

City Elections.

Next Monday the voters of Oregon City will be called upon to exercise the elective franchise by selecting city officers for the ensuing year. This election, though apparently of little consequence, is of vital importance to the people and taxpayers, and every voter should exercise the privilege this offered in placing into office good men, men who have the interest and welfare of the city at heart. For the past three years the Republican party have had unlimited control of our city affairs, and the taxes have been unusually high, and would have been higher had not the charter of the city interfered and protested against it. The city is in debt today (no one can tell exactly) to the sum of over \$5,000. City orders, notwithstanding they draw ten per cent interest, are worth only 70 cents on the dollar, and the city is thus forced to pay an advance of 30 per cent on all it has to purchase. That the affairs of our town have been badly managed, no one, except those who have had the handling of the funds, will deny, and now, in order to effect a reform, the Democratic City Committee, feeling the importance of the occasion, have thrown open the doors for all who are in favor of a reform to participate with them in selecting good men; those who pay the taxes and are here to make Oregon City their future home. These men should hold the offices, and we hope the Convention will select no others, and thereby secure an economical administration.

From an exhibit furnished us by the kindness of A. J. Apperson, Esq., we are enabled to give our readers, in an aggregate statement, the amount of expenses raised by the city, and also its revenues, which shows a remarkable collection for such a small place as Oregon City. The total amount of taxes, licenses, etc., collected during the year for the general fund, was \$4,205 89; for school purposes \$4,002 22; total, \$8,208 11. To this sum should be added about \$1,800 more which is collected annually as a road or street tax, making over ten thousand dollars our people pay for the maintenance of our city government. From the statement furnished us, it is shown that this amount will cover about the expenses, including interest on the debt, provided it is not over \$7,000 or \$8,000, but leaving nothing towards a reduction of the debt. We had intended to make a fuller statement of the financial condition of the city, but the figures were not furnished us until it was too late, and we must ask our readers to consider over the above and see whether they had not better change the affairs of our city in other and more economical hands. They may rest assured that no permanent prosperity will be visible in Oregon City until equal can come without the fear of being taxed to poverty.

Last Saturday the City Committee prepared their call. Yesterday a poster appeared on the streets signed by a republican and good citizen embracing the substance of the call. Let no one be deceived by this. It is probably the same work in another dress. The Republicans do not make a nomination, notwithstanding they have held unimpeded control of the town heretofore. They know they will be repudiated for their past extravagance and seek this dodge to retain power. Taxpayers be not deceived. If our friend is sincere in his desire, let him attend the Convention at Myers' here the above is evening. That is place for all such who desire a change.

CALIFORNIA CROPS.—The crops in California are said to be almost a complete failure this year. This is an indictment for our farmers to get in all the wheat possible. A Stockton paper says: "It is now certain that under the most favorable circumstances now possible, the grain and hay crop of the State will be light, and if favorable showers do not continue to fall the failure may yet prove to be a very serious matter to a large number of farmers and to the State at large." No rains have fallen in the interior since the date of the Independent's article.

ENCOURAGING FOR THE CITY TAXPAYERS.—The present year there were audited 156 city orders by the Council, aggregating the nice little sum of \$3,291 10. Out of this sum, \$1,000 was paid for the water, and the balance, \$2,291 10 for incidental expenses. Why did our worthy city fathers make up their report to the people before the election? Probably the above figures looked large for them to risk an endorsement from the people.

THROWN AWAY.—At the last June election, the City Marshall appointed ten deputies and the city fathers paid them \$10 00 per day for the service they rendered in electing officers for the Republican ticket. Are our city taxpayers ready to endorse this kind of business next Monday?

BEYOND.—Our farmers are engaged in seeding, and the present indications are that there will be a very large amount of wheat this year. There is already a large amount sown, and they have at least two weeks longer. Any time before the 15th of May will bring a crop in this State.

