

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

PLAN FOR GOOD ROADS.

Linn Supervisors Will Work Together on a Common Plan.

Albany—Pursuant to the call of Judge Palmer, the road supervisors of the county met with the county court, now in session, and the question of general road improvement was discussed in all its phases. The discussion was perfectly informal, and the methods in use in the various districts of the county were compared, both as to amounts of money expended and results obtained. There were 27 road supervisors present, being all the supervisors in the county except one. The members of the court and two road masters were also present.

As a result of the meeting a uniform system of road building and improvement was adopted for use all over the county. The grades will be of a uniform width, the gravel covering of uniform depth, etc. More money will be expended on road improvement than in years gone by. Linn county has received from the state this year money to the amount of \$2,146, representing this county's share of the money received by the state of Oregon from the sale of government lands. It has been decided to devote this money to the improvement of the public roads in Linn county. The money will be expended in those districts which are willing to help themselves.

Every district will be given \$75 of this money at the start, provided the district contributes a like sum. In this way it is thought the people of every district will be encouraged to spend some time and money in the improvement of their roads, and that gradually an interest will be aroused in the good roads movement which will result in passable highways over the entire county.

SIGNATURES ARE ALL COUNTED.

Local Option Petition Had 8,816 Names Direct Primaries, \$746.

Salem—Secretary of State Dunbar has finished counting the signatures on the initiative petitions and finds that there are 8,816 names on the local option petition and 8,746 on that for the direct primary law. The equal suffrage amendment petitions were not filed. A few petitions were sent in from independent sources, but the large number of petitions prepared under the direction of the leaders of the equal suffrage movement were not presented to the secretary of state.

The secretary of state has officially notified the governor that the petitions have been filed and the governor will issue a proclamation setting forth the substance of the proposed laws and notifying the voters that the measures will be submitted at the June election. The proclamation will be published in one newspaper in each judicial district.

Creamery for La Grande.

La Grande—Arrangements have been perfected for a creamery in La Grande, which will be in operation about the middle of March. The machinery has been sent for and a car load will arrive here March 1. Harper & Smith, who are so successfully operating creameries at the Cove and at Union, are the promoters of the enterprise here, and will run it under the name of Harper, Smith & Co. In a recent partial canvass Mr. Harper was able to secure the product of 250 cows, and the number will be greatly increased when the creamery is started. The business men and the farmers are encouraging the project.

Biggest Spruce on Earth.

Astoria—W. S. Linkhart, of Nehalem City, has discovered what is believed to be the largest spruce tree in the world. The monster tree is located in God's valley, on the south fork of the Nehalem river, about 12 miles from Nehalem City. The tree measures 21 feet in diameter and 63 feet in circumference. Its height was not measured, but Linkhart expresses the belief that it is easily monarch of the northern forests in this respect as well as in others. God's valley is the location of the largest trees ever discovered in Northwestern Oregon.

Strike Big Ledge of Cinnabar.

Cottage Grove—Three pioneer prospectors of Bohemia, Ed Jenks, Ben Curry and George Kerns, while out from Bohemia for a vacation, heard of a large ledge of some character up Mosby creek, some five miles east of here. Upon investigation they discovered a strong and well defined ledge of cinnabar. They began at once to run a surface crosscut and so far found the ledge to be 50 feet in width and from the pinnings show a good prospect of quicksilver, and some native quicksilver can be seen in the ore.

Wood Is No Cheaper.

Pendleton—Notwithstanding that there is a good supply of wood on hand, prices remain the same as they were when the cry went up last fall that there would be a scarcity. The best quality of wood is still selling at \$7 per cord, the price which prevailed early in the season. Wood has been at a higher price this season than for a number of years, although more coal has been used this winter than ever before.

Coming Events.

Oregon Christian Endeavor convention, Pendleton, February 19-22.
College oratorical contest, Pacific university, Forest Grove, March 13.
Dog show, Portland, April 20-23.
State convention, Knights of the Maccabees, Portland, March 22.

CATTLE STARVING ON RANGES.

Forfeited Ranchers Alone are Saving Stock by Dry Feed.

