

THE OREGON SCOUT.

VOL. II.

UNION, OREGON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1885.

NO. 14.

THE OREGON SCOUT.

An independent weekly journal, issued every Saturday by

JONES & CHANCEY,
Publishers and Proprietors.

A. K. JONES, Editor. J. B. CHANCEY, Foreman.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION:
One copy, one year, \$1.00
Six months, .60
Three months, .30
Invariably cash in advance.

Rates of advertising made known on application. Correspondence from all parts of the county solicited. Address all communications to A. K. Jones, Editor Oregon Scout, Union, Or.

Lodge Directory.
GRAND LODGE VALLEY LODGE, No. 56, A. F. and A. M.—Meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. O. F. BELL, W. M.

C. E. DAVIS, Secretary.
UNION LODGE, No. 39, I. O. O. F.—Regular meetings on Friday evenings of each week at their hall in Union. All brethren in good standing are invited to attend. By order of the lodge. S. W. LONG, N. G.
G. A. THOMPSON, Secy.

Church Directory.
M. E. CHURCH—Divine service every Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday school at 3 p. m. Prayer meeting every Thursday evening at 6:30. Rev. ANDERSON, Pastor.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Regular church services every Sabbath morning and evening. Prayer meeting each week on Wednesday evening. Sabbath school every Sabbath at 10 a. m. Rev. H. YERSON RICE, Pastor.
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH—Service every Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m. Rev. W. R. POWELL, Rector.

County Officers.
Judge.....A. C. Craig
Sheriff.....A. L. Saunders
Clerk.....B. F. Wilson
Treasurer.....A. F. Benson
School Superintendent.....J. L. Hindman
Surveyor.....E. S. Spona
Coroner.....E. H. Lewis
COMMISSIONERS
Geo. A. Ayles, Jno. Stanley
Stato Senator, L. B. Binchard
REPRESENTATIVES
F. T. Dick, E. E. Taylor

City Officers.
Mayor.....D. B. Rees
COUNCILMEN
S. A. Pursell, W. D. Beldeman
J. S. Elliott, Willis Skiff
J. B. Eaton, A. Thompson
Recorder.....J. L. Thomson
Marshal.....J. A. Denney
Treasurer.....J. D. Carroll
Street Commissioner.....L. Eaton

Departure of Trains.
Regular cast bound trains leave at 9:30 a. m. West bound trains leave at 4:20 p. m.

PROFESSIONAL.

J. R. CRITES,

ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Collecting and probate practice specialties. Office, two doors south of Postoffice, Union Oregon.

R. EAKIN,

Attorney at Law and Notary Public.

Office, one door south of J. B. Eaton's store, Union, Oregon.

I. N. CROMWELL, M. D.,

Physician and Surgeon

Office, one door south of J. B. Eaton's store, Union, Oregon.

A. E. SCOTT, M. D.,

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,

Has permanently located at North Powder, where he will answer all calls.

T. H. CRAWFORD,

ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Union, Oregon.

D. Y. K. DEERING,

Physician and Surgeon,

Union, Oregon.

O. F. BELL,

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,

Notary Public and Conveyancer. Office, B street, two doors east of Jones Bros' variety store, Union, Oregon.

H. F. BURLEIGH,

Attorney at Law, Real Estate and Collecting Agent.

Land Office Business a Specialty.

Office at Alder, Union Co., Oregon.

JERSE HARDESTY, J. W. SHELTON

FITCH, SHELTON & HARDESTY,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

Will practice in Union, Baker, Grant, Umatilla and Morrow Counties, also in the Supreme Court of Oregon, the District, Circuit and Supreme Courts of the United States.

Mining and Corporation business a specialty. Office in Union, Oregon.

A FLORIDA MELON MARKET.

A Chance for a Statistician—The Melon Men's Queer Craft—Melon-Growing.

