

THE OREGON SCOUT.

AMOS K. JONES EDITOR.

City and County Official Paper.

Friday, December 7, 1888.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Harrison's plurality in Oregon was 600 less than Congressman Herman's in June.

An eastern paper makes a valuable suggestion to Mr. Harrison, that it is easy to be the biggest toad in the puddle if he be careful about the size of the toads he chooses as his cabinet.

MEXICO has a high protective tariff, and labor is so well "protected" there that in good times laborers are able to command wages equal to twenty-five cents a day, says the Virginia City, Nev., Chronicle.

The democratic party needs no higher indorsement than this: The only possible chance for the republican party to maintain itself in power is to do practically the very thing the democrats proposed to do this year.

AN exchange ably remarks: "By the way, speaking of suppressed votes are free ballots and things, the democrats of Philadelphia cast 99,129 votes, and get one congressman, while the republicans cast 110,709 votes and get four congressmen! The gerrymander is mightier than the shotgun."

THE "malignant little scrubs of Oregon journalism," as termed by the Portland Buzzer, are the newspapers that have brains enough to see through the arrant hypocrisy of that venomous old saddle blanket, and independence enough to speak their minds.—Salem Statesman (Rep.)

THE Commissioner of the General Land office believes that much valuable land now claimed by the States as swamp lands can be restored to settlement and entry, and with a view to this end he proposes to institute a thorough examination of all the lands claimed under the swamp grants by competent agents at an early day. This is a step in the right direction.

AND now comes the news that a railroad trust has been formed by Gould, Huntington and others. If there ever was a time when these trusts needed to be set down upon it is just about at this juncture.—Ex.

That has been exactly our idea for some time, but the juncture has arrived when we think it is pertinent to ask our exchange, in the language of the average trust: "What are you going to do about it?"

GREAT agitation is now going on in the minds of the ladies of the Republic. It seems that Mrs. Cleveland discarded the bustle some time ago, and the general opinion was that that somewhat prominent appendage would quietly subside into "innocuous desuetude" as it were, but now comes Mrs. Harrison wearing a bustle of immense proportions and says they don't have to go. Society is looking on with breathless interest, and the end is not yet.

THE assessment rolls of the different counties show the valuation of taxable property in the state to be about \$90,000,000, as compared with \$84,888,580, last year, an increase of over \$5,000,000. The total tax will be 3.3 mills of which 3 mills will be for State purpose, two-tenths of a mill for the militia and one-tenth for the University of Oregon. Last year the State tax was 4.9 mills and the militia and university taxes the same as this year. The three mill tax will give \$270,000 for State purposes, the two-tenths-mill tax \$18,000 for the militia and one-tenth mill tax \$9,000 for the university.

ALTHOUGH Harrison has a majority of the electoral vote, Cleveland will have a majority of about 200,000 of the popular vote. This is a magnificent endorsement of tariff reform by the country. It shows too, how the popular will of the country is defeated by the electoral system of the country. The time is drawing nigh when this electoral humbuggery must cease. It is a menace to a government by the people, in that it makes it possible for a large minority to rule the majority. This is in direct opposition to our form of government and the constitution should be so amended as to do away with it. Let a majority of our people rule and we are right; but when that power is taken from them and given to the minority, the very foundation of the government begins to totter.—Signal.

A GLIMPSE OF THE CLOVEN HOGE.

The proprietors of the Monongahela coal mines, in Pennsylvania, have shut down in order to enable the coal trust to maintain its grip on the public, and 6000 men have been thrown out of employment for the winter, and their dependent families reduced to want and suffering. It is rather soon after election to expose the hollow pretense of the thousand "defenders of American industry;" but then the "defenders" are assured of four years of official power, and they live in the hope of being able to bamboozle the public on some other false issue in 1892, if indeed the proposed admission of the republican territories will not enable the republican party to get along without the laboring man altogether in the next campaign. Then, too, the "defenders" contributed handsomely to the corruption fund of the last election and of course have to get their money back from the general public in some way. How better than in a state like Pennsylvania, where an arrogant majority of 80,000 enables them to do such things with impunity. What matter if a few thousand little mouths go hungry, a few thousand little bodies unclad, a few hundred of them perhaps consigned to the grave, and some souls to perdition, so long as the "defenders" are enabled to look out for their pocket interests. They are not in politics for their health, and if they do not make back a portion of their contributions to the general campaign fund, many a little coaching trip through merry England, and many a jaunt on the continent will have to be abandoned.—Ex.

