

# Oregon Scout.

B. CHANCEY, Editor.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1891.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

GENERAL SHERMAN died at New York on the evening of the 14th inst.

The democrats of the city of Philadelphia have endorsed a colored republican for office and nominated two women to be school directors.

The Scout desires to return thanks to Hon. J. A. Wright for a number of bills which he has introduced in the house, among them the Union city charter bill.

Senator Stewart says he considered Stanford's chances for the presidential nomination very good indeed. He thinks if the farmers' alliance endorse Stanford for the presidency the republican party will accept him as their own candidate.

The acting secretary of the treasury has issued a warrant for the payment of \$1,000,000 on account of pensions aggregating \$30,000,000, due during the quarter ending March 4. The latter amount represents the available cash balance of the treasury; so only the treasury surplus that will exist after these payments shall have been met will be the excess of the receipts over the other expenditures during that period, which is now estimated at less than \$10,000,000.

SPOKANE, Seattle and Tacoma published the proposed new city charter in the papers before submitting it to the legislature. In Oregon things are done differently. There is probably not a half dozen citizens in Union who know anything about the provisions of our new city charter which has just passed the house and senate of the legislature. It is always customary and proper that any amendment to city charters should be submitted to the people, and a vote taken in order to find out the sentiment of the taxpayers in regard to any proposed change.

HON. JOHN McALISTER, in a letter to Mr. Curtis of La Grande says: "My constituents don't seem to know that I am in the legislature, as they are daily corresponding with Wright, Snodgrass and Norval, and with few exceptions have ignored me altogether. This makes things very unpleasant for one in the minority, and the more so because these parties never consult me on any question concerning my part of the country. If the people of La Grande think me competent to look after their business I will only be too glad to do so, but if they think not, I will only be to glad to keep out of the way of those whom they can trust."

The Chemawa Indian school has been long enough without an open rupture (a few weeks) so the superintendent has discharged the carpenter, Mr. Phil B. Wilson, and the music teacher, Miss Southwick, for alleged "inefficiency." Of course this is not the cause. In Wilson's case, Irwin expected him to do some of his dirty work—and Wilson isn't that sort of a man. Wilson is from Union county where his reputation is 100 to 0 along-side of Irwin's. This fess has gone long enough. Irwin should be speedily deposed.

The foregoing is the way in which one of the local papers talk about Rev. Irwin. The sooner a change of managers is had at this school, the more rapid will be the progress of the school. The people of Union county know Wilson and also know Irwin. If Wilson were in Irwin's position things would move on better.

IT MAY be early to name the next democratic candidate for the presidency but when nine out of ten democrats are practically agreed upon that choice it is hardly possible that any contingencies will arise to change matters. It is evident that if the national convention met today Grover Cleveland would be nominated by acclamation. There is a deep-rooted feeling that the result of 1888 was a mistake—the Harrison administration is a miserable failure and pitiable in its weakness. The people can now compare the two parties, their aims and their chosen leaders. That comparison makes brighter the administration of Grover Cleveland. The people find in him a man who utters his convictions and is grounded in the faith. It was Cleveland who inaugurated the campaign of education, who rather than drift into the presidency upon no tangible policy differing the two parties, promulgated a message lofty in its patriotism, logical in its argument and sound in its conclusion. That message has re-united the democratic party upon a platform of principles that must become the ruling force of the American government.—Roseburg Review.

## OUR NEW CHARTER.

THE SCOUT is at last in receipt of the Union charter bill, introduced in the house by Representative J. A. Wright. Space will not admit of our publishing the bill in full, but we will give our readers a synopsis of the most important provisions, which are as follows: The east and west boundary lines are changed so that the corporate limits will now be one mile square, instead of one by one-half mile as before.

The charter empowers the council to levy and collect taxes upon all property made taxable by law for county or state purposes not exceeding 10 mills for general purposes in any one year; provided, that no exemption or reduction shall be allowed in the assessment of property within the limits of said city to any person for indebtedness created or existing outside of the limits of said city, nor for any indebtedness upon property not taxable therein, nor for any indebtedness to persons residing beyond the limits of said city.

To provide a work house and house of correction, and to prescribe rules and regulations for the government thereof.

To establish and regulate the grade of streets, to define and fix the boundaries thereof, and to remove obstructions therefrom and from the side and crosswalks of said city; to provide for the construction, improvement, repair and cleaning of the same and by ordinance to compel the owners of lots to make such improvements adjacent thereto at the cost of such owners, to provide for the sale of lots adjacent to which any public improvement has been made wherein the owner of such lot refuses to pay for the same and by ordinance to compel lot owners or occupants thereof to build and keep the sidewalks in front of the same in good repair and clear of obstruction.