THE DALLAS REPUBLICAN SAYS THAT all available force is being brought into requisition by our farmers during the fine weather in order to get seedling done as soon as possible. Notwithstanding the late rains, an unusually large amount of seedling will be done.

THE STATESMAN SAYS THAT J. G. HOLBERT has had his sentence so lessened that two months and \$100 fine will let him out. This word came by telegram from Washington.

THE TAXPAYERS WILL DO WELL TO remember that they owe it to the fact that the charter prohibits a higher rate of taxation than has heretofore been levied or they would have been called on for more.

TO BE OFF.—It is reported that Den Holladay's visit to San Francisco is for the purpose of buying off the proposed opposition between Portland and San Francisco.

SPECULATION.—An exchange says that should the United States be so foolish as to take San Domingo, we would have to take with it a debt of \$150,000,000, to be paid by the people of the United States. And there is not an acre of ungranted or unpledged land in the country.

To show just the character of this real estate speculation, we may state that the amount of territory comprised in San Domingo is only about 20,000 square miles—12,800,000 acres of land, all told, which belongs to private parties. For the privilege of having the "old flag" fly over this land, and allowing its owners to be represented in Congress and to have generally, we must pay a little over \$12 33 for each acre. As a land speculation, we scarcely think the investment will pay, and there is no money in it otherwise, for the people there are as little able to pay taxes as they are to navigate the air.

A GOOD WAY TO PROTECT GARDENS.—The Walla Walla Statesman has the following on this subject:

We have heard of several enterprising ladies who have adopted a peculiar plan of keeping their neighbor's chickens from scratching up their newly made gardens. They mix salt and corn meal together and lay it nicely along the edges of the beds. When the chickens fly over the fence, they eat some of the mixture, and the salt, we believe, is "cold poison" to a chicken, and we take this opportunity to warn the feathered tribe that before they had better send for a lawyer and have their bills drawn up in connection with the form, in which they should not fail to make some provision as to the disposition of their cold corpse, which may be found lying about loose in the gardens.

CONVICTED.—Mrs. Fair, the woman who shot Mr. A. P. Crittenden some time since in San Francisco, was found guilty of murder in the first degree. Her sentence is to be pronounced to-morrow. The following is from a dispatch of the 26th inst.

Contrary to all expectation, the jury in the Fair case were out only 40 minutes. The verdict of murder in the first degree, the prisoner was a little paler than usual, otherwise unharmed. The mother wept and her child wept and she lay on the floor in a state of collapse. The public received the verdict with much surprise, but with every manifestation of satisfaction.

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THE STREET COMMISSIONER has heretofore collected between \$1,500 and \$1,800 per annum road tax in this city. Yet we have but one street, and that in a good condition when the property owners keep it so. The office has been abolished but he desires another. Will the people elect a man who has proved his incompetence so completely in the past to any position? Let them look at the manner he has appropriated the road money, and the condition of our streets, and we apprehend that the people will conclude that they have no place for him.

IT IS NOW UNDERSTOOD that the Republican party, which has had undisputed control of the city for the past three years, has become aware that its miserable managemnt of affairs has lost them the confidence of the people, and that they cannot gain another victory. The leaders of the party, under such circumstances, generally become very anxious for reformation, and try to deceive the people under cover of "independent" tickets, while it is the same element, only under a different name. The only show we have for a reform in city matters, is for those who desire a correction of abuses, to come into the Democratic convention and nominate good men and elect them.

LET THE VOTERS remember that the Democratic ticket which will be nominated to-morrow evening, is by the action of the City Committee pledged to an economical administration of our city affairs, and a reformation in our public school. The taxpayers are interested in this matter more than they are in the success of party. Let them turn out on Monday and achieve a victory which will benefit the town, and take the heavy burden of taxation from their shoulders.

NEW PAPER.—We have received the first number of the Democratic Era, printed at East Portland, by Messrs. Hicks & Raveley. The paper presents a very neat appearance, is ably edited, and is a credit to the place where it is published. The issue before us indicates a very healthy appearance, and the well-known abilities of its editor, Mr. Hicks, is a sure guarantee that the paper will rank among the best in the State. Success to the enterprise.

