

THE OREGON SCOUT.

AMOS K. JONES EDITOR.

City and County Official Paper.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Tacoma, W. T., *West Coast Trade* and the *Fall River Advocate*, of Shasta county, Cal., are on our table. They are both new ventures in the journalistic field. We wish them success.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND celebrated the birthday of Washington very appropriately by signing on that day the bill for the admission into the Union of the four new States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Washington.

AND NOW comes an express trust. Wells, Fargo & Co., Calvin S. Brice, The Adams, T. C. Platt's and the U. S. Express company are going into a big combine. There is nothing to keep these "entirely private affairs" from flourishing now.

A critic in the *Albany Democrat* makes the startling assertion that "Haggard's novels are a pack of senseless lies." We have no desire to impeach Mr. Haggard's veracity, but in truth we never did believe more than half of what he has written.

THERE is going to be lots of fun between the old republican office holders who had to step down and out when the democracy came in four years ago and the new bloods who think they are entitled to a little of the pork. The old fellows are expecting to catch right on where they left off while the young fellows are crying out for a new deal.

A correspondent in the *East Oregonian* thinks that judges of the supreme court should don silk gowns while on the bench. He is evidently an emigrant from some European government and imagines that wigs and tinsel give dignity to judges, and clothes an upstart lord or duke with majesty. Maybe it does, where he came from, but in this section of the globe, honesty, uprightness and true manhood are sufficient to clothe a judge with dignity, and command respect.

THE Adjutant of the Salvation Army at San Jose, Cal., on the occasion of his marriage ceremony, said he was glad religion did not mean unhappiness. He believed in cheerfulness in religion. "I think that only those who believe in Jesus Christ are happy," said he. "I believe the bad will go to hell, and only those who accept Jesus Christ will go to heaven." As that puts about one out of a million of all who have existed on the earth in heaven and sends the remainder to eternal fire and brimstone it is a most cheerful reflection. Let the saints rejoice.

THE Rural Spirit says that reference has been made to the fact that the butchers over on the Sound are willing to pay Nebraska cattlemen more for beef cattle than to cattlemen within our borders. The reason of this says the butchers, "If a bunch-grass cattlemen catches us short a beef or two, up goes the price two or three cents." In reply to this the cattlemen say that if they come in with a few more head of cattle than are wanted for a day or two, "down goes the price, and we are compelled to take what we can get." Our friends certainly do not study business principles from correct standpoints. To live and let live is right; and there should be an understanding.

A writer in discussing the advisability of cultivating long haired cattle particularly for the western ranges, says: "Out west on the ranges the well-haired cattle suit the situation best, and are therefore most sought after. We understand that at present an experiment is being made in a western state with a Buffalo-Galloway cross and that a very heavy coat of hair has been produced on the progeny. It is this coat of hair that the experimenter is after, as he thinks his cross will be the best yet found on the range for use. While we do not altogether agree with him as to the suitability of his strange cross, we certainly agree with him entirely as to the advantage of producing a heavy coat of hair. There is a practical suggestion to all breeders in this new discovery. It is to cultivate heavy coats on pure bred beef cattle for their better protection against the rigors of the cold winters.

THE *La Grande Gazette* has got a spurt of what it calls "enterprise" on itself and has discarded its patent outside and is now printed "all at home." The *Journal*, which has been all printed at home heretofore, comes out with a patent outside printed by the E. O. publishing company. We think the *Journal* displays the best judgment and is now decidedly the best paper.

It is a pity that the county seat contest could not take place tomorrow. If it should, Union would come out ahead with at least 500 majority. La Grande, in itself, would be a very sorry rival, but should it receive the aid and support of the O. R. & N. Co., which it doubtless will, it will be much more formidable, and the combination may run in on the railroad enough Italians, Hungarians and Chinamen to override the will of the people. It is the only way that can hope to succeed in the dirty work that has been so conspicuously started by the legislature.

It is questionable which is preferable a knave or a fool but neither is any advantage in a town; but still less should the actions of such a person be allowed to retard progress. Let us stick together now more than ever for we must have united action to insure success; and we should be content with nothing else. Do not let local dimensions arise and when anyone "blocks the wheels" from personal grounds they should be "frowned down." Revenge is sweet to those who imagine themselves to be wronged and some will pray for the downfall of another even though it should cause their own ruin. A spirit of this kind may result in a total dismantling of business unity. Let us lay aside personal prejudices and work together for a common end. "A house divided against itself must fall."