Eugene—Stockraisers in this county are beginning to realize that winter feeding is necessary even in an unusually mild winter like the present. This month and next are the months when the greatest losses occur on the ranges, and from all reports the losses will be almost as great this winter as in those winters when we have had snow and freezing weather.

Until a few weeks past cattle have been getting along fairly well without dry feed, but now feeding is general, except in cases where the farmers have no reserve supply, and in such cases stock is being lost. In some sections of the county quite a number of cattle have died from exposure and insufficient nourishment, the pastures being eaten down to the roots and no hay to pitch to the hungry brutes.

This is only a beginning, and before the end of March many of the stacks of hay will be exhausted, and stockmen realize that considerable losses will be sustained. Cattle which have been running in the foothills of the Cascades, and which did well until a month ago, have now been driven down to the valley by the snows, and they are dependent on dry feed.

Even if grass were to grow now it would only be slight help, as the first grass of the spring possesses little nourishment.

Enter Large Body of Base Ore.

Cottage Grove—The Vesuvius mining company, of Bohemia, reports that an immense body of ore has just been entered in the lower working tunnel. The ore body is several feet wide and of a base character, carrying copper, lead and iron. This tunnel is in 160 feet, and when the proper distance is attained will top this property at a vertical depth of 100 feet from the apex of the mountain. The Vesuvius property has several thousand feet of tunnels, consisting of drifts and upraises above this level.

Big Nuggets are Common.

Grants Pass—The Grants Pass banking and trust company received this week from the Oscar creek mines a handsome bunch of nuggets, the largest of which weighs nearly \$40. This is not the same \$40 piece that was found last week. Nuggets of this size are found so frequently on Oscar creek that their discovery causes little comment. A number of other handsome pieces ranging in value from \$15 down are included in the collection.

Look to the Rogue River.

Jacksonville—Indications are that the year 1904 will witness the largest immigration ever known to the Rogue river valley. More immigrants have come in this winter than is usual for the time of the year and houses are in demand in every town in the valley. The Jacksonville board of trade, as a result of some judicious advertising, is in receipt of a large number of letters of inquiry, letters coming from almost every state of the union.

Cattle Deal at Pendleton.

Pendleton—Max Jackson, a prominent cattle man of North Yakima, has just closed a deal with Receiver Taylor for C. B. Wade's cattle aggregating nearly 700. He pays an average price of about \$16 per head, making the deal one of about \$10,000. It is the largest cattle transaction made here in years.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 75c; bluestem, 80c; valley, 79c to 80c.
Barley—Feed, \$20 per ton; brewing, \$20 to \$20.50; rolled, \$21.
Flour—Valley, \$3.75 to \$3.85 per barrel; hard wheat straight, \$3.90 to \$4.10; clear, \$3.55 to \$3.75; hard wheat patents, \$4.20 to \$4.50; Graham, \$3.75; whole wheat, \$4; rye flour, \$4.50 to \$4.75.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$18 to \$18.50 per ton; middlings, \$26; shorts, \$19.50 to \$20; chop, \$18; linseed, dairy feed, \$19.
Hay—Timothy, \$15 to \$16 per ton; clover, \$12 to \$13; grain, \$12 to \$13; cheat, \$12 to \$13.

Butter—Sweet cream butter, 32c per pound; fancy cream butter, 30c; creamery, 25c to 27c; dairy, 20c to 22c; store, 12c to 14c.
Butter Fat—Sweet cream, 31c; sour cream, 29c.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 11c to 12c per pound; springs, small, 13c to 14c; hens, 12c to 13c; turkeys, live, 15c to 16c; dressed, 18c to 20c; ducks, \$8 to 9 per dozen; geese, live, 8c per pound.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 14c; Young America, 15c.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 26c per dozen.
Vegetables—Turnips, 80c per sack; carrots, 80c; beets, \$1; parsnips, \$1; parsley, per dozen, 25c; tomatoes, \$1.50 to 2 per crate; celery, 65c to 75c per dozen; pumpkins, 1c per pound; onions, Yellow Danvers, \$1.35 to \$1.50 per sack.

Honey—\$3 to \$3.50 per case.
Potatoes—Fancy, 75c to 80c per sack; common, 60c to 75c; sweets, 2c to 3c in sacks; 2 1/2 c in crates.

