

# The Oregon Scout.

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B. CHANCEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1891.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

SAMUEL P. PUTNAM has assumed editorial charge of Free Thought, the liberal journal of San Francisco.

It is now stated without doubt that the new democratic daily will be issued in Portland on the 18th of April next.

STRANGE & McCOMAS have retired from their management of the Pendleton Tribune, and the paper will hereafter be conducted by Mr. Charles Wilkins.

BOTH houses of the Washington legislature have adopted a bill appropriating one hundred thousand dollars for the world's fair exhibit. The bill now goes to the governor.

THERE are about twenty applications for the new \$3,000 a year position of attorney general. The governor may fool 'em all by refusing to appoint, and thus save the state that much money till the next election.—Astorian.

HON. J. H. RALEY is spoken of as the democratic nominee for the second congressional district of the state for congress. Mr. Raley has made a good record in the legislature and we think the selection would be a good one.

THE Evening Telegram says that the Portland match factory is kept closed by the payment to its proprietors of \$500 a month by the San Francisco match trust. It has been closed for a year. The Telegram demands an investigation.

COAL oil is reported as having been found near the town of Hubbard, in Marion county, Oregon. A company has been formed with a capital stock of \$300,000 for the purpose of sinking wells to ascertain whether it can be secured in paying quantities.

D. I. COLE, of Hutchinson, Kansas, arrived in Salem last Saturday. He is the national organizer for Oregon of the farmers' alliance, and will remain in the state several months, visiting the different sections, and organizing branches of that order wherever possible.

OREGON will not have two congressmen until the fifty-third congress meets. A great many supposed a special election would be held for the purpose of electing the additional representative, but such is not the case. At the general election in 1892 Oregon will elect two representatives.

THE national government has just paid Illinois her portion of the two per cent tax levied during the war by an act of congress. The amount is \$954,000, and as the state is out of debt this money will be applied to the world's fair exhibit, hence her legislature need not make any appropriation for that purpose.

APPROPRIATING \$527,000,000 at one session of congress is a pretty lively way of getting rid of the surplus. Aside from the \$20,000,000 ship subsidy bill that amount barely covers the record of the short session. It's a very lucky thing for the country that this conclave of plunders have been relieved from duty.

THE people of Baker county asked as a special favor that Governor Penney should not veto their \$12,000 wagon road bill, pouring the dispatches in on the governor, who is said to have remarked that they have not paid their state taxes for five years, and now he would see that it was done. If this is true it offers a colossal example of cheek on the part of the Baker county people.—Albany Democrat.

It is amusing to note the manner in which Davis comments on the election of A. E. Eaton as school director at the recent school election. To one who is not acquainted with the facts in the case his remarks may not seem strange, but it is a well-known fact that the election of Mr. Eaton was altogether contrary to Davis' wishes and that he did all in his power to defeat him. As usual, his influence amounted to nothing, and the taxpayers cast their vote for Mr. Eaton, who, we are pleased to note, was elected.

## OUR POSITION.

Davis tried hard to find something mean to say about us last week, and would have his readers think we were "expelled from the fire company in order to afford the city better protection against fire;" that we are opposed to all public improvements, etc. He knows, and all members of the fire company know, that we were not expelled, and that we have no particular animosity towards the company, and when it comes to duty we will do as much work as any active member in case of a fire. We have been a member of the company, in good standing, for eight years—ever since it was organized—till the last few months, when we quit attending the meetings. This we did for the reason we did not like the action the company took in the city election. We were one of the members composing the committee that framed the new by-laws, which imposed a fine of 25 cents on members for non-attendance at the meetings, and knew that when a certain amount was entered up against us our name would be stricken from the roll of active members. This is what we desired and expected they would do, and the insinuation of the Republican that we were "expelled," is an injustice and shows a contemptible spirit of malice, but entirely in keeping with his past actions. He would have his readers believe we are opposed to the purchase of a fire engine for said company, which is not the case, and no man can say we ever uttered a word against it. The people know how we stand on municipal matters and questions of public improvements in the city, and four-fifths of them fully endorse our position. Whenever a question comes up in regard to improvements for the city, we will give our views on the subject, without fear or favor.

