

The Liberal Republican.

DALLAS SATURDAY AUG. 9

The La Grande Sentinel says: The Williamette valley is all ablaze with the fire of Grangers. It may be so, but it is new here.

It is really pitiable to witness the attempt of the Bulletin, to cover up, with its short handled rusty shovel, the filth of its own rings, by its recent attack upon independent journalism and honest men, under the head of, "partisanship." How true it is, that men become weak, just in proportion to their proneness to corruption.

CORRUPTION.

The Oregonian has an article over a column in length, under the caption, "are all public men dishonest and corrupt?" The article labors to persuade the people that but very few of their public servants are corrupt and dishonest, and really we do not exactly see at first sight what our friend is driving at, he seems to imagine, that heretofore he has exercised too little charity, perhaps he has, but as he has asked the question, "are all public men corrupt?" and has failed in his long article to answer it to our satisfaction, we will simply suggest to the Oregonian, that in all human probability, judging from present appearances, a large majority of the peoples servants, at the present time are very corrupt, and if the Oregonian is troubled in the least with scepticism in reference to that proposition, we kindly refer the editor to the act of a majority of the last Congress, urged on by such men as Attorney General Williams, and including President Grant, putting their hands deliberately into the treasury of the United States, and stealing from the people hundreds of thousands at one grab. It may be that the Oregonian will deny that such a crime has been committed by a majority of the peoples servants, if he will, than every Republican State Convention that has met since the passage of the salary bill, has been composed of a band of liars, for they all have proclaimed it. The truth is, the honest men found among the servants of the people at the present day, are the exceptions, for in general they are as corrupt as Hell itself. Take the appointees in Oregon to-day, of the man you have caesarised, and who of his own free will and choice, signed the bill you have denounced as a thieving measure, and who, of all of them, are you willing to vote, for his honesty.

GREAT FIRE IN PORTLAND.

The fire in Portland last week destroyed property to the value of over one million dollars, burning over about twenty two blocks. The burnt district lies between the river and third street and between Clay and Alder streets. This is a great blow to Portland and the State, and it will take years to repair the loss. Portland lies on the Willamette river, is there no way by which water enough can be applied to extinguish fire.

Senator Mitchell was in Salem a few days since, we suppose on his way to Eugene to dictate to the State Central Committee to where and how, the Convention should be held and managed. We presume he will order it held at Portland, so as to have the benefit of the burnt district. Go in Mitchell you will find the grand worshippers, as gullible as ever.

INCREASE OF SALARIES.

There was a strike for higher wages in Congress before the close of the session. They wanted to get their wages up to \$10,000 a year. They commenced by concluding that the President should have \$50,000 a year instead of \$25,000, which had been the standard pay for the executive of the nation so many years. They finally passed the bill doubling the President's salary and giving themselves \$7,500 a year, counting backward for the two years of their term. So they obtained what they struck for. This was a peculiar strike. The men who held the purse and ordered the pay of the hands, struck to take more pay for themselves. It did not look very much like a cashier

opening a till and helping himself to what pay he wanted to increase his salary; but it was Congress, and there was no help.

Seriously, this example of Congress is one fraught with mischief of far greater magnitude than is generally recognized. The government can pay these high salaries without much trouble, and the consciences of the members of Congress certainly are not much troubled about taking all they can get; but the example is a bad one and extends through our whole society. Extravagance in governmental circles creates a desire to be extravagant throughout the country.

In the early days of the Republic extravagance was not encouraged, and the whole people lived on their income, without overreaching and stealing. Salaries were regulated according to the expense of living. The Treasury Department in 1799 instituted inquiries as to the cost of supporting a genteel family in Washington, and the estimate returned placed the amount at \$3,549.97 for the years 1789, 1790 and 1791, raising to 4,163.66 in 1792. 1793. Among the items included, showing the style of living on which the estimate was based, were the keeping of two horses, and the wages of four servants. Hence Congressmen in 1873 must needs have \$7,500 per annum, with pickings and stealings besides, as they all, of course, keep two horses and four servants, to say nothing of other conveniences.

