

Oregon Front.

B. CHANCEY, Editor.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

NORVAL'S bill for the Connor creek and Eagle valley road has passed the senate.

THE one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Peter Cooper will be celebrated today by the Cooper Union Alumni in New York.

HIGH tariffs are appropriate enough in monarchies. In a republic where men are supposed to have equal rights no man man's business should be built up at another man's expense.

WHEN a public official, who is sworn to do his duty, lets party prejudice influence him in matters of a financial interest to the public, he is no longer fit for office, and the sooner he is out of the position the better it will be for the people.

THE SCOUT is reliably informed that the Rev. T. F. Campbell, of Baker City, who has been in Pine and Eagle valleys propounding the gospel (?) for some time past, is very much interested in the division of Union county, and has put in his spare time trying to show to the people there the advantage of being annexed to Baker county. Consistent, indeed.

WE publish this week a letter from "Citizen" in which he propounds some very pertinent questions to the city council. It is a matter in which the taxpayers are interested and should receive proper attention. Our columns are always open for discussion of matters of public interest and we trust that some member of the council will enlighten our people on the subject.

J. P. WAGER, in a communication to the East Oregonian, speaking of the county division bills introduced in the legislature, hits the nail square on the head when he says: "Seriously, there is too much of this county division fever and too many county divisions, for the benefit of certain towns or small localities and of interested parties; and senators should not grant every request of that sort that comes to their ears."

L. SAMUEL has retired from the management of the West Shore, and is no longer connected in any way with that journal. The new management announce several changes in the paper. West Shore is a first-class illustrated weekly journal, and has, seemingly, prospered under Mr. Samuel's management, and we regret to see him retire, but trust that the paper will be kept up to its usual high standard of excellence.

FOR three hours during the busiest part of the day on Monday the people all over the United States were denied postoffice conveniences, simply because Wanamaker's brilliant genius conceived the idea that all postoffices should be closed as a mark of respect to Secretary Windom. The secretary himself would never have so thoughtlessly and recklessly interfered with the business of the country, nor would he have given his approval of this brilliant coruscation of official genius.—West Shore.

IT was hoped by a majority of the people of Oregon that the present legislature would enact a law to free them from the extortions of the schoolbook ring, but as the legislature is nearing a close it is not likely that anything will be done in regard to the matter. If not advisable for the state to print the books, some other means should be devised whereby the people would not be compelled to pay the exorbitant prices charged by this ring. It is a shame that this robbery has been allowed to go on as long as it has.

THE SCOUT is constantly receiving letters of inquiry in regard to our county and town, and it is quite likely there will be a heavy immigration to Oregon the coming summer. Union should make some effort to secure a just proportion of those who come. Other cities and towns are on the alert and are using every means to make known their advantages and induce people to locate with them. Why should Union not do likewise? In these days of sharp competition it is absolutely necessary to keep your town constantly before the people if you would not be distanced in the race for supremacy. We are in need of live, energetic men—men with capital. Such men can find an opening here for the establishing of manufactures of different kinds. No other town in Eastern Oregon can boast of the advantages that Union possesses for such industries.

THE TARIFF AND TRUSTS.

At the present rate it will not be long before every line of business in the United States will be in the grip of an ironclad combination. The tendency is too conspicuous to be ignored or denied; it must be dealt with as one of the facts that underlie argument. To the followers of Bellamy and socialists generally it is agreeable, but to those still imbued with the early principles of our republic it is portentous. Democrats and republicans are generally agreed that trusts are dangerous and undesirable things; they merely dispute about the best way of suppressing them.

At the outset it is well to understand clearly just what effect the tariff has on this class of combinations. Protectionists are fond of asserting that the two things have nothing to do with each other, and point in evidence to the occasional trusts observed in England, and to the still rarer conspiracies of the sort that take in the world. To reach a just estimate of the value of this argument, it is merely necessary to consider in a common-sense way what a trust is and how a tariff acts.

A trust is a device for maintaining a permanent corner. Now let us suppose that an enterprising citizen of Milpitas formed a combination to control the sale of horseshoe nails in that flourishing town. It would not take very much capital to buy up all the stock on hand, but if the trust undertook to raise the prices very much the consumers would send to San Jose and get their supplies at the old figures. If now the wise men of Milpitas should meet and resolve not to permit any horseshoe nails to be brought into the town except on payment of three cents a pound, the connection between that action and the trust would scarcely need to be pointed out. The combination could now put its prices up three cents a pound higher than formerly, before anybody could make himself independent of it by sending to San Jose.

