

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Thanks to Senator Dolph for a copy of his speech delivered in the Senate on the Oregon and Washington war claims.

The report of the Grand Jury will be found in another column. It contains information of general interest and should be read by all.

The *Lower Californian*, a paper recently established in Ensenada, comes asking to exchange. It is replete with information concerning that favored country.

The *Business Educator* is the name of a monthly paper published by the proprietors of the Portland Business College. It is a neat publication and creditable to that excellent institution.

Clark Wood has retired from the editorship of the *Weston Leader*, which has passed into the hands of Emley Ridenour and M. A. Baker. If these gentlemen make any improvement over Clark's management, they will have to rustle around lively.

Blaine has written to B. F. Jones, chairman of the National Republican committee that his name will not be presented to the national convention called to assemble in Chicago in June next for the nomination of candidates for president and vice-president of the United States.

If some inventive genius would patent a double-gear back-action bodkin of some kind to be carried around in your pistol pocket, so that when one of those fellows runs the fore finger of his right hand through the buttonhole of your coat and closes down on it, you could reach round and lop off his arm at one pass, he would be considered a great benefactor of the human race.

The Grand Jury reports that the county clerk's method of keeping accounts and the arrangement of files and records is excellent, and the office in better condition than at any time since the organization of the county, and that on account of the diligence of Sheriff Hamilton the delinquent tax list is less than ever before. Wouldn't it be well to keep that kind of work going for another two years? We think so.

W. J. Snodgrass, of La Grande, publishes a card in the *Gazette* that he will not be a candidate for the congressional nomination. J. G. Blaine, about the same time, announced that he would not be a candidate for the presidential nomination. It worries some of us because we don't know whether Blaine is apeing Snodgrass or Snodgrass is apeing Blaine, and whether they are "just monkeying around some" or are in dead earnest. The politician moves in a mysterious way his windwork to perform.

The *Salem Statesman* favors the movement, which it says is on foot to ask the legislature to declare the newspapers that use the ready-print, "illegitimate so far as the publication of legal notices is concerned." The issue of the *Statesman* containing this brilliant article, is composed principally of plates, stereotyped patent advertisements and stories clipped from the "patent" side of its exchanges. Comment is unnecessary. The only sensible way to conduct a newspaper is on the auxiliary plan. When one of our country brethren of the press announces that he is now going to print his paper "all at home" we pity his imbecility, but have nothing to say, as it is supposed that every man knows what he is about. But when some crank like the editor of the *Statesman* shoots off his mouth, we feel like expressing our opinion to the effect that the dampfools are not all dead. The time is past when Puritanic bigots can break a man on the rack because he differs from them in religion, make laws to prescribe what a man shall or shall not eat or drink, and legislate just how newspapers must be printed before people can patronize them.

It would seem that there is a persistent effort being made by one or two parties in Cornucopia to retard the development of the camp as much as possible, by circulating false reports about the O. G. M. Company, and its superintendent, Prof. Luce. In this it is quite evident that they have the sympathy of the newspapers of Baker City, the *Democrat* in particular; but for what reason, we cannot imagine, unless it is because the mines are in Union county, and the people there are not disposed to make Baker City their supply point. A few days ago a long article appeared in the *Democrat*, written by Robt. Kelly, of Cornucopia, in which the manner in which the O. G. M. Company has conducted work under the superintendence of Prof. Luce, is severely criticised. The article is evidently prompted by pique and envy on the part of Mr. Kelly, because his vast knowledge of mining matters has not been fully appreciated. That is the only reason we can conceive for his meddling with business that does not concern him. The parties sent out to examine the workings of the mine, report most favorably and are greatly pleased with the outlook. If they are satisfied, it looks as though outside parties who have no financial interest could manage to content themselves.

A POLITICAL CHAT WITH OUR READERS.

