

# Bandon Recorder

Published Every Thursday Evening by the

Recorder Publishing Company.

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Subscription, \$1.50 per Year in Advance. Advertising Rates Made Known on Application. Job Printing a Specialty.

Entered at the Bandon Postoffice as Second Class Matter.

THURSDAY, December 24, 1908

R. D. HUME's paper, the Wedderburn Radium, has suspended publication since the death of Mr. Hume. This was a good paper for a place the size of Wedderburn, and contained a great many news columns in course of the year. The paper will be missed from our exchanges.

SAYS the Washington Star: "It's very difficult for some people to understand that the name of J. P. Morgan can appear in a transaction without implying that someone secured a high financial rake off." Whenever the inside facts about the Morgan transactions are disclosed, the difficulty is obvious.—Telegram.

TOMMOROW will be Christmas, the day looked forward to by the youths of the land, and some who are not so young. The Christmas time is also the one when people as a rule let loose of their money, but it is usually with the idea of making someone happy, and according to our ancient philosophers that is the summum bonum or highest good to be obtained. In this as in many other things our ancient philosophic brethren were not far wrong, and the examples they set are well worth patterning. There is no more beautiful thought nor worthy act than an endeavor to make someone happy. The altruist is worth more to the world than a thousand pessimists or selfish creatures, we admire them not only for their noble deeds, but for the example they set. Christmas is a good time to show one's altruism, as there are always some who are needy, and that a little remembrance would bring genuine Christmas cheer.

AN Aberdeen dispatch says that Mr. Harriman has temporarily abandoned his efforts to get into Aberdeen, and will endeavor to secure right of way at more reasonable prices on the opposite side of the river. This, of course, may be only a bluff on the part of Mr. Harriman for the purpose of securing his right of way at more advantageous prices than now seem possible. It may also be a bluff on the part of the Aberdeen property-owners, who, if they really believed they were about to lose the railroad, would make some very good concessions in order to keep it on the Aberdeen side of the river. It is an excellent plan first to secure your railroad before you begin "clinging" it. This applies not only to Aberdeen, but to other localities in the Pacific Northwest, where right of way and other concessions are much more plentiful and much less valuable than railroads.

AGAIN the Coos Bay Harbor published at North Bend, by the kicker and knocker, Archie Whisnand, comes out and tries to defend itself for attacking Bandon citizens, by saying it made no attack. Well perhaps with his thick headed disposition to but in he cannot see wherein an attack has been made so we will grant him leniency in this case and allow it to go by, on the ground that his head is not right and he is not responsible for what he

writes, for we can view it in no other light, when he insists that he has made no attack. Again we reiterate that the election judges at Bandon were men of honor, and as we said before there were honorable men of both great parties on the board, and we do not propose to stand by and see them slandered by the Coos Bay Harbor or any other paper. We will state that we told the writer of that article which has caused the Harbor so many sleepless nights, that we were willing to publish it if he would sign his name to it, but as yet he has not brought it in. The Mr. C--- referred to is an honorable gentleman, and we do not think he would knowingly say anything that would cast reflection on his fellow citizens. It is not that to which we object in the attitude of the Harbor, in this attack, but, we desire them to understand that we are running our own paper and not acting on the suggestion of the Harbor or any other contemporary. WE PRINT THE TRUTH and mind our own business and ask the Harbor to do the same. In their last editorial they admit defeat, as they started out to prove something and have made a miserable failure of the same and are now trying to hide behind a bush and justify their actions. We hope for their own sake they will try to get wise before they but in again on this or any other paper.

NEVER did the prospects for building up a greater Bandon than now seem probable. The resources of this country are becoming more and more recognized every day, and as this is the gateway for the whole Coquille Valley it would seem that this should be the logical place for the building up of a great city, perhaps not a city of the size of Portland, but why not a city of twenty or thirty thousand, this could be accomplished in a comparatively short time. The Bandon RECORDER is ready to do whatever lies within its power to further the interests of this great work. Without saying anything of a disparaging nature about our contemporaries in other towns of the valley, we feel that we can say without hesitation that we are the chief exponent of the good qualities of the Coquille valley, and we believe we have done more boosting for the valley than any other paper during the past six or seven months. It is our desire to work for the whole valley, but of course our first thought is for Bandon and vicinity, but we will not hesitate to speak a good word for any other town or community in the valley, or in the whole county so far as that is concerned, as we have great faith in the future of all Coos county. In this connection we ask all our friends to cooperate with us and send us in any news of interest that they may know, and if there are those who are not taking this paper, we invite you to become a regular subscriber. The price is only \$1.50 cents a year and we feel sure you will say it is worth the money.

REPORT comes from Washington D. C. that Hon. Binger Hermann and other representatives from Coos county had interviewed Congress-

man Burton, who is chairman of the Rivers and Harbors committee, and that gentleman had informed them that he doubted if congress would be able to carry out all the projects for improvement, owing to lack of funds. Mr. Burton, according to the Saturday Evening Post, is one of the "show me" type of congressmen and cares little for the interests of rivers and harbors, unless he can see some personal glory in carrying out the will of the people. He is also a member of the Bankers and Currency committee, and as he has made a special study of the financial situation, it is said that he cares more for his membership in that committee than for his chairmanship on the Rivers and Harbors committee. He is the author of a book on Financial Crises and Periods of Industrial and Commercial Depression, and prides himself very highly on this work. That is all well and good but Mr. Burton should know that one of the great industries that prevent financial crises, is proper navigation facilities, especially in communities where there are no railroads, and he might be able to get a lesson on finance by giving this subject proper study. Anyhow, it is to be hoped that congress will see fit to do its full duty on the rivers and harbors question, regardless of what Mr. Burton recommends, and if they do, a good appropriation will be forth coming for the Coquille river, Coos Bay and in fact many other places. The ports where railroad transportation is out of the question are the ones that should receive preference, and Coos county's two ports are among those. The special representatives from this county to congress seem to be doing their duty and we sincerely hope they may succeed in getting what they may get after.