A statistics crank could revel to his heart's content in the figures and facts of the watermelon trade in this city, writes a Jack-onville correspondent to *The New York Sun*. The number of melons brought to this market each season must be up among the millions. Their aggregate weight in tons would show up well in a row of figures. Plead to end, they would make a streak of green from here to Cape Horn, or some other jumping-off place. Allowing a melon and a half to each darkie, it would take a large contingent of the colored race to eat them at one sitting. The total amount paid for them by the wholesalers would be equal to an appreciable fraction of the national debt, and the total paid by the consumers would be represented by that fraction with its denominator, divided by two. Allowing that so many feet and inches of rain fell in Florida during the rainy season, and that 90 per cent of a melon's water, it could be easily computed how much of the rainy season went into the melon crop. Then there would be the colic, cholera morbus, and Jamaica ginger figures to wrestle with, and the mortuary statistics to be put in convenient shape for reference.

The watermelon market place is an interesting point even to a person not of a statistical turn of mind. It is on the river front. Steps lead down to the water for convenience in unloading the melons from the small boats in which they are brought from both banks of the river for considerable distances up and down the stream. Boats begin to arrive early in the morning, and they keep coming all day. It is surprising to see what loads of melons some of these shabby old craft bring into the city; sometimes under full sail, in a spanking breeze, the load topped off by two or three drenched darkies singing negro songs; sometimes with a white-cloth breeze, slowly and laboriously; almost invariably with the water in the boat nearly up to a level with that outside. The melon, being composed so largely of water, is the best and safest kind of ballast, with the single exception of an all-water ballast. The kinds of boats used by the melon men are various and interesting, and even astonishing. There is no lack of smart cat-rigged and sloop-rigged boats from eighteen to thirty feet in length. They are built shallow, so as to be able to skim over the broad "flats" of the river, and are about evenly divided between round and flat bottoms. Then there are craft in all stages of decay, which evidently were neat and worthy boats in their time, but have degenerated to the last use to which a boat can be put before it falls to pieces—melon carry. But the most interesting craft are those which the darkies build with no tools, but a hammer, ax, and auger, and no material save unplanned hard-pine boards and scantlings, cut nails, and second hand canvas and ropes. These hulls have no lines but straight ones. They are of the general shape of a potato bin, though sometimes the ends are slanted up scow fashion. Instead of keel or center board there are boards pinned through one corner to the outside of the boat, and the one on the lee side is let down into the water when sailing. They are called lee boards, and serve well the purpose for which they are intended. Some of these boats are provided with cabins that are quite stately and picturesque—smokehouse-shaped structures, towering eight or ten feet above the rail, clap-boarded horizontally, with a door in front, and a slit in the rear for the tiller to work in, and with seats around the sides elaborately cushioned with calico stuffed with Spanish moss. The spritsail that is raised on the cypress-pole mast in front is hardly so large proportionately to the size of the craft as the Puritan's spread of canvas. But it is, nevertheless, an inspiring sight to see one of these vessels approaching the town with all sails set and close-hauled, her leeboard down, the wind blowing half a gale, and the waves breaking over among the melons.

"The conclusion which the cabin grants," even though the cabin is not painted, is at such times acceptable. From the market the melons are distributed in all directions, mostly in mule carts. A venerable colored man has a melon emporium in a dry-goods box at the head of the flight of steps leading down to the water, and he has the reputation of securing the cream of the season's crop for his customers. He must have become a capitalist long ago. The darkies are acknowledged to be the most expert melon-eaters in the land. They are never put to it for methods, so long as they can get the melon; but their favorite method is to split the melon lengthwise, then scoop out and eat the red part of one half with a spade-shaped contrivance whittled out of a cypress shingle; after which the other half is treated in the same manner, and the expert goes in search of another melon.

Watermelons grow well in Florida. The state prides itself more on its climate than on its soil. If wind could be made to take the place of the small percentage of a melon in the soil in melon culture, could be dispensed with entirely, and the climate would have a chance to spread itself. A Florida land agent from Pope county recently said that he was compelled to admit that there was one great drawback to successful melon culture in his section—namely, that the vines grow so fast that they wore out the young melons dragging them over the

ground. The darkies say that melons grown on the edges of swamps give the fever to persons who eat them. The theory is that the germs, or microbes, or whatever produces that malady, are taken up in the water that goes in the melon.

Making Neckties.

