an prison house, and their hearts, as their ears were responsive to her voice, were a true ministry of sorrow.

The DAY-COYNE bout at the field SKATING RINK next FRIDAY night, July 2d.

A DOLLAR and help out on July 4th.

at the next

LITTLE TALKS ABOUT TOWN

A GRIST OF COOS BAY GOS-SIP GATHERED HERE AND THERE ABOUT THINGS OF INTEREST.

"The harbor improvements at the Siuslaw are going ahead in fine shape," remarked Col. Grimes, who has just returned from a trip to Florence. "They are busy on the jetty. The Harbor Work at Florence.

Port Commission and government are working together on the project and they will accomplish big things for that country. The Port Commission sold \$100,000 worth of five per cent bonds at par and now the residents of the port district are voluntarily petitioning the Port Commissioners to issue \$115,000 more bonds to push the project to completion. The government is spending dollar for dollar with them and if the additional bonds are floated as it now appears likely, \$430,000 will be spent on that harbor within the next two years. The citizens are progressive and united in the project and are showing the rest of the country what harmony and self-effort will accomplish."

CONFER DEGREES ON FOUR CANDIDATES.

Arago Chapter Holds An Interesting Session.

Arago Chapter, No. 22, A. F. & A. M., held a most interesting and enjoyable special session last evening. The Mark Master and Past Master degrees were conferred on the following four candidates:

A. W. Myers, North Bend, Ore.
J. W. Gardiner, North Bend, Ore.
John T. Maguire, North Bend, Ore.
Z. T. Johnson, Myrtle Point.

At the conclusion of the work, which was most excellently exemplified, they adjourned to the banquet room, where an elaborate spread was prepared for them. There were a number of impromptu toasts responded to most happily by visitors and local members, and mirth and merriment reigned supreme. Altogether it was one of the most interesting and enjoyable sessions held in some time.

Among the out-of-town visitors present were: Col. R. H. Rosa of Bandon; Charles Adams, of Myrtle Point; E. McDaniel and Mr. Hemingway, of North Bend.

BUYS MILL INTEREST.

E. E. Johnson of Coquille Identified With Three.

COQUILLE, Ore., June 28.—This week the first information was made public regarding a deal by which E. E. Johnson of the Johnson Lumber Company acquired the stock of J. E. Paulson in the Coquille Mill & Mercantile Company of this city. A meeting of the stockholders of the company was held and resulted in the election of J. M. Nye president, E. E. Johnson vice-president and general manager, Lex Cope secretary and Fred Belloni treasurer. Mr. Johnson at once took the management of the company and plans were laid for the future operation of the mill.

The present lease held by Aasen Brothers does not expire until the 25th of July and a few weeks will be occupied in overhauling the mill after the lease expires and then operations under the management of the new manager will be begun.

The acquiring of this stock in the local mill gives Mr. Johnson an interest in three of the mills on the river and will give him practical control of an output of upwards of two hundred thousand feet of lumber daily, which is a good strong output even in this country of large mills and which is nearly up to the mark set by the Smith Company on the Bay. He is at the present time also manager of the Johnson's mill above this city and will also have control of the Lyons-Johnson mill a few miles down the river.

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MADE
BREAD

THAT IS WHAT WE
GUARANTEE YOU AT

Stephan's Bakery
FORMERLY DAVIS' BAKERY.

FREE FROM DEBT.

Myrtle Point School District in En- viable Financial Condition.

The Myrtle Point Enterprise says: The annual school meeting for Myrtle Point district, No. 41, was held at the brick school house Monday afternoon. A feature of the meeting was the report of Clerk L. A. Roberts showing that the district was absolutely free from debt, the first time such a report has been made possible during the past twenty years. Besides being free from debt, the report showed a balance of some \$1,300 in the building fund, but it was the sense of the meeting that a new roof should be placed on the brick school house and a modern heating plant installed which will probably require this amount, more or less, to accomplish.

Arthur Brown was elected director for the three-year term, succeeding L. C. Bargelt, whose term had expired. L. A. Roberts was re-elected clerk, a position which he has now held for about eighteen years, with evident satisfaction to the patrons of the school. It was voted to levy a five-mill tax for school purposes. This is cutting last year's levy in half, and at the same time providing for a possible increase in the teaching force, as well as having the funds in such shape that the teachers may be paid cash and thus save interest to the district while giving the teachers their wages when due.

CARD OF THANKS.

To the friends who came to us in our hour of trouble, and contributed all that human kindness could suggest, to help and comfort, we return most heartfelt thanks, and although such devoted friendship cannot remove the sad memories that linger around our vacant chair, it brings into view the brightest side of humanity, and throws the pure light of an unselfish friendship into a darkened home. May the day be far distant when those friends who gathered around us will need similar attention, but when the time comes may they receive the same full measure of generous aid and tender sympathy they brought to our home when death was an inmate there.

ROBERT MARSDEN AND FAMILY.

Dance with the Band July 4th.

Steer Straight

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Your Fourth of
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SENSIBLE SCHOOL DRESS.

A social reform club in Seattle has tackled the problem of simplicity in school dress and has proposed a uniform attire for all the girls and boys. The wisdom for less show and ex-

travagance in children's dress for school ought to be apparent to every one who has taken the time to observe and think on the subject, although we doubt if the remedy is the one proposed. In the first place the uniform would be resisted as too rad-

ical and as contrary in spirit to the principle of our free institutions of which the public school is one. Cadets in some high schools wear uniforms for military drill, but that is a long way from requiring all pupils to wear them.