Apples—Fancy Baldwins and Spitzenbergs, \$1.50 per box; cooking, 75c to \$1.
Hops—Choice, 27c to 29c per pound; prime, 25c; medium, 24c.

Wool—Valley, 17c to 18c; Eastern Oregon, 12c to 15c; mohair, 32c to 35c.
Beef—Dressed, 6c to 7 1/2 c per pound.
Mutton—Dressed, 6c to 7 1/2 c; lambs, 7c to 8c.

Veal—Dressed, small, 8c to 9c; large, 5c to 6 1/2 c.
Pork—Dressed, 6 1/2 c to 7c.

FOES TO AMERICA

POWERS TRIED TO HOLD UP THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY.

Germany Tried to Get an Island, Which Would Give Her Practical Control of the Route—France Was Also Active—Official Correspondence Sent to the Senate Discloses the Fact.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The interference of foreign governments to prevent the ratification of the Hay-Herran treaty between the governments of the United States and Colombia is clearly proven by the correspondence just sent to the senate in confidence by the president and in response to the Culberson resolution.

The documents include dispatches passing between Ministers Hart and Beaupre, at Bogota, and the state department relative to the Hay-Herran treaty, the reasons for its rejection, and the meddling of those representing foreign governments. Among these documents are cablegrams calculated to prove that Germany sought to acquire from Colombia an island in the harbor of Cartagena for a coaling station, notwithstanding the Monroe doctrine. This island would enable that power to virtually control the canal when constructed. Minister Hart promptly notified the state department of these negotiations.

There are also dispatches intended to show that there was secret interference at Bogota by representatives of European nations, notably Germany and France, to prevent the ratification of the treaty. Others indicate that a representative went to Berlin for the purpose of seeking to sell, either to the German government direct, or to a syndicate of capitalists representing the government, the shares of stock owned by Colombia in the new Panama canal company, and to encourage the purchase of that company's concessions and property by a syndicate composed of British, German and French financiers.

It is indicated that the assembling of a large American fleet in Caribbean waters was first brought by anticipated action from the French government in sending warships to Colon to protect the canal property, representations having been made at Paris that it would be threatened by a revolution on the isthmus. There is further correspondence indicating the apprehension of the American representative at Bogota that some of the European powers would attack Colombia, or possibly seize the neutral zone because of unpaid debts.

DEWEY IDEA OF SHIPS PREVAIL.

House Committee Goes on Record for Heavy Fighting Vessels.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Admiral Dewey's suggestions in favor of heavy fighting ships for the navy prevailed today with the house committee on naval affairs over the recommendation of the general board, submitted by Secretary Moody. The naval appropriation bill was completed by the committee, after a hearing granted Admiral Dewey. It carried an aggregate appropriation of \$95,000,000. The ships authorized are one battleship, two armored cruisers, three scout cruisers and two squadron colliers. The appropriation of \$500,000 made last year for two submarine boats was reappropriated, the boats to be purchased in the discretion of the secretary of the navy.

This building program gives a total of 44,000 tons of heavy fighting ships, as compared with 62,000 tons last year. The heavy construction provided will cost \$21,750,000, while the lighter construction will bring the cost of the building program up to \$23,000,000.

Provision was made for an armor-plate factory to cost \$4,000,000, which the secretary of the navy is authorized to construct, in case he cannot secure armor from private bidders at a reasonable price. An addition of 3,000 men is authorized to the personnel of the navy.

America to Keep Fleet Away.

Washington, Feb. 8.—In case of a Japanese-Russian war, the fighting ships of the Asiatic fleet will be kept away from the scene of hostilities and every care will be taken to observe good sea manners. That the American navy, however, may not be without observers of what will be the greatest naval struggle of modern times, it is possible several of the smaller ships of the fleet will be detailed to go northward with competent officers, who will be detailed to act as official observers of this government.

Urges China to Join Japan.

London, Feb. 8.—"Yuan Shi Kai (the commander of the Chinese imperial army and navy) and the vice president of the war board have memorialized the throne, urgently insisting upon an offensive and defensive alliance with Japan to regain Manchuria," cables the Shanghai correspondent of the London Globe. "The memorials," the correspondent adds, "maintain that the Japanese are better prepared for war than the Russians."