WOOL AND WOOLEN MILLS.

The high tariff on wool has filled the country full of second-hand woolen mill machinery. It is estimated that half the woolen manufacturing plants in the country could be bought for less than half the original cost. As an instance, a joint stock company organized at Santa Rosa some years ago has been obliged to shut down because there is no longer a market for inferior goods and the tariff on finer wools makes it impossible to import them for manufacture at a profit. The wool of this coast is not adapted for making fine dress goods when used alone although they would be very valuable for mixing with finer grades of Australian wool. Something is rotten when a woolen mill cannot be made to pay a profit with cheap wool, cheap water power and cheap Chinese labor—which the republican manufacturers on this coast employ almost exclusively—and it is very evident that the rottenness consists in restricting the manufacture to low-grade goods in the endeavor to compel the use of American grown fleeces exclusively. The proposition is incontestable that the admixture of free foreign wools in our manufactures would benefit alike the producer the consumer and manufacturer.—Ex.

PROPHETIC UTTERANCES.

Nearly twenty years ago, Abraham Lincoln uttered these prophetic words: "Yes we may all congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is drawing to a close. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. The best blood of the flower of American youth has been freely offered upon our country's altar that the nation might live. It has been, indeed a trying hour for the republic, but I see in the future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of our country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the public is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for my country than ever before, even in midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless."

AFTER BELL RUN, APPOMATOX.

The Indiana State Sentinel, one of the brightest and most aggressive papers of the country, thus voices the spirit of democracy: "The battle is not over. The monopolists have won a victory, but at a fearful cost to themselves and to the country. Their triumph will be short lived. The forces of selfishness, ignorance and corruption will not forever prevail. A reaction will come that will grind them to powder. It will come sooner than most reformers deem possible today as they contemplate the disaster that has overtaken their great cause. The slave power was never so confident, so arrogant, so seeming

invincible as after the repeal of the Missouri compromise in 1854. Ten years later there was not a slave in all the vast domain of the Republic. The total destruction of the infamous system of taxation, which plunders the many for the benefit of the few, is hastened rather than retarded by the event of last Tuesday. Pride goes before a fall. Madness precedes destruction. The insanity which seized upon the monopolists when they compelled the adoption of the infamous Chicago platform only makes their destruction more certain and more complete. There is nothing so short-sighted as selfishness. There is nothing so blind as greed. The monopolists have refused a compromise; they will be forced to surrender. It is a war of extermination from this time forward. The contest can have but one ending. The right will prevail; truth and justice will triumph in the end. After Bull Run will come Appomattox.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

Oregon has been nearly thirty years in the Union; it is one of the finest States the Union contains; it is larger than Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska, and nearly twice as large as Wisconsin or Iowa; it has a fertile soil, magnificently watered and timbered; it has access to an ocean on one side and a continent on the other; its climate is unsurpassed; it grows the finest wheat in the world, and the straightest and tallest trees for masts; it has noble fisheries and exceedingly promising coal fields; and yet with all these advantages, it has only a population of some 250,000, one-half as many as Dakota, one-third as many as Nebraska, one-fourth as many as Kansas or Minnesota, and one-seventh as many as Iowa. Why is this?

The chief products of Oregon are wheat, wool, hops and lumber. It has scarcely any manufactures. The State abounds in water-power, but owing to the war duty on raw materials it has never proved profitable to establish factories here. The extension of the wheat area has been hindered by the absorption of an immense share of the arable soil by sheep pasture. There are about 2,600,000 sheep in the State, and they use and waste a great deal of good land. The State would undoubtedly contain more people if it contained fewer sheep, and the sheep-growers would make more money if they raised less wool. The market is overstocked with Oregon wool. It has been selling in Boston at from 15 to 22 cents in the grease, while foreign clothing wool has commanded from 31 to 36 cents; Oregon washed fleeces have gone begging at 35 cents, while washed Australians are worth 55 cents. Why? Simply because there is more Oregon wool than spinners want. And the Oregon sheep-raiser fancies the tariff helps him.

