



AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

Published Daily and Semi-Weekly at Pendleton, Oregon, by the EAST OREGONIAN PUBLISHING CO.

Official City and County Paper. Member United Press Association.

Entered at the postoffice at Pendleton, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

ON SALE IN OTHER CITIES.
The Eastern News Co., Portland, Oregon.
#21 1/2 Washington St., at 6th.
Imperial Hotel News Stand, Portland, Oregon.
Bowman News Co., Portland, Oregon.ON FILE AT
Chicago Bureau, 809 Security Building.
Washington, D. C., Bureau, 501, Fourteenth street, N. W.

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 mail......50
Daily, one year, by carrier.....7.50
Daily, six months, by carrier.....3.75
Daily, three months, by carrier.....1.85
Daily, one month, by carrier......85
Semi-Weekly, one year, by mail.....3.50
Semi-Weekly, six months, by mail.....1.75
Semi-Weekly, four months, by mail.....1.00

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BOOKS.

Books are best friends, responsive to our thought, a Resentless of neglect, but opening wide
Their utmost heart, as our fond will requires,
And pouring forth their wealth of wisdom—gold.
And frankness and myrrh—like them of old.
Cherish old books! Misuse them not, nor scorn
Their ancient learning, though outworn it be;
For the deep thoughts of men abide.
—Thomas B. Conant.

An amendment has been proposed to the post office bill providing that the assistant post-offices shall be removed from the civil service and placed on an appointive basis. The assistant postmasters were placed under the civil service in 1910 and the act had the effect of perpetuating in office men who had been appointed for political reasons. This furnishes some excuse for the present move.

But there is no real justification for taking assistant postmasters out of the civil service. It would merely have the effect in most places of supplanting one set of partisans with partisans of another description. If they make this change the democrats will lay themselves open to the charge of weakening the civil service and of strengthening the spoils system. It will be a blunder.

That the Canadians are coming to our democratic standards and do not look with enthusiasm on royal titles is indicated by a report from Ottawa that Robert L. Borden, premier, has expressed an antipathy to a title which it was intimated would be conferred upon him by King George if desired. Borden is said to have declared he would refuse a title should one be offered him.

In explanation of Borden's attitude it is explained that the mass of Canadians no longer look with favor on the tinsel show of nobility. Sir Wilfred Laurier is said to have been more injured than benefitted by the title conferred upon him. It may be that Borden is going to profit by his former opponent's mistake.

Pendleton's Commercial Club not only needs a new method of financing its work but it is also in need of better quarters. It is doubtful if there is a town in the whole northwest with such poor club rooms as are maintained here. All the Willamette valley towns of consequence and most eastern Oregon towns now have splendid commercial club rooms and those rooms serve as a center of activity. Pendleton has stood still in this respect for the last 20 years and the state of affairs is often a subject of adverse comment by local people and by visitors. We plainly suffer by comparison with other places in this instance.

The "largest town of its size in the world" should be ashamed of its showing along this line. It is a mistake to be so frowzy.

At any rate Governor West's activities in Baker county have brought results. Copperfield has been thoroughly scourged and the saloonmen have given up hope of seeing the old conditions restored. Huntington was easily cleansed without resort to martial law. Meanwhile the Baker county sheriff seems to have come into camp and instead of desiring to throw the militia into jail has had qualms about what may happen to the sheriff.

The government seems to be laying very comprehensive plans for collecting the income tax. The action is complimentary at least.

What do you know about this—actual bona fide work on the West Umatilla project has really been started.

If this weather continues Pendleton will have a premature epidemic of spring fever.

Yet no one has heard any rumors to the effect Hon. Nick Simnott has grown tired of his work.

FROM THE PEOPLE

DR. BEST'S SUBSCRIPTION.

Pendleton, Ore., Jan. 7, 1914.
Editor East Oregonian:
In justice to a number of friends in the city and to the Christian church I feel that a little information is due relative to what was mentioned in your paper Monday concerning a subscription made to this church by Dr. Best. Personally I have been neutral concerning the discussion that has been going on for some time about the water question, and I should be glad to see the matter adjusted so that it could be dropped. My attitude would be that of a peacemaker rather than a partisan if I were to take any part at all. For I have a number of friends on either side of the question all of whom I believe are good men. In our solicitation for funds to pay off the debt of the church we called upon all persons that we could to contribute. A number of good people have helped us. Dr. Best subscribed \$100 payable Feb. 1st. There was nothing said about politics when this was subscribed, and in fact he had promised to help us in the summer before the campaign was launched. I hope no one will think we are partisans in the matter but I am writing this because I believe the public is entitled to this information.
Yours very truly,
T. F. WEAVER.

