

East Oregonian

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) at Pendleton, Oregon, by the EAST OREGONIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, one year by mail \$5.00
 Daily, six months by mail 2.50
 Daily, three months by mail 1.25
 Daily, one month by mail50
 Daily, per month by carrier65
 Weekly, one year by mail 1.50
 Weekly, six months by mail75
 Weekly, four months by mail50
 Semi-Weekly, one year by mail 2.00
 Semi-Weekly, six months by mail 1.00
 Semi-Weekly, three months by mail50

Member Scripps-McRae News Association.

The East Oregonian is on sale at B. B. Rich's News Stands, at Hotel Portland, and Hotel Perkins, Portland, Oregon.

San Francisco Bureau, 408 Fourth St. Chicago Bureau, 909 Security Building, Washington, D. C. Bureau, 501 14th St., N. W.

Telephone, Main 11.

Entered at Pendleton postoffice as second-class matter.

UNION LABEL

can hold out under the present laws and win.

Athena has three times as much money invested in church property as Milton, yet public sentiment in Athena has not yet turned against the saloon. This comparison is drawn to show that temperance is not strictly a church movement.

There is one feature of the coming irrigation law which the East Oregonian believes should be clearly defined. That is the provision for winter irrigation, in districts where the summer flow of streams is owned by old ditch owners but where the streams furnish an abundance of water for irrigation from November to May. An injunction, rendered by Judge Ellis in the circuit court of this county, in the Hudson Bay and Freewater ditch case, which permitted the use of flood waters on territory not covered by the summer flow of the Little Walla Walla river has reclaimed at least 6,000 acres of rich land, which was idle and unused before. While the summer flow of the stream will not permit of the constant irrigation of this new tract, the court injunction, which entitled these new settlers to use waste waters from November to May, is a munificent and beneficial order and this very principle should be ingrafted into the irrigation law of the state. The lands and the streams must be rated and graded, and where the summer flow will not permit of any extension over new territory, the law should say how long and to what extent the flood waters of each stream shall be utilized. It is now an established fact that too much water is being used in irrigation in Eastern Oregon. It is also an established fact that winter irrigation will reclaim much of the idle lands of this section, and the irrigation commission must make this one of the leading features of the coming law.

The Spokesman-Review, a staunch republican paper, the leading organ of the party in Eastern Washington, has bolted the republican ticket and will support the state ticket of the democrats. The Review will take enough republicans with it into the democratic camp, this fall, to overthrow the railroad ring, which is the cause of the split in the ranks in that state. The stand of the Review is commendable. It refuses to submit to the lash. It chooses to exercise its own mind and voice in the interest of the people and its action is a standing example to independent papers all over the West. The day of the narrow partisan paper, which will swallow the whole program of the bosses is past. A newspaper that will not take a stand for the people, instead of any faction or party, deserves little respect. The people are greater than any party. The interests of the state are greater than the interests of any individual office seeker.

DRIFTWOOD.

The Shadow on the Blind.

Last night I walked among the lamps that gleamed,
 And saw a shadow on a window blind;
 A moving shadow, and the picture seemed
 To call some scene to mind.

I looked again; a dark form to and fro
 Swayed softly as to music full of rest,
 Bent low, bent lower, still I did not know,
 And then, at last, I guessed.

And through the night came all old memories flocking,
 While memories like the snowflakes
 "round me whirled.

"All's well!" I said; "the mothers still sit rocking
 The cradles of the world."
 —W. H. Ogilvie, in London Outlook.

The Booklover recently printed the following little essay on "Ladies' Tongues," by Washington Irving.

"The apostle of the Gentiles have very ably discoursed of tongues in general; but I shall confine my remarks to ladies' tongues in particular, and this branch of the subject is alone, methinks, a copious theme. The place assigned a lady's tongue is well known to be an enviable one. Well concealed from view on one side by a pair of rosy lips, and by sweetly blushing cheeks on the other. It is placed in its honored seat to be the unseen interpreter of those lovely eyes that beam so bright above, but not for that only, for besides, it answers every other purpose, good and bad, under the whole heaven.

"I shall not attempt to analyze this little organ, and show how curiously it is constructed; suffice it for me to detail some of the many uses to which it is put by its fair owners. In the first place, then, it does a wonderful sight of gossiping. Indeed, it has such a wide range and such full employment in riddling and sifting and exposing its neighbor's affairs, that it is marvelous how it ever finds time for anything else.

"For myself, I wonder the little machine is not ere now worn out with this very business. The fact is otherwise, however; for in addition to this labor it has the strength and capacity to, and actually turns off a deal of scandal in the course of a

year, and often in a much shorter period, making every character within reach of its notes blacker than night. If anyone wishes to witness this part of its performances let him repair to a eatable, where the warm extract of the Chinese herb circulates freely, and there he will see it exhibited in its fullest perfection; but he will find it difficult, I ween, to make his thoughts and perceptions keep pace with the little galloper, unless they can outrun a steamboat and keep up with a railroad engine, nevertheless he may try it.

"I shall pass over many of the minor, though not inconsiderable feats of this wonderful animal, and come directly to its capacity for scolding.

"But why need I dwell on what is familiar to us all? Who has not seen ladies, fair as Aurora, in the very act of scolding a thousand times? Ah! who has never seen it look blue all around them? Who would have guessed such a charming being—so lovely to look upon—capable of this? Who would have dreamed that she had but to lift those rosy portals and such torrents of execration would rush out—but to unloose that little tongue and shake the firmament with its thunder.

"Is there such noise and confusion in woman's elements I would ask? Surely not; the whole mischief is in her tongue alone, and that not under her control. Could she curb that, all would be well, but alas! it often runs away in spite of her, and all her efforts to reclaim and soften its madcap disposition have hitherto proved unavailing—it is to be hoped they may not prove so much longer. But, on the other hand, that this little member has, as I have already hinted, many shining qualities, cannot be denied.

"It is that that slings such melting strains in the ears of the gentlemen, and telling them the dear angel, whose thought and feelings it speaks, is passionately fond of them when, in truth, she cares not a whit about them, almost breaks so many of their hearts.

"Many other notable and praiseworthy exploits it performs daily, not meet here to be mentioned. In short, as by this time the reader must have perceived, it is an unsettled question whether it be an engine more powerful for good or for evil. And without saying more I will beg the ladies' pardon for having said so much on this fruitful subject: In all I have said I mean no offense to them, but only to their tongues—and if for this the latter are not let loose upon me, I shall make a most marvelous escape."

Tutulla, May 12th.

The early worm baits the hook.



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