

# The Oregon Scout.

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B. CHANGEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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One copy, one year ..... \$1.50  
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Correspondence from all parts of the country solicited.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1891.

## WHO'S A LIAR?

The thing that poses as editor of the Whangdoodle consumed a column and a half space last week in trying to prove to its few readers that he is a "good little boy"—an angel, as it were, and that he never intimated that THE SCOUT was implicated in sending the letters referred to in the La Grande Gazette for publication. Well, we will see. In the issue of April 16th the Whangdoodle, among other things referring to THE SCOUT, says:

"Nor does it seem to be content to use its own columns to injure the town, but one of its employees has been sending letters to the La Grande Gazette, filled with the most derogatory and condemning articles about Union. \* \* \* And this in the face of its opposition to public enterprises and the letters to the La Grande Gazette sent out from that office."

The above is what he said and what we took exception to. It is plain to be seen that he would have his readers believe we were guilty of the work and yet he says he did not accuse us of writing the letters and publishes the following to prove his statement:

"One of its (THE SCOUT'S) employees has been sending letters to the La Grande Gazette filled with the most derogatory and condemning articles about Union."

Everyone knows, and so does Davis, that THE SCOUT had nothing to do with sending the letters to the Gazette, and knew nothing about it, but when the charges were made that the letters were sent out from this office we questioned Mr. Slocum in regard to the matter and he admitted that he wrote the letters, which was a great surprise to us, and we immediately discharged him. The letters were not written in this office and could not have been sent out from this office, and even if they were we were not responsible for them, as the Republican would have its readers believe. However, this is only a sample of the competition THE SCOUT has to deal with in this town, and the statements made by the Republican in regard to this matter are as far from the truth as everything else it has said in regard to this paper.

There was about as much sense in the charge that the letters were sent from this office as there would have been in accusing our county clerk, Turner Oliver, of sending the letter to the Gazette in regard to our city marshal, or that it was sent out from the clerk's office because Mr. Slocum was working there at the time.

In order to settle this matter and show that we were entirely ignorant of who was writing the letters to the Gazette, and that we did not approve of it, we give Mr. Slocum's statement, written and signed by himself, which is as follows:

"The recent communications appearing in the La Grande Gazette under the head of 'Notes from Union,' and over the nom de plume of 'Hebrew Citizen' were written by me, without the knowledge of the editor of THE SCOUT, its former editor, Mr. Jones, or any person or persons now or heretofore connected with said paper; that prior to April 14, 1891, said parties were entirely in the dark as to the author of said communications and at divers times expressed their regret, in my presence, that any resident of this place should see fit to write in such a manner; that I, alone, am responsible for each and every criticism contained therein, and for the purpose of vindicating said persons of having had any hand in the matter is the reason why I make this statement."

F. M. SLOCUM.

Another matter that seems to have riled the proprietors of the Whangdoodle was the little item that appeared in THE SCOUT last week in regard to a certain promissory note for \$200 which was found and advertised by them for some time. We don't blame them for getting mad about it, for they are now, no doubt, ashamed of this little affair, and it devolves upon us to explain the matter more fully, being as both the proprietors have personally forbid us again mentioning them in such a manner. The facts of the case, as near as we can learn, are as follows: Several months ago a note was found, drawn in favor of a well known citizen of this place, but had been paid. The Republican, thinking perhaps they would be well

paid, advertised the note for some time without giving the name of the owner. This would not seem so bad were not he a near neighbor to the editor, who passes him on the street nearly every day in the week. Their attempt to get an advertising fee out of the owner of the note was of no avail, however, and when he found out the facts in the case, would not reimburse them for their trouble, being as the note had already been paid.

We are a peaceable and law abiding citizen and do not boast of our physical ability, but will advise all such snipes as the proprietors of the Whangdoodle to not monkey with us, for if they do they may get hurt.

## THE CROP OUTLOOK.

We are pleased to note that a large amount of grain has been put in this spring, and that the prospects are good for an abundant yield. Most of the grain is looking well, but just now is much in need of rain in order to fully insure a full crop in some of the dryer sections. Yet there are three months more during which rains may be reasonably expected, and with the vast amount of moisture stored up in the earth from the snow and rainfall of last winter, a very little more rain will make a good crop. The early sown grain is not showing up as strongly as it should, owing to frosts and cold nights, but taken altogether farmers predict that the crop of 1891 will be larger in Oregon than that of any previous year in the last decade. This is what we need; the farmers can stand a great deal of prosperity without becoming bloated capitalists.

A good crop will be the salvation of many deserving farmers. The financial stress through which Oregon has labored during the last five years, has caused the most economical and industrious farmers to grow worn and haggard.