To appropriate money for any public improvement beneficial to the inhabitants of said city, and to provide for the payment of the debts and expenses of the city.

To lay out, establish, vacate, widen, extend and open streets and alleys in the city and to appropriate private property for that purpose. The powers hereby granted shall be executed under such rules and regulations as the common council shall establish.

To establish fire companies, to appoint fire wardens and prescribe their duties.

To employ a city attorney, surveyor and such night and day police as may be necessary and to prescribe and define their duties.

To borrow money on the faith of the city for municipal and other public purposes beneficial to the inhabitants thereof, and to issue bonds for such purposes in any sum not exceeding the sum of \$20,000.

To build, construct, own and keep in repair a reservoir at the head of Catherine creek, running through said city, and to dredge, straighten and clean the obstructions therefrom from the head of said creek to and through the limits of said city, and for such purpose may go upon and through the lands of private persons through whose lands said creek runs, doing no unnecessary damage thereto, and may lease the same in connection with any water works that may be established by said city for a term of years.

To appropriate so much of the water of Catherine creek as may be necessary for the establishment of water works and for the storage and distribution of water for such water works and for any other purpose beneficial to the inhabitants of said city.

The common council shall have the power to open, improve and construct streets, side and crosswalks and public ways, and to establish and alter the grade of any street, and in case the same shall be made a charge against the property of the abutting owner of property on said street, ten days notice of the contemplated improvement shall be given to such owner or owners. The improvement of all streets and public ways shall be made at the expense of the city. The opening and extending of all streets, public ways and sidewalks shall be made by the owners of property in the manner provided in this section. All crosswalks and sewers shall be constructed and kept in repair at the expense of the city. In all cases where streets, public ways and sidewalks are built or constructed at the expense of the abutting owner, the same shall be done by or under the supervision of the street commissioner of said city, and the costs thereof reported to the city recorder, giving the cost of such improvement fronting on each piece of property where the same has been made, and it shall be the duty of the recorder to assess against each lot the cost of such construction or improvement in front thereof, which assessment shall immediately become due and shall be collected

by the city marshal in the manner provided for the collection of other taxes.

The common council shall, at the beginning of each year, invite proposals from the proprietors of all newspapers published in said city, to do the city advertising and printing for the ensuing year, and shall let the contract for such advertising and printing to the lowest bidder.

## THE MAJORITY MUST RULE.

The republicans in congress claim to be contending for the right of the majority to rule. In fact, they are resisting majority rule and endeavoring to perpetuate the power of a discredited and meager minority.

The policy which the senate is striving to embody in law was submitted to the people last year. The republicans of the house had adopted it. The senate, though it passed the McKinley tariff, declined to pass the force bill, or to adopt a gag rule. It permitted these questions to go to the people. Republican conventions generally endorsed their party's policy. The democratic conventions everywhere condemned it. The issue was squarely joined upon the stump and in the party press.

In November the people gave their verdict. It caused the most clearly defined and overwhelming political revolution ever known in the history of our government.

In the vote of the whole country for representatives in congress the democratic majority over the total republican vote was 809,476. In a total vote of nearly 10,000,000 for representatives, the republican candidates were in a minority of 1,332,202, while the regular democratic vote exceeded that of all other candidates—republican, farmers, prohibition, independent and labor combined—268,550.

A republican majority of 21 in the present house was converted into a democratic majority of 137 in the next congress.

In seventeen northern states the total vote cast was within less than 7 per cent. of the presidential vote of 1888. And in these states the democratic gain in the popular vote was over 602,000! In 1888 the republicans carried every one of these seventeen states. In 1890 the democrats carried twelve of them. The house of representatives was made democratic by a safe working majority without counting a single member from the south.

By an antiquated and unrepresentative arrangement of sessions the new congress will not meet in regular order until December next. But it represents the latest expression of the popular will. In contending for obedience to that will the democrats in congress are simply insisting that the majority shall rule.—New York World.

The world makes a great mistake in regarding the cynic, so called as an unhappy individual. It would be impossible for him to be better satisfied with himself. He is the vainest of mortals in his conceit, and hugs himself with glee when the world thinks he is gnashing his teeth with envy and spite. His exaggerated views of the uncharitableness and hypocrisy of the world are two-thirds affection; he does not believe it himself, but wants others to think so. There is vanity and selfishness even in sorrow and trouble as we may judge from hearing certain classes of people brag of the trials through which they have passed; and the cynic takes the same pleasure in working up a little monopoly of spleen.

