

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Referring to expressions in which extravagance is all-gone in relation to the appropriation of money for the improvement of wagon roads in the State, by the last legislative assembly, we would offer the following abstract in support of an assertion that no particularly generous concessions have been granted to the claimants for the appropriations of this class. On the contrary, it has simply been a matter of restitution to a purpose from which money has for thirty years past been diverted.

The act of Congress admitting Oregon into the Union contained six propositions. The first was in relation to school lands, a liberal grant; the second concerning gifts of land for use of a state university. The fifth is as follows: "That five per centum of the net proceeds of sale of all public lands lying within the state, which shall be sold by Congress after the admission of said state into the Union, after deducting all the expenses incident to the same, shall be paid to the state for the purpose of making public roads and internal improvements, as the legislature shall direct."

These propositions were subject to acceptance by the state of Oregon. The legislative assembly did so in an act, approved June 3, 1859.

For years the United States has been paying into the state treasury five per cent of the proceeds of the sale of public lands within its borders, for the purpose of constructing and improving wagon roads for the use and benefit of purchasers of government land, in sections yet unable to build their own roads. It was assumed that improvement of roads in remote parts would increase the sale of public lands, and justify and induce settlement of otherwise, than by publically constructed roads, inaccessible tracts.

We are without definite figures, but it is safe to say that the state is now receiving over \$40,000 each year from the government which was originally "intended and granted for the benefit of purchasers of public land, and for the improvement of wagon roads."

At a time when the handling of school funds was more of a "public trust—private snare sort of business" than it now is, by some manipulation, this internal improvement fund was diverted to the former, and yet so remains. The state having seen fit in the past, to divert the gift of the general government which was for internal improvements, to other purposes, in aggregate a vast amount. It can now only be considered as an act of restitution to grant an equal amount in a prudential manner to the purposes which occasioned the gift, long withheld.

If there has been purchased in the territory contiguous to the wagon road, in Grant county, two hundred and fifty sections of land, that section has a claim on the state for \$10,000 for the purpose of improving that road.

In Eastern states, recognition of the fact that the value of farm lands of equal productive capacity is dependent upon the cost of hauling produce to market, it is conceded that expenditure upon highways is advisable in ratio to the decrease in cost of hauling a ton.

The United States has given the state of Oregon over a half million dollars with which to make more valuable the lands which it has sold, by improvement of public highways. The state has used but a little over one-fifth of the amount for such purposes and then under protest by those of a section in which more early donations granted to them the most valuable government land without price. For this reason the older sections of the state have had, in the diversion of this five per cent internal improvement money to school purposes, a proportionate benefit of a fund to which they contributed little. For this reason it would seem that they should favor grants to all parts of the state equal to five per cent of the total amount paid in such a district to the general government for public lands, in an equitable and judicious manner.

Grant county asks only for a few thousand dollars for public improvements—to build a good road from Monument to John Day City, and as it is very plain that the people living adjacent to the road in question, have paid for all their ask, the appropriation should be granted them. This thoroughfare, when completed, would prove of much value to all Grant county, and from facts already placed before our readers, are not they unreasonable in their demands.

Oregon demands that the general government shall improve the public water ways, and open the Columbia river. The state should be consistent and use the thousands of dollars which the general government has provided, in the improvement of highways within its jurisdiction.

Senator Blackman will introduce a bill during the coming session providing for an appropriation to improve one of the most generally used highways in Grant county, the road already mentioned. To assist him in securing its passage, those who will receive its benefits should furnish him with data showing an equitable basis for their demands. It is a difficult matter for a representative of a district to work single-handed without support of the constituents in whose interest he labors.

Did you ever read the story of the man who found a serpent in the road, frozen stiff, and taking it into his bosom he warmed it to life again, when the grateful thing stung his benefactor to death? This is an experience that one has occasionally, figuratively speaking. There's serpents in the human family, and one must expect nothing from them but stings. Many people take pleasure in killing every real snake they meet; they should be just as careful in weeding out human reptiles.

CATCHING THEM ALL.

