

A WORD TO THE CONVENTION.

Before another issue of THE SCOUT is laid before the people the county democratic convention will have met and placed in nomination a county ticket to be voted for in June, selected a central committee to look after the interests of the party for the next two years and elected delegates to represent the democracy of Union county in the state convention. Never before in the history of the party, in Union county, has so much depended upon the wise and discrete action of its representatives in convention assembled as will devolve upon that convention, not alone in the interest of the party but of the whole people, as matters of much importance to their welfare, in local affairs, will be contingent upon the action of that body. The republican convention was evidently manipulated by a few schemers for their own selfish ends and not in the interests of the people, and while some of the men that were placed in nomination are trustworthy, competent and above reproach, many of the others are not, and while the selection should have been judiciously made from the various portions of the county, the reverse of this was the case. The democrats should wisely take advantage of the mistakes made by their opponents, and by a fair and equitable distribution of the offices through the various sections of the county and by a judicious selection of honest fair-minded men to fill them, place before the people a ticket that will be victorious in June. To compass such a result much will depend upon the men who compose the various delegations. It is too often the case that these delegations are mostly composed of men—chronic office seekers—who by manipulation have got themselves elected as delegates for the sole purpose of advancing their own chances for office and who care nothing for the interests of the party or people so long as they can make their own selfish schemes succeed. What can be expected of a convention composed of such conflicting factions? We know nothing about the plans or purposes of any of the delegates that will meet in convention next Monday, but THE SCOUT has no hesitancy in saying that the people of Union have but one candidate they wish to place in the field, and that is Union itself as a candidate for the county seat. We are in hopes that no resident of Union will put himself forward, or accept the nomination for any office unless it is by the desire of a large majority of the convention unsolicited by him. There is one man in this city however, whom, if the convention sees fit to nominate for the office of clerk, recorder or sheriff, will receive a rousing support, not only by the people of Union but of the entire county. We allude to Mr. John Elliott. The nomination for treasurer will naturally fall to some one residing at the county seat, but it is an office of minor importance. The same things that tend to disorganize a county convention will work the same way in the state convention. If delegates are sent there who are office seekers themselves, ready to make any combination or trade for their own aggrandizement, regardless of everything else, what kind of a state ticket may be expected? The only proper course to pursue is for the precincts to send men who are not aspiring to any office as delegates to the county convention and for the county convention to send the same kind of men to the state convention. THE SCOUT may be counted solid for the national democracy and for the county democracy if honest and competent men are placed in nomination.

"ONE BIG MISTAKE."

The last issue of the La Grande Gazette contains a lengthy editorial under the caption of "One big mistake" which for cheek, gall and unblinking falsehood is without a parallel. This is the first instance in which we have ever heard of an editor apologizing to his patrons for telling the truth. What is there in the Gazette's write-up of Union to apologize for? It is true that many things that is said in that write-up were in conflict with what it had been repeatedly asserting in regard to Union for months before. To have been consistent the Gazette should have said that the whole write-up so far as Union and its people

were concerned was misleading and untrue. But consistency and honest impartial treatment of the people of Union are not among the virtues that belong to the editors of the Gazette. It is a "Big mistake" if it ever says anything good about Union or its people. The facts are it is a "Big mistake" if ever tells the truth about anything. When it states that "any-whose minds are not steeped in stupidity and whose judgment is unprejudiced will be forced to acknowledge that the Union county court house is a dilapidated piece of architecture, was never a safe building in the first place" its editors know that they are willfully and maliciously uttering and publishing an unmitigated falsehood. They know as well as the people of Union that the court house is not dilapidated and that it is just as safe a building as there is in the county. Again they know that no one of the circuit Judges ever refused to hold court in it, and when they assert that one half of the western wall caved in about six years ago and was rebuilt they know they are asserting a falsehood known by every resident of Union. Why do they make these assertions? Has the habit of misrepresenting Union and its county seat grown upon them to that extent that they can't tell the truth without apologizing for it?

The Gazette further asserts that "there is not a particle of doubt that if Union is successful in the county seat question, one of the first things that will greet the ears of the beloved taxpayers will be the cry for a new court house." Where did this imaginary cry for a new court house originate? Not in Union, for no one has ever heard any responsible citizen of Union even intimate such a thing. The idea originated in the brain of the editor of the Gazette. Neither the people of Union nor of any other section of the county have any reason to clamor for a new court house. The one they have is a good safe commodious and convenient building, sufficient for all the needs of the county for years to come, and the people of no section of the county would more earnestly oppose the extravagance of erecting new county buildings than the people of Union. The editors of the Gazette are aware of these facts and their only purpose in making these misrepresentations and in publishing these contemptible statements is to cover up the truth, mislead the people and by unfair means pave the way for moving the county seat to La Grande, and burdening the taxpayers with an additional debt of at least one hundred thousand dollars.

THE AUSTRALIAN SYSTEM

The main points in the Australian ballot Americanized, are: 1. All ballots must be printed and distributed at the public expense. 2. The names of all candidates must be printed on the same ticket. 3. The ballot must be delivered to the voter within the polling place by sworn officers of election. 4. No ballots may be voted save those delivered. 5. The voter must be guaranteed absolute privacy in preparing his ballot. 6. The secrecy of the ballot must be made compulsory.

WANNAMAKER'S MAIL SERVICE.