It is the prevailing idea that our system of government is the best, and that our methods of procedure in the selection, nomination, and election of public officers vouchsafe to the people a freer and fuller voice in the matter than is enjoyed by the citizens of other countries, but, to a person in a position to see and give the subject much attention, nothing would appear more erroneous. A condition in which the masses are so easily dictated to and led by the professional politicians cannot well be imagined. A few of the manipulators in national politics decide among themselves which shall be the next president and the decision must be accepted by the people. In state affairs it is the same. A few of the schemers fight and wrangle among themselves until it is decided upon what kind of a dose is needed, and the cathartic is administered to the people in the shape of a ticket which they, having "had a say in the conventions," swallow under the sugar coated delusion that they know the ingredients and helped mix the dose. In county affairs it is the same, and here the workings of the system is more clearly discernible than in the state manipulation. We have but little doubt that a few of "the professionals," not to exceed a dozen in all, of the democratic party in this judicial district and county (the republicans have hardly got to work yet, but it will be the same on their side when they do) have already decided among themselves who are to be the candidates at the coming election, and notwithstanding the primaries and conventions are yet to be held, and "the wishes of the dear people" are to be consulted, it is safe to say that most, if not all the persons selected by them will "get there just the same."

The cause of this is obvious. It is on account of the apathy and indifference on the part of the people at large. They take little or no interest in these things till the time for selecting the officers is at hand, and as they have not given the matter intelligent attention, they find themselves in a sea of uncertainty and are at a loss how to decide. They meet at the primaries and elect delegates to the convention. There it is the manipulator gets in his work, and the delegate, if he is not wide awake, and knows what he is doing, falls a victim, votes straight out for the candidate previously selected for him, and goes home firmly believing that he has done the country great service, that he is a statesman of considerable acumen, and fully determined to vote the party ticket straight if it "busts a hamstring."

This is the way matters have been conducted in the past, and the way they will be conducted in the future, unless the people wake up to the situation, and see themselves as they are seen by the wire pullers, take to thinking more for themselves and assert their independence.

The "party lash" is the weapon principally used in keeping refractory members inside the traces, and compelling their support of candidates selected, however unfit and objectionable they may be. Were it not for this unreasoning fealty to party, right or wrong, there would be a small opportunity for the improvement of things, by voting for the best men among the candidates put up by the opposing parties. It is well that all men cannot see alike, and that we have political parties opposed to each other in policy, for thus are things kept straight, and by the constant attrition of ideas, and the discussion of matters pertaining to the public welfare, is the chaff more liable to be winnowed from the wheat, and truth and order evolved from the chaos of conflicting opinions. In national affairs every man should support the party, the principles of which, he conceives to be most conducive to the general prosperity, but in county and local affairs and the election of judicial officers, no man should deem himself bound by party ties to vote for an objectionable candidate. If such a person is thrust upon him it is not only his right but his duty as a good citizen to vote for the opposing candidate, if he is a better man, and thus rebuke the influence that would thrust incompetency forward to the detriment of good government.

There is one place that the voice of the people can be heard to some purpose, and that is at the primary elections, and if they are wise and watchful, selecting suitable men to represent them, the result will be creditable to them and beneficial to the country. If, on the contrary, they sleep on their opportunity here, their interests are at once turned over to the professional politician and they have nothing more to do but lend their countenance to any dirty work that may be conceived.

That we may act intelligently and well in the campaign now at hand, every voter should interest himself in political affairs, and acquaint himself

as well as he can with the condition of things, and the names and qualifications of the men that he will in all probability be asked to support. We believe that a prospective candidate should be as fully discussed before his nomination as afterward on the principle that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. It is somewhat difficult to find out just who are to be candidates, for the professional does not consider that it is any of the people's business to know about such things till he is ready to tell them, and it is not his policy to do so till the last moment, when he has his plans well laid. The good old times when every man that wanted to be, was a candidate, and the best and most popular man carried off the honors is a thing of the past. That was altogether too simple an affair for the scheming politician. Now the average man is afraid to announce himself through the newspaper as a candidate, "subject to the will of the convention" lest it give offense to some one. The bosses have to be consulted first.

It seems to be the idea that a Congressman from Eastern Oregon should be elected this time, and it would no doubt be the proper thing, if a suitable man could be obtained, but such is not likely to be done. There are several would-be candidates, but rather than send one of them it would be better to retain our self respect and send none at all. Among the aspirants, T. C. Hyde, of Baker City, is the only one possessing any of the requisite qualifications, and he is deficient in many things. It will be hard to find a suitable candidate. Yet we have many men among us, engaged in the private avocations of life who would do us honor on the floor of Congress, but they are not schemers and will never be thought of. Wouldn't it be well for the people at large to do a little of their own thinking and find some of these gentlemen out?

