

THE WEST.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

FLORENCE, LANE COUNTY, OREGON.

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Florence, Ore. Jan. 13, 1899.

THE STATE TEXT BOOK LAW.

There is considerable interest taken at this time in the matter of selecting text books for the public schools of this state. Under the present law the books are selected every six years by the votes of the county superintendents and state-board of examiners, a majority of the votes cast being necessary to secure the adoption of any book. It has been proposed to take this duty out of the hands of these officers and give it to a board of five competent men to be appointed by the governor.

The object of leaving this duty to the superintendents is to secure the choice of the best books for the schools and that can be obtained on reasonable terms. The superintendents are men who are interested in educational affairs and from their acquaintance with the public schools are competent to choose books from the use of which satisfactory results will be obtained. The number of superintendents too, helps to make it difficult for any firm or company by corrupt means to influence the result.

If the selection be left to a board of five members and these to be appointed by one man, it would be very easy for the appointing power to secure the adoption or rejection of any set of books that he desired, by selecting a board the majority of whom are in favor of that set.

Nearly everybody has some hobby and educators are no more free from them than other people. Many text-books are prepared with the view to compelling the teachers using them to ride some of these hobbies whether they wish to or not. A set of books selected by so small a board as five members would be very apt to contain works devoted more or less to the hobbies of the individual members of the board.

Taken all together we consider the present method of selecting school books the better of the two as it gives less opportunity for corrupt influence and we believe that in nearly every instance a set of books will be chosen that in the hands of the average teacher will give better results than would be the case if it were left to a board of five members.

A New York dispatch says the large shipbuilding concerns of this country are perfectly willing that the building of new ships for the navy be postponed for a couple of years, because they have all they can do in building merchant vessels. That is evidence that at least one lesson of the war was learned—when this country found itself without ships enough to transport its troops and supplies even the short distance to Cuba. Another reason for this activity is the enlarged prospective trade coming to American shipping by the acquisition of Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippines. With the impetus already given, a little aid by congress in the way of subsidies or a preferential duty for goods carried in American bottoms, will be sufficient to start the restoration of our merchant marine, and to secure for Americans the carrying trade of their own country.—Tacoma Ledger.

In those school districts in which it is intended to vote a tax to be collected this year the matter of calling a meeting for that purpose should be attended to at once. The new school law will reduce very materially the number of people who are entitled to vote on the question of levying a school tax. By its requirements voters must have resided in the district for 30 days next preceding the election and have property in the district of the value of at least \$100 as shown by the last preceding county assessment, upon which he or she is required to pay a tax, to entitle him to vote for or against levying a school tax.

Gov. Elect Geer is plain spoken. He is reported to have said, "I desire to give the people of the state of Oregon an honest, capable administration of the executive office. One would be surprised at the threats, cajolery and importunities of men of high standing that are made upon me daily to control the appointments at my disposal and to dictate my policy as governor."

The San Francisco Examiner and the West for one year \$2.50 paid in advance.

THE END OF SECTIONALISM.

Herald Disseminator.

The bitter sectional feeling that has always existed between the north and the south has at last been eliminated, and the recent events very plainly show that fact. This is so well presented by the Globe-Democrat that we quote its remarks that the appearance of Senator Hoar as the guest of honor at the banquet of the New England Society in Charleston is the most striking manifestation yet of the arrival of the era of reconciliation between the sections. Mr. Hoar and the gentleman who entertained him represented, historically, the social and political antipodes in the United States. From the days when Garrison in 1831 in his paper, the Liberator, began to preach the gospel in immediate, unconditional and uncompensated emancipation, which coincided closely with the time that Calhoun's courage and ability gained for his state the primacy in the south which Virginia had held from the beginning of the government along to that time, Massachusetts and South Carolina stood for antagonistic principles and divergent social aspirations and tendencies. Their opposition, indeed, goes farther back than this. Massachusetts was the first of the states to abolish slavery, which she did in 1780. South Carolina was one of the three states which forced the recognition of slavery in the constitution, which was done by the compromise adopted by the federal convention of 1787. Each of these two states, in the whole history of the country before the war of secession and since, have represented the antitheses of partisan politics.

