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THURSDAY, OCT. 15, 1891

A Word to Our Patrons.

Ever since the establishment of THE SCOUT we have been very lenient with our subscribers, relying on them to pay when most convenient to themselves...

REFORM THE ROLL.

The report that a strong section of the Grand Army is preparing a movement to reform the pension laws and purify the pension rolls is one that we may heartily wish to see confirmed.

The fact that the pension rolls are "stuffed" is well known to every one familiar with pension matters. The statement of the fact does not depend on the enemies of the pension system.

The Grand Army would do itself honor by attempting to reform the laws and rulings that make fraud easy, and still more by assisting to purify the rolls.

But if the Grand Army men do not take up the work it should not be left undone. It is one of the first subjects that should engage the attention of the next congress.

No right-thinking person has any desire to deprive any needy or deserving veteran of the relief due him. Those who are dependent or disabled, who cannot support themselves and have no means, should be cared for by the government for which they fought.

The pension appropriation would then become less of a burden to the people.—Examiner.

The Oregon State School Journal has been moved from Roseburg to Monmouth where it is now published in a much neater and better form.

The Examiner has advices from Honolulu to the effect that Queen Liliuokalani has been taken ill with serious fainting spells, and her physician, Dr. Trosscau, has pronounced her trouble organic disease of the heart...

At a meeting of the county alliance held at Milton, Umatilla county, a few days ago, a resolution was passed declaring against an alliance third party. It was resolved that the alliance is not a party or partisan.

The New York Sun of Oct. 12th says: The following dispatch was received from Washington last night at too late an hour to make the necessary inquiries to get a confirmation: "The government of the United States has just concluded a convention with Germany, through the German minister, by which all our crops will be admitted into the German empire free of duty in consideration of the free admission into the United States of German beet sugar after January 1, which under the recent law would then stop."

Letter From "Lead Pencil."

(This communication was intended for publication last week, but was unavoidably crowded out.—Ed.)

UNION, OREGON, October 6, 1891.

EDITOR OREGON SCOUT:

A person might easily be led to believe that my stump of a lead pencil had stirred up a whole menagerie of animals by the howls coming from the Chronicle office last week, when in fact it is only the braying of one small jack. The editor of that sheet, who has labored so hard to shape the course of the alliance of this county to suit his own peculiar views, and has grown so desperate because he could not succeed in doing so, admits that I chastised him in my article in THE SCOUT of the 24th ult. with "Goodall" intentions.

Well now if he considers himself whipped he should not blame me. I only told the truth in every word I wrote. He claims to have discovered my identity and displays a small portion of his innate contemptible meanness in his base slurs and insinuations. He claims to be prone to speaking right out in meeting. One thing is certain: he is the champion and slayer. No one will dispute his ability to dish up more filth and slime with his pen than any rival. If that is any credit to him he is welcome to it.

few readers, but then I know that I am not capable of conducting a newspaper. But being guided by the light of past events in this county, if I were an aspirant for any position I would much prefer not to have Mac's open support at least.

Mac charges me with chastising him maliciously, but in that he is mistaken. I am sure I bear him no malice. I simply wish to correct what I conceive to be some of his errors. I sincerely wish to see him successful in conducting a good, live county paper and making it a success; but if he will pardon me the suggestion, I think it will be necessary for him to work some slight reforms before he does, and he may as well conclude to allow the alliance to manage its own domestic affairs, for that I think it will do.

But it has been the custom from time immemorial with a certain class to come forward on every occasion, in season and out of season, with advice, suggestions and directions for the poor, stupid farmer until it has become a kind of second nature with them and they refuse to believe him at all capable of governing his actions in anything without the light of their great wisdom, and the farmer, the good-natured soul, has encouraged them in this practice in the past by doing pretty much as he was advised by these self-constituted apostles, which easily accounts for his present condition.

But the indications are that he proposes to do more of his own thinking in the future. Certain it is that he will never experience the millennium by McComas methods. Mac charges me with vindicting the notorious circular. I did nothing of the sort. I simply said, and I repeat it now, that I knew nothing of the circular except what I learned from the Chronicle, but that it was not authorized by the county alliance. But taking the extract as he published it, and it is reasonable to suppose that under the circumstances he published the most objectionable portion of it, I cannot see without reading between the lines, as is necessary in reading many of the legislative enactments to get their true meaning, anything very objectionable. As I understand the meaning of the writer, it is simply a proposition to club the crop of wheat into large lots and endeavor to get better prices instead of letting it go in small lots, on old debts, at reduced prices, as they have been doing heretofore.

I do not understand that the writer intended that as a proposition to the farmers or members of the alliance to avoid the payment of any just obligation, nor do I believe that any one else thinks so, unless they wish to think so. I believe the farmers of this county fully appreciate any favors that have been extended to them by the merchant, in credit or otherwise, and that there is a general good feeling between them. There are few farmers who have wheat to sell but have some other property from which their creditors could secure all claims against them, and that alone is sufficient answer to all the rot of the Chronicle concerning this Elgin circular. The Chronicle says the Elgin Recorder is the alliance organ, when he knows that it is not so. If it was, Bro. Swinehart would be clearly eligible. But in the same article he says Swinehart stated that the Recorder was an independent journal and asked why the order does not throw the doors wide open. Not yet, friends, not yet. Better draw them to a little.

preventing the passage of a few bills of the character of many that are presented, he deserves the everlasting gratitude of his constituents. One of the great curses of this whole country is too much legislation of the kind, both state and national, and if my information is not very much at fault it will require the combined efforts of several Hercules in legislative lore to secure the enactment of any legislation really in the interest of the people, and I opine that an honest, conscientious member of the Oregon legislature for some time in the past felt almighty lonely, but maybe I don't know.

But, Mr. Editor, I have devoted altogether too much of your valuable space and my time to so very small and insignificant a subject, and if yourself and your readers will pardon me this time I will not so offend again. And just a few words now to my brother farmers and I am done. I never expect the alliance or other organization to be of any great benefit to me individually. I conclude that my fortune is about complete, such as it is. I cannot expect to take an active part on the stage of life but for a short time, but I shall leave sons and daughters who I expect will depend upon agriculture for a living, and being fully advised of the great depression in that industry, wrought by unjust legislation, trade discrimination and combination of aggregated capital, I tremble for the future welfare of my children and my country, for I fully realize that without speedy and very great reformation the farmers of this great and glorious country of ours, on which Nature has showered her very richest blessings, who should of right be the happiest and most independent people on earth, will be speedily reduced to a state of servitude and misery. But methinks I see the light breaking on the horizon. I see the star of hope. I hear a great multitude of voices demanding relief, just laws and equal rights. I see a mighty army marching up from the fields into the folds of the alliance, seeking education as to their rights and duties as free and independent American citizens and it gives me great hope for the future of our common country. And I am desirous of performing my share in working out this great reform, for I consider it the duty of every good citizen to strive to leave to the coming generation the best possible inheritance in just laws and education, so I subscribe myself

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