Union county has few men more able and none who, when once determined, will go further to secure success, than A. E. Eaton of Union. Everybody will admit that the failure of the Hunt road was not the fault of A. E. Eaton. Lou Rinehart or E. A. Pursel. Mr. Eaton has made a large amount of money in Union and he feels like leaving a monument to his memory in his home city, and to do this he has determined to found a woolen mill there, and has headed the enterprise with \$25,000. The mill will employ 80 people and if the people who are able will stand by Mr. Eaton it will be built.—Chronicle.

The trite aphorism, often heard from the lips of cynics and solemn faced moralizers on the social and political problems of the day, that "rich are growing richer and the poorer," seems to shine with a luster not its own in the face of the vast projects made possible for great and combined wealth and influence under the republican tariff laws. The monopoly party imposes no restrictions. Capital combines, wages go down and prices come up. Witness the American Sugar Refinery Company, a trust, with \$50,000,000 in preferred and common stock and \$10,000,000 in bonds.

## SANDERS EXPLAINS.

UNION, Or., February 16, 1891.

### EDITOR OREGON SCOUT:—

A writer in last week's SCOUT, signing himself "Citizen," states that the city council of Union had appropriated \$100 to send the undersigned to Salem to lobby for the passage of the Union charter bill, and asks for an explanation. We will pass by his evident disposition to growl and make himself a bad citizen, and consider him a good citizen and a taxpayer; and as such having a right to know how his public servant conducts himself, and how he uses the people's money.

Therefore, I beg leave to submit this report for his consideration: I did go to Salem, but not to lobby away the liberties of the people. I did not join the third house at all but was given the privilege of a seat (but not a vote) in the house of which Mr. Geer was speaker, along side of honest John McAlister. If it was a crime to go to Salem then I am guilty as charged in the indictment. I was there; I can't deny it, but I saw lots of others there too. I saw ex-Senator George Chandler, Mayor McCord, By Geer, Charles Duncan, et al, of Baker City,—all good men.

There was no particular need for any of us to go who were not elected members of the legislature. My old neighbors at North Powder appealed to me to go to Salem and take their remonstrance against being cut off from Union county and annexed to Baker county. About the same time it was reported to Hon. J. A. Wright that a petition a yard or rod long, I don't know which, from North Powder and the panhandle asking to be annexed to Baker county, was at Salem.

Mr. Wright telegraphed the fact and as the proposed line would cut both of us off into Baker county I decided at the last moment to go with the remonstrance, and consult with him as to the best means of defeating the scheme to take away the richest part of our county.

When I arrived at Salem I found to my great satisfaction that the good people of Union county had put the right men in the right places. All of our members, including Senator Raley of Umatilla, stood firmly against division, and worked zealously for every measure to benefit Union county and the state at large. There were three or four measures of importance to Union county pending before the legislature and I felt, with others, a deep interest in the legislation for the whole state, and especially the assessment and taxation bill which has passed the house and is now in the senate committee, before whom I was requested to appear to give my opinion and experience.

Now, as to the appropriation of \$100 by the city council of Union, my understanding of the matter was that the new charter bill and the municipal water bill, both of which measures were of very great importance to the city of Union, had been introduced and they seemed to be held back and in danger of being lost. The council held a special meeting to take action in the matter and decided to send one of their members, or some one else, to Salem to consult with our members from Union county, as to the best means of pushing the bills to final passage, and made an appropriation for the necessary expense.

After I had decided to go with the remonstrance it was not deemed necessary to send another to represent the council, and as the expense of the trip had been contributed by the remonstrators and other good citizens, the appropriation was not used and will be cancelled and returned to the city treasury. If "Citizen" had really desired the information he had asked for, any member of the council would have given it to him.

Now, in conclusion, I desire to offer "Citizen" some good advice: If he is a good citizen and loyal to Union he will not condemn every measure undertaken to improve the town, but, on the contrary, will encourage his public servants when they are trying to advance the interests of the public. If he wants the credit of being a vigilant and trusty sentinel on guard over the people's money, he must not shut one eye and allow his friends to get into the crib, while he is throwing mud at his enemies. Keep both eyes open brother. If he wants to become a live citizen let him invest in a curry comb and hire an expert to scrape the moss off of his back so that his American blood can circulate freely. It is to be hoped that "Citizen" will continue to keep a watchful eye on public affairs and sound the alarm from time to time, so that no African can go to sleep in the wood pile. I hope that "Citizen" will accept this final report which is respectfully submitted.

I. N. SANDERS.

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