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O. A. DEARING, EDITOR AND BUSINESS MANAGER

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The Weather Bureau reports the February rainfall in the state the largest in 22 years. The river is expected to rise considerably higher than the present level, though the indications, at present, do not point to the average of last season.

They had a Board of Trade banquet at Forest Grove, on the 22nd of February and on the program occurs the following sentence: "Out of consideration for the day it is hoped that the orators may not cause Sruth to blush." Probably the man who wrote that knew that the orators had too high a regard for truth to waste it on ordinary occasions.

It is conceded by men of best judgment in this section of the state that the action of Secretary Hitchcock in the matter of the retention of J. T. Bridges and J. H. Booth, as register and receiver of the Roseburg land office has been governed chiefly by prejudice. The Oregon delegation has had a long interview with the President, and the action of the Secretary of the Interior has been set aside. This relieves this section of Oregon from the cloud of land fraud that has been held over it by the Interior Department. We are glad to note that the two officers are to be retained, and that their administration of affairs has been vindicated.

The situation in the National Democratic camp is narrowing down to the "man who can certainly carry New York state." Murphy, of Tammany, does not choose to instruct for Judge Parker, and that narrows the available down to two, Mc Clellan and Hearst. Hearst's only chance lies in his endorsement by Tammany. The Republican's can win without New York; for the Democrats to win without New York is utterly impossible. Therefore Murphy holds the key to the situation, and in his ability to control an uninstructed delegation, and stampede the convention for his own candidate at the proper time he hopes to find the hoped for opportunity for rich pickings for himself and his henchmen.

The Baltimore Fire demonstrated one important fact: That the tall "fire-proof" buildings, instead of impeding the progress of the flames, only seemed to spread the flames over a wider area. They acted like gigantic chimneys. Once the fire was started in the lower stories, a tremendous draught was created. From the top, flame and brands belched forth as from the mouth of a volcano. Blazing pieces of furniture and parts of floors were flung upwards and carried by the wind blocks away. The Continental Building sixteen stories high, says the Argonaut, stood at the end of the fire, an empty shell. This was really the first time that the modern steel-frame skyscraper had been tested in a great conflagration, and it was found not only as vulnerable as the smaller structures, but was proved to have new dangers of its own. The authorities at Baltimore, are seriously contemplating the restriction of the height of buildings to four or five stories.

There is probably no greater fallacy in our government than our much lauded idea of non-partisanship in municipal politics. Notwithstanding the long record of failures such a policy has yearly shown, it bobs up at each election as regularly as the election comes round.

"A political party that is not willing to stand on its own feet, to fight for its own principles to the last ditch, is not worthy of the name." Where elections are conducted on a non-partisan basis the government cannot hope to become anything but corrupt in management. It is conceded that the application of the principle leads to laxity of public spirit, and lack of interest in all municipal affairs. Nothing enthuses the people of a city or county so much as a sharp, spirited contest between opposing elements, where public spirit, patriotism and party loyalty run rampant. To make a public officer loyal to his county, he must be held responsible to his party for his action while in that office. There is no other course.

The time for action on his matter has come in Benton county. There should be but two parties in the field. A party stands for certain principles, and the man nominated by that party stands for those principles. If the voter thinks the candidate of the opposing party is going to stultify himself and act in his office in opposition to the principles of the party who nominated him, just because he is a "good fellow," he makes the mistake of his life.

If a democrat votes for a republican candidate he has no right to claim affiliation with his own party. Party loyalty means party responsibility. Let us vote straight, and hold its elected officers to a strict accountability for their official acts.

The Freemasons of the country are more and more realizing the fact that it takes a broad man to become a mason in the widest sense. The sublime principle of charity must be practiced by himself as well as inculcated in his teachings to others. Freemasonry is universal brotherhood, uninfluenced by any particular creed, or belief, or race. As our knowledge becomes greater, our charity becomes broader. Do not let the brothers in other lands put us to shame by their examples. Truth is mighty, but the courtesy of fraternal love is stronger. The District Grand Lodge of India, working under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, has the following among its Grand Officers: Grand Bible Bearer, Grand Zendavesta Bearer, Grand Shastaras Bearer and Grand Koran Bearer, thereby recognizing all these as sacred books of the law. "But the greatest of these is Charity."

