

# OREGON UNION

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT  
CORVALLIS, OREGON.  
FRIDAY, FEB. 3, 1899.

We have received copies of the most important bills now pending before the legislature. Parties wishing to see them may do so by calling at the UNION office.

## OUR DESERTS.

The bill to re-apportion this state into senatorial districts has passed both house and senate and is now awaiting the signature of the governor to become a law.

The bill provides that the ratio of apportionment shall be one senator for every 12,083 of white population, or fraction thereof exceeding one-half in each senatorial district; and the ratio for representative shall be one for every 6,041 of white population, or fraction thereof, exceeding one-half in each representative district.

Benton county has a population of near 9,000. This is scarcely enough to give her a senator, but so far in excess of the 6,041 required for a representative that in the re-apportionment she is given one senator and a representative. This county will be known as the 10th senatorial district and the 10th representative district.

Lincoln county, which heretofore has held a joint senator with Benton, under the new bill will have a senator jointly with Tillamook and Yamhill. This practically divorces Benton and Lincoln counties, and makes still more improbable the belief prevalent with some that the early future will see them consolidated.

The house, which passed the bill by a bare majority, is protesting the signing of it by the governor and demand that it be returned for reconsideration by that body. Speaker Carter, however, has ruled that, having passed the senate, the bill is now beyond the jurisdiction of the house.

This persistent attempt to defeat the measure was to be expected, as it would be impossible to form a bill of this kind to suit everybody, and a reduction of the representation of any district means a stubborn fight from its representatives against it.

Benton county has fared better than the majority of her sister counties, but she deserved it. Ever since the division of this county we have been entitled to a greater voice in the legislature, and the present bill is tardy recognition of this fact.

It is a pity that Dolliver of Iowa, when Johnson of Indiana was pressing the question and demanding a reply, whether he would annex the Philippine islands or not did not answer plainly that it was a question that depended on circumstances or events, which could not possibly be answered now. This is the state of the case. We shall be governed by the course of events.—Oregonian.

## Future of Oregon Apple.

Among the many excellent papers read at the recent meeting of the State Horticultural Society, was one on "The Future of the Oregon Apple" by Hon. H. B. Miller, of Eugene. In her early history Oregon was known as the "Land of Big Red Apples," and no section of the country is capable of producing a better quality of this fruit than can Oregon. Neglect has lowered the standard of this product, but interest in the raising of apples has been revived and a few years will again see this the banner state of the union. Much will be found in Mr. Miller's remarks to interest orchardists:

"Every agricultural product requires a careful examination of three fundamentals—market, soil and climate.

"Markets—Of these three the Oregon apple-grower is seriously handicapped in the matter of markets. There is no apple section of the United States or Canada where the cost of getting to market is as great as from Oregon. The great apple-consuming population of the country is much nearer Michigan, New York, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico and Colorado than we are, and even Washington and Idaho, for some reason, secure much better rates to the Eastern markets than Western Oregon, and in addition to that, have a fair market in the mining districts surrounding them. The greatest objection to

the production of apples in Western Oregon, so far as I can discover, is the expense of reaching the market. If we are always to pay the highest transportation it is clearly evident that apple-growing will be subject to great fluctuations in the profit and loss account. Profits will come only during years of short crops in the principal apple districts. This will have a tendency to restrict the production of apples. A single season of a loss with a good crop will so discourage the average grower that he will allow fungus scale, scab and moth to ruin his orchard, as they can sometimes do in a single season.

"How may we overcome this disadvantage of extra market cost? First, the railroads having good apple districts along their lines should aid the growers during years of a general large crop by cheap rates. Second, the grower, laboring under the difficulty of excessive transportation, must produce only choice fruit. The very best fruit is the only kind that will bear this highest transportation.

"As for apple land, I am thoroughly convinced that there is no better soil to be found than the warm, sandy alluvial deposit along the various rivers. Western Oregon seems to have just the proper climatic conditions for the production of the finest type of the red apples, both in size and color.

