

FROM ROBERT BRUCE.

More About Old Times in Pendleton—
Burning of the Odd Fellows' Hall—
Reminiscences of a Pioneer.

OLYMPIA, W. T., Jan. 7, 1889.

To the Editor of the East Oregonian.

Your New Year's edition of the EAST OREGONIAN is received. The citizens of Pendleton and all of Eastern Oregon ought to be thankful to and proud of their leading paper, the EAST OREGONIAN. I know of five copies that will be sent East. Reader, do thou likewise.

Mr. Editor, you have outstripped my prophecy of five years ago; that was to have a steam power press. You were not content with that, but you had to have a beautiful brick block, steamed all over. Go ahead, my boy. Many a curse you get now; but the day is not far distant when these curses will turn to blessings, for the position the EAST OREGONIAN has taken in building up Pendleton and Eastern Oregon.

In regard to Pendleton in early days, Mr. Morse is correct, as I find when I search my memory.

I am real glad to learn Frank Coats is alive. I heard he was dead. He was a bright, whole-souled man.

I did not mean that the two buildings in the photograph I sent you were the only houses in Pendleton. When that photograph was taken there were about 150 persons in Pendleton. Please ask Mr. Fraker if he did not camp on the Umatilla in 1855 with a party of volunteers after the Indians, during the Rogue river war. Swift's station, I believe, was chosen for the site of the county seat. I have forgotten the name they were going to give the town. I passed Swift's station long before I located in Pendleton; court was in session then, and the building Jim Turner hauled up to Pendleton was either the old court house or one that stood close to it. In 1870 or 1871, I saw the gold coin in John Bowman's hand, in the old Pendleton hotel, when he was paying Mrs. Goodman for the livery stable opposite, which he bought of her; it had been run previous to that by Big John Wilson. Col. Stewart was on his place on Birch creek in 1861. He has good cause to remember it. The Snake Indians made a dash after the Umatilla's horses pretty close to the colonel's place. Jim Daniels then, I believe, lived at Lee's Encampment. When the Boise diggings were first discovered, I was hunting the Snake Indians. I met the men that discovered the diggings, and I being an old California miner they took me into their secret, and wanted me and their party to go with them. (If this article should meet the eye of Colonel Maury, of the First Oregon Cavalry Volunteers, he will vouch for the above.) No; I told the party that it would excite the men to desert, and what would the poor emigrants do if we left them to the tender mercies of the Indians. That was the year I first saw the captain whom you know as Dr. W. C. McKay. He joined us at Fort Hale with a company of brave Warm Spring scouts, commanded by jolly Captain McKay. Ask him if he knows it. Bruce, late company A's sergeant of Oregon volunteers.

God willing I will be back to my old home in Pendleton in the early spring.

In reading your valuable paper, under the head, "Pendleton Fire Department," the burning of the Odd Fellows' Hall in 1872, there is a little episode connected with that, that is not generally known. At that time I was janitor for the Masons, Odd Fellows and Good Templars. The latter-named society was supposed to be the innocent cause of the fire that consumed the hall. A certain man that worked on the erection of the building was a hard case, but a No. 1 carpenter. His wife wanted him to join the Good Templars, but they would not receive him. A minute before the fire broke out, his wife passed two men close to the house. In passing she said, "Revenge is sweet;" then the fire broke out. When Judge Bailey was at Olympia a few years ago, the man alluded to above was here, but always avoided me. He asked Judge Bailey to give him a certificate that he did not burn the Odd Fellows' Hall in Pendleton in 1872. He confessed that his wife did it. The judge told him to go to Bruce, but he never called. The first newspaper I saw in Pendleton was printed in the lower story of said hall. It was a little bit of a paper. The editor's name I have forgotten; Jim Turner knows. He was very kind to the young aspiring editor, but he left and started in Dallas, Oregon. He may be a flourishing man to-day. The burning of the Odd Fellows' Hall at that time was hard on the young lodge, but she sprang from her ashes more glorious than ever. Thanks to the brotherhood of that noble band of brothers, money came pouring in upon us thick and fast, until we had to cry, "Hold, enough." Then we built our modest home again. I was warden at the time, and saved all of the lodge property, with the exception of the regalia, by not moving it from the old hall. Brother Abbott was secretary. He had a habit of taking home the minutes of the lodge, and saved them. Such is a brief sketch of the present prosperous Eureka Lodge No. 32 I. O. O. F., of Pendleton, Oregon.