Of course, living is not so cheap as in the old-fashioned days, but there is no necessity for this alarming increase of extravagance. Luxury and extravagant living have been the forerunners of the downfall of former Republics, and we have no doubt that our departure from the simplicity of former days is hurrying us into the same road that brought other nations to ruin. Like causes produce like effects at all times. Why should a Congressman need \$21 a day where a few years ago he was glad to get \$8? His necessary expenses have not increased in that ratio by any means. It is the impatient desire to get rich out of the public treasury, and to be able to make an extravagant appearance. The example becomes contagious, and the business man seems to imitate the fast living of his Congressmen. He rushes into business recklessly and ends in crime or in the most questionable kind of business gambling. Thus is society corrupted by the baleful example of departing from Republican simplicity, on the part of those whom the people have placed in power. This view of the case shows a worse feature and shows how far-reaching the influence of so pernicious an example is likely to be.—American Working People.

Up on the same subject S. R. Wells of Phrenological fame remarks:

There are some great rogues in Congress. Indeed, they have a world-wide reputation for dishonesty. Shall, then, these few wicked sinners corrupt the entire batch of Congressmen? Are the known thieves to become bell-wethers of the flock? The people of America look to their appointed or elected servants for honest service in the interest of the nation. When they find their servants stealing they ought to really and turn them out. The authors of this "grab" ought to be exposed, punished, and then consigned to forgetfulness. No excuses. Those who voted to help themselves to the people's money without the people's consent have not only committed a great crime, but have set a very bad example, which weak ones will imitate. What sort of heads must these men have? We will venture the statement, that each and every one of the authors and defenders of that act is sadly deficient in the phrenological organ of Conscientiousness. Not this only, but he has inordinate Aquisitiveness, and will, publicly or privately, "take that which does not belong to him." Look out for all such men. Trust them not. They disgrace the nation and will bring ruin on the country unless put out, and put down.

The woman of St Joseph, Mo., were out in procession the other day, bearing a banner on which were inscribed the words, "We'll vote or fight."

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

There is a very wide discrepancy between theory and practice in the administration of the Civil Service reform, in that the new regulations are enforced in some cases while in others they are ignominiously set aside. Without displaying the motives of its advocates, it may be well for us to inquire, if there be not some inherent weakness in the theories upon which this attempted reform has been based.

The indecent clamor, whenever there is a change in the administration, from the hungry politicians, who flock to the Capitol by thousands, and whose cravings nothing can satisfy but office, and the never-failing streams of applications for places, were enough to set the rulers of the nation at devising some method for avoiding this tax upon their strength, time, and good nature. The device of holding competitive examinations was hit upon, and it not only promised a remedy for the evils mentioned, but had an attractive appearance of fairness in giving the offices to those who were best qualified to fill them. Wherein this device has failed I will endeavor to show, and make a suggestion or two as to how this reform might be brought about without any rules, regulations examinations, or expense.

That an educational test is insufficient needs no further proof than the fact that those candidates who pass the examination successfully, are required to serve a term of probation in the duties of their new position to test their efficiency before they are finally accepted as a government employe. The examinations of teachers, as every one knows, does not show their ability to teach, for that can only be determined by actual duty in the school-room. One may be abundantly qualified as to book knowledge, and be a total failure in every other respect; while another may be an excellent teacher without passing a brilliant examination; and I have observed that in employing teachers more attention is paid to their appearance and reputation for good preceptorship than to the particular grade of certificate they may have received, and here, let me ask, did any of our good friends ever suspect our School Commissioners or Superintendents of being influenced by sordid motives? Has money or favoritism ever influenced the guardians of our schools? Need I more than hint that the time might come when the Civil Service Examinations would be corrupted? How long is it since the traffic in Cadetship was suppressed?

Under the new regulations the offices would be very unequally distributed. If the examinations are always to be held in the city of Washington, then will inhabitants of the District of Columbia fill most of the offices; for they, being upon the ground, and familiar with the manner of conducting the examinations, will have a great advantage over those coming from a distance. Should the Examining Board travel from city to city, like a band of itinerant showmen, the residents of the cities visited will have opportunities for testing their ability to pass the ordeal, and failure will cause them no greater loss than their time. Not so the youthful aspirant who chances to live in the country, or in some town not favored with a visit from the Board. So far as they are concerned the examination might as well be held exclusively in Washington, for they will have traveling expenses and board bills to pay wherever they go. The expense, and the fear of failure, may keep many of them at home, and, perhaps, that may be considered as the strongest point in favor of the new system.

