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THE EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1901.

DAILY, WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY
— BY THE —
East Oregonian Publishing Company.

PENDLETON, OREGON.

HAPPY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL.

To one and all the East Oregonian wishes a happy, prosperous New Year! The year of 1901 has contained its share of good things, which, with few exceptions, we all have enjoyed. If 1902 is as generous to us we should be more than satisfied. Particularly has the sun of prosperity shed its most brilliant light upon Eastern Oregon, in short, upon the whole island Empire [illegible] than in 1900. We will continue to do our share towards making it so during 1902.

Of course, we appreciate it to be a free, progressive, prosperous people entitled to taking in so great a virtue as gratitude. Our hearts run over with thankfulness and good feeling, and it is but proper that we work off a little steam by a hearty, sincere wish for a happy, prosperous New Year to one and all!

LESSON OF THE RABBIT DRIVE

The futility of accomplishing the impossible and manifestly foolish often flying in the face of natural law is somewhat illustrated by the late slaughter of rabbits in this county, along with the observation in connection therewith, that although 3,000 were butchered and frightened to death, there will be apparently just as many more of the pests within a very short while. Further, that farmers and stockmen report that they now protect coyotes because they also make war upon the jacky jack rabbit.

In short, it does not take a grand man long to see that the man-made statute, which gives a bounty for coyote scalps, or, in other words, takes money out of the general tax payers' pocket to protect individual property, is responsible for the rabbit slaughter that has to take place yearly in order to the brutalizing of men, women and children who prefer to take a delight in such butchery. How a [illegible] could witness such a [illegible] without at least a shiver of horror passes a human being's comprehension.

In murder cases butchers are not allowed to sit on the jury, because they are supposed to have become callous to the shedding of blood.

If the jack rabbit slaughters come in this county there will be none left but butchers, while conscience against blood shedding will be supposed to grow less and less.

The fact of the matter is, we flew in the face of natural law when we consented to the county bounty on coyote scalps, and by the killing of coyotes under the school law, we proceed to set up natural incubators for the jacks.

In short, in our attempt to improve on nature, we put our foot into it, and we are now paying the penalty of our folly. We should not undertake to take care of any too big crop of jack rabbits that might come along.

From the light of our experience we should not [illegible] our duty and let the jacks take care of themselves.

[illegible] affected in the least.

[illegible] to the [illegible] attention from the vital, undeniable [illegible] and examination of matters but serves to emphasize it and keep it vivid in the minds of the men whose reason is not at the service of their desires.

Sampson's lawyers urge that he should be denied the prize because he was closer to the rear of the battle than Schley was and therefore in a better position to give orders. And it cannot be denied that Sampson was closer to the hindmost ship than Schley, who was in the very act of perpetrating the offense for which the navy clique cannot pardon him, away in the front of the battle with the Brooklyn flying the signal "follow the leader" and absorbed in the rough work of chasing and sinking Spanish ships.

The lawyers' plea is a specimen of the species of argument which brings the navy clique to the conclusion that Sampson and not Schley should be accorded the honors of that immortal day.

Secretary of the Navy Long, who is a lawyer, officially rebukes George Dewey, the sea fighter, for according the credit of the victory to his people of sea fighter, Schley.

Secretary of War Root, another lawyer, censures Miles, the land fighter for agreeing with Dewey.

President Roosevelt, himself a fighter, approves the double rebuke, it being his opinion that Dewey and Miles [illegible] are liable to speaking their minds. That may be true, but what then? Let us be glad that Dewey and Miles, one the highest officer in the navy and the other the highest officer of the American army, have been thus at fault, since by so offending they have given the American people their honest judgment on the main point at issue in the Schley-Sampson controversy. Here is Dewey's conviction, regardless of red tape:

"Commodore Schley was the senior officer of our squadron off Santiago when the Spanish fleet attempted to escape. He was in absolute command and is entitled to such credit as is due for the glorious victory, which resulted in the destruction of the Spanish fleet."

And Miles:

"I think Dewey has summed up the matter in a clear and concise manner, and I believe his conclusions will be indorsed by the patriotic people of the United States. I have no sympathy with the efforts which have been made to destroy the honor of an officer under such circumstances."

[illegible] administration advisers, Dewey and Miles of incompetency, but if they have been guilty of that crime, it is all in defense of historical verity and the honor of a gallant officer grossly maligned. Men who hold official terms to be less important than truth and justice will not find it hard to forgive them. We do not expect to see them hang their heads in the presence of their smiling countrymen, ninety-nine out of twenty of whom believe that they ignored the claims of red tape when those claims demanded that they should be silent in the presence of a monstrous [illegible]

Rebukes and censures from president and secretaries are serious things, of course, but their power is limited. They cannot deprive us of the honest judgment, already publicly expressed, of George Dewey and General Miles. They cannot change the physical facts of the past. They cannot rewrite American history. They cannot make heroes scalps simple common sense.

GOVERNORSHIP QUESTION.

Ashland Tidings: W. J. Furnish, president of the Pendleton Savings Bank, is now in this city, canvassing for the nomination of Governor. Mr. Furnish can hardly be expected to retire to be a candidate for this office, to retire to be a candidate for President, and if the West state convention and of all the candidates to be mentioned from this section of the state, Mr. Furnish is the most available. At present he is a dark horse, but he is a dark horse on in Umatilla county, between Judge Lowell and Mr. Furnish, and should Mr. Furnish win in his own county, which is quite the thing, it will be all right. Umatilla county gave him the entire support of the eastern Oregon delegation for the governorship. Mr. Furnish is well known in this section of the state, being president of the Roy Company, which owns a number of valuable claims in this district, and who will be happy if he wins out in both the Umatilla county fight, and in the state convention.

The Portland New Age: Aside from the possibilities of Governor Geer to succeed himself as chief executive of Oregon, there are three other candidates for that honor who are in open earnest, albeit accepting the advice of their friends to become contestants for the nomination. Chief among these is Hon. W. J. Furnish, the Pendleton financier, business man and honored citizen. Mr. Furnish's personal and political friends insist that he is the one man who, within surrounding conditions, should be named as the logical candidate for that high office. Next to him comes Hon. Henry E. Ankeny of Jackson county, a man of means and much business and political experience. Another Pendleton man in the person of Judge Stephen A. Lowell claims the honor of being the republican standard bearer at the head of the republican ticket in the next election. The anti-convention campaign is spending slowly, surely and [illegible] ready been done. These candidates represent practically four different factions of the republican party in the state.

Knox Hiatt, who was some time since committed to the Grant county insane asylum from Prairie City, was discharged as of unsound mind and taken to the asylum at Salem.

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