For judge of this district there are several aspirants—all more or less objectionable,—among them young Clifford, the present prosecuting attorney. This gentleman we have nothing to say against as a man, but he certainly has made a very poor record as prosecuting attorney, and what could be expected of him as judge? His self-assurance in aspiring to an office of such dignity, is the only thing colossal about him that we can see. When the years have taught him moderation, and his judgment has been ripened by experience, the people will doubtless be ready to accord him due recognition. Until then we opine they will have no more use for him. Judge Walker seems to be giving general satisfaction and although he may not have the profound legal learning possessed by some, he has the better qualifications of sterling good sense and honesty, and it would probably be well to keep him where he is. He is not a demagogue, a schemer, nor a politician. We like him for what he is not.

In view of the proposed advancement of the present prosecuting attorney, the choice of the person to take his place will be among two or three, all of them really more objectionable than the present incumbent. Of what earthly use, except to draw his fees, would a prosecuting attorney be whom the people could not trust, or whom, on account of his incompetency it would be necessary to assist by employing another attorney to help him. Why not elect the other attorney to the office in the first place? This office is a very important one to the people and they should see that a proper person is nominated.

In the matter of selecting our representatives to the legislature, the same impediments exist. Our representatives in the past, with few exceptions, have been mere figure-heads, of which our friend Taylor, of Indian Valley, is a sample—good honest men, to be sure,—but utterly incompetent and without the least particle of force or influence. We would not mention this gentleman's name in this connection were it not that we understand he will be a candidate for re-election. Let us send representatives this time that will be creditable to us and capable of looking after our interests. If our readers think this is a good idea, we would suggest that they attend to the matter at the primaries.

If an official has been found competent and faithful, it would perhaps be well to continue him in office for a reasonable time at least, lest a change for the worse be made, and it would be but a proper recognition of his services. In this connection we will say that County Clerk Neill and Sheriff Hamilton have both made most excellent officials, and in the discharge of their duties during the past two years have proven themselves eminently fitted for the positions they occupy. This being the case we are in hopes that they will be unanimously nominated by their respective conventions and elected for another term. Reward for faithful service, and obscen-

ity for the incompetent is our motto, and it applies to political affairs as to everything else.

This chat has been continued too long and we will stop for the present. By next week other developments will be made and other phases of the situation will arise for discussion.

OBSTRUCTED STREAMS.

We are informed that parties in different parts of the county have so obstructed streams of water by mill dams, that fish cannot run up the streams to their usual spawning places. This is a flagrant violation of the law, and though it may be through ignorance of the law that it is done, still it is a well known principal of law that *ignorantia jura non excusat*. For the benefit of those who have not informed themselves on the law, we will give below Sec. 1950 of Hill's code of the laws of Oregon:

Sec. 1950. Any person or corporation who shall hereafter construct any dam or other obstruction across any stream of this State, in which salmon or other migrating fish run, shall provide a ladder or way, so as to permit such fish to pass such dam or other such obstruction; and any offending against the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty nor more than five hundred dollars; provided, that the provisions of this section shall not be construed to apply to any person or corporation duly organized for the purpose of propagating salmon or other fish in any of the streams of this State.

Migrating fish run in all the streams of this county, and any obstruction placed in any of these streams, that has no ladder or way for fish to pass freely over such dam or obstruction, is a violation of the law, and subjects the person so violating the law to a fine of from \$50 to \$500. It is a very easy and inexpensive matter to make a fish ladder for fish to pass freely over any dam for mill or irrigating purposes, and owners of such dams will do well to heed the law.

A FALSE RUMOR.

The *Milton Eagle* alluding to the rumor mentioned in *The Scout*, recently, that there would be an effort made to annex a portion of Union county to the proposed county of Lee, says:

For the information of the *Scout* and enemies of division, who probably started the above report, we wish to say that there is not the slightest reason or truth in the statement. We do not nor will not ask for any territory from Union county. Such a thing has never been advocated in eastern Union county, and a knowledge of the geographical features of the country would show the foolishness of the proposition. The *Scout* will do a great favor by correcting the report. Union county is just right as she stands and our people have no desire to net the hog.

