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East Oregonian.

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1900.

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—BY THE—
East Oregonian Publishing Company,
PENDLETON, —AT— OREGON.

DAILY SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One copy per year, by mail	$6 00
One copy six months, by mail	3 00
One copy per week, by carrier	15
Trial subscription	50
Single numbers	05

SEMI-WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One copy, one year	$2 00
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WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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(Display Advertisements.)

One inch, or less, in Semi-Weekly per month	$1 00
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Local notices, ten cents per line, each insertion.

PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE.

Republican platforms are probably made to "catch votes" with. They are made to stand on during the campaign. They are usually forgotten after the election. In 1898 the republicans of Umatilla county in their platform pledged their candidates, as follows:

"County affairs: In county affairs we demand on the part of the officers that the laws shall be enforced; that no money of the county shall be paid out without warrant of law; that the taxes shall be collected, and that when collected they shall be speedily paid over to the proper officers, and to that end we favor the keeping by the county of a set of double entry books, that the accounts of the county can be more conveniently, accurately and plainly kept and audited.

"We favor making the county treasurer the collector of taxes, and paying him a salary commensurate with his duties.

"We favor such legislation as will secure an amendment to the present tax laws, making taxes delinquent on October 1 of each year, instead of April 1."

The above was the promise, now what was the performance?

The republicans in 1898 were victorious at the polls, but there has been no double entry bookkeeping, or any other kind of bookkeeping, which will show to the taxpayer the financial condition of the county for the past two years or at any time. Neither has there anything been done in connection with making the county treasurer the collector of taxes, but the treasurer's salary was raised from $66 to $100 per month, that part of the "promise" being performed with considerable promptness by act of legislature, as provided for in a bill introduced by L. B. Reeder, republican representative, now a candidate before the people for re-election.

It is timely to inquire of Mr. Reeder and the other republican candidates who stood upon these platform promises in 1898, and became a party or parties to them, why he and they did not keep faith with the voters, and, since he and they did not in 1898, what grounds have they for a better performance of platform promises, to which he and they are parties again this year?

The same platform promises in connection with county affairs, made by the republicans in 1898, are made again by them in 1900, and the people can expect the same forgetfulness of them after election, if the republicans are triumphant, which they should not be, because they meant to and did deliberately make promises to the people in 1898, and reiterate them in 1900, for no other reason than for the purpose of securing official place.

In short, they seem to care nothing for their party's promises, but everything for the offices. Candidates for office should not be allowed to prove false the second time to the voters of the county.

PORTLAND'S PLIGHT.

The Portland Telegram is making an effort to arouse Portland people to an appreciation of what is "east of the mountains," but is making little success of it. The people in or outside of Portland pay little attention to its daily press, the Evening Telegram and the Morning Oregonian, for the simple reason that both papers are published by the same parties, governed by the same influences and imbued with the same motives; they realize that what the one says the other will endorse, and they, or rather a majority of them, are never enthusiastic over anything the Portland press may suggest or propose. This state of affairs is due almost entirely to the lack of another daily newspaper voice in Portland. If Portland had another morning newspaper, or the evening edition of the Oregonian was under the control of other parties, free from Oregonian influence, at once increased interest would be taken in what the papers had to say and suggest. The supporters of each paper would vie with one another in doing something for Portland, and soon the whole state would feel the stimulus of the healthy rivalry engendered by the two newspapers working on different lines. Little interest can be excited in favor of a horse race against time, and neither is it possible to create any enthusiasm in a town that has only "one voice" to give expression through, and particular so when that voice is so constituted that it cannot pipe but one tune and that a doleful one, to all except a few who happen to accept it as the "voice of God" and infallible.

CATCHING FISH BY ELECTRICITY.

The use of a short section of the big river as the path of the return current by those who laid out a trolley line on the upper Mississippi produced certain unexpected results that may lead to the regular employment of electricity in commercial fishing. It seems possible, even, that it may yet be used in deep sea fishing, thus revolutionizing vast industries. Soon after a return current was first seen through the river large numbers of supposedly dead fish were seen floating on the surface of the water. They attracted some attention because of their number, but for no other reason, since it was not then noticed that they were all within the influence of the mystic current. Later it was sent through a portion of the river further down, and again large numbers of floating fish were seen. This time it was noticed that as they floated down stream and out of the electric influence, they revived and swam away, apparently as lively as ever. This led to a series of experiments.