"There are special grades of silks and satins made exclusively for the necktie trade," said a manufacturer to a reporter for *The New York Mail and Express* recently. "These materials are made from patterns designed by men who do nothing but study up new things in neckties. There are from fifty to seventy-five factories in this country and ten or twelve first-class makers. The latter usually secure exclusive right to use certain styles of goods from the makers, by buying either the entire stock offered to the American market or a large portion of it. But the success of making up the goods is just like a lottery ticket. Perhaps one year I may hit on some design and it will become so popular that all other makers will be forced to adopt it, but the next year some one in Boston or Philadelphia may make a hit and I will have to follow him. There's never any telling how a necktie is going to take with the public until it's on the market. There its success depends on who adopts it first. If he happens to be a howling swell, and on the right side of popular favor, that particular kind of necktie will sell well."

"Are the styles of making up neckties originated abroad?"
"Not now. They were until less than three years ago, but now our styles are superior to the European, and they are coming over here for patterns. However, there is a tendency for English fashions for the fall."

"Are men or women employed in making neckties?"

"Women. There are more than 1,200 girls thus employed in this city alone. They work by the piece and make more or less money according to their expertness. A good finisher can make \$8 or \$9 a week. She takes a necktie after it is put together and finishes each detail perfectly so that it is ready to box. Three different colors of the same design and same style are boxed together to give the dealer an assortment in the one make. The finisher must see that all of this kind are exactly alike in point of finish and make-up. We have one girl who does nothing but turn the bands of neckties, and she makes \$15 a week. She turns twenty-five or thirty dozen bands a day."

"The cheap wear now flooding the market is composed of old styles made of poor goods. As a rule, men show no discrimination in purchasing neckties. They look into a window, see a tie that takes their fancy and then rush in to buy it, never stopping to ask the price. Thus they are just as likely to buy one of the cheap kind, that will not last a week, as a good one."

An Ancient Spanish Title.

In 1717, when a band of colonists from the Canary islands settled in San Fernando (now San Antonio) writes a San Antonio correspondent to *The Galveston News* the Spanish government granted to the town six leagues of land around the town as *exidos*, which was laid off by metes and bounds, with prominent natural objects for corners.

About 1816 the city employed Mr. John James, a competent surveyor, to resurvey the lands granted to the city, which was done and a map made of the same. This survey was passed upon directly by the supreme court of Texas in the case of Lewis vs. San Antonio, in Texas, in 1851, and the correctness of the survey was admitted by the court. The city of San Antonio has held the land embraced in the survey made by John James for over forty years prior to such survey. The lands had been surveyed in 1717, or soon afterwards, and the survey by John James was a resurvey, based on the original boundaries of the original survey; but some parties, not being more than six leagues were embraced in the James survey, and that such excess was public land belonging to Texas and was open to entry, have quietly filed upon it. Others are preparing to file upon other portions of it.

It is doubtful if the commissioner of the land office was told or suspected that these lands were embraced in the survey of San Antonio, were claimed by the city, and were *prima facie* no longer public land. Your correspondent received a hint of it a month ago in a casual conversation, but was met with such studied reticence that he could not trace it out.

Ex-City Engineer Smith, when interviewed, yesterday, frankly said that he would not divulge certain matters. When asked on which side of town the excess was supposed to be, he replied he was not at liberty to state, nor did he feel at liberty to say who had filed upon it. As the city had sold pretty well all its lands granted to it as *exidos*, this movement is likely to open a mint of litigation. The chances are that the title of the city will prevail, since it has held possession over 150 years, and nearly 40 since the James survey was made, and in Lewis vs. San Antonio the court decided that twenty years possession would bar the state. The excess in quantity, if any, embraced within the cities borders would belong to the city.

Telegrams from Washington territory report the warmest weather ever experienced in that section.

INDUSTRIAL TOPICS.

Suggestions on Constructing and Guarding Buildings, So as to Avoid Fires, etc.

Fire Protection for Farm Buildings.

Mr. W. E. Partridge writes in the last number of the *Forest, Forge and Farm*: The destiny of every farmhouse or isolated country dwelling in this country appears to be destruction by fire. The older houses burn as regular from "defective chimneys" as accidental deaths follow the use of the gun that "he didn't know was loaded."