But the break which the traditions which the Massachusetts senator's appearance at a South Carolina social function represents is even more striking than would be revealed by this mention of the antagonistic tendencies of these two states. The father of the senator figured in an episode in South Carolina which intensified the hostility between the sections and had an influence on the history of the time. This was in 1844, when Samuel Hoar, who had shortly before that time been a member of congress, was sent by Massachusetts to Charleston to test the constitutionality of a South Carolina law which provided for the arrest and imprisonment of any negroes reaching any South Carolina port, and their detention until the vessel on which they arrived was ready to leave. Hoar's arrival caused great excitement in that state. Its legislature passed a resolution directing his expulsion, and he was compelled to leave Charleston. That act increased the tension between the north and south which took shape in the murder of Lovejoy in Alton seven years earlier and in other outrages before and afterward in many parts of the union, helped to create the Free Soil party in 1848, and was one of the influences which created the schism which at last brought war. The son of the man whom Charlton expelled as an incendiary character has now, half a century later, been Charleston's honored guest.

This drawing together of Massachusetts and South Carolina means that the last trace of the sectional line has disappeared from politics. An era of peace has come between the north and the south such as the country never knew in the past. The moral which this reconciliation points is obvious to all men. "If there be a single lesson which the people of this country have learned from their wonderful and crowded history," says Senator Hoar, "it is that the north and the south are indispensable to each other."

THE YEAR is, it seems, in earnest about his peace and disarmament proposition, and nations that have repulsed favorably to his invitation to send delegates to his peace conference will appear, through their representative, in St. Petersburg, in May. Nicholas will be ready for them with plans and specifications for the disarmament of the powers, which are expected to receive earnest consideration, if not endorsement. In the meantime, work is being pushed on the battle-ships of every nation, including Russia. France and Spain are upon the verge of that most distressing of all conflicts—civil war. England is entreaching herself in Egypt, ready for all comers, and the partition of China is among the probabilities of the near future. Having had our war and won our victory, we are peacefully disposed at present—but not on the disarmament basis. Our experience of what it is to be caught unprepared is too recent for that.—Oregonian.

C. J. HOWARD formerly editor of the Eugene Register has purchased the Cottage Grove Messer and took possession this week. We wish Mr. Howard success in his new position.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASH. D. C., Jan. 2nd, 1899.

The extremely critical condition of affairs in the Philippines will doubtless hasten the ratification of the treaty of peace by the senate. This government cannot take the steps necessary to bring Aguinaldo and his ignorant followers to their senses until the treaty has been ratified. The president is using all his influence with the senators to hasten action on the treaty, which will go to the senate the first thing after the re-assembling of congress. Under ordinary circumstances the committee on foreign relations would keep the treaty two or three weeks before reporting it back to the senate, but the president hopes to have it reported back to the senate inside of two days and to have it voted upon inside of two weeks. More than seventy senators have promised to vote to ratify the treaty, so that it only a question of getting it to a vote. If the opponents of the treaty will be content to state their objections in short speeches and not to do any talking against time, the president's wishes can be met, but the rules of the senate providing for unlimited debate will make it easy for them to delay the treaty, if they are so disposed and are not afraid of arousing public opinion thereby.

It is said that upon three consecutive days events like the funeral of Senator Morrill, which was held in the senate chamber Saturday; the funeral of Ambassador Romero from Mexico, which was held in a Washington church Sunday afternoon, and the New Year reception, held by the president and Mrs. M. Kinley in the White House today follow each other. All of the prominent officials of the government, including the president and his cabinet attended all three. The prominence of the deceased statesman and diplomat and the great personal popularity of both, prevented the White House reception being as gay as usual and served as a reminder that last year's reception had to be abandoned because of the death of the president's mother. Had the president his personal inclination he would have abandoned this one, on account of the two deaths, but this reception is an official affair and it was thought best to hold it.

The first certificate for prize money, on account of vessels captured during the war with Spain, has been issued. It was issued to Thomas C. Cook, whose home is in Washington, and who served as a landsman on the converted cruiser St. Paul. The prize in this case was the Spanish steamer Restormal, which was afterwards released by the prize court. Her cargo was condemned and sold, and it is for this reason of the proceeds that this certificate was issued to Mr. Cook. It is only for \$1,750, but being the first issued some relic hunter will probably pay more than that for it and keep it, instead of presenting it for payment. Captain Sigbee's certificate in the same prize case will call for more than \$900.