ACCIDENT.—A telegram from Corvallis under date of the 24th says that Messrs. Quivcy and Miller, proprietors of the Benton Democrat, were returning from Albany, the team became frightened and ran away and both gentlemen were thrown from the buggy with great violence. Mr. Miller escaping with but serious injury, but Mr. Quivcy's leg was broken and badly cut by the foot of one of the horses, besides other bruises not so serious.

ELEPHANT FACTORY BURNED.—Mr. Jack McCall informs us that he heard, yesterday, at Independence, that the Elephant Factory, burned down Tuesday night. The word was brought from Dallas today, and the news was considered reliable at Independence. Work had been stopped at Independence about a week, and it is thought the fire was kept on the premises to occasion the fire.—Statesman.

THE CLIQUE which has controlled our city for the past three years will control any nominations which may be made in opposition to the Democratic ticket. Let the people remember this next Monday.

REV. W. H. STROY.—We find the following notice of this much esteemed gentleman in the Bulletin of last week:

The Rev. William H. Stroy was born in Hamilton, Butler county, Ohio, from which place his family removed to Lafayette, Indiana, where he received his education. Thence entered the Theological Seminary at Nazasa in 1852, and graduated as B. D. in 1858; was ordained deacon on Trinity Sunday, in 1858, and advanced to the Priesthood in December of the same year, at Lafayette, by Bishop Upland. Took charge of the church at Bristol, Indiana, and transferred to Michigan City in 1858. Was recalled by his Alma Mater to take charge of St. John Chrysostom at Delafayette, Wisconsin in 1863, was appointed by Missionary Board to Nevada, and arrived in 1863 in 1864 became Rector of St. John Marysville, California, and in 1865 Chaplain of the New Almaden Quicksilver mine, and transferred to the venerable Bishop Scott, and Vestry of Trinity Parish, Portland, in June, 1866, where he remained nearly five years. Has a wife and four children in Wisconsin, whom he is now going to see. Fine classical scholar, well versed in theological learning, fearless in declaring the truth as held by the Episcopal Church, amiable in his manner, generous in his heart, noble in his character, and bearing; won golden opinions from all classes of society, beloved by the younger members of his flock, and esteemed by all. The active promoter of the first educational institution in Oregon, in which State he leaves behind him a large and commodious warehouse well built at Lebanon for the reception of grain and other articles for shipment by the steamer.

OPPOSITION LINE TO SAN FRANCISCO.—The Pacific Mail Steamship Company purchased recently in San Francisco, the U. S. steamer Newbern, and is fitting her to ply between San Francisco and San Francisco. The Mohanga, an iron-hulled double-ended, is also being fitted in the same style to run in connection with the Newbern. She is one of the fastest steamers on the coast, her cylinder being 85 inches in diameter. She is intended to make the trip in three days in the worst weather. Her departure will be on the 1st of May. The New York will be on the 1st of May, and will be placed on the route. The first boat of the opposition line will leave San Francisco about the 1st of July.

THE MODERNIST.—We have received this illustrated magazine for fashions and fancy work. It is the most complete publication of its kind we have ever seen; giving more than 1,000 illustrations, 200 patterns, 400 diagrams for braid and embroidery, and 12 colored fashion plates; two numbers each month. It is published at Berlin, Prussia, but will be supplied, at \$3 per annum, either in German or English, by S. T. Taylor, Importer of Ladies' Fashions, 391 Canal Street, New York.

SHIP HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A. R. Staley, Esq., the Secretary of this Society, has given notice that "there will be a special meeting of the Society at Portland on the 24th inst. at 7 o'clock, a. m., to hear the report of the committee appointed to investigate and report on the propriety of holding an exhibition of summer fruits, flowers, etc., in the city of Portland, and to make arrangements for holding the same, if it be deemed expedient."

