

# THE OREGON SCOUT.

VOL. II.

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NO. 22.

## THE OREGON SCOUT.

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

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### Lodge Directory.

**GRAND RONDE 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 8 o'clock. Sabbath school every Sabbath at 10 a. m. Rev. H. VERNON RICE, 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. VERNON RICE, Pastor.  
**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**—Services 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. E. Benson  
School Superintendent..... J. L. Hindman  
Surveyor..... E. Simons  
Coroner..... E. H. Lewis  
**COMMISSIONERS.**  
Geo. Ackles..... Jno. Stanley  
State Senator..... L. B. Rinehart  
**REPRESENTATIVES.**  
F. T. Dick..... E. E. Taylor

### City Officers.

Mayor..... D. B. Rees  
**COUSCOUNCILMEN.**  
S. A. Pursell..... W. D. Heidemann  
J. S. Elliott..... W. H. Ellis  
J. B. Eaton..... G. A. Thompson  
Recorder..... J. B. Thompson  
Marshal..... J. A. Denney  
Treasurer..... J. D. Carroll  
Street Commissioner..... L. Eaton

### Departure of Trains.

Regular east 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.

#### W. 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.  
Office, Main street, next door to Jones Bros. variety store. Residence, Main street, second house south of court house. Chronic diseases a specialty.

#### O. F. BELL,

**Attorney and Counsellor at Law,**  
UNION, OREGON.  
Real Estate, Law and Probate Practice will receive special attention. Office on A street, rear of State Land Office.

#### H. F. BURLEIGH,

**Attorney at Law, Real Estate and Collecting Agent.**  
Land Office Business a Specialty.  
Office at Alder, Union Co., Oregon.

#### J. W. SHELTON

#### 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.

### JOSH BILLINGS.

His Varied Career Before He Became an Author—A Famous Mule.

Henry W. Shaw, the champion phonetic speller and popular humorist, was undoubtedly one of the quaintest writers of his time and, although his works are not likely to be immortal, they have been and still are widely read, and have afforded innocent mirth for thousands. He came of a very good family. His grandfather and his father were both members of congress. His father was on intimate terms with Henry Clay, and managed his political business in New England. Henry W. Shaw was born in Lanesboro, Berkshire county, Mass., about 1815. He went to school until he was 14, and at one time it was intended to make him private secretary to John Quincy Adams. His disposition was that of a rover, and all the plans that his anxious relatives made to give him a lift in the world were knocked in the head by his starting out to the west. He joined an enterprising party animated with the resolve to cross the plains to the Pacific ocean and colonize under the Mexican government. The project failed, and young Shaw, with varying luck, pursued the avocation of frontiersman, turning his hand to everything, but making little more than a bare living. As proprietor of a country store, keeping everything from a needle to a bundle of hay and as a cattle drover and farmer he had strange ups and downs. He also tried his hand as captain of a steamboat on the Missouri, but the company that owned the boat burst, or the boat itself burst, it is not quite certain which. He reached California in 1849, but did not remain long.

At the age of 27 he paid a visit to his father and married. Civilization had no charm for him, and accompanied by his young New England wife he soon started for the west. Very little is known of his life out there. He was not successful, though his energy was unbounded. Finding himself at the age of 40 with three young and growing daughters, with no facilities for their education, he came east and settled at Poughkeepsie, on the Hudson, where he took up the business of an auctioneer and dealer in real estate. He made a capital auctioneer, but the resources of the town were not very large, neither was his income. Poughkeepsie had a small daily newspaper, and its editor upon hearing the words of wit and wisdom that fell from Mr. Shaw's lips while engaged in his calling, invited him to write for his journal. He consented, and contributed about forty articles, among which was his famous essay on the mule. They were published and made no sensation at all. They were spelled properly and with due regard to all lexicography. Mr. Shaw felt that his journalistic aspirations were destined to be nipped in the bud. A bright idea, however, struck him. He read one of the amusing sketches by Artemus Ward and asked himself if it was not the peculiar spelling that had made that author's fame. He took down his essay on the mule, "slewed round the spelling," as he expressed it, and mailed it with the signature "Josh Billings" to *The New York Era*. It was published and went the round of the press. As soon as he saw that the article had been reprinted he thought he ought to begin to make money out of his writings. He sent off one of his best short essays to a Boston paper. Its editor replied that he could only afford to give him \$1.50 for it. "Josh Billings" did not regard this as big pay, but he accepted it, little dreaming at that time that his pen was to prove so valuable a source of riches to him.