"Should our market in the islands and across the Pacific develop, as we now have reason to expect, the Yellow Newton, Winesap and Ben Davis will all be in demand, because of their keeping and shipping qualities. The markets in and across the Pacific are worthy of careful study by any one planting apples.

"The question to determine in apple growing is the same as in any other line of production, viz., Have you the elements under your control for the production of fine apples at the lowest cost? If you have, then it would be wise to undertake it; but if you cannot produce the best apples at the lowest cost, do not undertake it, for you will be sure to fail."

Others who participated in the subjects of "The Apple and Marketing of Fruit Products" were Frank Lee, editor of the Northwest Pacific Farmer; E. L. Smith, of Hood River, and Emile Schanno. Mr. Lee said in part:

"The commercial orchardist wants to raise an apple that has several distinctive features. It must be a fine quality, and a good color. With most buyers red is preferable. It must be a long keeper, the longer the better, for several reasons. A long keeper gives him an advantage of markets, as he can sell at the time the prices are highest, and then get all there is in it; and the longer the keeper the better price, because the buyer knows that he does not have to turn them over so quickly. In the Eastern markets and among growers a score-card process is in vogue much as the score card runs in breeding chickens, hogs, cattle, etc. The score card runs something like this: Skin and surface, 20; color, 10; shape, 5; size, 5; richness, 10; flavor, 10; texture, 10; core and seeds, 5; cooking qualities, 10; keeping qualities, 15; total, 100. In the adoption of this score card, the Eastern people have made a march along the line of improvement, because there is no more chance of a scrub apple winning in the race for success than there is for a scrub fowl. And if there is any improvement to be made in the apple, it is well to know along what lines this improvement should be made in order that it be permanent and profitable.

"We believe this score card is much defective when it comes to a profitable fruit, as we have noticed in the Portland and other markets that color should be given by far the greatest markings. A nice, red apple is a seller. Keeping quality come next, then flavor and size. In its season, there is nothing that can beat the Spitzenberg, but have you soil that will raise this apple? It does not thrive well in all localities. The Northern Spy is always a standard, but you must know your soil or your crop is liable to be so small in numbers that it will hardly pay for gathering. One apple which is one of the greatest sellers and longest keepers lacks in most of the other necessary requisites of the score card, but it sells, and that is what you want. This is the Ben Davis, which grows almost anywhere. You can all raise Ben Davis if you have land that is worthy to be called fruit

land. The best seller in the Portland market at present is not a red apple, but it is well up in the attributes of the score card. This is the Yellow Newtown, but, like other good things, it is very choice on its location."

## An Evening With Burns.

There were probably tens of thousands of a-semblages and coteries of men speaking the English tongue, held on the 25th of January; and surely no place more fitting could be found than the vicinity of the school devoted to teaching men engaged in agriculture the truths science is discovering in aid of practical agriculture and horticulture.

What was fitting was accomplished by the assembling of a small body of admirers of the gifted plowman, in this city on the evening in question, and the proceedings were without formality. It was conversational rather than declamatory. Hon. John Minto of Salem was depended upon to answer questions relative to the poet's influence upon his own and succeeding generations. He answered that in his judgment Burns had been a more potent influence for human advancement since the second edition of his poems was published, than all other British poets entering within the same period. This was deemed a strong claim by the questioner of the party, William E. Yates. The position was supported, however, by the claim (not denied) that all over the English speaking world where human requirements were making advance against natural obstacles, North British names are predominant in the front of the battle. These workers were more than doubled by the large proportion of the most energetic business men in our cities, either directly effected by Burns' writing, or by inheritance from their fathers. There was much and pleasant play of questions and answers interlarded by quotations showing the love of liberty, freedom of thought, love of justice and humanity which led the poet to predict that in lieu of a titled aristocracy ruling by prescription the time is "coming yet for a' that, and a' that," when "Sense and worth through a' the earth shall bear the gree and a' that." That the closing lines of the song, composed without love or war as a theme, "Let us pray that come it may, as come it will for a' that, that man to man the world o'er shall brothers be and a' that," was in progress of realization when a nation of seventy millions of untitled people would go to war for humanity's sake, and by a sharp contest bring twelve or more millions of the human family from an oppressed condition, within the reach of their own measure of freedom.

