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East Oregonian

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1900.

DAILY, WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY

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DAILY SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One copy per week, by carrier	15c
One copy per week, by mail	20c
One month, by mail	\$5.00
Three months, by mail	\$13.50
Six months, by mail	\$26.00
One year, by mail	\$48.00

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IN THE POLITICS OF OREGON

Well informed politicians believe that Binger Hermann is seriously a candidate for the United States senate from Oregon; that he not only aspires to that high honor, but is backed in his aspirations by powerful forces in Portland. It goes without saying that Mr. Hermann wants to be United States senator. For years, he has shown good seeds by effusive handshaking and acts of personal favor while he was a congressman, and later by his opportunities in the federal land office at Washington, as commissioner. He desires to reap the harvest from this faithful sowing. But, announcement that he receives encouragement from elements recognized as potent in Oregon politics will come as a surprise to the majority of the people.

From reliable sources, the East Oregonian is informed that this is true, and that the campaign now coming on must reckon with the Hermann candidacy. In Eastern Oregon, Mr. Hermann is not popular, and would not be an acceptable incumbent of the office.

Men are saying that John H. Mitchell may be the next United States senator elected by the Oregon legislature. It appears to be generally believed that the ex-senator would like again to enter active politics, and that the turn taken at the June election means that his friends are much more powerful now than they were during the past few years. In the event that things should shape themselves right for his candidacy, he may enter the arena once more, and inject somewhat of fireworks and a lurid pyrotechnic display into the situation. If this comes true, it is reasonable to expect some very hostile comments by the press of Portland.

Those who have watched the progress of political events are of the opinion that State Senator Charles W. Fulton, of Clatsop county, is an element in the problem. He, of course, like many distinguished citizens of Oregon, would like to hold the office. And, added to his personal popularity, is the rise in importance of the coteries of politicians of which Mr. Fulton has been a conspicuous member for many years. It is by no means beyond the realm of reasonable possibilities that the Astoria statesman may come to the front as a successful aspirant for the United States senatorship.

H. W. Corbett's chances are at this time discounted fifty per cent., by those who claim to understand the significance of the eruption which occurred in Multnomah county in June. The election of a legislative delegation hostile to a man, excepting two members, to Mr. Corbett's election, certainly means that the aged banker's prospects of going to Washington in an official capacity are not flourishing.

As to Eastern Oregon being given the senator, the prevailing opinion has always been that the machine will refuse such recognition for many years to come. Just now, no one is in sight who is immediately available for the position, considering the status quo of Oregon politics. And Eastern Oregon people may as well be resigned to the fact that they cannot successfully ask for such recognition until the counties are more thickly populated, and their representation in the conventions and the legislature is greater in proportion to the representation of the western counties.

WAS IT RUSSIA'S INTRIGUE?

The paramount question before the great powers of the world in connection with the Chinese Boxer rebellion is the part which has been played by Russia. Grave suspicions are entertained in some quarters that the present uprising should be laid at the doors of the power of the north of Europe, which for generations has leaned towards the Pacific coast of Asia and coveted control of Chinese affairs. The jealousy of England and Russia in the realm of Chinese matters has become a patent part of the eastern question. England, through her powerful commercial connections, has obtained a footing equalling that of all the other powers combined. She has wedded the dollar and the musket in a task for the enthrallment of the celestial. Her scheme has been largely successful, and, today, on the coast of China and Japan and India, England wields an influence that is tremendous.

time, winter and summer. The year is divided into twelve lunar months, called by numbers, as first second, and so on. The extra month that comes about every three years is not added at the end, as one would suppose, but is inserted anywhere, probably according to some system too subtle for western minds. The months are subdivided into three parts, which are not again subdivided, so that a Chinaman may speak of an event without mentioning the exact time within ten days. The days are also numbered, so that exactness may be secured if a Chinaman should ever happen to want such a thing.

There is no week, but foreigners are gradually teaching the meaning of such a division. The Chinese hour is 120 minutes long, but in this instance again the foreigner is making some impression on the ancient custom, and the Chinese in and near the treaty ports are familiar with the western method. It may be added, incidentally, that Peking is just about twelve hours ahead of New York in point of time.


The Chinese gather the years together into cycles, as occidentals do, but for some extraordinary reason the cycle consists of sixty years. This cycle is very ancient and probably has something to do with old astrological superstitions. Another method of numbering years is by the reigns of the emperors. The present year is the thirty-sixth year of the seventy-sixth cycle, or the year 4536 since the adoption of the present chronology.

Each year has a separate name, formed by some combination of ten "stem" characters joined with twelve "branch" characters. These are used in an ingenious way that could be described only by a lengthy article, and would probably then be not quite intelligible to the western mind. To go straight to anything is impossible to the oriental, and the complicated system of naming the years is proof of Chinese ingenuity.

Of late years it has been supposed that the Chinese and Chinese had some intercourse at the time when Yao reformed the calendar and that the two countries worked together in making the change. Certain it is that a similar event occurred in Chaldea about the same time. But whenever the calendar was adopted it is likely for a long time to withstand the march of progress. It is correct enough, and the inconvenience does not worry the Chinaman in the least.

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