OUT OF DEBT.—Polk county is out of debt, and has a balance in her treasury of \$3,000. Three years ago the Democrats went into power in that county, and a heavy debt was hanging over the county. They have relieved the county of debt since that on a less tax than their predecessors had levied.

ACCIDENT.—W. H. Watkins, Superintendent of the Penitentiary, met with an accident on the 21st inst. While driving a jump out to run and Watkins attempted to jump out, but fell on his head, dislocating his shoulder and otherwise injuring him.

ADMITTED TO PROBATE.—The last will and testament of Stephen T. Church was yesterday admitted to Probate. The executor is Mrs. Church, A. M. McCall, and C. P. Church; appraisers appointed were David McCall, T. McCall, Patton and T. B. Riecky. The will shows a considerable estate, and many relations and friends. The homestead is left to Mrs. Church, and the property is to be equally divided between the widow and three children. The will has been valued at about \$75,000 by those best able to judge of it.—Statesman.

DIFFERENCE.—The city government of Eugene is administered for a little over \$700 per annum. It costs the taxpayers of Oregon City about \$10,000 per annum. This is quite a difference. Will our taxpayers try a new set of men next Monday? This is a matter in which every taxpayer is interested.

COLUMBIA COUNTY.—Columbia county, says the Herald, has made more rapid progress than any other county in the State within the past few months. During that time it has almost doubled its population. About a year ago the number of its inhabitants was 800—to-day it is 1,500. The number of farms is increasing. There are not two sections of State land to be found for sale in the county. From a gentleman who has long resided there, we learn that it possesses the most productive land in the State. Of the settlers seeking homes there, the major portion are single men. There are only about 120 families in the county. As a consequence, the number of domestic peace and tranquility which they are supposed to do, we learn that six divorce cases are to be heard in the next term of the District Court, which will cover there in a short time. Taking all things into consideration, Columbia county seems to be a good place for those seeking homes among the wild roses and pines.

NEW PAPER.—We have received a prospectus for a new paper, to be published at Corvallis, by Messrs. Quivcy & Miller. The paper is to be Democratic in politics. The first issue will probably appear next Thursday. We wish the new candidate abundant success.

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS FOR STATE LANDS.—The following notice has been issued by the Board of Commissioners for the sale of school lands, under date of April 15th:

Notice is hereby given, that from and after this date, all Applications for State, School and University Lands must be accompanied with one-third cash payment, and all applications for the above lands now on file in the office of the Commissioners must be made good by one-third payment within sixty days from date, else they will be null and void.

IT WILL BE WELL for those persons who give their time and service to the city as firemen to remember what party it is that collected from them a street tax in gold coin, and then paid it back in city scrip, worth 70 cents on the dollar. There are other neglects which the boys will remember next Monday.

"How the mighty have fallen" was the remark of a friend on seeing the posters stuck up for a Republican convention under a new head. "They were chief," but have been compelled to abandon the organization and seek protection under some new name."

THE OCCASIONAL.—This is the title of a neat little paper, devoted to the instruction of music, edited by J. B. & H. S. McGibeny, at Portland.

GOSE TO SALEM.—A man named Bradford Porter was last week taken to the penitentiary from Columbia county for bigamy.

NAVIGATION OF THE SANTIAM.—We learn from S. H. Claughton, Esq., says the Journal of Lebanon, who was on the steamer Calliope on her late trip from Jefferson to Lebanon, that the distance between the two points is about twenty miles, and in that distance there are two difficult points of the river, and they could be overcome at but a trifling expense. When the Calliope arrived at Lebanon there were probably one hundred and fifty passengers on board, who had got on at different points as the boat ascended the stream. It is thought that with a few more obstructions, the boat can remove obstructions, the boat can ascend the river as far as Waterloo, some eight miles above Lebanon. It is the intention of the owners of the Calliope to procure new engines, and to run the boat with horse power, immediately when regular trips will be inaugurated. A large and commodious warehouse will be built at Lebanon for the reception of grain and other articles for shipment by the steamer.

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