Buried Under Volcano Ashes.

Amsterdam, Feb. 8.—The latest dispatches received from the Dutch East Indies, reporting the eruption of the volcano of Merapi, in the island of Java, say 12 persons were burned to death, and that 20 were severely injured. The eruption was accompanied by showers of red-hot coals.

TO ST. VALENTINE.

Valentine! Saint Valentine!
A pilgrim to thy holy shrine,
Behold I come!
Footsore, and very heavy-laden
Because of love for one small maiden,
My lips are dumb.
O Valentine! Saint Valentine!
Thou know'st this little maid of mine,
This dainty sweet,
So pure and fair that when she passes
Our gray old world grows green with grasses
Beneath her feet;
That everywhere her dear face shows
The west wind takes it for a rose
Just newly born.
O grant, sweet Saint, that to her know-
ing
But fragrance soft and bloom be showing,
Give me the thorn!
Oh, Phyllis fair! Oh, Phyllis young,
I would mine were a poet's tongue
That I might say:
That I might sing to golden numbers—
To wake your heart from out its slumbers—
My love for you.
Yet—no, dear heart! The years will bring
A sweeter song than I could sing;
So slumber on.
You will awaken to discover—
When he shall come—that happy lover,
And I am gone.
—New York Independent.

Aunt Madeline's Valentine.

AND the girl clings to this silly notion? It's preposterous! If you don't make her give up that poor fellow and accept Rufus Clark, I'll have no more to do with any of you. I go to-night unless the girl gives in. She's your daughter; make her obey!" And Aunt Madeline walked out of the room, leaving her niece—gentle, helpless Mrs. Price—in despair, for well she knew that her persuasions were powerless with loyal Kitty Price.

Kitty, the eldest of the widow's four children, had been Aunt Madeline's protégé for years. Ever since her father's death the child had been clothed and educated by this aunt of Mr. Price's, a childless widow, who, to be near her darling Kitty, had for the last three years boarded with Mrs. Price, her liberal payment and well-chosen gifts helping out the widow's straitened income in a way all of them appreciated. That Aunt Madeline "should go" meant that Jack must leave school and go to business, that the little ones could have no new suits that winter, that only bare necessities could be bought, perhaps not even these. Yet Mrs. Price felt afraid to interfere further with Kitty's choice of a husband. It was true that the rich Rufus Clark seemed to others fully as good a man, kind, steady and devoted, as Herbert Huntley, who had a small salary and no bright prospects. But Kitty unfortunately loved Herbert before Rufus appeared on the field, and she did not believe her aunt Madeline, who assured her that Herbert would "take to drink," or let her support herself and her family after a few years.

Aunt Madeline had made a love match herself, and it had not turned out well. She, too, had been loved by a rich man, and by one who, if not poor, was not blessed with much of this world's goods. She persisted in marrying her choice, reverses had come, and he, a weak character, could not bear trials, resorted to stimulants to cheer him up, and at last was for years dependent upon his wife for his home and support. The rich lover never married, and just when Mrs. Joyce (Aunt Madeline) was preparing to go to work to earn her own support, he died, leaving his one love his large fortune. Judging by her own experience Aunt Madeline had some excuse for advocating marrying for money instead of for love; but "all lovers don't turn out so," Kitty argued, and was sure that, mainly Herbert, who had supported his sister for years and who she thoroughly tried by repeated disappointments and reverses, was very different from weak, vacillating Henry Joyce.

"I won't give him up. I ought not to. I can't," the girl was just repeating, when her gentle mother knocked at her door. Mrs. Price was one of those women who never entered a child's room without knocking. She respected each one's privacy, and perhaps it was for that reason that her children confided so fully in her, taking her as their one confidant.

"Come in, Motherly. I can see Aunt Madeline has been tormenting you again. Why doesn't she come to me instead of worrying you? I think it mean, and I've a good mind to tell her so."

"You won't have a chance, my dear; your aunt is going to leave to-night."

"Leave! for good? O mother! and I have done this when you need the help she gives so much! I wish—" and Kitty's voice sounded so hesitatingly that Mrs. Price ventured one last appeal.

