

Oregon Scout.

AMOS K. JONES, Editor.
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1890.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Do not support Gov. Penneyer because he is a democrat, but because he is an honest man.

READ section 5 of the enabling act and do not be deceived by it. The work of Shoddy and Caggy is plainly visible in it.

THE East Oregonian says that Baker City has a secret political club, bound by oath to vote together, for such candidates on both tickets as a caucus of the club may decide upon.

We issue a supplement this week and would be pleased to have all our readers carefully peruse the same. In addition to the speech of Gov. Penneyer it contains many articles that will be of interest at this time.

The office of treasurer of this county is hardly worth having, the salary being only five hundred dollars a year. The office must be filled by some one, however, and Judge E. C. Brainard is the proper man for it.

THERE is going to be a scramble of the big railroad companies for territory in Oregon within the next five or ten years. The rich and undeveloped portions of this state are not going to do long without railroad lines, and in most instances competing lines.

THE Gazette says that the Hunt road was not thought of till the county seat agitation came up, and intimates that La Grande caused it all. Wano for La Grande, but after starting such a beneficial enterprise it ought not to be throwing cold water on it now.

THE SCOUT is not the only paper that is complaining about our miserable mail service. The Mercury says: "The postal service all over the country seems to be in a badly demoralized condition. It may yet be necessary for people who want letters delivered promptly and accurately to print a Wanamaker 'ad' on the envelope at their own expense."

THE only ammunition that is or will be used by La Grande and its newspaper, in the county seat contest, is deception and fraud and doubtless their nastiest wad will be discharged just before the election, when it is too late for the same to be contradicted or counteracted. The people should take no stock, whatever, in reports put in circulation on the eve of the election.

A Southern Oregon exchange says: "Both 'bar's' will go off in this campaign and the slaughter of red-nosed innocence will be dreadful." In Union county but one "bar" has been loaded as yet (Dave Thompson has been here) but when that goes off it will cause such a winding back action kick that some of David's friends will not realize what hurt them, for some time.

HAD the Portland Bull Run non-taxable water bond bill become a law, several millions of local capital would have been withdrawn from circulation making a stringency in the money market, allowing banks to have their own terms on money. David Thompson voted for that bill six times. Governor Penneyer vetoed it. The legislature sustained the governor, and the people will emulate the example of the legislature in June.

THE SCOUT has a large number of readers in Umatilla county and to these we desire to speak a good word for Mr. F. S. Wood, the republican nominee for county treasurer. We know him well and a better man could not be found for the position. Those acquainted with him know him to be one of the true and honest men whose ennobling influence make this little globe worth living on. Vote for F. S. Wood.

It is not generally known that Prof. A. LeRoy, democratic nominee for state school superintendent was one of the immortal six hundred who made the famous charge, at Balaklava, which the poet Tennyson describes in verses familiar to every school boy; but such is the case and the Professor has a medal presented to him by the queen of England for his bravery in "riding into the jaws of death" upon that occasion. He is too modest to speak of this himself, however. The people of Oregon should elect him as superintendent of public instruction. He is a man of broad culture, extensive educational experience, and a polished gentleman.

AN UNJUST CRITICISM

The Eastern Oregon Republican in its last issue says:

So far as the democratic nominee for county clerk is concerned we see no reason why he should receive the support of the people generally. It cannot be said that because he chanced to get a job under an officer who put the office in a convenient and systematic shape that he is responsible for all this, any more than any one of the other deputies. Mr. Oliver has certainly done no better than any other young man would do in the same place. Personally we have nothing against Mr. Oliver but the praise given him are unwarranted and while the people have a chance to elect a man of business experience and integrity in the person of John Eaton, a man who has done business and paid taxes in the county for a great many years, we see no reason why they should give their votes to a young man who, if we are correctly informed, pays no taxes, and we do not believe they will.

We are surprised that the editor of the Republican, who knows Mr. Oliver intimately, having attended the same school for a number of years and is acquainted, probably as well as any other man, with the difficulties Mr. Oliver has encountered, should pen such an unwarranted, unkind and unjust criticism as the above. We regret it, also, as being a friend of Mr. Oliver and desirous of seeing him elected, it compels us to make some comparisons which we would rather have left unmade.

Mr. Oliver should receive the support of the people for the reasons (which the Republican professes not to see) that the office is not a political one and he is better qualified, by his excellent education, close application to that particular line and familiarity with every department of the office, to serve the people in the capacity of clerk than any other man in the county, at this time. Also for the reason, which no one acquainted with the facts will deny, that the present excellent and systematic condition of the office is largely due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Oliver, who has done much work, to accomplish this end, for which there was no fee and which could have been left undone, and doubtless would have been left undone by a less painstaking and conscientious man. Mr. Oliver did not "chance to get a job" in the clerk's office but was selected on account of his well known qualifications and retained "the job" for four years and has given entire satisfaction because of his strict attention to business, his kind and courteous treatment of every man, however humble, who entered the office and his efforts to accommodate in every way possible. If such qualities as these, which are somewhat rare, are appreciated, Mr. Oliver will receive a rousing support by the people regardless of their political affiliations.

Praise of no young man is "unwarranted" who has striven as Mr. Oliver has done to educate himself and his brothers and sisters, while compelled at the same time to assume almost entire charge of the affairs of his father, who has been suffering with an affliction of the eyes for several years. His father lost heavily a few years ago by investing in the Thomas & Ruckles wagon road and was several thousand dollars in debt. Most of Turner's earnings have been used in paying this indebtedness and to-day no man can say that his father's creditors have lost one cent. Not only is this a fact but between them they now own and pay taxes on considerable property, particularly land. The tax receipts will show that young Oliver has paid the taxes on all of this for several years.