The new houses are comparatively exempt from fires of this class, and the conclusion might be reached that the old builders did not know how to construct a perfectly safe flue; this, however, would be an error. Many of these defective flues require time for their production. When new they were probably as perfect as any that are built now. Where wood is used as a fuel a large amount of "creosote," or pyroigneous acid, as it is termed by the chemist, is formed. It passes from the fire in the form of steam, but as it reaches the higher parts of the chimney is condensed upon the walls and is absorbed by the sooty lining. The liquid is very corrosive and readily attacks the mortar, in time completely destroying it. The destruction is aided by the rains, which wash down the soot and mortar which has been dissolved. This process usually continues until the whole upper portion of the chimney for fifteen or eighteen feet, and in some cases even a greater distance, is little better than a pile of bricks with wide and open joints. Under ordinary conditions there is an in-draught into the chimney at all points, and the only effect which these cracks have is to lessen the power of the "draught" to some extent. In stormy weather, however, the gusts of wind which cause a puff of smoke to be thrown from the fire-place or the stove force the smoke out of these openings, and the fatal spark is blown out against some old and tinder-dry beam to smolder and break into flame hours after the mischief has been done. Fires of this class almost always start in places where the fire itself can not be reached, and even with an efficient fire department a house thus endangered could hardly be saved.

Another source of danger is to be found in the beams and woodwork resting against the hot brickwork or against hot flues from furnaces. As these chimneys and flues never become hot enough to light a match, no alarm is felt in regard to them, and, usually, no effort is made to secure protection. There is danger, but it is of a kind not usually suspected. Wood kept for a long time at a temperature considerably below that of boiling water undergoes a very peculiar change, and is finally converted into a brown or black charcoal. During this conversion it gradually acquires one of the characteristic properties of fresh charcoal, that of absorbing oxygen from the air so rapidly as to become heated and at last to burst into flame by a sort of spontaneous combustion. Beams, partitions, and other woodwork undergoing the charring process may, after some years, begin to smolder, and burn for hours, or even a whole day, before finally bursting into flame. The fire has in the meantime been spreading along out of sight and reach, and when discovered is usually quite beyond control. The ash barrel, when used has been used for fuel, has caused an immense number of fires. These, and the eating of matches by mice and rats, may be classed as disgraceful causes of fires, because perfectly preventable. Spontaneous combustion from oily rags and papers causes a few fires. Faulty lightning rod connections form another class of some importance.

The question now arises: What remedies are to be applied, and how may country houses be rendered more secure against fire, without entirely reconstructing them? The simplicity of the directions are very likely to lead to their neglect. Old chimneys should be "pointed up" from top to bottom; that is, the joints in the bricks should be filled with fresh mortar. When the flues are large they should be plastered inside as well as out. Sometimes round tiles can be put in so as to make continuous flues. These are safe and give excellent draught. The essential point is to make the chimney tight and keep it so; this is imperative if safety is to be secured. Woodwork must not be allowed to come against flues and chimneys in such a way as to cause it to feel hot or warm to the touch. Six inches clear space between a stove-pipe and a beam or partition is none too great. A sheet of zinc is not a protection unless it has an air space in addition. Dig into beams, etc., that have been long exposed to heat and see what condition the timber is in. If charring has begun it is high time to rearrange the construction.

Take up ashes only in metal vessels, and if a metal barrel or its equivalent can not be had carry the ashes at once to a store-house, which should be of brick or stone, or made fireproof by some method of construction. A barrel plastered inside is better than one with no protection. In these days when spices and many other things of the kind are put up in tin boxes or cans no excuse exists for keeping matches in wood or paper packages. When in tin boxes they are out of the way of mice. To leave them scattered upon mantels or tables is a criminal act, which too frequently brings its own punishment. Spontaneous combustion does not often occur in coun-

FACT AND FANCY.

A Rose, N. Y., peppermint-raisin sold the oil from one acre for \$92.75.

The prohibitionists are making a close canvass of every county in Texas. A fond father hitches the baby carriage to his tricycle and takes the baby everywhere.

