

The West.

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THIRD YEAR.

The third year's race of journalism is upon us. A somewhat curious and noteworthy fact is, that with all the predictions of failure at the commencement of THE WEST's publication and its continued repetition for nearly eighteen months, THE WEST has outlived them all. It is not, and it need not be, doubted that before the close of the year this journal will be counted among the largest papers in Lane county, and its circulation second to none. So far as can be seen, and it seems not unsafe to suggest, the success of the proprietors of this paper is not altogether attributable to skillful management, but includes with it the marvelous growth and productiveness of our country, and the intelligence of our people. But even never so good a country and never so enlightened a reading people can assure an unworthy journal's success. To bring about the result of financial and circulating prosperity, such as THE WEST to-day enjoys, much work must be done. It cannot be thought that the publishers and editors of a paper can simply throw overboard in any prosperous community a weak excuse for strong journalism, and then have a majority vote on their financial and circulating account.

To our kind, considerate, and many patrons, THE WEST, with a spontaneity of feeling, thanks them all. Our people, our country, our state, our nation's, and our own prosperity is our highest ambition, and if these can be made better for our endeavors, our aim in the administration of our paper will have been singularly successful.

A FORCIBLE, but silent request for household help came from a wife to her husband the other day when she presented him with a picture of herself, a babe in her arms and broom and dustpan on the floor.

THE railroad commission of this state found an error in the tariff sheets of the railroads leading out of Portland, in the form of nearly two miles more than the actual distance. This was corrected, and now the people of this state alone are saved \$50,000 yearly in fares and freights.

FROM all we can hear, and judging from this distance, the railroad subsidy will be raised. Should this prove true, the tide of immigration that will be sure to follow will make a stronger accentuation, because of numbers, for our Great Siuslaw country than can be fully realized at the present time by even the most sanguine of such results.

THERE was considerable satisfaction to us, the other day, when three strangers came to our town to locate, and in-

quired about schools, to inform them that the public school at Florence was second to none in the county in qualification of teacher or scholars. "That is the highest commendation you can give your citizens," said one of the gentlemen.

THERE is real merit in some of our Lane county men. Recently Hon. Robert Clow, a member of the railroad commission, and a resident of Junction City, went to Omaha, Neb., and made a settlement with the Union Pacific railroad company regarding rates of freight and passenger fare, and the people of this state are now enjoying reduced charges.

ANOTHER evidence of the advance made in multiplying the amount of the productions of our country, can be found in the fact that John Quinn, of Hermann precinct, has planted a small hop field, and the following season will demonstrate the value of this product as a paying investment by our farmers. Mr. Quinn will erect a hop dry house the coming winter.

PERHAPS no man residing on the Siuslaw river out from Seaton, has taken more positive interest in raising fruit than George Barber. In conversation with this gentleman recently, he informed us that an experiment is being tried in raising the hardier small and large fruits on the bench land which forms a portion of his farm. The result, when it shall have been fully tested, will be given to the readers of this paper.

THIS week's editorial work is the first we have done for several weeks and will be the last for several weeks to come. As our sentiments of loyalty for the Great Siuslaw country are not merely ornamental, we have been doing a few weeks' service in Portland and other towns to bring influence in favor of additional appropriation for our harbor. We are not without hope that our own and people's wishes will in this matter be realized, as we trust that the evidence of our friends' good-will now tendered will not fail in a timely and fitting recognition by Congress.

NO COUNTRY in the world nor citizens of any part of Oregon has been oppressed with a fixed opposition to her commercial growth and natural advantages as the Great Siuslaw. None ever stood more stable and more proud when blows came thickest. If she has done no more her consistent and continual refusal to accept the unpardonable, damaging reports of Government officials should stand forever to her honor with the people of Oregon and especially of Lane. No shameless work, however plausible, by interested parties in other towns, will ever essay to seduce her people from their faith in their country.

