

The West.

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MANY thanks to Representative Hermann and Senator Mitchell for valuable public documents.

TIME, energy and progressive thoughts must be constantly employed by men who help to build a town.

THE future of our public school in Florence is one that will be assured of success since the election of two prominent citizens on the school board who favor hiring the best educators.

WELL-INFORMED lumbermen declare that there is more timber in the forests surrounding Florence than this paper has ever reported. Such authoritative information will tend to give added impetus to lumber operations here.

JACOB PRIMER LEES, the founder of San Francisco, died in a hospital in that city recently aged eighty-two years. He built the first house in San Francisco in 1836. Are all the precursors of civilization forgotten and left to die in penury and want?

ENGINEERS on railroad trains in Texas carry revolvers, and often rifles, in the cab, for various contingencies that may arise. They amuse themselves by shooting at telegraph poles while running at full speed, and attain wonderful skill in marksmanship. A few days since an engineer shot from the cab of his engine and killed a wild cat.

BY THE time one single individual, of recent coming to Florence, talks more of defeating Honorable Binger Hermann for Congress, the people will surely have lost all patience with him. A man who will strain his political prejudices to the point of voting against his town's interests, ought to appeal to some authority for a little common sense.

A DISPATCH to the Marshfield Sun from San Francisco, tells of the steamer Emily striking on the Coos bay bar, on her last trip out, and a heavy swell passing over the vessel at the same time carrying off a sailor who was drowned. The concussion caused by the steamer's grounding on the bar broke some windows, and these were being repaired causing a delay of several days.

WE PRINT the reply of the West Side to the Jacksonville Times. Both editors of these papers are political relatives, but they do not at all resemble one another in their principles. If a few thousand editors, of all parties, were imbued with the thought that there is something in politics besides politicians, as is Bro. Bell of the West Side, it would not be difficult to suppose that offices would be filled by men of honesty and not creatures of dishonesty.

UNION county is to have a Farmers' Alliance flouring mill. This move is probably in order to divide the profits of such an institution among the sowers of wheat. Something of the sort would benefit farmers in this county, and Veatch, the "farmers' friend," could

exemplify his boast that he is a disinterested champion for the welfare of the tillers of the soil by turning over his mill to them at its cost. But as there are none more penurious than Veatch, it is certain he would water his mill stock to the highest point.

IT HAS been the custom, for many years, for cotton manufacturers to advance to growers a certain amount of money based upon the acreage planted. The line of this custom has been carried to the hop dealers, and the amount thus far advanced by these raisers, fully indicates that the acreage of hops in Lane county will equal if not exceed that of former years. Notwithstanding the reports made last year of the destruction of some fields by lice, and the agitation in favor of restricting the area devoted to hop-culture, there seems to be no falling off in the applications for advance of money at the usual per cent per acre. Hops, no doubt, will for a few years at least, rank high with the other productions of the soil in Lane county.

THE free coinage bill passes the House of Representatives by a vote of 190 in favor to 84 against. All questions of politics seemed to be waived in this bill, as the vote of both parties was divided, and the merits of the case took on the form of localities in which the adherents or opponents resided, rather than the vitally important fact of the effect its passage will have on the finances of the country generally. Now that the free coinage of silver is before the people, each must form for himself a solution of the cardinal facts involved. So closely have all parties been divided upon the scheme, none with any degree of assurance can lay claim to its parentage, but should the people decide in its favor, the claimants of fatherhood will be numerous. On the other hand, should the people reject it, the parentage of the infant silver bill will be so emphatically denied, that it might well exclaim, like Topsy, "I just growed."

SOME way every practical illustration is in direct opposition to free trade. We see by the Irish papers, and especially in the Irish Mail, that there is no fact better known to Irishmen of all parties and all degrees of intelligence than the fact that the imposition of duties would be one of the first enterprises of an Irish Parliament. It is not alone the artisans of the towns that would demand them, but the vastly more numerous agricultural classes who look to the fostering of native manufactures as a means of escape from land grabbing and a means of employment for the rustic laborer. "It is the conviction of these masses," says the Mail, "both urban and rural, that the hinderance to the growth of Irish manufacturers is the impossibility of competing with the British manufacturer on equal terms. It is the inundation of cheap British goods that kills off

every nascent Irish manufacturing industry. To stop this inundation would be the first, or one of the first tasks to which an Irish Parliament would address itself. Belfast and a few places in the North might go for free trade, but every member from the three other provinces would be pledged protectionists."

