

# THE OREGON SCOUT.

AMOS K. JONES EDITOR.

City and County Official Paper.

Thursday, January 9, 1890.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The political pot is beginning to simmer a little and will, no doubt, get to boiling before many weeks. We think it is safe to say, however, that politics will cut no figure in the election in Union county, and that the contest will be conducted solely on local issues.

The East Oregonian puts the report in circulation that a gas well or something of the kind, has been discovered near La Grande, and that the people there are very much excited over it. The E. O. is about two years behind time. We discovered the flow about two years ago and the thing has been spluttering and spouting ever since reminding us of the wind "soughing" through a "key-hole," or the atmosphere escaping from a bladder in the hands of a small boy with a straw. The gas is genuine, what there is of it, but about two thirds of it is concentrated lie.

The North American Review contains a lengthy discussion between Gladstone and Blaine on the subject of "Free trade and Protection." Not having read the debate we are unable to say whether Mr. Gladstone "approaches the subject with a reverential calm" or not, but if he does it is safe to say he will get the ear knocked off him again. The old fellow will find that to cope with an American successfully he will have to put in his licks straight from the shoulder, in a lively manner and never think of drifting into a "reverential calm" until the mill is over with.

The La Grande Journal reports that Hunt has sold out to the U. P., and that the Grande Ronde branch will not be built. The Gazette of the same town says, the road will be built, but will come by way of Starkey Prairie and La Grande. The two papers should compare notes before trying to deceive the people. While they are fooling themselves and befuddling their little coterie of readers in La Grande who want to believe something of the kind, preparations for the building of the road by way of Summerville and Elgin go right along, and before six weeks Hunt will have his army of men in here at work.

It will be noticed by our readers that an unusual number of new subscriptions to THE SCOUT, have been received during the past two or three weeks. Since the first issue of the paper it has had such a steady and rapid growth as to be considered almost phenomenal. Although we have made no special effort to widen its circulation, we can truthfully say, that there has never been a single week of its existence that its subscription list was not larger than it was the week before. This knowledge is very gratifying to us as it proves conclusively that the manner in which the paper is conducted has been satisfactory to the people.

The operation of the new jury system adopted by the two Dakotas will be watched with considerable interest throughout the country. It is the first attempt to test in modified form the Prussian system, which permits a majority of a jury to render a verdict in criminal cases, the punishment being sealed from the maximum in proportion to the number voting for the verdict. By the laws of the Dakotas, if nine of the twelve men agree in any case, their decision will be accepted as a verdict. This is a departure in the line of reason and common sense, which commends itself. If this method is supplemented by making intelligence a qualification of jurors, it can hardly fail to work satisfactorily.

The La Grande Gazette is fretting itself almost sick because the county tax levy is "so high this year" and says: "The levy is the work of a democratic judge who 'has it in' for La Grande." Although the levy, no matter how high it is, will not bear heavily on the proprietors of the Gazette, we call their attention to a communication of Judge Goodall's, in this issue of THE SCOUT, concerning the subject in question and other county matters. Their inference that Goodall runs the county court is certainly not flattering to the honesty and intelligence of the two republican commissioners who sit with him. The honesty and intelligence of the two commissioners, however, will not be questioned by the people at large, no matter what the Gazette may say.

### "CONTEMPT OF COURT.."

The Jackson county Valley Record of last week, for its leading editorial, had a somewhat surprising philippic against the "jurisprudence" of Southern Oregon, in which the statement was made that the circuit judge had ordered an investigation into the fact of the suspicious disappearance of a material witness for the state in a certain criminal case, and then the court is recommended to "investigate itself and everybody connected with the management and manipulation of the jurisdiction of Southern Oregon." The editor then goes on to give a picture of outraged justice that makes Oregon tremble for her liberties. He wants to know why one man can be convicted of murder on circumstantial evidence and hanged by the neck till he is dead, dead, dead, and another man can escape when the evidence is just as "convicting in its circumstantialness;" why attorneys can offer bribes to grand jurors; and why other things "just as queer, irregular and delicate, and too numerous to mention," are occurring. The statement is made that, "the practicing condition of jurisprudence in this section of the world is as corrupt and criminal in its methods (in proportion to population, amount and magnitude of crime and purse of criminals) as it is in the cities where these cases are regularly handled, by the political boss who makes the officials, fixes the jurors, and attends to the case for a large sum." Following this, the editor takes a sly at the "political methods in vogue in Jackson county" and the shameless way in which its representative officials are allowed to sell out their constituency for a beggarly sum.

