The Oregon Scout.

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B. CHANCEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

GEN. JOHN M. PALMER was elected United States senator from Illinois on the 11th inst.

THE enterprising property owners of Dallas, Polk county, have decided to build a woolen mill.

THE Arlington Advocate is to be moved to Condon and the name changed to the Condon Globe.

THE total indebtedness of the United States, including both the interest bearing and non-interest bearing, is $1,017,985,785.98.

TONY NOLTNER has retired from the Portland World and is superceded by Robt. A. Thompson and W. W. Copeland the former as editor and the latter as manager.

THE legislation enacted by the past congress in the ratification of various treaties heretofore concluded between the commissioners on the part of the United States and various Indian tribes, will result in the opening of over eight million acres of public land to settlement, the aggregate cost to the government being about $9,000,000.

ONE of the active and efficient factors in the future development and prosperity of the state, is the mining interests, and the outlook is certainly excellent in this vicinity. The Cornucopia, Sanger and Sparta mines, which are directly contiguous and dependent upon Union, are rapidly coming to the front as the most promising investment in the entire country.

SOCKLESS SIMPSON, the hayseed congressman from Kansas, was asked by a Washington lady the other day if it was true that he did not wear socks, Mr. Simpson had his nerve with him and replied: "Madam, I believe in the doctrine of reciprocity. If you will show me your socks I will show you mine." "Oh, my!" exclaimed the lady, and fled. Yet the world must admit that Mr. Simpson had a keener sense of propriety than the lady.

AND still the question is being argued, "What religion did General Sherman profess?" What's the use of such a post mortem? What's the difference? Wherever he was going he's got there and no one will ever know anything about it. If some one, not a thousand, or a hundred, or a dozen, but just one could give us survivors a pointer in this matter that has puzzled all for 5,894 years, three months and eighteen days, how valuable the information would be.—Astorian.

IN the Dixie school district, near Walla Walla, a religious war has recently been raging which, though not so far-reaching or disastrous in its consequences, has engendered quite as much bitterness of feeling, in comparison with the extent of territory embraced, as did any of the religious wars which in times past devastated Europe. The excitement culminated when the schoolmaster of the district refused to join in the church work, and the most interested have since set themselves to work to secure his dismissal on the ground that he was an infidel and therefore unfit to teach children. The matter has not yet been dropped, and the teacher still holds his position.

THE election of Palmer as senator from Illinois reduces the nominal republican majority in the senate to six and wipes out the high tariff majority altogether. Three of the republican senators—Plumb, of Kansas, Paddock, of Nebraska, and Pettigrew, of South Dakota—voted against the McKinley bill. They have since been reinforced by Hansbrough, of North Dakota, who is under pledges to the democrats. These four, even if no others hav been taught anything from last fall's landslide, and if New Mexico and Arizona be still kept out, will be enough to put the tariff reformers in control of the senate. The anti-force bill majority is still greater than the anti-McKinley majority, but in view of the composition of the new house that point is hardly worth mentioning.

HE ACTED WISELY.

A majority of the papers throughout the state are bemeaning Governor Pennoyer, because of his veto of the various wagon road appropriation bills. In small counties which contribute but a small proportion of the taxes to the state treasury, we cannot blame the citizens for feeling a little hurt. A number of this class of counties had bills introduced by their representatives for amounts arranging from $1000 to $15,000, aggregating about $200,000, but were finally scaled down to about $130,000, and in this manner passed the house and senate, a large number voting for the bills in order to get some pet measure of theirs through, knowing that the governor would veto the bills. Two-thirds of the senators and representatives were opposed to any road appropriations by the state.

If the bills had become a law, Union county would have contributed to the fund about $5000. What would she have received in return? The bill introduced by Hardy, of Baker county, to build a road down Powder river, through Union county and on to the Seven Devils mines, was for $9000, but reduced to $4500. According to the provisions of the bill Union county would have expended half this amount in the construction of the road, and Baker county the other half, which would amount to $2250. There was nothing to be gained. We would have paid into the state treasury about $5,000 and received in return $2250, to be expended in a manner we know not how. Taking the past record of the way in which such appropriations have been handled and expended throughout the state, by commissioners and men who have no interest in the matter, except to squander the money, our benefits would have been small indeed. It would be much cheaper for the county court of any county, having net taxable property of over $3,000,000, as Union county has, to appropriate money directly out of the county treasury for the building of roads, and place it in the hands of men who will expend it to the best advantage.