## An Absurd Law

It would be edifying to know why the law should permit a man to shoot fifty ducks in a day and then punish him if he sells them. He may give them away, he may throw them away, he may feed them to the pigs, but he must not sell them. The law seems to be vindictively determined that the plain citizen who has neither time nor money to manage a duck lake shall never know the taste of duck. So game is surreptitiously sold in the markets as if it ministered to some basic passion. A man must order it in the restaurants under a false name. It is made a crime for citizens to enjoy game when the city fairly overflows with it.

This is madness. The ostensible purpose of the law is to protect the wild ducks, but it completely fails to do so. The hunters shoot as many as the law permits, to put it mildly, whether they can sell them or not. The practical effect of the law is to deprive people of a perfectly innocent pleasure and a valuable food supply while it does not protect a solitary bird from slaughter. The Oregonian knows of a "hunter" who shot 540 ducks in one day with no intention of selling them. He killed them for the sake of killing. Our game laws are as absurd as they are ineffectual.—Oregonian.

## Wall Paper

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## A FAMOUS CEMETERY

Pere Lachaise is One of the Landmarks of Paris.

IT HAS A STORMY HISTORY.

This Picturesque Burial Place Has Served as a Battleground as well as a Graveyard—Its Monuments, Lovers and Disconsolate Widows.

Pere Lachaise is the largest and quite the most interesting of the Paris cemeteries and named after the Jesuit confessor of Louis XIV., whose country seat occupied the site of the present cemetery until the ground was made a cemetery in 1804. It covers 110 acres of ground, is picturesque, but quite unlovely. Hare wrote about the tombs that "weight was their chief peculiarity and that all the monuments looked as if each family had tried to pile as much marble as possible on to their deceased relatives."

Pere Lachaise has a stormy history. In 1814 the Prussians fought the French there and gave them a beating. During the campaign the Versailles and Communards fought several pitched battles among the tombstones and did considerable damage. But it is not so much with the history of the cemetery as with the people buried in it that we have to deal. A volume might be filled with the mere list of all the celebrated men and women buried in it, for, as Victor Hugo wrote, "being buried in Pere Lachaise is like having mahogany furniture—a sign of elegance."

In Pere Lachaise the monument which attracts most visitors is that of Abelard and Heloise, the two most famous lovers in the world. The monument was first erected 637 years after their death and brought to Pere Lachaise in 1817 from the museum where it had been during the revolution. Another famous lover, Alfred de Musset, lies buried not far from the two willows over the graves of Heloise and Abelard. David, the painter; Rachel, the actress; Balzac, Scriba, Michelet and many other well known folk lie near at hand. Admiral Sir Sydney Smith, Lord Seymour and other well known Englishmen are to be found in other portions of the cemetery, while literature is represented not only by great authors, but by Lesarques, the victim of Dubose in the famous legal Lyons Mail imbroglio.

But Pere Lachaise has more romance than in its tombstones. Chatting one day with one of the old soldiers who are the keepers of this grim park, I learned some curious facts about it.

"We never have a dull moment," the man said. "You may think that our time here is monotonous, but you are quite wrong if you do so. To begin with, there are the burglars. The cemetery is overrun with them. There are three kinds of burglars. There are the connoisseurs who often get away with valuable prizes, for you will be surprised at the works of art of small size which people put in their chapels. The window is broken, a stick slipped through the hole, and all sorts of things worth having are fished out; then the bronze stealers, who take away as much as they can carry in their special pockets and make from 15 to 20 francs a day at the game until we catch them.

"A little while ago a bust weighing forty pounds was taken out of the cemetery over one of the walls. But the most curious form of robbery is, perhaps, that of the pearl wreaths. Women are the principal offenders. They select the new ones, which are not weather stained, flatten them with their backs against the tombstone, slip them under their dresses, and when they have got away with them we have no right to search even suspicious looking customers sell them to dealers, to whom they tell the well worn story of a poor workwoman who has need of food.

"You would hardly believe it, but Pere Lachaise," said the keeper, "is a favorite meeting place for lovers. We get lovers of all ages, and perhaps more schoolboys and school girls than anything else. But the three most curious things we see here in the cemetery are the forlorn widows, the letter boxes and the cats." "The cats?" I asked. "Yes. There are hundreds of people in Paris who refuse to believe that their dead do not need to be taken care of when they were alive. Mothers bring apples and sweets and leave them on the tombstones of their children. People bring wine and cigars, and there is one old gentleman who leaves a potato salad on his son's tombstone regularly every Sunday. Of course the children soon find out these things, and we have never been able to convince the people who bring them of the absurdity of doing so. It is a very harmless superstition, after all."

"And the letter boxes?" I asked. "Lovers' letter boxes?" said the guard. "There are dozens of them in all parts of Pere Lachaise. Sometimes they are holes in the trunks of trees; sometimes they are little hollows under stones.

"The inconsolable widow is a frequent visitor. She is a pretty woman, and black suits her. She kneels down by a tombstone, rarely the same one, and when a likely looking mourner of the other sex appears bursts into tears. She reaches her pretty soon, and the mourner leaves the cemetery arm in arm. These widows invited me to her tomb six months ago, and last night I was called to give evidence in a case involving a woman who had been seen with her victim. I had never seen either husband or wife."—James' Gazette.

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