OUR BRAINY CONTEMPORARIES.

"The \$ William \$ Randolph \$ Hearst \$ Presidential \$ boom \$ is \$ still \$ resounding \$ up \$ and \$ down \$ the \$ land \$."—Burlington Hawkeye.

For swiping their own code of signals and thus sinking four torpedo-boat destroyers, no doubt the Russians regard the entire Japanese nation as a lot of brutal sons-of-bitches—Salem Statesman.

The story of Lot's wife turning to a pillar of salt cannot longer be doubted. A young lady here the other day put her foot upon a dry goods box to tie her shoe and two young men who were passing turned to rubber.—Medford Mail.

It is getting fashionable for banks to advertise, and it is to be hoped that even the lawyers and doctors will see their way clear to take into their business a little of this vitalizing stuff that enables a man to make his fortune in half a lifetime instead of a century.—Salem Journal.

Fire drills in the public schools should occur with at least a sufficient degree of frequency to familiarize the children with what is expected of them. They should be followed with some definite system and not at haphazard. This should particularly apply in cases like Portland, where the schools are built of wood and therefore are likely to burn much more rapidly than though they were of stone or brick construction—Portland Journal.

An uneducated child has one chance in 150,000 of attaining distinction as a factor in the progress of the age. A common school education increases the chance nearly four times. A high school education increases the chance to the common school child 23 times, giving him 87 times the uneducated. A college education increases the chance of the high school boy nine times, giving him 219 times the chance of the common school boy and 800 times the chance of the untrained.—Eugene Journal.

The introduction into the Lower House of Congress of a service and age pension bill, by Representative Sulloway, chairman of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, has roused in both parties enthusiastic adhesion to its principle, and as enthusiastic opposition. This bill, which, well-informed correspondents say, is confidently expected to pass the House, provides a pension of eight dollars a month to every veteran of the Civil War who has attained the age of sixty-two years without regard to disability; to those sixty-six years old, ten dollars a month; and to those reaching seventy twelve dollars a month. It further provides that where a man rendered two years or more service he shall receive a pension of two dollars a month in addition to the regular rates. Mr. Sulloway's bill also increases the pension of those now drawing the minimum six dollars to eight dollars a month, and further provides that the pension of widows who married a soldier prior to January 1, 1870, shall be increased to twelve dollars a month. In the matter of calculating the amount that will be required to satisfy the new demands under this law, there are great discrepancies between the figures given by friend and foe. As there are at present some two hundred thousand veterans who have not applied for relief, and it is thought that a comparatively small portion of these would apply under the new bill, it is estimated, in some quarters, that not over one hundred thousand new names would be added to the rolls, entailing a yearly expenditure of fifteen millions. "Twenty to sixty millions" is the estimate of the New York Sun, which calls this bill and its appropriation "the most stupendous of campaign funds." It is stated, on apparently good authority, that President Roosevelt favors the passage of this bill; and it will be made a part of the Republican policy. While the bill in many details has been altered from that proposed by the Grand Army, it yet maintains the principal features of that, and recognizes besides length of service and age of the beneficiary.—Argonaut.



OUR EQUINE FRIENDS.

Breaking a Colt to Halter Described by a Man Who Had Considerable Experience.

My weanling colts had never been handled, and having run with their dams until midwinter, were wild as deer. To secure them until they became quiet enough to be halted was the problem. Take about 30 feet of half-inch rope; knot one end, so there will be no danger of its being pulled out of your hand by the plunging of the colt. On the other end fasten a 1 1/4-inch halter ring, then tie a knot in the rope, leaving enough beyond it to encircle the colt's neck when drawn taut. The knot prevents choking. Now tie the end of the rope to the ring and you are ready.