That abuses have arisen from the practice of making appointments on recommendation of members of Congress no one denies, but it has this in its favor, that the offices are more widely distributed than under the new regime. Justice requires that all sections be equally represented in the Civil Service. And may we not consider this as an important factor in wearing off the sharp corners of sectional prejudices and animosities, and rendering us a homogeneous people. That agency, however insignificant, which tends to bring the people of different sections in contact with each

other, will meet the approval of all thinking men. Congressmen should exercise discrimination in their recommendations, and, by proper inquiry in their respective districts ascertain the fitness of applicants for position. If incapables are at any time foisted upon the government, the remedy of dismissal remains.

Sinceres should no longer be tolerated. If there be a standard in regard to what constitutes a day's work, which is too low, increase the amount of work or number of hours of labor. The pay should be so adjusted that places will not be sought after so eagerly. The government should not pay a greater salary than individual employers are accustomed to pay their bookkeeper and correspondents for the same grade of work. Those employed should understand that their position is a permanent one, if they choose to remain; or, in other words, competent clerks should be retained during life or good behavior. Of course no discharge for merely political reasons could be tolerated. More trouble has arisen from making discharges on frivolous pretexes, for the sole purpose of creating vacancies for new comers than from all other sources combined. Then, in conclusion, we will say, the mode of appointment is of least consequence, and reform should look rather to prevention of arbitrary dismissals than to any educational or other test as a qualification for office.—Contributed to the Journal by A. D. Buck.

STATE ITEMS.

We were shown yesterday a piece of lime taken from the foundation of Love's Hotel, on First street. Under the intense heat, portions of the stone, which was of a calcareous character, were converted to pure lime. The article before us appears to be genuine lime. It is the only instance which occurred during the fire where any of the stone foundations were changed to lime.—Oregonian.

Hon. F. P. Dugan, whom we mentioned last week as being very low at the Hot Springs in this county, was on Sunday last removed to La Grande and is now rapidly gaining. Mrs. Dugan came over from Walla Walla, and the husband has the advantage of a wife assisting nursing Dr. Steuberger of Walla Walla is now attending Mr. D. in connection with Dr. Hulsey. Mr. Dugan's many friends, hope for his speedy recovery.—Sentinel.

Chas. Wier was this week arrested on complaint of the owners of the place of amusement known as Willushobe, for trying to break into their dwelling. Owing to the fact that he was suffering with delirium tremens, he has not had an examination, but languishes in jail.

The Madras troubles being over, surveying parties are again numerous east of the mountains. Prof. Bell and a party are surveying swamp land, while another party, under the supervision of J. S. Howard, is engaged in surveying the proposed Southern Oregon Wagon Road.—Jacksonville Times.

Yesterday morning at the Cove a terrible accident occurred to a daughter, aged 4 or 5 years, of Minister Adams of the Methodist Church. In passing a gate he alighted from the buggy and was leaning the horse through, when one of them began kicking and became unmanageable. He told his wife to jump from the buggy with the little girl which she herself successfully did, but the little girl's foot caught on some portion of the buggy and she fell over breaking her leg between the ankle and knee. She thus hung while the horse ran about one hundred yards. Surgical assistance was immediately called.—Sentinel.

On Wednesday of last week at Grand Prairie a team attached to a wagon ran away, seriously injuring two of the occupants, Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Brown. One of the horses was crippled and the wagon badly damaged.

The survey of the new cemetery grounds has been completed and lots may be obtained by applying to the trustees of Spencer Butte Lodge No. 9, I. O. O. F. Lots range in price from \$12 to \$100, according to size and location.—Guard.

All the Wallowa Valley, lying north of the south line of Township 1, south of the base line to the Minun river, thence down said river to the Grand Ronde river, thence up Snake river to the line above described, has been set apart as a reservation for the Nez Perce Indians, as recommended by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.—New Northwest.

The New Northwest has commenced its third Volume.

TELEGRAM PHIC.

Salt Lake, August 6.—A new service was made on Brigham Young in the divorce suit last night. The case will be argued to-morrow before Judge Emmerson.

To-day the reception here was entirely Mormon. No United States officials or gentiles were invited to participate.

Victoria, August 6.—The U.S. Revenue Cutter Lincoln arrived in the harbor last evening from Port Townsend. She is going north to search for further and more definite tidings as to the fate of the lost Steamer George S. Wright and her people. Every cave, inlet and bay will be entered, and all the Indian villages examined for traces of the wreck and those who were on Board of her.