Such is the record of Mr. Oliver, but what of his opponent, Mr. Eaton? While we consider Mr. Eaton an honorable man and a gentleman we do not think that his best friends will claim for him any extraordinary business ability. The facts will not justify such a claim. He tried the mercantile business in this city for several years and made a failure of it. The county records will show that he has paid no taxes since 1885. These facts may not prove that he is unqualified for the office of county clerk, but they certainly show he has no claims superior to his opponent. We regret having to make these statements but those working for him should not throw any stones.

As between these two gentlemen we believe the people of Union county will select Mr. Oliver, and will be acting wisely in doing so.

The county buildings at Union are good and substantial and will answer all purposes for many years to come. This statement has been sworn to by a committee of the best citizens of Union county who were appointed to thoroughly examine the building. Do not let the La Grande agitators deceive you.

THE REPUBLICAN REVOLT.

There is a republican revolt against the McKinley tariff bill. The Chicago Tribune leads it, and the Pioneer Press, of St. Paul, follows vigorously after. The Tribune accuses the committee of Ways and Means of inventing new taxes and increasing old ones. It demands "substantial relief for the people." The Pioneer Press asserts that "the Republican party does not dare to go before the country on the platform of such a bill as this." In union with these western newspapers are the shoe and leather manufacturers of New England, who are outraged by the avowed purpose to impose a customs tax on hides.

What does all this mean? Simply that the newspapers and manufacturers who are now crying out against McKinley and his wretched bill were not honest in the last presidential campaign. The Pioneer Press and the other protestants supported Benjamin Harrison on a platform as bad as the bill. They advocated the entire repeal of the taxes on whisky and tobacco "rather than the surrender of any part of our protective system." These words occur in the national platform, which was written by Mr. McKinley, who has now simply embodied in the bill the views that he then held. He must be surprised to learn that the people who unhesitatingly followed him and Mr. Harrison in the political campaign are now prepared to rend him.

He has not changed nor have they. They joined in the cry for protection because they thought it might catch votes. They supported the Republican party, not because they believed in any living principle it embodied, but because they were Republicans a generation ago. They wanted Harrison to be president because Lincoln had been. They wanted Quay to succeed because Horace Greeley was a moral force in anti-slavery days. They were willing to support a barbarous tariff policy at the polls because they did not believe that the Republican party meant what it said.

They are fitly punished, and if they alone were to be the sufferers from increased taxation we would like to see the McKinley bill become a law, that all its outrages might rest upon the heads of those who followed Harrison and McKinley without believing in them. But there is a larger and more important consideration than that of vengeance, and so it is gratifying to learn that there is a point beyond which blind partisanship will not carry republicans.

Jas. H. Slater, of La Grande, has a lengthy article in the current issue of the Gazette in which he attempts to produce some arguments why the county seat should be moved to that place. After reading the article we are surprised that the author of it was at one time supposed to possess sufficient standing and ability to be made United States Senator. His promises are false and savors of the demagogue; his distortion of facts worthy only of the slyster. If he was hired by La Grande to present their case he made a mistake in accepting. As the arguments he attempts to make are answered, elsewhere in this paper it is not necessary for us to review them here.

The following bit of patriotism is from the Lakeview Examiner. It is a wonder that some of the hide-bound, bed-rock, dyed-in-the-wool mossbacks of both parties do not threaten to "boycott" the Examiner, have it arrested for contempt or some other heinous offense: "In this free American republic it is not only every man's privilege, but his duty to use his best judgement and vote as he pleases, notwithstanding the head on his ticket. 'Yellow-dog' voters are becoming more scarce every year, and we believe that with the independent voter lies the stability and incorruptibility of this great government. New parties do not always bring about reforms, but it is usually done by the independent voter."

It may be true enough that Mr. Hunt intends to build to Grande Ronde but his present forces will not complete the road within the time stipulated.—La Grande Gazette.

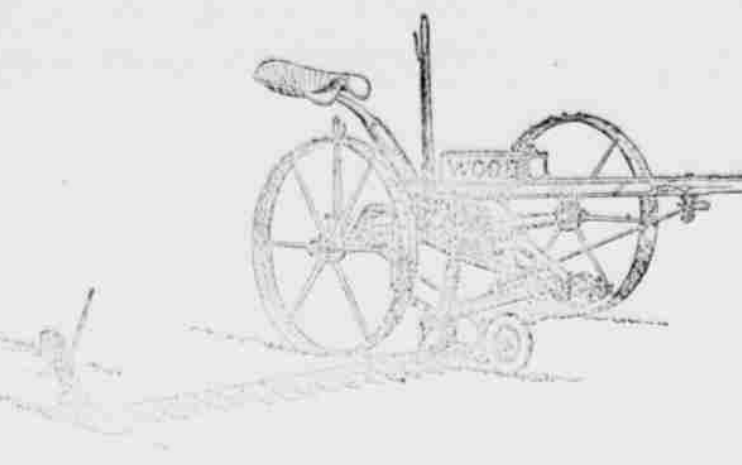
After reading the above Mr. Hunt will no doubt feel gratified at the confidence expressed by the Gazette and the idea will probably occur to him of putting two or three more men at work on the road, if he can find them, so as to hurry things up.

An examination of the tax list discloses the fact that the names of over forty of the men who signed the La Grande bond to reimburse the county for the loss of buildings, in the removal of the county seat, do not appear at all and they pay no taxes. It is impossible to get blood out of a turnip and would be equally difficult to get money out of those fellows even if the bond was legal and worth anything, which it is not.

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