In the course of the experiments the electrical current was applied and then cut off repeatedly, and seemingly dead fish appearing at the surface of the water when the electrical current was conducted through the stream and only at such times. Some of the fish were gathered, and being taken out of the electrified water they revived almost instantly. Some were made captives in small pools and kept to see if the effect of the electricity was lasting; at the end of a month's captivity they seemed to be as healthy and active as ever. It was as if the current had temporarily paralyzed them without in any way affecting them permanently.

* * *

At the power house of the Inter-Urban Traction Company of Minneapolis, two large iron plates, each measuring about six feet square, were submerged in the stream. To one was fastened the positive wire of a circuit, and to the other the negative wire. The plates were stationed about fifteen feet apart. A current of 500 volts was allowed to pass between them through the intervening water, and, as before, numerous fish came to the surface. Moreover, frogs, muskrats, and all sorts of living water denizens made their appearance on the surface in a paralyzed condition, but all revived, as the fish had done, as soon as they floated away from the electrical influence.

A later experiment on a larger scale brought to the surface a thirty-pound sturgeon. The operators of these experiments used boats to gather in the desirable fish that were captured. In this operation it was discovered that although the electrical current had a paralyzing effect upon all water creatures it did not have the least effect upon the human body. A hand was first put in the water cautiously; there was not the slightest unpleasant sensation. Bolder investigations followed when it was found that a man could swim in the stream and among the fish, collecting them at will and yet suffer no shock whatever. This is believed to be due to the greater resistance to the electric current furnished by the body of a fish. That the fish should be affected so strongly is still a little remarkable, since by actual test it has been shown that the body of a fish has greater electrical resistance than water.

Still the experiments mentioned hardly made electrical fishing practical, since a fisherman can scarcely be expected to carry around with him either a dynamo or a power house. Certain experiments on in Minnesota creek have been more satisfactory from a practical view point. These were made without power house or dynamo connection. A bank of five powerful galvanic cells, and an induction coil were used. These were connected to two small plates set about eight feet apart in the water, and every fish passing between these plates came promptly to the surface. This same apparatus was tried later on a small lake near Minneapolis. The fishing was done from two boats and it was found that the current worked successfully with a range of thirty feet between the plates, nearly sixty pounds of fine lake fish being gathered in about ten minutes times.

Very recently some experiments of a much lager scale than any of these made near Minneapolis have been made near the works of the Westinghouse company at Pittsburg. On the Monongahela river a current of 2000 volts was carried across the stream. The result of this experiment was new in that it yielded the mud fish and the animals that live in the bottom of the river. An immense muskallonge was among the victims that were brought to the surface.

* * *

"It is more than possible that deep sea fishing may be carried on by this method much more easily and extensively than it now is," said a Westinghouse engineer to the writer the other day. "If a fishing boat were fitted out with the electrical equipment that is supplied to any one of the big ships in the American navy, electric fishing could be carried on very easily at any place on the high seas. The wires could be carried some little distance from the boat and held in their place by floats, and the plates could be lowered to any desired depth."

If the fish of the very deep water were sought, the effect of the electrical current would possibly be partly lost by the time the fish reached the surface of the water. But even in such cases the fishing nets and seines now in use could be applied. The fish would be brought directly to the fishermen, and the long waiting which now makes deep sea fishing expensive would no longer have to be endured.

Where extensive fisheries are now conducted along the coast, electrical fishing could be carried on by extending live wires from some power house at the nearest town to the shore. The wires could be carried by boat to the pools were the fish school and the plates submerged there. By such means the fisheries could be made to yield many times their present output and the market price of fish would be greatly reduced with as much profit as at present to the fishermen.

Such fishing is not now prohibited by law, nor need it be, for it is humane in every respect. There is no hook to tear the mouth or net to break the fins. There is no slaughter as there is by the use of dynamite. No fish are killed, nor are they injured in the least. They are simply brought helplessly to the fisher's hands. He takes those of good marketable quality and the rest swim away, watching closely the rapidly increasing free and unhurt.

The electrical engineers who first made experiments with this sort of fishing in the upper waters to the Mississippi, are now engaged in perfecting small but powerful portable batteries to be used in trout brooks, rivers and small lakes, and it may not be long before fishing with electricity will have become a common way of procuring both fresh and salt water foods. It goes without saying, however, that this method of capturing fish is likely to be denounced in many quarters as unsportsmanlike, and it is very possible that attempts will be made to pass laws prohibiting it.

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