

LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER.

J. F. STEWART, Editor and Proprietor.

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Portland's Indebtedness.

When times were good the people of Portland incurred an indebtedness that is really alarming. According to a statement of Mr. J. N. Teal, of that city recently published, the bonded indebtedness of the city is \$5,317,683, requiring an annual interest payment of \$273,014.64. Multnomah county has an indebtedness consisting of interest bearing warrants outstanding of \$197,730, on which there is an annual interest of \$15,518. Added to this the county owes the state interest on state taxes a sum amounting \$57,718, making a total indebtedness for Portland and Multnomah county, which are practically one and the same, of \$5,573,131. This entire indebtedness has been created since 1887, or in less than eight years. To offset this vast indebtedness they have \$274,201 deposited in the bursted banks of Portland. Some of these funds will be realized on, but a very small portion of them will be. Last year the gross valuation of city and county was \$53,760,495, and the total levy was 27.1 mills, making a total tax of \$1,456,909, to be raised, or a little over \$16 for every man, woman and child in the city of Portland. It is estimated that it will require \$1,524,000 to run their county and city during the present fiscal year, requiring at least a thirty mill levy.

It would seem to the layman that it would be nobody's business except those in the districts taxed, but to a considerable extent the people of the state are interested. In the first place the same set of debtcreating political financiers that have brought the city of Portland and Multnomah county to the verge of bankruptcy, are the same persons who have been striving hard to control the business of the state, and to a certain extent they have been successful. The profligate waste and almost criminal expenditures of the last two sessions of the state legislature have borne a similar mark of reckless financiering. And unless these people loosen their fangs from the state government, it is only a question of time until the state will be in the same hopeless condition, financially, that Portland and Multnomah county are.

Again, Portland is the wholesale and distributing center of a large part of the state of Oregon, and when heavy taxes are laid on the wholesaler, he in turn will add it to the price of his goods to the retailer, who in turn must add to the price to the consumer. So as a matter of fact a large portion of the excessive and outrageous taxes inflicted on Portland by its ring of political financiers are paid by the consumers of the state at large. To the extent of these two burdens and dangers are the people of Oregon vitally interested.

Julius Lowenberg, the Portland capitalist and banker, has leased the stove foundry at the penitentiary at Salem for a term of ten years at an annual rental of \$2,000 per year. He has also made a contract with the state authorities to employ prison labor. For this labor he agrees to pay 35 cents per day per man. He employs 100 convicts to start with and agrees to employ an additional 25 every six months until all are employed that are available. Lowenberg was the former owner of the stove plant at the penitentiary and sold it to the state for \$60,000 in 1893. The rental to be paid by Lowenberg is 3 1/2 per cent. on the capital invested by the state.

People who file homestead claims on the available lands of the Siletz reservation are required to strictly follow to the letter, the instructions given in President Cleveland's proclamation, announcing the opening of the reservation. At one minute past twelve on the day of opening of the reservation, July 25th, three men appeared at the Oregon City land office and filed their affidavits and non-mineral affidavits showed that they had been over the land prior to noon July 25th, 1895, in conflict with the president's proclamation requiring applicant to state that he did not enter upon and occupy any portion of the lands prior to the day and hour of opening. Saturday an application was received by mail for a homestead entry on the reservation lands, but was not accompanied by the required special affidavit. Register Miller says that he will not entertain any applications for homestead entry where the person has ever been on the lands prior to the day and hour of opening, and he is supported in this ruling by a precedent established at the opening of the Oklahoma reservation, and all Indian reservations that have been thrown open to settlement since that time. Receiver Paquet, however, does not agree with the register in his ruling, and expresses the opinion that only those who occupied the lands prior to the date of opening, should be debarred from making entry on these lands; that the instructions has no reference to anyone who casually passed over the lands at any time in the past. Register Miller cites an incident wherein a man applied for an entry on lands on the Oklahoma reservation, which was refused because he had passed over the lands 14 years previous, while in the employ of the government as a teamster. But in reply to this, Receiver Paquet asserts that the opening of the Oklahoma reservation has nothing to do with the opening of the Siletz reservation. For some reason the plats of a number of the fractional townships on the reservation have not been filed in the land office at Oregon City, but these are now being prepared in the surveyor-general's office, and the register and receiver have posted notices to the effect that these fractional townships will be subject to entry on and after August 26, 1895.