The new \$1 silver certificates are now being put out by the treasury and will soon be in general circulation. The design is entirely new, made with a view to meet the complaints against the old design. The distinguishing features of the face of the note are a spread eagle with the U. S. flag in its talons and the capitol in the background; one very large numeral and the seal, both in blue, and miniature portraits of Lincoln and Grant, surrounded by laurel wreaths. The back of the note is printed in green, and on back and front there is more white paper to be seen than on any other note ever issued by the government.

Another board has entered the war investigation field. The positive statement, directly opposed to each other, made by General Miles and General Eagan, concerning the quality of the beef furnished the army, has raised such a hubbub that the war department has detailed a number of army officers to act as a board of survey and make an investigation and report on the beef furnished the army. A number of minor officers have already in their official reports and in other ways corroborated the statement of General Miles about the beef being unfit for use.

Two Spanish gunboats—the Sandoval and the Alvarado—captured in Cuban waters, are now lying at the Washington navy yard, where they are attracting many visitors. They are twins and quite small, just a little more than 100 feet long.

The cabinet decided that it was inadvisable to allow the concession for a monopoly of all cable privileges on the Hawaiian Islands, which was obtained by a company from the government of the Republic of Hawaii, upon the condition that it would not be binding if disapproved by secretary of state of the U. S. within six months, and the concession has been officially disapproved by Secretary Hay, which crushed some "great expectations."

The preliminary report of the Nicaragua canal commission ought to help along canal legislation, as it removes one of the strongest arguments for postponing action for a time, but whether it will do so remains to be seen. If there were only some way the Maritime Canal Company could be rightfully and justly eliminated and the construction of the canal directly by the U. S. government be provided for, there would be easier sailing.

How To Find Out.

Fill a bottle or common glass with your water and let it stand twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys; if it stain your linen it is evidence of kidney trouble; too frequent desire to pass it or pain in the back is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

WHAT TO DO.

There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy fulfills every wish in curing rheumatism pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passage. It corrects inability to hold water and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effect, following the use of liquor, wine or beer, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to go often during the day, and to get up many times during the night. The mild and extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists in fifty cent and one dollar sizes.

You may have a sample bottle of this wonderful diuretic and a book that tells more about it, both sent absolutely free by mail, address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. When writing mention that you read this generous offer in THE WEST.

A FINE PIECE OF COLOR WORK.

An experienced art critic gives it as his opinion that there will be no handsomer piece of color work issued this year than Hood's Sarsaparilla calendar for 1899. It is not only useful, but artistic and beautiful, and up to date. The charming "American Girl" whose beautiful face appears with a delicately painted flag in the background, makes a pleasing feature which anyone will be pleased to have before him the whole of 1899. We suppose druggists will have this Calendar, or a copy may be obtained by sending 6 cents to C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

EQUIPMENT OF THE ARMY.

Scientific American.

The equipment of the army, in the late war, is reported upon by Quartermaster-general M. I. Lodington. In three and a half months an army of 275,000 men was uniformed, armed, and equipped with supplies and an army of 16,000 men sent to Cuba. In the war period the animals purchased cost \$3,871,690; wagons and harness cost \$558,449, and \$3,078 tons of coal were purchased. The movement of troops by rail aggregated 17,863 officers and 455,569 men. The department chartered on the Atlantic coast, to June 30th, 42 vessels with a total of 104,201 tons, and these had a carrying capacity of 1,237 officers, 22,335 men, 6,746 animals, and the arms, ammunition, and camp subsistence and medical supplies; four water-boats, of a total capacity of 820,000 gallons, tugs, and barges were added to this fleet. On the Pacific coast 14 ships were chartered, aggregating 41,152 tons, capable of carrying 629 officers and 13,059 men and their stores. These vessels cost \$186,652 for fitting up; and there was paid for the service of these ships \$1,007,952 on the Atlantic side and \$319,764 on the Pacific side. After June 30th, other vessels were chartered or purchased, increasing the total tonnage to 111,099 tons, and the carrying capacity to 25,000 men on the Atlantic, and to 61,287 tons and 20,000 men on the Pacific. Fourteen ships, aggregating 61,298 tons, were purchased for \$5,431,000, including other vessels and lighters bought, the aggregate expenditure on this account was \$6,476,300.