THE SCOUT is free and outspoken and will always be found on the side of justice, and if the city council, or any public official, goes contrary to what we think is law and justice, we will let the fact be known to our citizens. This we deem right and the duty of a newspaper.

So far as our literary ability is concerned we have made no boast of it, and the editor of the Republican, in our opinion, does not possess an overstock of this article. He can see no good in anything except it originate with a few who have an axe to grind, and who use that organ through which to accomplish their work, and Davis willingly turns the crank. He does not seem to know their object, in fact he cannot see an inch before his nose, even with the aid of his valuable specs. If he would brace up, raise his glasses and look at matters with a broad view, and make his paper more independent, like THE SCOUT for instance, he would accomplish something and be of some benefit to the community at large.

He says that he was in hopes that THE SCOUT would "be free from the dirt that characterized it under the former management, and fall in line with the spirit of progress." No, no, Davis; if what you term "spirit and enterprise," consists of the schemes and plans laid by certain citizens of this town for their own personal benefit, we don't want any of it in ours. Call us a mossback, or anything, but don't ask us to "fall in line" with such schemers as these.

## LAND LAWS REPEALED.

The register of the land office at La Grande has received notice to the effect that the timber culture and pre-emption laws have been repealed, and to allow no further entries under these acts. Besides repealing the timber culture and pre-emption laws, it provides that homesteaders cannot commute in six months, but must live on their claims one year before they can commute and pay the customary \$1.25 per acre, outside the railroad limits, or \$2.50 per acre inside the railroad limits, and secure title to the lands. Another important feature of the bill is that which practically annuls all contests for lands which have been initiated, for final proof has been made by the settlers in many instances now pending before the interior department. Special agents of the land office have reported that the proof made by the settlers was unsatisfactory, although the lands on which proof has been made, have been sold or have been foreclosed under a mortgage given by the settlers to obtain money for making final proof and payments. The act also provides for the reservation of sites for irrigation purposes, and gives the right of way through all properties owned by the United States, for the building of irrigation canals and ditches. Besides the provisions relating to the acquisition of townsites and other property interests in Alaska, there is a modification of the mineral land laws,

which will be of considerable benefit to claimants, although there may be some difficulty in digesting the provision relative to the cutting of timber in mineral states. President Harrison refused to sign the bill until there had been a modification of that provision relating to the cutting of timber in mineral states, and this modification will seriously affect the Black Hills district in South Dakota, as well as other mineral states.

Senators Pettigrew, Casey, Sanders and Allen worked hard to bring influence to bear upon the president to sign the bill, and it was largely through the influence of western senators and representatives that the modification in the bill was passed through congress. Secretary Noble filed nine specific reasons why the bill should not become a law, and was very urgent before the president, insisting that he should veto it. The modification passed in the resolution gives the secretary of the interior power to regulate matters relating to the cutting of timber, and all cases where the United States has brought suit against people who have removed timber. It will take about one month for the interior department to formulate regulations by which the land officers can act. Instructions have already been sent to the land officers directing them to allow no further entries until the rules and regulations of the interior department can be promulgated. The interior department officials are not quite clear as to the intent of all the provisions, and it will take several weeks to definitely decide what was intended in this great omnibus bill. One effect, however, is conceded, and that is that it will affect five-sixths of all the contests now pending before the department. It is quite probable that the practical workings of the law will demonstrate that the next congress will have to make some modifications in its provisions.

## CASH VS. CREDIT.

The credit system, as at present carried on in Oregon, is the whole cause of what is now termed "hard times." The farmer, the merchant, the stock raiser and grain dealer all do an immense credit business. We say it is the cause of hard times and expect, by points which have come under our observation, to prove our assertion.

We ask, can any farmer or business man pay from twenty to thirty per cent interest and then make a success of such business? You say no, as all business men say. But does a farmer pay such interest as above stated? You ask. Take the following for an example:

A farmer in this section a short time ago wished to purchase a wagon. Upon inquiring the price he was informed that it was \$104 on one year's time, at ten per cent interest, \$97 on thirty days or \$88 cash. At that rate the purchaser pays about twenty-six per cent on his investment. If he borrows money on his farm to pay the debts he has contracted he pays eight per cent on his mortgage, four per cent to insure the property against fire if there be buildings on the land, and from three to five per cent to the loan agent. Is there any wonder that he cries "hard times?"