Growers of alsike clover, who are not familiar with its habit of growth, are surprised to find that when the crop is cut in full bloom the plant dies, instead of springing up into a second growth, as red clover does. Both are biennials, but the alsike clover seeds with its June crop, while the common red clover does not, but perfects a second crop before any seed is formed. The large red clover produces seed with its first crop, and excepting the few plants that have not seeded will not sprout to grow a second crop. It is this habit of alsike in drying out after it has been cut that makes it so valuable to seed with timothy. The latter plant grows slowly at first, but after the alsike is off it begins to grow more rapidly, and will often yield a late crop of a ton or more of its best timothy hay per acre. This cannot so well be done by sowing the mammoth clover, for its growth is usually so heavy that it will fall down and smother the timothy under it. Timothy under alsike clover is only slightly checked while the clover is growing. After the alsike is dead its roots decaying in the soil will keep the timothy vigorous for three or four years, when without it the grass would have run out in half that time—American Cultivator.

The old maids of Boston must have taken the Oregon cherry as some kind of a wonderful baked bean, or else had seen nothing but beans for so long that they were ravenous for something better, because the report comes from there that Oregon cherries sold at 30 cents per pound.

It is expected that 7,000 horses will be shipped from Arlington this fall to the Linnon slaughter-house.

The Omaha correspondent of the Chicago Tribune claims to have come into possession of facts which show that the government has no legal mortgage upon the Union Pacific property to foreclose; that no default in payment of interest can be shown, and that the government cannot if it would, foreclose on any part of the debt prior to January, 1898.

"If the moneys," the correspondent says, "which the Pacific railroads claim from the government for services rendered were allowed and added to the sinking fund, the gross amount would be sufficient to meet the entire principal and interest charges accrued on United States bonds up to the issues due in January, 1889.

"There is no attempt made to excuse, condone, or in any way palliate the disgraceful manner in which the finances of the Union Pacific were engineered during the early existence of the company. The question was not, so far as the line itself is concerned, one of vengeance or retribution for wrongdoing in the past, but rather to save the government as much as can be saved from the wreck of these properties. Whatever robberies may have been committed in the past, it is claimed the company itself has not been benefitted thereby, but rather the treasury, and the road itself has been robbed by individuals, many of whom have become enormously rich and the property has become depreciated and has been despoiled."

Little doubt is expressed that the United States has its remedy against all who have in any way profited by the despoliation of the Union Pacific road. To prove the foregoing assertions abstracts from the various acts of congress, undoubtedly furnished by Union Pacific attorneys, are quoted by the correspondent, but are too voluminous to be reproduced.

Mr. Case, a well-known pioneer resident of Marion county, who has a huckleberry patch on his farm, has sold his last load of berries for the season. The area in huckleberries he says, would amount to five acres, but it is scattered in patches over about 100 acres. He has hauled away from the patch over 5,000 pounds, and has sold another thousand pounds, realizing on the whole nearly \$400. He looks on his huckleberry patch as the most profitable part of his farm, and has had a man employed for six weeks to watch it, as people come from a distance to gather the berries for him.

Oregon was once a peach country but of late years it has lost its reputation, except the southern portion of the state. The cause of the ruin of peach culture has been principally that dread disease curl leaf. Heretofore there has been no remedy found for this disease, but many horticulturists have been lately experimenting with Bordeaux mixture, and claim that in this they have found a remedy that is effective and inexpensive. Should this prove to be a sovereign remedy we may yet see peaches growing successfully on the coast slope.

It is estimated that the proposed navigation canal will cost \$10,000,000. The congressional committee now investigating it will recommend either the building of the canal by the government of the United States or the subsidizing of a company to build the same. It is hardly probable that a subsidy will be recommended in the face of the frauds enacted on the government through the medium of the Pacific railroad subsidies.

John Rexford writes from Harlan, Lincoln county, saying they have a fine mountain climate and raise plenty of grain and garden stuff. Last winter they had no snow and their cattle kept fat until spring.—Polk County Itemizer.

The latest estimate gives 7,000,000 pounds, as showing the amount of wool which has passed through the warehouses in The Dalles this summer.

Gov. McKinley denies that he belongs to the A. P. A.

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THE SUPREME COURT

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