SOME years ago a book written in the form of a novel, and bearing the title of Freedom, was published in Germany by Dr. Hertzka. The author proposed the formation of an ideal state where every body would enjoy absolute freedom, all real property would be in common, and each member would live by the fruits of his individual labor. There would be no capital and no private possessions. No malt or spirituous liquors could be sold. Now the plan of the Doctor is to be put into execution. The territory where the state is to be founded lies within England's sphere of influence in Africa, in the equatorial highlands. All travelers agree that this part of the Dark Continent is an earthly paradise. English, French and German citizens to the amount of twenty-eight thousand members are disposed to throw in their lot with the enterprise, and it is hoped that political prohibitionists and dissatisfied farmers of this country will join the train.

How flippantly some people write about railroad corporations. The public is led to believe that investments in railroads are a sure and speedy means to acquire great wealth, as the charges for carriage of both freight and passengers are so high as to assume the proportions of robbery. A very large refrigerator was supposed to be perfected for the railroad companies when the Farmers' Alliance sent out its ablest statistician to report the number of railroads in the United States, together with their profits and such other facts as he thought proper to collate. Naturally the document he submitted did not go into general circulation, but we found it and THE WEST is the first paper in the state to print it, and it may be found on our correspondence page. We commend it particularly to the Marshfield Sun, who, of course cannot print it, as the rebuke to some editorials in that paper would be apparent.

THE real necessity for the return of Hon. Binger Hermann to Congress can be easily focused by our people. To carry forward the improvements by the Government on our bar already begun needs appropriations, and to obtain these, and all the varied circumstances incident upon the getting are better known to Mr. Hermann than any other man in Oregon. A young country always passes through ordeals in the introduction of even its most meritorious improvements. Bitter hatred by other towns' peoples and interested parties in other places are not necessary, but they

are inevitable, and when we have an unfaltering, energetic official friend, it is consistent with reason to keep him where he can do the most good. As the Klamath Star states there is no politics in this selection. It is the man we want because he can and will help us more than any other. The person who resides on the Siuslaw and is opposed to the re-election of Mr. Hermann is not only against his personal interests, but the country as well, and his room would be far better than his company.

SCHOOL REFORM.

The Republican county convention meets in Eugene on the 26th March, and to denote our preference for school superintendent, we reproduce the following editorial which was written by us two years ago: People will be interested whenever the standard for teachers' certificates is fixed upon the mental culture of the applicants, and the reasonable accurateness with which the questions are solved. Too many boards of examiners are a better representative of an ideal and an aspiration than they are of an exalted shrine of justice to the wants of the rising generation.

Superintendent J. G. Stevenson has established a precedent with reference to the qualification of teachers that his successors may or may not follow. Be this as it will, not many years' sentinels will have intervened before the same standard, for selecting competent teachers, that Mr. Stevenson has fixed, will be imperiously demanded by Lane county parents.

As an audacious innovator into the roads of heretofore easy-going teachers' certificate obtaining, our retiring superintendent takes first rank.

It is true that he is not popular with politicians. Those who act as cracksmen of dogmas, old theories or long-continued practices, never are. The Goddess of Reason is never more unreasonable than when one of her antiquated customs is attacked. The evolution of reforms, under modern conditions, is most dangerous to the popularity of the first reformer, because society has learned how to defend itself against the robber of its time-honored customs, and a school superintendent who dares to first lower the grade of teachers' certificates to a position where they properly belong, will be made to feel that his heroic devotion to the cause of a much needed reform, is not appreciated.

YOU OUGHT TO HAVE ONE.

Every one should possess a plat of his land. Having a full set of plats, and receiving constant advices from the Land office, I am prepared to furnish a plat of any land in Tp. 17-18-19, for the moderate sum of 50cts per section, and guarantee it correct. Come early and avoid the crush.

M. F. Parker,
Florence, Oregon.

—Steamer Chance brought us a big stock of dry goods. Hurd & Davenport.