THE National W. C. T. U. passed a resolve that "Christ and His gospel shall be king and code sovereign in our government and our political affairs. In this kind of effort some Roman Catholics are aiding the W. C. T. U. As in the past innumerable denominations have been fighting, throat-cutting, burning, torturing and hanging each other on differences of opinion as to points fundamental respecting this code they would establish for our political government, we can hardly imagine what sort of government we shall have in case they succeed. That they tolerate each other now is owing solely to the strong arm of that free and equal constitution they would overturn. They have procured fourteen million signatures of women and children to their petition. Millions of the ignorant colored people of the south have signed ("or been signed"). Could they succeed, the consequences would be dreadful. But this federal constitution, made and maintained by the blood of so many heroes, is not to be undermined by folly.—Ex.

THE *La Grande* papers persist in the statement that the petition for the enabling act contained more names than the remonstrance. If the names of passing travellers, unaturalized foreigners, and dead men count, it may be that it had, but if the names of bonafide citizens and legal voters are counted they know as well as we do that the remonstrance was largely in the majority. On the petition and remonstrance together there were some six or eight hundred more names than there were legal voters in the county. Quorum wasn't it? So far as we have yet heard the *La Grande* papers have not attempted to "account for the milk in the ecosystem." It is a matter of no consequence, however, now, and in truth we do not believe that the remonstrance cut any figure in the case, whatever. Had Senators Norval and Raley and Representative Roe wished to serve the best interests of the county there was no impediment to their doing so. If there were any doubt in their minds as to the wishes of their constituents, they were not ignorant of the fact that a colossal fraud was being perpetrated either by the petitioners or the remonstrators. Knowing this, as they did, their unbiased judgment should have caused them to throw out both, as evidence, and to arrive at a conclusion from their own observation and personal knowledge of the situation. Had they pursued this course, Union county would not now be plunged in turmoil and strife, its property value unsettled, the improvement of the county impeded, which will result, if the nefarious schemes thus favorably commenced are successful, in an enormous increase in taxation, the division of the county, and chaos from which we cannot extricate ourselves for many years.

BILLS PASSED.

Among the bills passed by the legislature and which escaped the quietus of the governor's veto, are the following: A bill by which contractors, subcontractors and laborers who have claims against railroad companies on contracts, or for work faithfully performed, are given a lien on the company's property for any amount equal to but not exceeding the contract price agreed upon.

Designating the second Friday in April as Arbor day. On this day the children of the public schools are to assemble and plant trees. It is hoped to stimulate not only the children, but the grown people as well to the benefits and the necessity of tree-planting and the preservation of our forests.

A bill for compelling parents and guardians to send their children, between the age of 8 and 14 years, to school for at least twelve weeks in the year, and eight weeks must be consecutive, provided, of course, that the health of the child will permit, or that it is not receiving private tuition at home. A neglect to comply with the conditions of this law, subject the parents or guardians to a fine of from \$5 to \$25 for the first and from \$20 to \$50 for the second offence.

A bill making it a misdemeanor for any person to ask for himself or another to be put on a jury, and for the sheriff or constable to concede to the request. Persons offending in this are liable to a fine of \$300.

A bill regulating the practice of medicine and surgery, creating a state board of examiners; before any person can practice medicine or surgery in this state he must obtain from the board of examiners a certificate granting him this right. Any person neglecting to comply with the requirements of this bill is subject to a fine of from \$50 to \$500 and imprisonment in the county jail. This law does not apply to persons now practicing, provided that within sixty days from the passage of the bill they cause their names and residences to be registered in the office of the county clerk.

A bill to repeal the provision in the statutes, Sec. 3458, "holding owners of wire fences, not kept in substantial compliance with the terms of the law, liable for damages to stock killed or injured by coming in contact with the fences."

Section 1766, in regard to stealing animals, was amended so as to include the dog in the list, for which a person may be punished. As the law now stands, it provides an imprisonment of from 1 to 10 years in the penitentiary, or from three months to one year in the county jail, or a fine of from \$50 to \$1,000.

Section 4404 is so amended as to include hogs in the list of animals, for the killing of which on an unfenced track, a railroad company is liable to damages.

Section 4035 now makes it the duty of the road supervisors to have safe and permanent banisters constructed on every bridge reaching a height of 6 feet or more above the ground or water over which it passes.

Section 2907 has been amended so that the school fund received annually by each school district shall be exhausted within and during the year for which such apportionments are made; if not so used or any balance be left it shall revert to the general state fund; it is provided that this apportionment shall be used for the payment of teaching said school and for no other purpose whatever.