A democratic friend of ours, from Hays, writes as follows: "The great alliance man, John Hadley, is in our neighborhood working for that great party. I think that the democrats in this county are so smart to have the 'road pulled over their eyes,' and let the republican party set up a scheme in the shape of an alliance, or third party, so as to stop the progress of the democratic party in '92. Now, Mr. Editor, a dressing man will catch at a straw, and as the republican party made such a blunder when they passed the McKinley bill, they are trying to bridge it over with this alliance party to scatter the democratic vote."

Yes, but there's as many republicans joining the alliance as democrats, and so the latter cannot be badly worsted. States that had formerly given large republican majorities, went democratic the last election, because the republicans went over to the Farmers' Alliance.

PROPOSED CHANGE OF CHARTER.

Senator Blackman will ask the legislature to make several changes in Heppner's charter.

The clause to which he will devote particular attention is that one allowing our town council to go in debt to the extent of \$500 and no more. It is argued that this almost ties the hands of the town council to do anything, and that any town council that Heppner might choose ought to be privileged to incur an indebtedness of \$5,000, at least. And it strikes the GAZETTE just that way.

The town of Heppner should also have the right to incur an indebtedness of more than \$20,000. It is perhaps large enough just now, but by the time two years more shall have rolled around, Heppner will be clamoring for bigger clothes.

In other words, as soon as water works are put in, a sewerage system will be very badly needed, and it will take money to meet demands.

It is a good plan to give Heppner a chance to grow; and it will be necessary to go in debt some as it gets larger and more needy.

LONG CREEK is encouraging Pendleton in the extension and completion of the road to that place. There is a reason for it. The bulk of complaint is against the forwarding company at Heppner, and this paper has been constrained to believe that there is no foundation for so much grumbling. But they are kicking, never-the-less. Clear up the matter, and settle the difficulty. Heppner cannot afford to have any family rows.

UNLESS road supervisors can secure good, honest road work, worth every dollar done in this manner from the tax payer, it will be better to require cash payments, and then let the work out by contract. This is a plan which would be very objectionable to the people at large; yet this should be done, or better work required by supervisors. Look at your roads and see how poorly they are worked.

Let such a man be chosen for mayor as will be in accord with the policy of the retiring officer. Extensive improvements have been initiated, and there should be no halt in the matter. In the selection of councilmen, good progressive men should be chosen. The election is not far off, and it is none too soon to begin to think about who should be chosen.

HEPPNER can well afford to work for the Long Creek and John Day trade. In other words, it is well to give them fair treatment. Remember that Pauline is in the field and wants the business across the mountains. Her board of trade is hard at work. It is on time to sit idly by to let the business come and go as it will.

The Oregonian, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the Spokane Falls Review, the Spokane Falls Chronicle, the Salem Capital Journal, and the Salem Statesman all printed handsome New Year editions on the first of the month. What an improvement in the newspapers of the North-west in the past ten years!

ETERNITY in our editorial columns appears some facts relative to improvement of public highways. Truths are hard to get around, say Webfooters who kick against improvement of our roads. Who has paid for it and will continue to do so, whether appropriations are allowed or not?

The report that Gen. Miles was killed by Sioux, has been contradicted. At last accounts he had the hostiles hemmed in on all sides in the "Bad Lands," and was prepared to crush them out of existence unless an immediate surrender was made.

BLAINE is standing like a rock on the Bohring sea matter, and the English press are already beginning to talk about the superiority of iron ships over wooden vessels. This is fighting talk, but it will end in arbitration, no doubt.

It looks like Congress will pass a free coinage measure. The country is anxious to try it, and only experience will satisfy them as to the good or bad effects of absolute free coinage.

GOVERNMENT is reducing salaries all along the Union scale. Let the people stand together and reduce the profits of Gould for a while. It's their time now.

EMMA ARNOTT, the noted actress, died on the 5th inst., at Salt Lake City. She is worth something near \$3,000,000.

For a lame back, a pain in the side or chest, or for tooth-ache or ear-ache, prompt relief may be had by using Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It is sold by Francis & Brown, First and Duane Sts.

Bring in some potatoes on subscription.

ATHEA NEWS.

On Friday evening at about 10:30 your tramp and a number of friends were all sitting around the stove at a friend's house, listening to the rain coming down and to a well-told story of olden times in Oregon, when all at once the terrible cry of "Fire" was heard again and again. We thought it was done as a joke by one of the company, who had gone out, but when the first man got to the door, it was plain enough to see that it was no joke. The fire king was here in Athena in all his fury. "Great God," we all said with one breath, "a fire such a night as this!" The wind was blowing a gale and but little rain. We all started out to save what we could, and it was to the credit of Athena's boys and residents, they worked like beavers, and saved all that could be saved.