THERE will be much advantage to our readers in having the opportunity of

getting THE WEST and the weekly Oregonian for a much reduced price. This arrangement was made by us while in Portland recently, and all those who desire reading the general news of the world as is given in no paper on this coast save in the Oregonian, and the home news always to be found in THE WEST, will certainly take advantage of the club rates to be found at the head of this page. Our citizens on the Great Siuslaw are a reading people, and that is the reason they are progressive. To foster these we have, and always will, give them the advantages to be gained in clubbing with leading journals of the country, and especially those of the state and county.

THE thoroughness, the completeness, and the carefulness with which Honorable Seymour W. Condon performed the duties of Prosecuting Attorney in our district are too marked to be missed, therefore his re-nomination was assured, and he is now prepared for an approval by the voters of this judicial district followed by a retention in office. Without attempting to compare his acts in the past to those we expect of him in the future, we are bound to say in the interests of justice and fullness of duty none will have any regrets to offer when he shall have been elected. None can point to either official or moral faults of Mr. Condon, and his official duties have been singularly successful both in this county and the others composing this district, and this has kept us out of unnecessary expense, and has achieved a great deal of useful work, especially of the kind that benefits the honest, law-abiding citizens of all classes. He will be elected by a large majority, and the citizens of our judicial district will have reason to be satisfied.

THE RAILWAY TO FLORENCE.

IT is justice to commend the enterprising citizens of this country upon their efforts in bringing to light the importance of our harbor and our resources. Our people are accustomed to claim for their country an equitable consideration when compared to older sections, and in order to do this and oppose the wrong impressions and official influences and reports against our harbor, they have paid out ten per cent. of their personal and real worth. We now ask our neighbors over in the Willamette valley, in this county, to raise the \$100,000 subsidy to insure a railroad to connect our commercial centers. This will not cost our friends one-tenth as much as it already has us when taking into account our comparative values and the benefits to be derived. Link together by an iron rail the various industrial, commercial, and other important interests dependent upon the building of this railway, and Lane county will find herself launched into a period of marked prosperity. The tides of ebb and flow of the Siuslaw will carry

the products of the Willamette farms at a cheaper rate to trade centers than is now transported, and their incoming freight will share a like reduction. The manufacturer, the merchant, and the laborers of Lane county will be permanently benefited by the link that binds them to their natural highway to the sea. The rewards of such a condition of things are not far to seek. Land in every part of the county will be advanced in price; merchandise will be correspondingly lessened in price as the rates are cut down; the volume of trade will be increased, and all people in all occupations will feel the oppression of the strain of high shipping rates loosened when the Siuslaw and Eastern railway shall have been completed from Eugene to Florence.

WE SHOULD feel proud of our young men in Lane county, especially those who are nominated for offices. The second judicial district, after election, will be represented by two of our county's young men. One we have already mentioned, and the other is Honorable A. C. Woodcock, nominee for member of State Board of Equalization. Unflinching honesty and honor, eloquent in his appeals for the rights of all and equality to all, have peculiarly fitted him for this position. He has done great things in the way of educating the country on the question which he will have in hand and is intimately acquainted with the procedure of conducting the business that will come before him. He has always been found sitting on the front bench. He has had opportunities of acquiring that perception of equity which will most assist him in so valuable work for his district. We have enjoyed many years' personal acquaintance with Mr. Woodcock, and as his election is assured none will be dissatisfied with their choice.

NO SYSTEM of opposition in this part of the country to Mr. Hermann's election, however well planned or elaborate, can secure absolute immunity from a species of outrage upon a man who has done more than all others for us. The strongest motives for self protection and a guard against the enemies of our country, is to retain this champion of our rights in Congress. It is trumpery matters on which his very few political enemies are grumbling and over which they are shouting themselves hoarse. We emphatically say there is no reason for dissatisfaction, no room for improvement upon his work, and there should be a sense of proportion in criticising his acts and the difficulties of his position regarding our harbor. The more the opposition is evidently bent on shattering Mr. Hermann's reputation, because they know that in or out of office they have no more formidable opponent, the more is it the duty of his friends to show that they are unflinching in their loyalty to him and the cause for which he has so valiantly worked.