Bunch the horses by throwing out some feed in a large yard. Have an assistant hold one end of the rope. By moving carefully, you can soon noose the colt. Let him circle around until well tired out, before going up to his head. As soon as possible, take two half hitches, as shown in the left-hand figure, around his nose; take the bend of the lower hitch, pass it under



HANDY COLT HALTER.

the other from the top downward, then up over the ears, loosening the rope in hand as you go. An excellent halter, capable of holding anything, is thus formed, as the right-hand figure shows. If, after being driven around for some time, he proves stubborn and will not follow, take a piece of clothesline, double it, tie a knot on the double end, leaving enough rope to slip down over his hind quarters almost to the hocks (the knot remaining over his coupling), run the two free ends—one on each side of his neck—through the halter, and on feeling the pull behind he will move. Never strike him, and as soon as he yields a little, pet him. If the dams are worked, the best way is to slip on a halter when the colt is only a few days old, and tie alongside the mother; but if still unbroken, when there is lots of snow on the ground is a good time to work with the dams, as the colt is not liable to hurt when it throws itself.—J. C. Smith, in Farm and Home.

MAKING CHEAP MUTTON.

Why It Does Not Pay to Feed a Fat Lamb for an Uncertain Chance of Rise in Price.

A subscriber asks in a somewhat discouraged tone, how to produce mutton at present prices with any profit. A large part of the secret lies in the high feeding of young, growing animals. The younger the animal the larger the amount of gain it will make for the food consumed. Mutton and beef producers seem not to have learned this so generally as pork producers. But it is true in a greater degree of mutton than of pork. The lamb may be brought to mature weight more quickly than any other animal. It is too late now to figure on very large profits from feeding last spring's lambs. The only class of lambs that it will pay to feed through the entire winter is Merinos that will yield eight pounds of washed or ten pounds of unwashed wool. They develop slower than the mutton breeds and the growth of wool will almost pay for the feed needed to keep them growing nicely and they may be rapidly finished upon the fresh pasture of May.

But it will take more than half the feed to grow a pure-bred mutton lamb to 70 pounds at five months old than it will to make him weight 90 at ten months. Lambs with strongly marked mutton characteristics should be marketed before they are six months old. There is sometimes a profit in buying this class of lambs at seven or eight months of age a cent less per pound than they will bring when finished for market, and then pushing them to the finish as rapidly as possible. This should be done in 90 or 100 days. A lamb that has once got poor will not make money for either grower or feeder.

Another element figuring largely in determining the measure of profits is selling when the lambs are finished. It does not pay to feed a fat lamb for an uncertain chance of rise in price. The altogether best rule is to get your lambs ready for the market in the shortest possible time and let them go. If I had a flock of lambs now that were not fat I should hold them over on light grain feeding and finish on grass. Corn alone is the grain for fattening, with clover hay for roughage; with other hay or fodder, add oil meal or cotton seed meal.—H. P. Miller, in Ohio Farmer.

Spring Announcement

WASH GOODS

New Percales and Calicos
New Gingham and Chambrays
New Challies and Cotton Suitings
New White Waistings

New Dress Skirts and Shirt Waists

WOOL DRESS GOODS

New Mixed Suitings
New Scotch Weaves
New Etamine and Voiles
New Mohairs, Plain and Figured
New Black Dress Goods

NOVELTIES

New Buttons
New Waist Sets
New Trimmings
New Ornaments
New Stock Collars
New Laces
New Ribbons

New Hosiery and Underwear

DOMESTICS

New Table Linen and Napkins
New Muslins and Sheetings
New Towels and Toweling
New Curtains and Scrims

F. L. Miller. We want your produce



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H. W. HALL

A fresh and complete line of candies, nuts and fruits kept constantly on hand. Our bread is always fresh. We carry a complete line of smokers' necessities.

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