From the day that he altered the spelling of the mule essay his luck began to change. An enterprising New York weekly gave him \$100 a week for half a column of his essays and sayings. "Josh Billings" became intensely popular. His "matter" obtained a good price, and Mr. Shaw made hay while the sun shone. He discovered that he was a good lecturer, and as such he commanded high prices, secured good audiences—and, what is more, amused them and sent them home delighted. In New England was published "Thomas' Old Farmer's Almanac." It had been issued for eighty years. Its pages offered splendid opportunity for burlesque, and Mr. Shaw determined to take it in hand. In 1871 he brought out his burlesque with the following title: "Josh Billings' Farmers' Almanac for the Year 1870." Being ten years since leap year, and 94 years since the American people left Great Britain to take care of herself, and started a snug little business of their own, which I am instructed to state is payable well. Containing all that is necessary for an almanac, and a good deal besides."

Of course, the full extent of the humor of the burlesque could only be appreciated in circles where "Thomas' Old Farmer's Almanac" had been read for generations. But it sold well, and for ten years appeared regularly, and it has been estimated that Mr. Shaw made \$25,000 one way and another out of his "Almanac."

Mr. Shaw looked like a very melancholy man. He wore grotesque clothes and long gray hair. His latter days were far happier than his first. He lived to amass a considerable fortune, to acquire fame as a humorous author and lecturer, and to see his daughters well married. He had many warm friends, who speak in the highest manner of his excellent qualities of heart and head.—*New York Herald.*

A \$50 bridal hand-bouquet in New York was of delicately tinted lilacs.

### The Mexican Hacendado.

The following interesting interview with a Mexican farmer appears in a recent number of *The City of Mexico Two Republics*: "What salaries are earned by the farm hands in your district?"

"They earn 25 cents a day to \$5 a month, exclusive of rations, or weekly rations of four pounds or two English bushels of corn, a quarter of a bushel of frigeles (beans), and two pounds of coarse or fine salt. Each man gets this as a weekly allowance."

"Under what conditions are contracts made for farming?"  
"The contracts for the sowing of corn and beans are made by advancing to the farm hands two or three monthly payments before the work commences, which are deducted afterward from their wages, according to agreement. This is done to secure the laborers. They are then watched very carefully. There are sufficient laborers to be had in the municipality where I live, but in other places men are scarce."

"What are the principal agricultural products in your municipality, and what is the annual product?"

"Corn, beans, and sugar-cane are the leading agricultural products. On the average, the municipality produces yearly 70,000 bushels of corn and 4,000 bushels of beans. The sugar-cane crop yields generally 375,000 pounds of sugar and 90,000 pounds of molasses in the shape of cake. There are planted also nearly 2,000,000 mescal magueys. The corn sells at \$1 a bushel, the beans at \$2.50 a bushel, sugar at \$2.50 an arroba of 25 pounds, and the caked molasses at \$8 per arroba of 300 pounds."

"What are the retail prices of principal articles of consumption?"

"Beef is cheap compared with the City of Mexico. It sells from 6 to 8 cents a pound, and the meat is good, too. Corn retails at 5 and 6 cents an almod—twelfth of a bushel—and beans at 25 cents an almod."

"How does stock sell?"

"The average price of bulls and cows is \$10 a head. Heifers sell generally at \$14 a head and oxen at \$18. Three-year-old colts cost from \$10 to \$15 each; mares \$6 to \$8, and horses that have been broken \$20. Sheep are valued at \$1 a head. Small, thin hogs cost \$1.50 each, and fattened hogs at the rate of 10 cents a pound."

"Is it easy to acquire property?"

"No. It is difficult to purchase private property. Good land is sold at \$100 a fanega (8) acres. Second class land sells for \$60 a fanega, and uncultivated land at \$25. That is, when the owners of property are willing to sell, which is not often."

"What industries could be established in your district?"

"That is a hard question to answer, because the land in my municipality is not yet developed sufficiently to know what would best flourish there. There are now large sugar refineries and tanneries in some parts of the district in which Coahuila is situated. But the country is wild and unsettled yet."

### Editorial Room Etiquette.

The following simple rules should be placed in a conspicuous place in every editorial room in the country, for the guidance of visitors:

We have plenty of time—it's money we are after.