When the paper was read in court, Judge Webster promptly ordered a citation to issue to the publishers of the Record, Jacobs & Kaiser, to appear Monday, Dec. 16th, and show cause why they should not be punished for contempt of court, and the end is not yet. It is to be hoped that if the Record can substantiate its charges, it will not be bulldozed into silence, but continue to make it uncomfortable for the rodents. That is what a newspaper is for, and in doing its duty it will receive the support of the people.

### A GREAT PAPER.

The New Year's edition of the San Francisco Examiner was a superb illustration of the heights that may be attained, in the journalistic field, by the combination of genius, skill and indomitable resolution. The edition contained forty-four pages—308 columns of closely printed, original, spicy and interesting matter, profusely illustrated. Besides the latest telegraphic news from every part of the world, and able editorials on current events, it portrayed the past and future of the Pacific coast in a unique and original manner. Several pages are devoted to the stirring events succeeding the first settlement of the State, the discovery of gold, and the marvelous days of '49. The editorial page of a San Francisco paper, published in that year, is reproduced in full, which is interesting in the extreme. Several pages represent a newspaper published in 1929—forty years hence, and is complete in every department, containing news from every part of the world, a description of several battles fought on the earth and in the air with various new and startling methods of destruction. Two pages are devoted to the answers given by the newspaper men of the coast to the question: "What will be the most important invention during the next forty years?" Taken altogether it is a wonderful edition and reflects much credit on the managers of the paper. The Examiner is fast getting to be the paper among the people of Eastern Oregon, and has an extensive circulation here, which is constantly growing. Heretofore the people have depended for telegraphic news on the Portland Oregonian, which can no more be compared to the Examiner than a pigmy can be compared to a giant. We are pleased to see the Examiner coming to the front, and hope soon to chronicle the fact that it has started a branch office in this State.

The Portland Welcome says: It makes the poor devil sick who owns his little home and has the rest of his means invested in the business that supplies bread and butter for the babies to read the list of heavy taxpayers of this county and see how they—with-out our particularizing—cheat in their assessment returns, while his tax is almost "dollar for dollar." The wage earners and home owners pay the bulk of the taxes in this county, while the rich escape comparatively unscathed. Such assessment is cold-blooded fraud.

### COVE CULLINGS.

January 8, 1890.

Mrs. Joseph Lynch and daughter Miss Gladys of McMinnville, are passing the winter in the Cove. The guests of Mrs. Frank Mitchell, sister-in-law of Mrs. Lynch.

Mr. John Delaney had the good fortune to bag a couple of elk on the big Minam the other day. They were very large and in splendid condition. Mr. Delaney said, he encountered a band and could have killed several more had not a shell stuck in his needle gun.

Mr. James Harsin, has received the contract for filling the Cove Dairy Companies ice house, and is now hauling the ice from the river. James Bloom is cleaning out Hendershott's pond, and should the weather continue cold will therein freeze a supply for his own use.

Willis Fisher, will establish a cigar stand in connection with his barber shop in a few days.

Rev. Wm. R. Powell returned from a brief business visit in Portland last Sunday.

Miss Georgie Powell, returned this week from Baker City, where she has been visiting her uncle, Attorney Wm. Smith and family.

During his spare moments Mr. Ed. Robinson has been working at his wood pile, in order that he would have a generous supply of fuel ready for cold weather. He was congratulating himself on the successful completion of the job when the very same night some midnight traveler carried off his wood pile bodily, leaving Ed. only four sticks to dispel the wintry blast of old Borealis. Ed. kindly moved his stove out the next night and set a large steel trap near by, but the borrowers had probably secured a stove in some other place and kept out of the way.

Mr. Guy Bridges of D. P. Jaycox's store has been quite sick for several days.

Sleighing is better than it has been for several years. Snow is about a foot deep and scarcely a breath of wind has yet occurred to disturb its evenness, and blocks the lanes with huge drifts.

La Grippe, or a similar complaint, is abroad over the land of Cove. Severe colds, sore lungs, and a high fever seem to be the symptoms. Although the complaint is general, no very dangerous cases have yet been reported.

Mr. P. F. Chrisman, is thought to be slowly improving, hopes are entertained that he may survive.

The new globe stock for the flouring mill has arrived. Should the weather moderate the mill will be running in a few days. It will be a great convenience, as all the flour consumed in the community is brought from Union, while there seems to be a universal famine for bran.

Prof. Sam White, the celebrated weather prognosticator is sick, and now the citizens have to depend on Ayer's Almanac, for climatic predictions. Mr. W.'s last forecast was to the effect that there would be a "chinook" about the middle inst.



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