

THE OREGON SCOUT.

AMOS K. JONES EDITOR.

City and County Official Paper.

Thursday, Aug. 29, 1889.

AID THE TRUSTS.

Under the above caption The Financial News advances some original and sensible ideas. It says:

By some perversity of fate, reforms are generally instituted after the damage is done, not before. Although the danger is seen and heralded by a few, yet the masses will not heed until the crisis is reached. Perhaps the most effectual method of checking the present rage for combinations or trusts is to aid them. This on the principle of getting an obnoxious law repealed by enforcing it, and again of, "give them enough rope and they will hang themselves." Pulpit, press and platform are now engaged in a general philippic against the trusts. But cui bono? A law to be effective must have public support and never was voice raised against an evil more common than this. Probably three-fourths of the male population of the country are industriously endeavoring to do likewise. A vast majority are even willing to admit that they would do the same thing themselves—if they could. How then is it possible in the face of these indisputable facts, to secure any relief by legislation? As well try and check prize fighting when the whole population is wild for it; gambling, when two-thirds of the people are indifferent; or the social evil, when nine-tenths of the people believe it a necessity. The whole difficulty is with ourselves. We lack the moral courage to stop these things at their inception. Subsidies must needs first be overdone before they are stopped. Stock watering has to be carried to an excess before the snag of adverse granger legislation, so called, is encountered, supported by public opinion. Corruption in office has to be of such a glaring nature, and has to be drummed so persistently into the ears of the people through the medium of the press, before any one conceives it his duty to do anything, that it requires an outburst of indignation by the masses before it is stopped. The government pension role which has accumulated so enormously within the last few years will have to assume the proportions of a colossal deficit before anything is done to check the flood gate of treasury outpourings. And who will suffer? The soldiers themselves. A demand for retrenchment will come, so sweeping in its effects that the really deserving will have to suffer on account of the professional pension grabber, and their want of foresight. So it goes. Every evil must have a culmination, a crisis. This law seems as natural and certain as that the excretion or boil of the human system must gather, come to a head, and break. These imperfections in the body politic, it would seem, in an analogous manner have to become absolutely putrid before they are corrected. The only remedy then seems to be to encourage the combinations, for the more of them and the more they abuse their power, the shorter will be their reign. Perhaps the millennium in this regard will never come, until a succession of evils, so frightful and far-reaching in their effect have shook the very foundation of society, that then a mighty reform wave will sweep over us, that may cause a relapse of a few whole months. These spasmodic reforms are not permanent however. To the cynic they do but furnish proof of the futility of all effort. The only real remedy is education, reason and morality.

Under the present rulings of the land office a married woman in Oregon is not entitled to enter timber land, and the land offices refuse to accept such filings. The reason is that, under the timber land act of June 3, 1878, married women are allowed to make filings only in those states and territories where they are entitled under the laws to purchase and hold real estates as a femme sola. In Oregon a married woman has no such right, as our laws require the husband to join in a deed of conveyance by the wife. In California, on the contrary, a wife may convey without the consent of the husband, and the land office in consequence discriminates in favor of residents of the latter state in the matter of receiving timber-land filings. It is an unjust discrimination against the married women of Oregon, and an appeal has been taken in a number of cases now pending from the commissioner's decision to the secretary of the interior.

THE MEN WE WANT.

The following true remarks are taken from the Astoria Pioneer. They should be well heeded:

"There is a large immigration coming into Oregon, and some of it of a class that there is no particular use for, as we are pretty well supplied with men who are looking for soft snaps. What we want is men to cut our timber, build our railroads and engage in all enterprises that aid in the development of our natural resources and increase the sum of material wealth. Men who do not care to engage in such enterprises had better keep away; there is no place for them. It is one of the poorest places in the world for young men without means, who despise manual labor. Soft places, "snaps," where high salaries are paid and nothing to do, have no existence here, and success is only to be won by hard labor and a prodigious amount of it. For young men who have to start from the lowest round of the ladder and have an abundance of mental and physical energy, there is plenty of room. They are men we need, and we can offer them incomparable opportunities; they have only to labor, in order to mount the ladder of prosperity. It is idleness that is at discount here. Labor is "king." It wants no lazy vagabonds or tramps. This is a good country for good and worthy men and women, too. No others need apply."

THE WRONG METHOD.

Injustice like the following from a Portland paper is too often perpetrated: "During a recent trial in Portland it was developed that an honest fellow had been detained in the county jail some months pending trial because he was unfortunate enough to witness the killing of a man, and because he could not procure bonds for his appearance at court. Montana has inserted a provision in her constitution which allows the deposition of the witness to be taken in the presence of the prisoner and his counsel. The possible objection to this lies in the fact that the jury are deprived thereby of the benefit of the presence of the witness and his actions on the stand. But this objection takes cognizance only of the supposition that witnesses do not intend to present themselves in trial, whereas in the majority of cases they will willingly come to court and testify. In any event there is less injustice in the new than in the old method whereby often an honest and reputable man was thrown in company for months with low criminals simply because he is too poor to purchase freedom."

THE RESULT.

The Portland Welcome act as to be about the only paper in that avaricious city that is fully awake to the condition that their short sighted policy has brought them. It says:

"We tender our congratulations to the O. R. & N. Co., the Portland Board of Trade and the Oregonian. The course pursued by them, the first as principal and the last two as outsiders and abettors, in throttling the commerce of the Columbia river to Portland as it is from the entrance of Puget Sound to Tacoma is now producing its legitimate effects. We have pointed out time and again in these columns, demonstrating that unless we equalized conditions, ships would charter for less rates to Puget Sound, which would make Tacoma the best wheat market. We are now made conversant of the fact that owners are chartering ships for Tacoma at five shillings per ton less than from Portland, and in one instance six shillings. This difference will enable wheat operators in Tacoma to pay three cents per bushel higher for wheat than his competitor can who loads in Portland. This state of affairs has been brought about by the assiduity of the Union Pacific management of the O. R. & N. Co., who have failed properly to grasp the situation, in which policy they have received the condoning support of the Portland Board of Trade and the Oregonian.