Multnomah county would have contributed a large amount to this fund and would have received nothing in return, and it would be the same result with a number of other counties in the state. We are of the opinion it would not be a fair representation, and think the governor acted wisely in veteoing the bills.

Union county is now agitating the building of a road from Pine valley down Pine creek to Ballard's landing on Snake river, to tap the rich mines of the Seven Devils country, and no doubt an appropriation will soon be made. If the money is expended properly we will have a good road and it will not cost the county as much as if the bill introduced in the legislature for this purpose had become a law. If Baker county would do as much, and build a road down Powder river to Eagle valley they will also have a good road to the mines, as there is already a first-class road from Eagle valley to the line of the proposed road from Union; but some of the citizens of Baker county seem to think Union county should make an appropriation equal to the amount they propose to subscribe or appropriate and build the road together, down Powder river. The Union county court has already appropriated $2000 for a road down this pass, which has been expended, but only a small part of the road was completed, and it will require a considerable sum to finish it, but this is the natural outlet for Baker City to the Seven Devils mines, and we see no reason why they should not complete the road, if they wish to compete for the trade of this camp. It will cost them no more than Union county will appropriate in money, donations and work by her citizens for the road from Pine valley to Ballard's landing, and they will have fully as good a thoroughfare, the distance from Baker and Union to the mines being about equal. The same state of affairs exists in many other counties and it is not just for one county to be taxed for the building of roads in other counties, entirely antagonistic to their own interests.

Two years ago an appropriation of $8000 was made by the legislature for the improvement of the Wallowa canyon road. Union county had the handling of, and expended $2000 of this amount, but how much did she pay into the state treasury for the privilege? She virtually paid into the treasury of Wallowa county the sum of $2500. It is true this road was much needed and the citizens of Wallowa county were unable to build it, but Multnomah, Marion, Linn, and other counties throughout the state, received no benefit from this appropriation, yet they contributed largely toward the fund. We cannot see why any county should favor appropriating money out of the state treasury for the building of wagon roads, unless they receive an amount largely in excess of what they have to pay into the state treasury for taxes.

"SILENCE IS BEST."

Under the above caption the ever alert editor of the Eastern Oregon Republican advises the city council of Union not to pay any attention to the inquiries propounded by a "citizen" who had taken the liberty to ask why certain funds were paid out of the city treasury to cancel indebtedness contracted by private citizens for private interests that had never been authorized by their predecessors. The editor of an alleged newspaper that boasts that "if there was anything wrong the Republican would have told you so" boldly asserts that the members of the council are acting wisely in treating the candid inquiry of a "citizen" in regard to what has been done with a certain amount of the people's money with silent contempt.

He also turns his little squirt gun in the direction of the Chronicle and thinks one of the most stupendous thoughts that we remember to have ever noticed emanating from under his number five at the base but two stories tall hat. We feel that our readers have been put sufficiently on their guard to present it in all its collossal magnificence:

"Why the La Grande Chronicle should take up the fight of "Citizen" is accounted for on the same grounds on which it based its '$1,200 steal' delusion. As we remarked before it is hard for some people to stand defeat."

The Chronicle some time ago made inquiry in regard to the status of an appropriation of a large sum of county funds, and the public was not only surprised at the conglomeration of nonsense, falsehoods and inconsistencies, hotch-potched together by the editor of the Republican and his first and second cook, but they were also amused as the farce proceeded. They are also fully satisfied that twelve hundred dollars of the people's money will be returned to the county treasury that would never have been expended for the purpose for which it was appropriated.