## "Get Out and Keep Out."

E. Woodward, county judge of Benton, was in Portland last week, accompanied by his wife and daughter. Corvallis, he said to an Oregonian reporter, is in the general procession on the road to prosperity, and the dull times of a few years ago are being forgotten. Several churches have been erected in the town during the past year, besides a number of private residences. Then the state has erected a \$16,000 armory hall on the agricultural college grounds, and a \$30,000 mechanical hall is now being started. Retail business is picking up in the Benton county seat in consequence of the farmers having sold a large proportion of their '98 crop of wheat at a net price of 50 cents a bushel, and a goodly attendance of students at the college, who seem to be better provided with funds for current expenses than during the dull times.

Money is plentiful all over Benton county, and the old days of 10 per cent interest having given place to 8 on the farm mortgage records at the courthouse.

Benton's financial standing is excellent and the county will be out of debt in three years, the judge thinks, when taxes will be materially reduced, as the present county court think public business should be run on the same principle as that of the successful business man—"Get out of debt, stop paying interest, and keep out."

Even the new 6 per cent county warrants of Benton are bringing 1 1/2 per cent premium in the local market, which is another evidence of the abundance of money and the faith of the people in the ability and inclination of the taxpayers to pay their debts, regardless of any constitutional limitation.

## Teachers' Notice.

In order to facilitate matters with the State Board of Examiners, Sup't J. H. Ackerman requests all applications for state diplomas and state certificates to be made at the regular quarterly examinations. The next examination occurs February 8, 1899.

G. W. DENMAN,  
County Sup't.

## New and Select Harness Supplies.

J. M. Cameron carries the largest and best selection of robes in the state of Oregon, outside of Portland. They have just received a very large invoice direct from the factory, and the low prices at which they sell them will astonish you. The prices range from 50 cents upward. They have a full line of saddles and harness, and other supplies in their line, either bought for cash or manufactured in their own establishment. The prices cannot be beat, and the quality they guarantee.

## Fertilizer for Hops.

In answer to a recent letter asking for information as to the best form of potash to use on hops—whether muriate, sulfate or kainit—Prof. G. W. Shaw, of the O. A. C., suggested the following:

A good complete fertilizer for hops should contain 8 per cent

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available phosphoric acid, 10 per cent actual potash and 3 per cent nitrogen, and even a larger supply of potash can sometimes be used to advantage.

This potash can best be used as a muriate or a sulfate—the former is a little cheaper and the latter for chemical reasons is a little the better—but either will answer. In either the muriate or sulfate here is about 50 per cent of actual potash, while in kainit there is but 12 1/2 per cent, hence there is a saving in freight and handling in using the concentrated forms. In speaking of these forms of potash, it is not always quite clear as to the precise meaning of the terms and wherein the difference lies. For this reason a few words may here not be out of place.

Potassium, which furnishes the bases of all these salts, is rarely seen outside of the chemical laboratory. It is a soft, waxy metal and lighter than water. In the form above mentioned the muriate of potash is a compound of muriate (hydrochloric) acid with the metallic potassium, in which the chlorine of the acid is chemically united with the metal.

In the case of the sulphate, sulphuric acid is the negative substance combined with the metal. In this the sulphur and the oxygen of the acid are chemically united with the metallic potassium.

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Teachers' Examination.

Notice is hereby given that for the purpose of making an examination of all persons who may offer themselves as candidates for teachers of the schools of this county, the superintendent thereof will hold a public examination in his office at Corvallis, Benton county, Oregon, on Wednesday, February 8th, at the hour of 1 o'clock p. m. All applicants not present at the beginning will not be permitted to enter the examinations. Strangers must furnish the superintendent with recommendations as to their good character before they will be entitled to take the examinations.

G. W. DENMAN,  
School Supt. Benton Co., Oregon.  
Dated this 27th day of January, 1899.

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