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SEMI-WEEKLY.

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By LYON & PATTERSON

The Astorian guarantees to its advertisers the largest circulation of any newspaper published on the Columbia River.

The politicians of the state of Washington are working up an early excitement over the offices to be filled more than a year from now and the work of combination is already advancing at a rapid rate.

It is to be observed in relation to legislation that the state senate has lost three men who have exercised vast influence in the deliberations of that body for several years—C. W. Fulton of Clatsop, B. F. Mulkey of Polk, and John D. Daly, of Benton, neither of whom is liable to return for a long time.

The state officers to be elected—a supreme judge to succeed Frank A. Moore and food and dairy commissioner to succeed J. W. Bailey—are not liable to arouse much of a contest.

The great contest in Oregon will be for control of the state convention and the choice of eight delegates to the national convention, as well as four presidential electors, and it can be safely surmised that even now, the wires are being quietly laid for the purpose of controlling those positions.

It is to be hoped that Admiral Cotton gets the first shot at the Turks when the final crash is precipitated in the Balkan states.

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PORTLAND'S AGED MAYOR

Portland, Sept. 8.—(Special Correspondence.)—The greatest political mistake ever made by a public man in this state was by General G. H. Williams when he allowed himself to be elected into permitting the use of his name for mayor of Portland.

This grand old man was held up as the only man that could at all fill the office of mayoralty, and by keeping his virtues before the people, he was unfortunately for himself, elected.

And some of the very influences that were most potent in coaxing him into the position of candidate for mayor are now the most industrious in hounding General Williams with bitter criticism, annoying innuendo and damaging misrepresentation.

There is positive cruelty in the experience to which General Williams has been subjected during the past fifteen months.

A senator of the United States and training with the ablest men in the world; author of the reconstruction act a nation-building and a nation-making piece of legislation—an act of world-wide moment and importance; a member of the cabinet of President Grant and the latter's choice for the supreme bench of the United States, what can such a man know of the corrupt machinations of local ward forces?

These things are foreign to his nature and have never come within his line of study or experience. You might as well take a Michael Angelo to paint an old fence, put Chief Justice Fuller in as justice of the peace at Skamokawa, make King Edward a Liverpool cop or set General Miles to drilling a raw company of the Oregon National Guard.

Inasmuch as the honored old statesman consented to load down his declining years with the annoying duties incident to the mayoralty of the city to which his name has brought much honor for the past 40 years, it would be at least the part of decency for the newspapers of Portland to refrain from harassing comments and for the substantial business men of the city to insist upon supporting the old gentleman with all their moral and substantial power.

General Williams belongs to all Oregon and the people of the state have a deep pride in the ownership. In the ordinary course of events, he cannot long be with us, but while he is there should be no unkindness said or done, and no criticism that is liable to embitter the remnant of his life, which has been always clean, always honorable, always patriotic and always marked by a high ability which has given him recognition as an equal among the great men of earth.

He made a mistake in accepting this petty honor under the pressure of pretended friendship, and the least that can be done is to allow him to go through the disagreeable ordeal with as little additional punishment as possible.



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8:15 a.m. Astoria for War- 7:40 a.m. 11:30 a.m. Renton, Flavel, Ft. 10:30 a.m. 11:35 a.m. Stevens, Hammond 4:00 p.m. 5:50 p.m. Seaside. [5:30 p.m. 16:55 p.m.

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