But now suppose, in the absence of such a rule, the trust undertook to take in the whole of Santa Clara county. It is plain that the difficulty of its operations and the amount of capital required would be immensely increased. There would be a hundred chances to cut under where there had been one in Milpitas. And if all the dealers in the county agreed to put up the price of horseshoe nails, the only result would be that more would be imported from San Francisco.

But if the board of supervisors of Santa Clara county had the power and the will to impose a fine of three cents a pound on all the horseshoe nails brought in from outside, the trust would have this much margin, at least, and might succeed in making the speculation pay. Suppose, though, that importations from San Francisco were unchecked, and it was thought necessary to extend the trust to cover the whole state. Plainly the speculators would have an immense contract on their hands. They would need hundreds of thousands of dollars of capital, tireless vigilance and great executive ability to have a chance of success, and even if they succeeded in cornering all the horseshoe nails in California their monopoly could last only until more could be ordered from Oregon, Washington and the East. Still, if the legislature could levy a tax on all the nails brought into the state, it might be possible to make the combination hold.

But it happens that the movements of trade cannot be checked at any of these stages. The wise men of Milpitas cannot prevent the importation of horseshoe nails into that town, nor can the Santa Clara board of supervisors set up a tariff along the line of their county, nor the California legislature tax interstate commerce. A trust, to be successful must cover the whole of the United States.

Now, if there were no tariff, the process would not stop even here. Before the trust could have a secure monopoly it would have to take in the whole world, and, while there have been a few attempts at combinations of that kind, the enormous difficulties in the way have as yet kept any of them from being successful. But just here congress comes in, and throws across the course of trade that obstruction which the wise men of Milpitas, and the Santa Clara supervisors, and the California legislature are unable to throw. The regulation of trusts by free competition stops at the national frontier. The combinations which otherwise would have to spread over the world are allowed to concentrate their resources upon the United States.

That is the way in which trusts and tariffs are related.—Examiner.

MOORE'S bill, as amended, appropriating \$50,000 for the world's fair, has passed the senate.

THE GREAT WEST.

The west is making a good showing this year. Considering the number of people, the achievements of the last year are grand. They ought to arrest the attention of all classes of people in the east. California has a more valuable wheat crop than almost any eastern state, but with it is her gold and silver yield, amount to \$23,000,000, and her fruit crop she reckons by the thousand carloads, while of course in wine she surpasses all the other states combined, and then her wool, her fish, her honey, her barley—she is the great state. Oregon shows an abundance in every field that is simply lavish. Washington claims an average of five bushels more to the acre of wheat than any other state, while in hops, in lumber, in fish she has no rival. Idaho and Montana rest on their output of the precious metals, lead and copper, but nowhere do so few people produce so much, and then their product is a creation; the bringing forth of something which was hidden before, and the great bulk of which when produced, does not enter into competition with any other men's products, but rather gives to them an added value. Nevada is lowest in the list, but Nevada is in sorrow. She is decaying for want of cheap communications with her interior mineral belts, and cheap transportation. Then, as one of her newspapers expresses it, she has been plundered from the first; the money taken from her mines has materialized in fair structures in all the great eastern cities, and in great estates in other states. Utah shows most satisfactory progress in field, in mine and factory, while her trade centers have expanded wonderfully. Colorado is prosperous in every one of a dozen great industrial fields. In soil, in mine, in factory, her progress has been with a steadily accelerating force, and the volume of her business has attained to something gigantic. Wyoming has made a good record. She will not show at her best until more of her great resources are brought under development and subjection, but the state is rapidly filling with people and the roar of her industries rise higher and higher every month. The whole record of this west measured by the number of people which occupy it, has no parallel in our own or any other land. The men of the east ought to study the figures, and if they will, we think many a one of them will turn his steps this way and come with an idea of joining his fortunes with those who possess a region so blessed.

THE ALLIANCE AND DEMOCRACY.