None but chestnut vendors allowed to remark, smilingly, to the editor using his scissors, "Ah, writing original editorials?"

When the visitor says he believes it is time for him to go, it is consistent to show his faith by his works.

Always ask what the circulation is now.

If you want to please the editor, never compliment what he has written, but praise what he has clipped from an exchange.

If you don't find a chair handy, sit on the editorial desk.

Don't hesitate to speak to the editor when he is writing; you may catch a brilliant thought, hot from the wires, so to speak.

Never subscribe until pressed to do so, and then remark casually to send the bill around sometime.

Don't fail to look over what proof and copy may be on the desk. This may prevent serious errors.

Be sure and suggest to the editor how the paper should run. They all do it.

When you want an exchange down in the bottom of the basket, never accept the editor's invitation to look for it. Assume a helpless expression, and let him waste his time in digging it out for you.

Always ask if the fighting editor is in. This not a chestnut outside of the guild.—*Merchant Traveler.*

### Boston Flowers of Speech.

"Margery Deane" writes to the *Transcript*: "Coming out of the Old Colony depot on arriving in Boston one day, I had a little experience which gave me a very exalted opinion of the flowers of speech of the Boston street gamin. Two small urchins, in rags, were tearing each other's hair, and had evidently been rolling together in the mud; they were having a fight. Without stopping to think of consequences, or of any danger to myself, I seized each by the shoulder. One ran as if I had been a policeman, the other stood his ground while I talked to him of the shamefulness of the scene I had witnessed. When I paused for breath, the little ruffian, his feet wide apart, his head cocked up, his thumbs in his pockets, drew out. 'I say, Missis, don't you think you'd better freeze your mouth, and give your tongue a sleigh-ride?' I didn't remain to discuss the proposition."

## SANTA CLAUS' HEADQUARTERS

This Year are at

# JONES BROS.

## CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Rare Chance for Holiday Shoppers.

### READ OUR OFFER:

For every dollar's worth of goods bought of us during the month of December, our patrons will receive a ticket which will give them a chance to secure any or all of the following beautiful presents:

## DRAWING TO TAKE PLACE DEC. 30, AT 7 O'CLOCK.

- 1st Prize. Elegant Decorated Tea Set, 44 pieces.
- 2d Prize. Large Photograph Album.
- 3d Prize. Velvet Wall Pocket.
- 4th Prize. Splendid Oil Painting, size 24x30 inches.
- 5th Prize. Decorated Toilet Set.
- 6th Prize. Large Parlor Lamp.
- 7th Prize. Heavy Silver Plated Pickle Dish.
- 8th Prize. Walnut Paper Holder.
- 9th Prize. Silver Plated Vase.
- 10th Prize. Large Scrap Album.

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET A VALUABLE ARTICLE FOR NOTHING.

Besides our immense assortment of Holiday Goods, we keep constantly on hand the

**Choicest Family Groceries,  
Gents' Furnishing Goods,  
Variety and Fancy Goods,  
Watches, Clocks and Jewelry.**

**JONES BROS., Cor. Main and C Sts., Union.**

## Oh! For the Holidays.

# HIGGINSON & ROGERS

La Grande.

We are again to the front with the finest assortment of DRUGGISTS' SUNDRIES and CHRISTMAS GOODS ever seen in the Valley.

Every person buying ONE DOLLAR'S worth of Goods from us during the month of December will receive a chance in the following beautiful and valuable presents:

- 1st Prize---Plush Celluloid Dressing-case.
- 2d " Heavy Silver-Plated Cake Basket.
- 3d " Large Wax Doll, over 4 feet high.
- 4th " Cigar Stand.
- 5th " Meerschmum Cigar Holder.
- 6th " Photograph Album, Bronze and Plush.
- 7th " Handsome Whisp Broom in Holder.
- 8th " Perfumery Set.
- 9th " Bisque Statue.
- 10th " Large Scrap-Book.

These Prizes will be drawn for on DECEMBER 31st, at SEVEN O'CLOCK.

We have an elegant stock of

**Christmas Cards, Celluloid Goods, Choice Perfumery, Dolls and Toys,  
Scrap Books, Photo Albums, Autograph Albums, Cups and Saucers.**

Our stock is too large to mention everything, but come and see for yourselves.

# Grande Roudre Drug Store,

**HIGGINSON & ROGERS, Props.,**  
La Grande, Oregon.