What on Earth

Is the reason people will not, can not, or do not see any difference in cheap nostrums put up by cheap John houses or irresponsible parties at enormous profits, rather than take a medicine of world wide reputation and one that is giving universal satisfaction at a quiet price? No medicine in the world is giving such universal satisfaction for purifying the blood as BEGG'S BLOOD PURIFIER & BLOOD MAKER and every bottle that does not do its work will cost you nothing. F. J. Longstrech, Druggist.

A dispute has arisen in school district No. 82, near Greenville, Oregon, as to whether the teacher has a right to read a chapter of the Bible during school hours. The public schools are non-sectarian, but according to a recent decision of an Eastern supreme Court, the mere reading of the Bible without comments is not religious teaching.

The building of a railroad from Seattle to the Canada line is assured.

Columbia Fire & Marine Insurance Company

Portland, Oregon.

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READ THIS!

It is of interest to Every
Taxpayer in Oregon.

DEAR SIR:

Would say in reply to yours of even date that the sum of \$77.00 paid to me by the Columbia Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of Portland, Oregon, for School Tax in District No. 1, represents more money than paid to this office by all the Foreign Insurance Companies doing business in this city.

FRED A. DALY,
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THIS PROVES OUR ASSERTION

That to protect yourself you should give your Insurance to the Columbia Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of Portland, Oregon—organized under the laws of Oregon. Has a guaranteed capital of \$500,000 for your protection, which is ten times the amount of deposit required of Foreign Companies, who pay NO taxes, and SEND ALL THE PROFITS OUT of the State, thereby increasing your taxes. Think of this and give our Company a part of your INSURANCE.

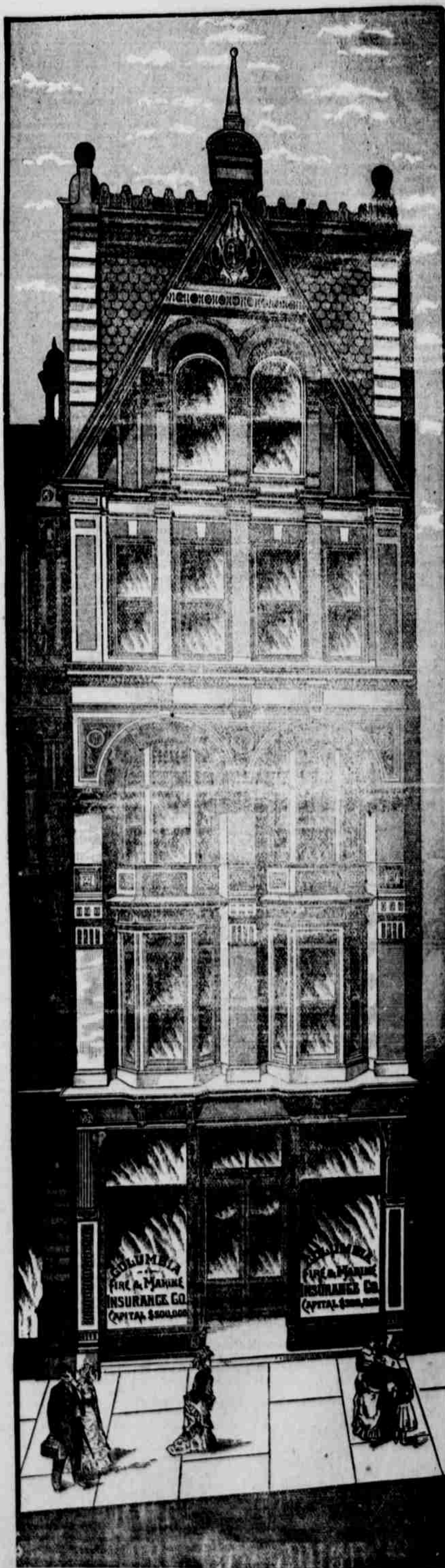
Yours, respectfully,

JOHN A. CHILD, Secretary.

Office: Second St. Next Door to Child's Drug Store

Subscribed Capital, \$500,000.

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