The mortgage tax law and its attendant evils weighed heavily upon the agricultural industry of Oregon; and when to that is added the low prices for farmers' products, especially wheat, it is not surprising that many men became disheartened as interest became payable and mortgages matured. Taxes to meet the expenses of the county and state have ruled high, and their payment was an added hardship to the anxious, debt-burdened farmers. The men who had money to loan, in many, very many instances, have been leeches upon the productive vitality of the country. Usury laws have been disregarded and "bonuses" paid that more than equaled the added lawful rate of 10 per cent interest. The man who could secure the biggest bonus for his money, in addition to lawful interest, has been considered the shrewdest financier. This method of "business" has gained such headway under the depressed condition of farming, that loans are being made at 10 per cent and "bonuses" exacted that swells the payment of "blood-money," in many instances, to from 30 to 35 per cent of the total sum borrowed. Something ought to be done; something must be done. Instead of encouraging agricultural pursuits and other business enterprises, that give employment to men who would expend their wages with our merchants, there seems to be a desire on the part of a few to bring ruin upon a legitimate business that they may gain a profit from the wreck.

There must be a big reduction in interest. The payment of notes secured by mortgages upon the lands of this county at less than two-thirds the value of said lands, is a better security than that of our government. But observe the difference in percentage! The day is coming when money will be rated at its proper value. There is deep injustice, great wrong in a man loaning from \$2000 to \$3000 at such rate of interest that he can live in ease and comfort without laboriously exercising a muscle, while his neighbor employs double and often quadruple that sum in business, labors early and late, grasps every opportunity to make honest money, and yet receives less than his absorbing, conscienceless neighbor.

There is a tide in the affairs of men which, if taken at the flood, leads on to success. Oregon's big crop for the year 1891 will send this tide in surging billows upon the farmers of the state, and then is their opportunity. Pay off indebtedness, dictate terms of necessary loans at low rates of interest. If this cannot be done in Oregon, let the farmers combine and secure a large loan from the east at five or six per cent. This can be done; the farmers have the rich and fertile lands at their backs, and only through their labors are the great wheels of traffic put in motion. Thousands of farms in Oregon are laden with mortgages in servitude. Borrow the money jointly,

and let it be re-loaned to those in need of funds, at low rates of interest.

In union there is release from these financial troubles. It is about time the farmers were forming a "trust." Let us combine.

## CLEVELAND FOR 1892.

A New York dispatch of the 20th inst. says: Ex-Mayor William R. Grace, who has traveled all over the country in the last few months, taking in the states between Florida and California on the southern tier, arrived in the city today. There were few places in which he stopped during his travels, where he was not visited by public men, office-holders, politicians and business men, so that he had a good opportunity to feel the political pulse in the various states where he visited, and the information he brings back with him is of interest. Speaking in a general way of what he had been doing he said today:

"Of course I was in the strong silver states for the most of the time and I found at the outset that all the silver men were disappointed at ex-President Cleveland's position on the silver question taken in his letter. But, notwithstanding all that, they recognized that he was the man above all others who on his record and the great issue of tariff reform and reduction of taxation is entitled to the nomination by the democratic convention of 1892. They all expressed themselves as feeling the strongest kind of admiration for his courage and patriotism and straightforwardness of purpose and his devotion to the broad interests of the whole country as opposed to the sectional ideas of many of the leaders of the republican party. In some cases men in the machine who were merely machine politicians criticised him for his lack of sympathy with the principle that to the victor belongs the spoils, but the great body of the business people of the country feel deeply impressed by his administrative record and by the general prosperity which existed during his administration."

While Mr. Grace was enjoying himself in California, Congressman Warwick, who defeated McKinley in the last congressional election in Ohio, was also seeking health there. The Young Men's Democratic League of San Francisco determined to give both these gentlemen a reception, and this reception took the form of a great democratic demonstration in favor of democratic reform, in Metropolitan Hall in San Francisco on April 4.

"Mr. Warwick," said Mr. Grace, "is a very agreeable gentleman and made a first rate impression in California where there was a great desire to see him because he had defeated McKinley. This demonstration of April 4th was a great boom for tariff reform in California. Tariff reform, by the way, is an issue that has never been tried there in a campaign. In the last presidential campaign the state committee prohibited it from being forced as an issue. Many members of the democratic party there, especially in the Young Men's League, wanted to test the feeling of the people on the question and this was one reason why the reception was given. The result was enormously satisfactory. I think there is no doubt but that tariff reform will be made the issue in the next fight in California as elsewhere. There is a constantly growing enthusiasm for it there. Roger Q. Mills is soon to speak on that topic in San Francisco. I do not believe that the democrats can carry California in the next presidential contest, but I do believe that Cleveland could come nearer carrying it than any other candidate."

"What did you hear about Governor Hill and his presidential aspirations?" "I never heard Mr. Hill's name mentioned seriously by any prominent man as a candidate for the presidency. Some people, mostly republicans, asked me about his chances, and I could but say to them that by accepting the United States senatorship, Mr. Hill has himself put aside his aspirations in that direction. I said that I did not believe the democratic convention would relieve him from his duties in the senate because the probabilities were that would take a democrat out of the United States senate who would be succeeded by a republican."

While in Denver the Greystone Club and Chamber of Commerce in that city both invited Mr. Grace to receptions, but he had to hurry back to Southern California and could not accept. Several prominent men of the city, however, called on him and discussed the presidential outlook.

"To sum it up in a sentence," said the ex-mayor, "the watchword for 1892 everywhere is 'Cleveland and tariff reform.'"

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