COPP'S LAND REVIEW.

The New Additional Homestead Bill that Did not Become a Law.

Washington D. C.

Editor OREGON SCOUT: Some few weeks ago I gave a synopsis of a bill pending before Congress containing important and beneficent provisions, and predicted that it would pass both houses. Well, the prediction proved correct, but the bill failed to become a law because it was not reached by the President for signature before the adjournment of congress. I have no doubt that the matter will receive early attention when congress reconvenes in December; that the bill will be re-enacted, and receive the signature of the President. In order that the people may be familiar with all of its provisions, I print it entire in this letter to the exclusion of other matter, deeming it of the utmost importance; "An act to allow persons who have abandoned or relinquished their homestead entries to make another entry, for other purposes. "Be it enacted, etc. That any person who has not heretofore perfected a title to track of land which he has made filing upon under the pre-emption law, or entry of under the homestead law may make a homestead entry of not exceeding one-quarter section of public land subject to such entry such previous filing or entry to the contrary notwithstanding; but this right shall not apply to persons who perfect title to lands under the pre-emption or homestead laws already initiated. "Sec. 2. That whenever it shall be made to appear to the register and receiver of any public land office, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe, that any settler upon public domain under existing law, is unable by reason of drought whole or partial destruction of crops, sickness, or other unavoidable casualty to secure a support for himself, herself

or those dependant upon him or her upon the lands settled upon, then such register or receiver may grant to such settler a leave of absence from the claim upon which he or she has filed for a period not exceeding one year at any one time, and such settler so granted leave of absence shall forfeit no rights by reason of such absence: Provided, That the time of such actual absence shall not be deducted from the actual residence required by law.

"Sec. 3. That the price of all sections and parts of sections of the public lands, within the limits of the portions of several grants of lands to aid in the construction of railroads, which have heretofore and which may hereafter be forfeited, which were by the act of making such grants or have since been increased to the double minimum price and, also, of all lands within the limits of any such railroad grant, and not embraced in the grant lying adjacent to and coterminous with the portions of the line of any such railroad which shall not be completed at the date of this act, is hereby fixed at one and twenty-five cents per acre.

"Sec. 4. That from and after the passage of this act, any homestead settler who has entered less than one quarter section of land may enter other and additional land lying contiguous to the original entry, which shall not, with the land first entered and occupied, exceed in the aggregate, one hundred and sixty acres without proof of residence upon and cultivation of the additional entry; and if final proof of settlement and cultivation has been made for the original entry, when the additional entry is made, then the patent shall issue without further proof.

"Sec. 5. That every person entitled under the provisions of the Homestead laws, to enter a homestead, who has heretofore accepted title, on whom such homestead entry with the completion of said laws, and who shall have made his good faith residence, for a space of at least six months, and who shall have made such residence on the homestead land, shall be entitled to the benefit of the provisions of the United States homestead law, and in conformity with the homestead laws resided upon and cultivated the land entered therein and otherwise complied with such laws."

Should my opinion as herein expressed be verified, many homeless people will have occasion to rejoice in the opportunity to secure homes.

HENRY N. COPP.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

LAND OFFICE AT LA GRANDE, OREGON, Dec. 3, 1888.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of her intention to make final proof in support of her claim, and that said proof will be made before the register and receiver at La Grande, Oregon, on Feb. 15, 1889, viz:

HARRET J. HENDERSON, devisee of William W. Ross, deceased.

Hd. No. 173, for the SE 1/4, NE 1/4, and NW 1/4, Sec. 7, and SW 1/4, NW 1/4, and NW 1/4, SW 1/4, T. 8 S., R. 42 E.

She names the following witnesses to prove her continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz:

W. D. Emel and H. W. Lee, of Keating, Oregon, and Geo. W. Wright and James R. Satus, of Medical Springs, Oregon.

Any person who desires to protest against the allowance of such proof, or who knows of any substantial reason, under the law and the regulations of the Interior Department, why such proof should not be allowed, will be given an opportunity at the above mentioned time and place to examine the witnesses of said claimant, and to offer evidence in rebuttal of that submitted by claimant.

HENRY RICHARD, Register.

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