The taxpayers of Union county have marked carefully the vituperations that have been hurled at the Chronicle by this same Republican as a Chinese man of war would hurl its stink pots at an approahing enemy, and they have not been surprised to see the Republican reduced in size to a six column folio. The Chronicle has a wide and rapidly extending circulation in Union and believing that the interrogations made by citizen swere worthy of candid consideration and unequivocating replies it dared to so express itself. We are not now surprised to see the Republican advise that "silence is best." The Republican seems to be acting as the retained counsel of the little organization over at our seat of government, whenever they attempt to appropriate funds out of either city or county or city treasury, and well remembering the chastisement it received a few weeks ago at the hands of the Chronicle, and the punishment to which it subjected its clients it adopts the strategy almost invariably pursued by wise counsel to the desperate criminal and whispers "silence is best."

We presume the advice is good from the Republican's standpoint. Silence is usually adopted by those who are perpetrating crimes or shielding criminals, but it is believed that in many cases an open, fearless, candid and honorable method of doing business, that is above reproach and beyond suspicion, is best.—Chronicle.

PAY YOUR DEBTS.

An exchange says: "The religion most needed now-a-days is one that will prompt a man to pay his debts." This is true, and while we would not for a moment think of converting the church into a debt collecting agency, we at the same time have no confidence in the religion of the so-called Christian who tries to shirk an honest debt. Where a man can pay and won't pay he should be shunned by all honest men. Many good men are so situated that they cannot meet all their pecuniary obligations when due, but they go frankly to their creditor and tell him so and do not try to shield themselves behind limitation or exemption laws. It is terrible for a man to gamble, drink to excess, and swear, but in doing these he is only injuring himself and family, if he has one, but when he willfully repudiates a just debt he is injuring fellowmen and need not flatter himself that he shall finally enter the pearly gates. No indeed; his portion will be in a climate especially noted for the entire absence of winter and all winter attachment.

Subscribe for THE SCOUT.

AT THE PEOPLE'S EXPENSE.

Senator Hearst's death was expected and when it occured there was no great surprise. It was also expected that his remains would be taken to California for burial, but no one anticipated that this expense would be borne by the government. It turns out that the bone and sinew of the country will have to meet the expense, and it will cost about $30,000 to carry one man's remains and the mourners across the coutinent. It is a most outrageous expenditure and waste of the people's money. It shows plainly to what base uses the money, unnecessarily drawn from the pockets of the producers, is put. Senator Stanford had intended having his private car attached to the funeral train, being an old friend of the dead senator, but when he found that it was to be a junketing party he ordered his car detached and expressed himself as disgusted at the proceedings. Nine senators and eight representatives were appointed on the part of the respective houses as an escort of honor, the wives of some of these men accompanying them as well as two employes of the senate. It was sent out the day before the train left that Mrs. Hearst had set her foot down on so large a party going and that sooner than have the solemn obsequies made a mere excuse for a junket at government expense, she would pay the cost of the train herself and shut out the junketers, but she does not seem to have been successful.

The beastly party were too eager to see California and eat and drink at government expense to allow their scheme to be frustrated, so the train started from Washington to California last Saturday and no doubt the gourmands and gluttons are having a good time with the same ravenous glee that possesses a coyote when he discovers a dead sheep on the lonely prairie.

A man or woman is low, indeed, when they depend upon charity for favors and can enjoy them to such an extent as to be always keen in their search for more. It is a plain truth that one who lives on unearned bread soon looses all delicacy and sensitiveness and becomes a mere bird of prey. These people who made up the junketing party are of this class, people who have lived all of their lives at the expense of the public without giving value received. How can they have a sense of decency and honor when their lives, in the nature of things, are given up to the "flesh pots of Egypt," so to speak?—East Oregonian.

THE Daily East Oregonian of the 14th inst. was a double number, containing a vast amount of matter relative to Pendleton and Umatilla county, and reflects much credit on the enterprising publishers.

Presbyterian Church.

Preaching every Sabbath at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m; Sabbath school at 10 a. m; Christian Endeavor Society, Tuesday at 7 p. m. All are cordially invited to attend. We urge parents to bring their children to church that they may be nurtured in morality and piety. W. J. HUGHES, Pastor.