The reason that corporations are on the increase is that they do a strictly cash business. You would not ask the railroad company to trust you until your wheat is threshed for a passage from here to Chicago, or to Portland. Then why ask your neighbor or merchant to wait on you.

Pay as you go, and in a short time you will find that cash is king and that credit is the slave that has bound you, not with a golden link, but with an iron band for these many years. We say, break the iron band and deliver yourselves from the bonds of slavery.

HON. JOHN MINTO, of Salem, has been appointed by the secretary of agriculture, stock correspondent for the bureau of animal industry in the department of agriculture, at a salary of \$1400 per annum, together with all traveling expenses. His instructions authorize him to go to any place, or places, in the states of Oregon, Washington or California. Mr. Minto is directed to begin an investigation of the sheep industry of the Pacific coast. The work for the present is to be confined to the states of Oregon and Washington.

PORTLAND will now have another fine building, the bill appropriating \$500,000 for a government building having passed both houses of congress and been signed by the president. Two other buildings costing a like amount are at present under construction, the city hall and chamber of commerce, and it will not be long before a fine court house is under way.

## THE DEMOCRATIC PROGRAMME.

The democratic party has a magnificent career of power and usefulness before it if it will adhere faithfully to the task it has undertaken and assume no new burdens until the work now engaged in shall have been completed.

The fight for tariff reform has only commenced. The democratic party has been mobilized; it has taken the field, it has encountered the enemy and routed it. But it has not yet dislodged the enemy; it has driven the enemy out of the house of representatives; it must drive the enemy out of the senate and the presidency before it can relieve the country from burdensome and unjust taxation.

The democratic party has still to restore the house of representatives to its constitutional position as a deliberative body. It has still to defend the rights of the states against Federal encroachment. It remains its arduous duty to protect the treasury from burglarious schemes of subsidists.

Now to hold the party together in this great and good work, and to keep the recruits who are daily swelling our ranks, we must tolerate some difference of opinion on other points. Some of us want free coinage of silver and some do not; some want civil service reform and others do not. While we have practical bi-metalism, and would have efficient public servants under a democratic administration, and a fairly equitable system of taxation under a reformed tariff, let us not quarrel among ourselves about the means as to which we differ, of attaining the ends on which we are all agreed.

Let us remember that the more planks there are in a platform the fewer people can stand on it; the more articles there are in a creed the fewer people will subscribe to it.

The republican party recognizes the fact that it was beaten last fall on the tariff, the force bill and house rules issues. It is trying to substitute the currency for the tariff. It is making every effort to change the issues. On the tariff issue we are certain to keep New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and to add Massachusetts and Rhode Island and possibly New Hampshire in the east, and Minnesota and with almost equal certainty we may say Wisconsin and Illinois.

If we allow the tariff issue to go to the rear and put the currency question in front we are playing into the hands of the enemy.—National Democrat.

THE resources of Oregon are far greater, in points of quality and number, than those of Washington, our sister state, notwithstanding which fact we are being badly distanced in the race for supremacy. Oregon's population consists mainly of old settlers and their offspring while that of Washington comprises a comparatively recent emigration from the East—men who are the sole embodiment of energy and enterprise. They came from a land where indolence and inertia are nonentities and where energy and push are necessary to gain a livelihood. On the other hand our old-timers have been blessed by nature with everything that heart might crave and have grown dormant, so to speak. In conversation with a gentleman recently from that state, he speaks of sights to be seen on the trip from Seattle to Portland. He says that "at the various stations along the line of railroads in Washington all is bustle and activity; not an idle man is to be seen. One is engaged in making garden, another is building a house, others clearing land, etc. But the moment we cross the Columbia into Oregon all is changed. All we see is a few stragglers awaiting the approaching train with their hands in their jeans pockets and a languid, forlorn look upon their countenances." This is sufficient for the average readers and they may form their own conclusions as to the reason we are not keeping pace with the times.

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