SENATORIAL CANDIDATES.

The election of United States senators is now engaging the attention of the legislatures of many states. In California U. S. Grant, son of Gen. Grant is a prominent candidate.

In Minnesota Senator Davis was the unanimous choice of the republican caucus for re-election. As that party has a large majority in the legislature this makes it certain that he will be returned.

In Washington a determined fight is being made against the re-election of Senator Wilson.

PERSONALS.

Mattie Brynd has been quite ill for a day or two.

W. H. Spang did business in Florence a few days ago.

S. J. Brund and nephew went to Eugene last Saturday.

John Saffey is mate on the Roberts for this trip to Yaquina.

Rev. I. G. Knotts went to Eugene Monday to remain a few days.

Burt Cobb of Heeeta was storm bound here the first of the week.

Miss Helen Fisk returned from her visit to the cape this week.

Chas. Russell was a passenger to Yaquina on the Roberts Sunday.

I. B. Cushman returned yesterday from a business trip to San Francisco.

J. P. Blunt representing a shoe firm of San Francisco was in town a few days ago.

El Farnish arrived Tuesday from San Francisco, he having stopped at Gardiner the day before.

Miss Mabel Morris was in Florence Monday on her way home after a visit with her sister at Heeeta.

M. D. Landis and W. H. Pepper departed Tuesday for Dawson city to try their fortunes in the gold fields.

Mrs. Martin Noffsinger returned home a few days ago after a visit of several weeks with relatives at Deadwood.

George Morris returned Tuesday on Barrett's stage after spending three weeks renewing old acquaintances at Coos Bay.

Tuesday morning three worn and weary travellers were observed slowly and painfully making their way along our streets or stopping for a chat with an acquaintance after warning him not to touch them. They were Neil Christensen, John Tanner and Harry Boyle who arrived from San Francisco the night before having walked from Coos Bay to Florence in one day.

ACME ITEMS.

By SANDWIT.

Miss May Sibbens left for Fairmount Monday afternoon.

Miss Alice Alexander is suffering from a severe attack of erysipelas.

Will Neely left for Meadow by Monday's boat to resume logging.

The farewell dance given last Friday evening in honor of Miss May Sibbens was a success financially and otherwise.

The new shear boom is in readiness to catch logs should the present rain continue long enough to cause a rise in the upper river.

Dr. Saubert is now occupying his new residence on Pecky Hill and says that he is one notch nearer heaven in more ways than one.

Harry Boyle arrived in Acme Tuesday and when last seen by "ye scribe" he was making great haste toward the South Slough country.

Verily Acme is a town of bachelors. There are a dozen more or less, of all ages and every one eligible. All unmarried ladies matrimonially inclined, please take notice.

Marbles seems to be the chief game among the small boys at present; among other players we noticed little Kelly Hewitt and George Chamberlin. Little Tommy Saubert seemed to be greatly interested in the game also.

Via the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Cushman has been quite ill with lung fever the past week, but is now much better and hopes are expressed by her many friends that she will speedily regain her former health.

Mr. Elmer Johnson who has been hatching in the lower end of town during his wife's absence up the river as teacher of the M-Leol school, says: Married life is not all that it is cracked up to be and to be compelled to batch 'all by his lonely self' is about the worst thing 'twixt heaven and earth.

Your friends may smile But that tired feeling Means danger. It Indicates impoverished And impure blood. This condition may Lead to serious illness. It should be promptly Overcome by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, Which purifies and Enriches the blood, Strengthens the nerves, Tones the stomach, Creates an appetite, And builds up, Energizes and vitalizes The whole system. Be sure to get Only Hood's.

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In Dress Goods and Dress Trimming, can be found Serges, Cashmeres, Henrietta, Ladies Cloth, Suitings Water-Proofs, Trimmings to match in Gimps, Velvets, Silks, Satins ETC., in all Shades.

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