Omaha, August 4.—A break is reported on the mountain division of the Union Pacific Railroad, which has been fully repaired. The storm is reported as fearful, with rain, sleet and hail combined. The hail in some places was piled up two feet high.

Two deaths from Cholera were reported at Indianapolis to-day.

Omaha, August 4.—Reports from Omaha, Iowa, and points in the interior of the State, say that the grasshoppers descended about noon on Saturday, and have entirely destroyed the corn and oats. The wheat is out of all danger. There will be fine crops.

Chicago, August 4.—Daisy Breeze killed his Brother Dan with a club near Hazelwood, Ill., on Saturday because the latter was about to back out of an expedition they had planned to rob and murder a neighbor.

WEATHER RECORD FOR JULY 1873

Table with columns: Kept by T. Pearce, Esq., Ogn; Lat 44° 57' Long 138° 5'; and a list of weather observations for each day of the month, including temperature, wind direction, and precipitation.

July 1872, gave one rainy day with 12 inches in water, 22 clear, 8 cloudy days. Mean temperature for the month 62°. Highest 72° on the 23. Lowest 57 on the 15. Mean temperature for month 56°. Highest 77 degrees on the 11 and 17, Lowest 53 deg on the 1st.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of three several executions hereunto directed, I have advertised and will sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand at public auction at the Court House door in the town of Dallas, county of Polk and State of Oregon, between the hours of 9 o'clock A. M. and 4 o'clock P. M., on Saturday

THE 13th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1873.

The following described real property to-wit: All of the right title and interest of Ezra Scovill in and to the real estate described as commencing seven chains and seventy links east and fifteen chains and fifty links south of the northeast corner of Section sixteen in township seven south of range five west of the Willamette meridian, running thence north nine chains, thence west eighty-seven chains and fifty links, thence south forty-nine chains and fifteen links, thence east forty-seven chains, thence south thirty-nine chains and eighty-five links, thence east eighty chains, thence north eighty chains, thence west thirty-eight chains and sixty-three links to the place of beginning containing nine hundred and twelve acres, more or less situated in the county of Polk and State of Oregon, to satisfy first an execution issued out of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the said county of Polk upon a judgment rendered in said Court on the 29th day of May A. D. 1873 in favor of S. W. Smith and against the said Ezra Scovill for the sum of one hundred dollars and sixty cents, and interest thereon, from the said 29th day of May 1873 and cost of and accruing upon said execution. Also to satisfy an execution issued out of the said Circuit Court upon a judgment rendered by L. Vinyard a Justice of the peace in and for the precinct of Dallas in said county and State, which said judgment was rendered in favor of Samuel Parker and against the said Ezra Scovill on the 23d day of May 1873 for the sum of forty-eight dollars and fifty cents, and to satisfy the further sum of eleven dollars and twenty-five cents costs and disbursements thereon, and interest from the said 23d day of May 1873 together with the costs of and accruing upon said execution, which said judgment was duly assigned to the said S. W. Smith on the 15th day of July 1873 and a transcript duly filed with the clerk of said county and duly docketed in the judgment docket of the said Circuit Court prior to the issuance of said execution. Also to satisfy an execution issued out of the County Court of the State of Oregon for the county of Marion upon a judgment rendered in said Court in favor of Maltroy & Shaw and against said Ezra Scovill on the 7th day of July 1873 for the sum of fifty dollars, and also to satisfy the further sum of nineteen dollars and fifty cents cost and disbursements thereon and interest from the said 7th day of July 1873 together with the costs of and accruing upon said execution which said judgment was duly assigned to the said S. W. Smith on the 5th day of August 1873.

Dallas August 9th 1873

S. T. BURCH Sheriff of Polk county Ogn.

No 206-w

ESTRAY NOTICE.

TAKEN UP BY THE SUBSCRIBER living between Monmouth and the Luckenite in Polk county Oregon on the first day of August 1873 (but) came to my place (last of June) the following described estray property, to-wit: One white horse with glass eyes supposed to be fifteen years old no marks or brands perceivable appraised at \$20.00 and one dark gray mare supposed to be six years old no marks or brands perceivable appraised at \$10.00 by Ira F. M. Butler Justice of the Peace, the above named estrays are very bright.

August 1st 1873.

JAMES E. ELKINS. Aug 9 1-w

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