"Kitty, dear, it is a sacrifice, and one I cannot ask of you, but if you make it of your own free will you are doing a great and unselfish thing. Rufus Clark would take Jim into his employ, your aunt would see Jack through college, Minnie would have a luxurious home with you, moving in the best society, if anything happens to me—and Rufus is as good as Herbert—I cannot but think your liking would soon grow as warm for him as for your early love."

The girl's face was white and fixed. She loved her brothers and little sister devotedly, and then, too, had not her dying father begged her to be a true elder sister to them? He might have foreseen some trial like this, for only a day or two before he died he said to Kitty, when she sat alone with him.

"My girl, you have a hard lot before you—the eldest daughter of a poor widow—you may have to sacrifice a bright future for the sake of your orphan brothers and sister; but do it cheerfully, bravely, and unselfishly and God will make such sacrifice work out for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

These words seemed ringing in the poor girl's ears. She must not drive Aunt Madeline from her mother. She must not deprive her brothers of Rufus' aid, or Minnie of the safe refuge she could command for her if she gave up Herbert. With pale lips, the girl said to her mother, "Wait a moment, mother; I'll speak to Aunt Madeline; only let me sit alone a while."

The mother, frightened at the girl's looks, yet knowing how good and true a man Rufus Clark was, left the room, though longing to uphold her girl in her first decision, and Kitty sat alone, not wavering now, only waiting until it should grow dusk that her face might not betray her.

"Government of the People, by the People, and For the People Shall Not Perish from the Earth."



Born in Hardin County, Kentucky, February 12, 1809.
Died at Washington, D. C., April 15, 1865.

Meanwhile Mrs. Joyce was packing her trunks and boxes, for she was a determined woman, and meant to keep her word. A friend had repeatedly urged her to come and keep "old maids' hall" with her, and sometimes when the boys were particularly quarrelsome and noisy Aunt Madeline had felt inclined to accept, and had hinted as much to Miss Mills, who often said she would expect her "at any time." So now she telegraphed to Boston that she was to come by the night train, and went to work at her packing, to keep down the feelings of regret and compunction that threatened to overwhelm her. She decided she would not pack all, but send or come for the rest, and thought with relief that she need not sort over her old mementoes of former days; but there was one paper she must get at and take with her. As she turned over a box full of papers she came across a pink envelope, worn and faded, but one that in its day was evidently chosen for its beauty to hold some dainty message.

"Harry's valentine! poor fellow, poor fellow! My own loving Harry!" and she opened the faded envelope with fast-falling tears. It was not Henry Joyce, the drunkard, of whom she thought; it was her bonnie lover of those long years back. She seemed to be standing again, a loving, trusting girl of eighteen, and to see his blue eyes so full of love, so beautiful and true to her, beaming upon her, as he said:

"I wrote it myself, Pet, and I want you to keep it always—from your valentine."

"Always—forever!" she had answered, with a blush. Ah, there is always one that gives, and one that takes, in love affairs. If she had been the giver, pouring out her very life in devotion and sacrifice for him, had she not found a wonderful secret happiness, even in her pain? Would she even now have her past life different? She pressed the faded valentine to her lips.

"Aunt Madeline, I have come to say you need not pack your things. I'll give up—I'll marry Rufus Clark. Herbert will understand, poor fellow. Do stay, Aunt Madeline!"

"Stay! who talked of going? What nonsense! Just because I choose to look over my things on a rainy afternoon" (it was perfectly dry outside, but the old lady was hard put to it), "to take it for granted I am going! And as for Rufus Clark, let him go, my child, let him go! I suppose you want Herbert, for better, for worse, and if it's for worse, dear," and the old lady's voice grew tender and solemn. "God will help you, as he has helped many another. The happiest marriages are not always the truest—some one must bear with and sustain the feeble ones. Keep your Herbert, as you love him, and God bless you."

The girl longed to say, "But Herbert is not feeble, and there won't be any 'worse,' but all 'better,' in our marriage," but she was wise, and let the old lady have the floor.

"There, this old valentine conquered me—mere doggerel, I suppose, the lines seem to you!" and Aunt Madeline read the verses to Kitty, which were doggerel, and probably only slightly altered from some old book, to suit the lover's purpose. "Mere doggerel! but keep your valentines, dear, when they come from your true love; they may keep you from being a heartless, meddlesome old wretch, and separating two true hearts, as I came near doing."