The Daily Union, Ogden, Utah, gives a rather startling and interesting insight into the manner in which our mail service is conducted. The article is too lengthy to re-publish in these columns, but the substance of it is that Supt. White has been conducting the service in a manner calculated to promote his own interests at the expense of good service. One of the charges is that mails for Oregon, Idaho and Washington have been held over 24 hours at Green River, and worked by clerks who should have been resting. White is trying to make a record for economy and running the service short handed. The result is a general kick from Omaha to Portland. Errors are numerous and aggravating. Mails are carried by out-going mails not taken and letters mis-sent; mails due from the east come on trains from the west, and vice versa. In fact a more completely haphazard and demoralized service than the west has had for the past four months, or since the inauguration of the "fast mail," could not be possible. A good way to reduce the surplus would be to employ a sufficient force to perform service decently. We presume, however, that the matter will be fully investigated this summer by a special committee in a special train at an expense of a thousand dollars a day, who will report next winter on how not to do it.

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THEN AND NOW.

When the wire pullers of La Grande were circulating their petition to the legislature for the purpose of the passage of the enabling act for a vote on the relocation of the county seat they promised the people that in the event of the enabling act being passed and the vote of the people moving the county seat to La Grande, the residents of that place would put up the necessary county buildings and bear the expense of removal. This promise caused many to sign that petition who otherwise would not have done so. Here is what the Gazette said about that time. We quote from an editorial in its issue of Feb. 8, 1889.

A correspondent of the Scout mournfully asserts that "our taxes are high enough at present and to remove the county property, and to build new buildings at this time will necessarily incur a heavier rate of tax for seven or eight years to come, and then it will not better the county when the extra expense shall have been paid." If the enabling act passes and the taxpayers of Union county are not satisfied that the county seat can be removed without inflicting additional burdens upon the tax-payers, it will be their duty to vote the removal down. That's all there is to that proposition.

How does that sound in comparison with the utterances of the paper now? After they had got the enabling act in the legislature, this is the way the 6th clause read and the way it passed the legislature and became a law:

Section 6. Should the legal voters of said county decide to change the location of said county seat, and should the same be located at some other point than where the same is now located, the county court shall not have the power or authority to appropriate any sum of money to exceed \$25,000 for the construction of new county building, and shall not have the power or authority to levy any tax upon the property of said county in excess of two and one half (2 1/2) mills on the dollar of the taxable property of the said Union county annually for said purpose.

Thus it will be seen that by false promises and misrepresentations they got the enabling act passed, and now, if by a continuation of the same tactics, bribery and repeating at the polls, they succeed in getting the county seat removed to La Grande, \$25,000 will be spent for county buildings and the foundation laid for structures that will cost many times that much in the long run.

If the taxpayers think they will get off with any amount less than one hundred thousand dollars they don't know the men who are manipulating this scheme.

EAGLE VALLEY JOTTINGS

Mrs. Wm. Wise is on the sick list. The owners of the irrigating ditch known as the R. Young ditch met at the Craig school house a few days ago to take into consideration, the advisability of enlarging the ditch. Work is to commence on the 14th. I. N. Young is foreman on the ditch. Mr. Pres. Hawley purchased forty acres of land of W. Loomas, recently, for which he paid \$1000. Mr. R. B. Gibson has sold his stock to A. T. Neill. Mr. Henry Babcock, of Sturgill's bar, on Snake river, arrived here a few days ago and will reside in Eagle valley hereafter. Henry has been foreman of the Sturgill bar ranch for about two years. Mr. G. W. Moody has sent off an application for a patent on a new kind of hay stacker. Wise and Cameron have rented Mrs. Nellie Beck's ranch for this year, and G. T. Perry has rented his ranch to Thos. Vale.

A little wind storm visited this place Monday, the 7th inst, and blew down some of the fences.

Mr. Cleaver, formerly of Cracker creek, but now of this valley, talks some of building an Odd Fellow's hall in the near future.

I see by Charley Crium's report to the Republican that he tries to make the people think that over 50 per cent. of the stock in Eagle valley died this winter. Take the number that was fed in this valley and the number that died and it will not show a loss of over 10 per cent. We do not deny that there is a few dead animals in the valley. If a person cannot say anything good about a place he need not say anything bad.

Mr. Wm. Nash's children are on the sick list but are not seriously ill. NEWTON BRADFORD.

A Scrap of Paper Saves Her Life.

It was just an ordinary scrap of wrapping paper, but it saved her life. She was in the last stage of consumption, told by physicians that she was incurable and could not live only a short time; she weighed less than seventy pounds. On a piece of wrapping paper she read of Dr. King's New Discovery, and got a sample bottle; it helped her, she bought a large bottle, it helped her more, bought another and grew better fast, continued its use and is now strong, healthy, rosy, plump, weighing 140 pounds. For fuller particulars send stamp to W. H. Cole, Druggist, Fort Smith. Trial bottles of this wonderful Discovery free at Brown's drugstore, Union, Oregon.

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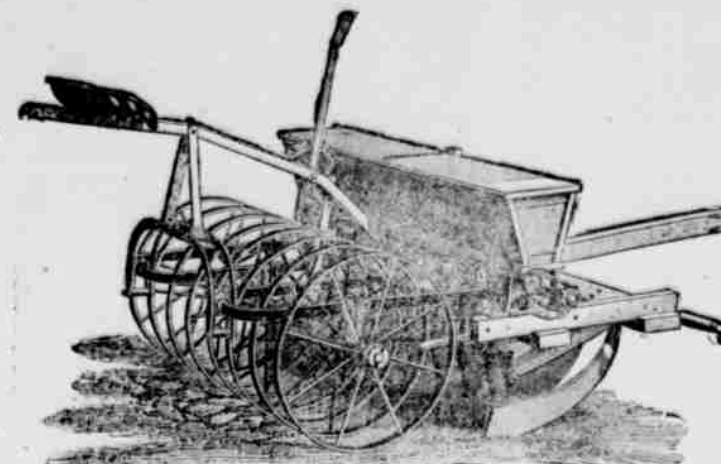
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