This is a nice legacy to leave to a proud city of 50,000 inhabitants; its wharves idle, its business transferred to an obscure shipping point 150 miles northward; simply and entirely because the O. R. & N. Co. persists in making it costlier for ships to get to Portland than it costs to get them from Cape Flattery to Tacoma.

The consequent result of this condition of affairs is, that the farmers of Eastern Oregon and Washington, who have hitherto been patrons of the O. R. & N. Co. and Portland, will consult their best interests and ship by the Hunt and N. P. system to Taco-

ma. It will be three cents per bushel in the farmers' pockets to do so, and we are glad a means of escape has been afforded them from the utterly stupid management of the O. R. & N. Co. Until a sensible railroad control gets hold of the affairs of that corporation, Portland must suffer. It is only a question of a limited time, as no company can afford to give away its patronage and survive; some dawn of reason will come to the present lessees or it will bankrupt them and the ruins of this mismanaged forty million dollar corporation some one will come into control of with sense enough to compete for business. In the meantime we advise every farmer and wheat shipper east of the Cascades to bank his wheat with those who are able to give the most for it. We are sorry to lose you, but some day when the fool-killer comes around and kills off a lot of purblind managers, the leaders of a sycophantic board of trade and the fawning Oregonian, Portland will recall you to our crib as she has in times before, and with all conditions being equal, you will answer the summons."

ON THE ALERT.

The following resolutions were among those lately adopted by the Oregon State Grange:

Resolved, That we look with disapproval upon the act of the majority of Oregon's past legislators for refusing to pass a resolution asking Congress to change the Constitution of the United States so as to admit of the United States Senators being elected by a direct vote of the people.

Resolved, That we demand a change in the taxation and assessment laws so as to compel moneyed corporations to pay their just shares of the revenues of the state and that the bill as introduced by Senator Wager during the session of 1880 should become a law.

Resolved, 1st. That the law organizing the Agricultural College of the State of Oregon be so amended as to provide that the Board of Regents shall consist of men, two-thirds of whom are practical farmers engaged in agriculture.

2d. That the curriculum of said college be confined to those branches of learning which will specially aid the work of those engaged in practical agriculture and the mechanical arts.

3d. That all the students of said college be required to perform practical labor on the farm or in the household so that their education will fit them for the practical duties of farming and mechanical pursuits.

Resolved, That the State Grange urge the next session of the legislature to enact a law to give every citizen the right to retain a homestead or goods or chattel to the valuation of \$1000 from attachment of judicial sale.

"BARN'S" criticisms in this issue are not out of place, although rather more stringent, we think, than the facts will warrant. We believe that the citizens of Union are up to the average in the way of enterprise, and have done exceedingly well considering the circumstances. At a great cost of money, time and trouble we secured a wagon road to Cornucopia, and recently over eighty thousand dollars have been subscribed for the purpose of securing a competing line of railroad. Everything cannot be done at once. In time, we have no doubt, the telephone line, a daily stage line, and other improvements will be made. In the meantime the people of Cornucopia should not rely too much upon others, but get in and do a little rustling on their own account.

Mr. G. W. HUNT, president of the O. & W. T. railroad, has been expected in this city for the past ten days to conclude the business pertaining to the subsidy, which has been awaiting his pleasure for several weeks. As yet nothing has been heard from him. Just what is the reason for this silence we cannot say, but as it is a matter of considerable importance to the people of this valley, as well as himself, it is to be hoped that a final adjustment of it will not be delayed. The committee is certainly direct in its duty in not knowing more about this matter than it appears to know. What is the committee doing, anyway?

The Montana constitution makers have incorporated a curious provision covering the taxation of mining property, that they shall be taxed, not on what they produce, but on what they first cost. The supposed object is to promote the development of the mineral resources of the state, but non-resident mine owners whose personal property cannot be reached are given a singular advantage over residents.

The telegraph company that does the business of this country seems to be utterly indifferent to the wants and feelings of the people. A telegram, no matter of how much importance, rarely reaches its destination sooner than a letter would. Laws should be enacted to compel such corporations to pay some attention to the business they are engaged in.

Our present system of taxation taxes one per cent of the saving of the very rich man, seven per cent of the moderately rich man's, and eighty per cent of the poor man's. And yet it is the poor man's vote that upholds this gross inequality in taxation, "single tax," or almost any change, however radical, could scarcely fail to be a blessing.—E. O.

MARRIED.

TOLLEY—DUNSHEE.—At the Union City hotel, Sunday, August 19th, by Rev. L. J. Booth, Mr. J. R. Tolley and Mrs. Rebecca Dunshee, both of the Cove.

HOFFMAN—PELTON.—At the Union City hotel, Monday, Aug. 27th, by Rev. L. J. Booth, Mr. Geo. P. Hoffman and Mrs. Emma Pelton, both of La Grande.

DIED.

COOPER.—At her residence near Huntington, Aug. 25th, Mrs. Louisa Cooper, aged 70 years.

Mrs. Cooper has been a resident of this country for a number of years, and leaves one daughter and three sons. One son, Mr. T. H. Cooper, resides in Union. The sympathy of THE SCOUT and many friends is extended to him in his loss.



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