The rice crop of Louisiana is the finest ever known, while the acreage is much larger than ever before. Sixty large ships are laid up in San Francisco bay on account of low freights, waiting for better times. Hot water at a depth of eight hundred feet has been discovered in an artesian well at Sierra Valley, Cal.

According to an eminent southern authority on barbecues, it takes ten hours to roast a whole ox to perfection. Portland, Oregon, is about to have some of her streets paved with granite brought from Hong Kong for the purpose.

During August 282 oil-wells were drilled in the oil regions of Pennsylvania, thirty-eight of which were failures. The first snow of the season in the United States fell at Wilkesbarre, Pa., Aug. 28, and on the same day it snowed at Quebec.

The foundation of three-fourths of all cases of consumption is laid before the age of 25 years; in women, during their teens. A German lady at Carlisle, Pa., has in charge and will try to raise an Apache papoose, captured from the renegades recently.

An electric railway, now being laid in Philadelphia, is to be opened for travel Oct. 1. Its cost is at the rate of \$15,000 per mile.

Hannibal Hamlin has an imitator in Columbia, a man who hasn't worn an overcoat for thirty years, and who has never been in bed sick.

New Mexico is to have a territorial fair at Albuquerque in September, one of the features of which will be a genuine cowboy tournament.

There are still public lands open to settlement in nineteen states and eight territories. The prices vary from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre.

Sixteen cowboys had a pitched battle in Idaho recently, and although over ninety shots were fired, but one man was hit, and he only slightly.

In building the main drainage works in Boston 50,000,000 bricks and 180,000 casks of cement were used. The total cost of these works was \$5,213,000.

Under Hill Gate, New York, there are twenty-two miles of dynamite cartridges, with which it is proposed to soon remove rocks that cover nine acres of river bottom. It is estimated that New Yorkers spend no less than \$3,000,000 in summer recreation every year. Of this, \$1,000,000 goes to Newport and another \$1,000,000 to Long Beach.

A resident of New Orleans has been convicted of lunacy because when, twice a year, he changed his high silk hats he had the new ones fashioned after the styles of ten years before.

At Ocean Grove they have put up notices reading: "Young women who bathe are expected to dress as modestly as at home." And yet very few young women wear bathing suits when they bathe at home.

Over two thousand business men in New York city have been swindled by a map-publisher who went around gathering up \$5 bills and promising to insert pictures of business houses in a map which was never issued.

Visitors to the tomb of Gen. Grant make all sorts of excuses to speak with the soldiers on guard. The camp is a great object of curiosity, and the persistence of the sightseers is a heavy tax on the good nature of Uncle Sam's artillerymen.

"Say," said the editor's smart little son, as he entered a store, "do you keep knives?" "O yes," responded the storekeeper, "we've kept them for years." "Well," returned the boy, starting for the door, "you ought to advertise, and then you wouldn't keep 'em so long."

For several days past the beach at the old inlet in Shinnecock bay, New York, has been covered with crabs, that were apparently migrating from the bay to the ocean. In one place over six acres of sand beach were so closely covered with the crabs that they touched each other.

The total annual consumption of tea, it is now estimated, is 3,000,000,000 pounds; of coffee, 1,000,000,000 pounds; cocoa and chocolate, 1,000,000,000 pounds. Tea is the favorite drink of Russia, Holland, and England, the last country annually importing 100,000,000 pounds, or several pounds to each man, woman, and child.

A fashionable summer visitor at the Catskills, who surprised everyone with her lavish expenditure, was in the habit of asking the hotel clerk for a little money for ordinary current expenses. On several occasions she started him by saying when asked how much: "Oh, \$1,000 or \$2,000 will do, I guess."

The California wine-makers at one time this year thought they had reason to hope that the vintage of 1885 would come up to twenty five million or thirty million gallons. But an untimely spring frost compelled them to reduce their estimate 50 per cent, and the yield now expected is about fifteen million gallons, which are substantially the figures of 1884. The quality of the product is excellent, however, and the net result will therefore be satisfactory.

The experiment of planting tobacco has been tried at Reno, Nev., and has proved successful, while it is thought that the climate is well fitted for curing the leaf.