Section 5009 is so amended that all persons 21 years of age and over who pay taxes and have children to educate are allowed to vote at school meeting. This does not apply to districts having a population of 1000 and upward.

THE *Journal* puts the report in circulation that the Union people are great schemers, and intend to raise the first \$90,000 of the Hunt subsidy and when the road is built "let Mr. Hunt whistle for the other half." This idea fairly scintillates with originality and cuteness and is worthy of La Grande and its papers. Mr. Hunt requires the full amount of the subsidy to be raised by the first of April, on good negotiable paper, one half to be due, and payable when the road is completed, the other half to be due and payable one year later.

In twenty-four hours after the inauguration of Harrison, Cleveland took his position as partner in the law firm of Bangs, Stinson, Tracy & McVeagh, and has been attending studiously to business ever since, having, seemingly forgotten that he was ever president of the United States. Cleveland is a typical American, and one that his fellow countrymen may well be proud of.

The arguments of the *La Grande Journal* against the Hunt railroad proposition, and the fatherly advice it gave to the people of Union last week is amusing. It says:

Even if the Hunt railroad should be built it is hardly possible that Union would be the best town on the road. Either Elgin, Summerville or Cove have better advantages for a town than Union. In view of these things it would seem unwise for the people of Union to subscribe an amount equal to about one-fourth or one-third of their entire wealth in order to get a railroad that, when completed, would be of equal importance to other points along the line, and which could not be of any great benefit to the town. It is true that Union has a beautiful location and is possessed of certain natural advantages, which, were they once utilized, could not fail to build up the place and give vigor and encouragement to her people. We refer to the water power which is so well adapted to manufacturing interests of all kinds. If the people of Union and vicinity would subscribe one-fifth the amount necessary for the subsidy and establish woolen mills or other manufactories, they would find that their interests would be better guarded for all time to come than by the building of the Hunt or any other railroad that could be brought to their town.

We are truly thankful for the above advice, but the people here are just bullet headed enough to not take it. They want the railroad first, thinking that woolen mills and other little improvements will come afterward. They may be about half right in this. If the Hunt road would make better towns than Union out of Elgin, Summerville and Cove, why shouldn't they contribute pretty liberally to the subsidy? We think they will, and if it happens that they get to be better towns than Union, it will be a benefit to the entire county and we will not complain.

THE people of La Grande and the O. R. & N. Co. are doing everything in their power to prevent the building of the Hunt road as they know it will be the ruin of them. The O. R. & N. Co. have their emissaries out making all manner of promises and offering inducements to the men who are most likely to subscribe to the subsidy, and the *La Grande* papers are saying that the branch from there to Wallowa is a sure thing and will be built this summer. It only requires a little thought to see that all this is mere bravado on their part to defeat the Hunt road. The O. R. & N. Co. do not want to go to the expense of building a branch to Wallowa, for they get all the trade, anyway, and if they did seriously contemplate building it La Grande would be the first to oppose it, for it would be almost as great a calamity to that town as the building of the Hunt road would be. All the men and teams that have hauled freight and grain to and from that place would be seen no more, the stage line would be discontinued, the hotels would be tenantless, the bums around the saloons would find new pastures, and the town would soon become, figuratively speaking, a lonesome wart on the tail of the O. R. & N. Co. About all the force needed in that place to transact the business of the southern end of the county would then be a man to switch off the trains and send them on their way. No, we have no hopes of that branch ever being built. There is nothing in it for the company and it would be death to La Grande. Should the Hunt road come by way of the Thomason & Ruckles pass, the O. R. & N. Co. might extend a branch to Wallowa, thinking to secure the trade of that country, and La Grande would not object, for the Hunt road will have taken everything away that it had to lose. If Hunt's road is extended from Wallowa through Looking glass, it will tap the Wallowa valley with a feeder, the O. R. & N. Co. will conclude that the trade of that country is "sour grapes" anyway, and the people will have cause to rejoice.

ON the 4th inst. at Washington city, General Harrison took the oath of office as president of the United States and delivered his inaugural address to a surging mass of curious humanity. Every thing passed off about as usual but the elements were not propitious and a drenching rain fell constantly during the ceremonies. We would like to publish the address in full but cannot on account of our limited space. Its utterances are cautious and non committal but on the whole fairer than we expected. It is not, however by presidents Harrison's address that his administration will be judged, but by his acts during the next four years. If he has courage enough to repudiate the collar of the treacherous and crafty Blaine, and rise superior to the republican party of today, he may do passably well, and make a president acceptable to the masses of American citizens.

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