We are pleased to note that the rumor is without foundation in truth. It was no doubt started by the enemies of division to serve their purpose. The area of the proposed county is amply sufficient, and from the overwhelming petition asking for its formation at the last legislature, we judge it would be a matter of justice to have the new county established.

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For years I have relied more upon Ayer's Pills than anything else, to

Regulate my bowels. These Pills are mild in action, and do their work thoroughly. I have used them, with good effect, in cases of Rheumatism and Dyspepsia.—G. F. Miller, Attleborough, Mass.

Ayer's Pills cured me of Stomach and Liver troubles, from which I had suffered for years. I consider them the best pills made, and would not be without them.—Morris Gates, Downsville, N. Y.

I was attacked with Bilious Fever, which was followed by Jaundice, and was so dangerously ill that my friends despaired of my recovery. I commenced taking Ayer's Pills, and soon regained my customary strength and vigor.—John C. Pattison, Lowell, Nebraska.

Last spring I suffered greatly from a troublesome humor on my side. In spite of every effort to cure this eruption, it increased until the flesh became entirely raw. I was troubled, at the same time, with Indigestion, and distressing pains in

The Bowels.

By the advice of a friend I began taking Ayer's Pills. In a short time I was free from pain, my food digested properly, the sores on my body commenced healing, and, in less than one month, I was cured.—Samuel D. White, Atlanta, Ga.

I have long used Ayer's Pills, in my family, and believe them to be the best pills made.—S. C. Darden, Darden, Miss.

My wife and little girl were taken with Dysentery a few days ago, and I at once began giving them small doses of Ayer's Pills, thinking I would call a doctor if the disease became any worse. In a short time the bloody discharges stopped, all pain went away, and health was restored.—Theodore Esling, Richmond, Va. #

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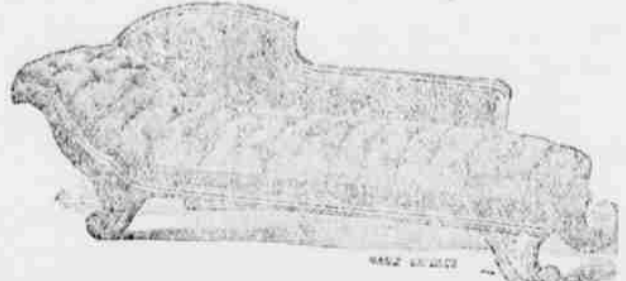
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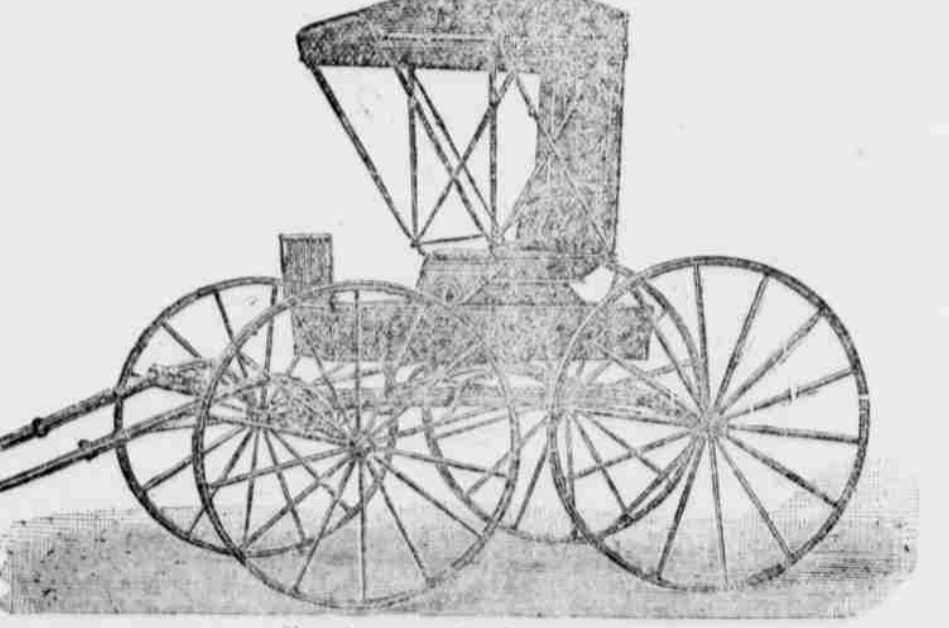
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