The farmers' movement for reform and the democratic movement for reform arise from common grievances. Thus the alliance and the democratic party are moving along parallel lines toward the same object. Hence, so long as the democratic party is in operation and the republican party in administration, every consideration of political good suggests that the two parties should act together for the accomplishment of the common purpose so far practicable. The action of the National Alliance Convention at Ocala, Florida, shows that this will certainly be the case in the southern states. A solid front of opposition will be presented to the plutocratic centralizing policy which constantly menaces the prosperity of the agricultural south, as it does the prosperity of the agricultural west. As the south, through its cotton export, relies more on Liverpool and London for its supply of money than it does on Wall street, its farmers are not so heavily mortgaged as those of the west, but they are, nevertheless, too keenly alive to the menace of republicanism ever to weaken democratic opposition to it while the national government is under the republican control. Only when there is a democratic president in the white house will it become a matter of serious difficulty to convince the southern members of the alliance that the interests of agriculture demand at all times a united opposition to republicanism. In the western agricultural states, the alliance membership, though largely republican, has already taken a long step in the direction of democracy. In spite of blunders on its part and on the part of the democrats, enough has been done to show that the democrats and alliance together can sweep the west, control the house of representatives, change the complexion of the senate and give a two-thirds majority in the electoral college whenever they unite for low taxation and economical government, for the abolition of trusts and monopolies and for the restoration of agriculture and commerce to an equal with manufactures as pillars of the state.—Minneapolis Times.

THE senate has passed Riley's bill appropriating \$400,000 for portage railways at The Dalles and Celilo.

PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

"Citizen" Wants to Know a Few Things in Regard to City Matters.

EDITOR OREGON SCOUT:—

I realize the fact that an over-inquisitive person is a character that most of mankind will always avoid and generally despise; but as a taxpayer and one who assisted to give life to our new city council, as far as new membership is concerned, I think I have inherited a right to ask questions that are pertinent and of interest to me as well as to the members or individuals constituting the present municipal legislature.

I notice in bills allowed by the new council, one in favor of C. M. Foster, for services rendered as surveyor—"surveying to the head of Catherine creek"—the amount being \$60.00; also another in favor of W. E. Bowker, for horse hire to C. M. Foster, \$9.00.

These services were rendered before the advent of the new council and the records show that no such proceedings were ordered or authorized by the old or retiring council, and also there is nothing to show in the records or minutes of the new regime authorizing such action.

I wish to know this and I believe, as a taxpayer, I have a right to know.

What was this survey made for? Who ordered it, and by what authority? What is the object of finding the head of Catherine creek? Under and by what authority does the city council pay for these services out of the funds of the city?

These are very plain and simple questions to answer, if they can be answered at all. I am also informed that a private subscription was made up to pay the expenses of this survey, and that the same was made for and in the interest of private parties. I would ask if this amount paid out of the city funds is made to make up for the delinquencies of some of those subscribers?

I am also informed by members of the council that at its last meeting an appropriation of \$100 was made out of the city funds to defray the expenses of County Judge I. N. Sanders on a trip to Salem, for the purpose of lobbying and engineering our new city charter bill through the house and the senate.

I would ask what is this so-called new city charter? And who or how many of the taxpayers of the city know what it contains, or as to any of its conditions or requirements?

Has any charter, amended, new or old, ever been presented to the people for approval or inspection? What can it contain that could surround it with danger of defeat to that extent that we are required to pay \$100 to have it lobbied through our legislature?

It is the history of special acts of incorporation of cities and towns that they are passed without a dissenting voice from said body, unless containing conditions repugnant to the general laws or the constitution of the state. Either of our representatives would, no doubt, gladly introduce the bill and upon their recommendation it would pass without an obstacle being placed in its way, and without the hired assistance of a lobbyist.

It is possible, for ought that a majority of the taxpayers know, that it would have been to their interest to send a representative to defeat its passage, and in my opinion they would be as much entitled to a grab at the public sack, to which they annually contribute, as the limited number of fathers of this so-called new charter. In either case, however, I would like to know by what authority the council could allow it.

I do not wish a newspaper controversy, nor to appear conspicuous as a critic, but I would like for the mayor or some member of the new council to explain, and if satisfactory, well and good; if otherwise, more anon.

CITIZEN.

For Sale!

20 Head of good Dairy Cows.

12 Head of 2-year-olds.

1 Full Blood Holstein Bull, Price \$75.00.

Reason for Selling: Intend to leave the valley about the first of May.

Call on me at once if you want a bargain.

G. W. COOPER,
La Grande, Or.
Stock near Ladd canyon. Please mention this paper.

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