The fire broke out in the upper story of the building occupied by the Athena Drug Company, just about the center of the principal block in the city. From here it quickly communicated to the stores of Capt. Lewis and L. Blinn & Co., and in five minutes after the first alarm was sounded, two of the largest frame buildings in the block were a mass of flames. It is a miracle that the city of Athena is yet in existence. Had it not been for the rain increasing and the wind changing the entire business portion, as well as the greater part of the residence portion of the city would have been destroyed. The losses to a portion of those who were burned out will fall very heavy upon them. Capt. Lewis lost everything that he had; even his books were destroyed, and taking into consideration the way business is and the scarcity of money, the loss by this fire is undoubtedly large, and felt by many.

There is no way of getting at the losses, but well-informed parties place the total at between \$25,000 and \$30,000. This will cover everything. No accidents of any kind occurred, nor was there any thefts detected.

Ben Swagart came over and paid Athena a visit. Mrs. Swagart was spending the holidays at Link Swagart's, two miles from here. There has been several gospel meetings at Link's house within the past two weeks, which accounts for Link not selling more of his patent razors.

John Gillmar, who has charge of the N. P. elevators here, and one of Athena's most popular young men, was married on Dec. 31, to Mrs. Etta Irons, one of the proprietors of the Free-Trade Herald. This was done in such a quiet way that it was a surprise to all of their many friends. But their friends were not to be outdone. They all gathered at the hotel and wished the newly married couple a happy future, and they all meant it.

Our old and esteemed friends, J. Bloch and Jule Levy, had a hard time of it during the fire. Mr. Bloch was compelled to move all of his household furniture, and at the same time his store was in great danger. His many friends came to his assistance and pulled things through with but a small loss.

John Clary, the ever popular host of Athena, is now demonstrating to the sporting fraternity of Athena that he can raise as nice game birds as anybody. It will be to the bird fancier's interest to keep their eyes upon John, as he is sure to be on deck with some good ones. Jan. 3, '91.

"THE JERSEY LILLY." ANGLESEA COTTAGE, L. E., July 2. Gentlemen: Although it is very unusual for me to use any lotions or washes, still in answer to your request, I have tried Wisloman's Violet Cream and Robentine. The former I used especially efficacious in cases of roughness of the skin, and I have been using it every day for the last fortnight. I have found the Robentine an excellent preparation in cases of tan, sunburn, etc., caused by exposure to March winds and a July sun.

Yours faithfully, LILLIE LANGTRY. To Messrs. Wisdom & Co.

PINE CITY ITEMS. The following well-known attorneys, as well as patrons from the public at large: Tom Scott, attorney at law, Chas. M. Long, wife attorney; Blackstone, pleader, attorney, and A. A. Ayers, prosecuting attorney. Offices and council chamber, Pine City, Oregon.

About three inches of snow fell here the 30th ult.

S. T. Hoskins, the well-known sheepman of this region, is busy engaged in feeding his sheep, which are looking well.

Judge Hoskins and invited guests had a bounteous feast on baked coon, which was caught on Big Butter creek. It seems to me that coon would not be good for an interpreter of the law to eat.

Bob Shaw and Frank Sloan have returned from Heppner, and gone to digging sage brush. Many a large sage bush has fallen before their huge grubbing hoes. No wonder that Blackstone had to give up the job and go into the law business. It seems as though Bob and Frank want to control all such jobs, and therefore run Blackstone out.

G. W. Vincent began plowing to-day. George is a rattle. WILES. Jan. 4, 1891.

PRONOUNCED HOPELESS, YET SAVED. From a letter written by Mrs. Ada E. Hurd, of Grouton, S. D., we quote: "Was taken with a bad cold, which settled on my lungs, coughed and finally terminated in Consumption. Four doctors gave me up saying I could live but a short time. I gave myself up to my Savior, determined if I could not stay with my friends on earth, I would meet my absent ones above. My husband was advised to get Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. I gave it a trial, took in all right bottles; it has cured me and thank God I am now a well and hearty woman." Trial free at T. W. Ayer's, Jr., City Drug Store, regular size, 50c and \$1.00.