Kitty's mother went down to the tea-table with bread. It would be almost as bad to learn that Aunt Madeline was to stay and dear Kitty sacrificed, as to bid good-bye to their one well-to-do relation. To her surprise, Kitty and Aunt Madeline entered the dining room together, the young girl beaming and blushing, the old lady with a tender light in her eyes, and a delicate flush on her withered cheek.

"It's all right, Motherly," said Kitty, joyously. "Auntie isn't going away, and I needn't marry Rufus. He'll have to wait for Minnie!"

"But—I—" began Mrs. Price, wonderingly.

"Mother, St. Valentine shall be my patron saint hereafter!"

At which speech Aunt's flush deepened, though she tried to come down gracefully from her former attitude.

"I still think Kitty is foolish, but time will teach her her folly!" and no one argued to the contrary.

The wedding came off on St. Valentine's day, Kitty declaring that the saint

would bring them luck. Minnie wore her first "long dress," and Mr. Clark seemed so much struck with her wonderful resemblance to the bride that Aunt Madeline still have one of her nieces "married well." Herbert in spite of Aunt Madeline's fears, seems altogether "for better" and not "for worse." He may never be rich, but he is loving and honorable, and on each wedding anniversary he gives his wife a valentine, which is carefully treasured. But Kitty begs in vain for the faded pink envelope and its enclosure. "I'll leave it to you, dear," said Auntie, on the third anniversary of Kitty's marriage, "but as long as I live I'll keep my one valentine. May yours have only sweet memories enshrined in them! Mine, though precious, tells a mixed tale of sorrow, hope, almost despair. But, through it all, hope triumphs."

And Kitty, remembering the dying bed, where the poor weak man had repented of his wasted life, felt that even Aunt Madeline's choice had not been so utterly a mistake as some would insist.—The Housewife.

LINCOLN'S LAW PARTNER.

Hiram W. Beckwith, from 1856 to 1861 a partner of Abraham Lincoln, died recently at St. Luke's hospital in Chicago, aged 72. Mr. Beckwith's father was one of the pioneers of Illinois, having helped to found the town of Danville in 1819.



Young Beckwith studied law under Ward II. Lamon, who was marshal of the District of Columbia during Lincoln's administration. He was a close friend of Lincoln and later became his resident partner at Danville, while Lincoln was a circuit lawyer.

From 1897 to 1902 Mr. Beckwith was president of the State Historical Society. He was compelled to resign in the latter year on account of illness. He left a widow and two sons.

Lincoln and the Dying Soldier Boy.

One day in May, 1863, while the great war was raging between the North and the South, President Lincoln paid a visit to one of the military hospitals, says an exchange. He had spoken many cheering words of sympathy to the wounded as he proceeded through the various wards, and now he was at the bedside of a Vermont boy about sixteen years of age, who lay there mortally wounded.

Taking the dying boy's thin, white hands in his own, the President said, in a tender tone, "Well, my poor boy, what can I do for you?"

The young man looked up into the President's kindly face and asked: "Won't you write to my mother for me?"

"That I will," answered Mr. Lincoln; and calling for a pen, ink and paper, he seated himself by the side of the bed and wrote from the boy's dictation. It was a long letter, but the President betrayed no signs of weariness. When it was finished, he rose, saying: "I will post this as soon as I get back to my office. Now is there anything else I can do for you?"

The boy looked up appealingly to the President.

"Won't you stay with me?" he asked. "I do want to hold on to your hand."

Mr. Lincoln at once perceived the lad's meaning. The appeal was too strong for him to resist; so he sat down by his side and took hold of his hand. For two hours the President sat there patiently, as though he had been the boy's father.

When the end came he bent over and folded the boy's thin hands over his breast. As he did so, he burst into tears; and when, soon afterward, he left the hospital, they were still streaming down his cheeks.

Unnoticed.

"You say you saw my sister at a recent wedding?"

"Yes. It wasn't very long ago."

"But I don't remember that she mentioned seeing you."

"Very likely. I was only the groom."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.