BY THE SCISSORS

OREGON METAL MINE PRODUCTION IN 1913.

The mines of Oregon made a somewhat unexpected large increase in gold yield for 1913, compared with 1912. The mine report of 1912 showed a production of \$770,941 (a material increase over 1911) but the preliminary estimate for 1913 made by Charles G. Yale, of the United States Geological Survey, shows that the gold output nearly doubled in 1913, amounting to \$1,393,322, or \$623,281 more than in 1912, amounting to \$1,393,322, or \$623,281 more than in 1912. The mine output of silver in 1912 was 57,081 fine ounces, while the estimate for 1913 shows a yield of 218,949 ounces, an increase of 161,868 ounces.

The copper output in 1912 according to mine returns was 250,429 pounds; the estimate for 1913 is 141,796 pounds, or 145,623 pounds, less than in 1912. The mine report of 1912 showed a yield of 29,317 pounds of lead, but for 1913 the estimate is 96,743 pounds, an increase for the year of 56,426 pounds.

While the hydraulic mines of Oregon are large producers and there are about 100 of them among the 160 producing placer mines, the increase of gold output for 1913 comes mainly from the deep mines, of which there are 50 or 60 producing in the state.

The most productive deep mine in the state is the Columbia, at Sumpter, Baker county. Other large deep mines are those of the Highland Development Co., at Baker, the Commercial Mining Co., at Rye valley, Baker county, and the West Coast Mines Co., at Champion, Lane county. The average values of the ores treated in Oregon have been increasing materially in the last few years. A very large percentage of the gold produced from deep mines in Oregon comes from Baker county, though Josephine county leads in the output of placer gold. Very little of the Oregon ore is shipped to the smelters, most of it being worked in local mills at or near the mines.

LAND VALUES IN LARGE CITIES.

(From The Providence Journal.)

The sale, a few days ago, of 19 acres of land in the heart of London by the Duke of Bedford for \$50,000,000 has started a comparison of land values in certain of our large cities. The average price paid for the London area, with the buildings thereon, was about \$60 a square foot. New York city boasts of a tract of land with a seven-story building upon it, at the corner of Fifth avenue and Forty-second street, containing 7,340 square feet, which was recently sold at \$307 a square foot. The comparison, however, is not a fair one, as the London sale covered an area more than one hundred times as large as the selected New York lot. It is doubtful if land on Threadneedle street in the world's greatest city could be purchased at the price paid for the Fifth avenue lot.

A Chicago dispatch says that a tract of land of smaller size to the London area, situated between State street and Michigan avenue, exclusive of buildings, has been valued at \$84,000,000, or \$34,000,000 more than the price paid the Duke of Bedford. The Chicago price averages over \$100 a square foot for the land alone. The Chicago dispatch adds that the highest price yet recorded for land in that city is \$277 a square foot.

Boston can also show a tract which is assessed at larger figures than the Duke of Bedford obtained for his 19 acres. Its assessors have placed a value of \$88,330,000 upon a land area bounded by School, Washington, Milk, Hawley, Sumner, Chauncey, Bedford, West and Tremont streets, containing a trifle over 19 acres. The land value alone is placed at nearly \$77,000,000. One tract within this area, bounded by Temple place, Washington, West and Tremont streets, is assessed at the rate of over \$129 a square foot for the land alone. The highest priced corner in Boston is the property at the corner of Washington and Winter streets. It measures 1,955 square feet and is assessed at \$86,500, or \$300 a square foot.

The two highest priced lots in Providence are the site of the little narrow two storied wooden building on Dorrance street in front of Hotel Dorrance, and the land on which the Union Trust building stands. These lots exclusive of the buildings, are assessed at \$60 a square foot.

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this great sale positively ends
next Saturday night

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The income-maker furnishes the capital on which the home is run. The housewife spends the money—manages the "business" in which that capital is invested.

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