THE GAZETTE is a representation in Grant county of which it is proud. This is where Heppner's big contractors live. Does this suggest anything to our live merchants?

GALLOWAY ITEMS.

Pine City needs fire protection. Snow has come and gone. Eastern Oregon against the world for climate. John Barker, one of Morrow and Umatilla's best sheepmen, has let out all his sheep and is now living a retired life.

Case Rogers is still feeding one hundred head of beef cattle. C. F. Thompson, R. N. Standfield and others are feeding small lots.

George Vincent was quite nervous the other day. Upon investigating the matter, learned he had failed to get his last week's GAZETTE.

When it thunders, look out for lightning. Be careful, Jim; it has thundered out at Wattenburg's.

W. H. Barker is erecting a large barn on his ranch.

The McKinley bill passed the school house and was taken in down at Blackstone's law office, and he is now using it to draft a constitution and by-laws for the debating society.

Quite a number of the young folks gathered at Mart McCumber's house, New Years, and had a sociable. Among them we noticed Felix Johnson and wife.

Winfield Perry's four-horse team ran away with him last week. He received several bruises, but no bones broken. He says that kind words from a tenderheart is better medicine for a bruise than St. Jacob's Oil.

Wm. Jones, the Upper Butter Creek sheep rustler, passed through here Tuesday with one band of his sheep, moving from the sand to feed.

G. W. Vincent has the name of being a great debater on Mormonism. George has the pleasure of being the only Mormon in this vicinity. He will deliver an address on Mormonism at the school house, Saturday and Sunday nights, this week. Everybody cordially invited to attend.

There is quite a lot of sickness in the neighborhood—two or three cases of the measles, and the balance have had colds. No deaths, births or marriages at this writing, but quite a number of marriages expected soon. That is the girls have the boys' consent. LOTS. Galloway, Or., Jan. 4, '91.

HAPPY HOOSIERS. Wm. Timmons, Postmaster of Idaville Ind., writes: "Electric Bitters has done more for me than all other medicines combined, for the best feeling arising from Kidney and Liver trouble." John Leslie, farmer and stockman, of same place, says: "Find Electric Bitters to be the best medicine and Liniment I have ever used for my rheumatism. J. W. Gardner, hardware merchant, same town, says: "Electric Bitters is just the thing for a man who is all run down and don't care whether he lives or dies; he found new strength, good appetite and felt just like he had a new lease on life. Only 10c a bottle at T. W. Ayer's Drug Store."

ARLINGTON NOTES. Christmas was abnormally quiet, but it was made "the calm before the storm" which broke loose New Year's day. Signs were removed, hand-starts were suspended from the porches, and one was perched on the roof of a saloon; plows in front of the bank, Christmas trees, wagons, etc., were anywhere but in their accustomed place.

During the past week scrapping matches have been the order of the day. Frank Cecil and H. B. Crosby had a few words regarding a flask of whisky, which Cecil claimed Crosby had taken; this angered the latter and he pulled a six shooter, for which he was arrested. After several ineffectual attempts to sift the matter, Justice Ebb dismissed the case.

John Haas, Dal Reed's man, painted Charley Ebb's face black, Charley got mad and began to use profane language, which was too much for John's temper, and he licked him. Each were fined fifty cents and told to be good boys in the future.

Ab. Willis and Frank Farrier had an altercation about a pair of spurs, and decided to settle it in the muddy street, but beyond a few scratches, no harm was done.

Frank, the wagonmaker, has a bad black eye, where it came in contact with Lon Kalston's fist. This occurred whilst the marshal was at a council meeting, so nobody was arrested.

A caucus assembled in the Army Hall and nominated the following persons for city officers: Mayor, A. A. Jayne; recorder, S. C. Bello; treasurer, A. C. Hawson; councilmen, J. W. Smith, Dal Reed, L. C. Edwards and C. S. Wenner. The above is designated the People's Ticket, but there is an opposition party in the field under the title of the Independent ticket. Nominees—Mayor, H. C. Condon; recorder, B. F. Nott; treasurer, H. T. Hawson; councilmen, F. Remington, R. Beardsley.

Owing to the severe weather in the East, mail trains for some time past have been behind, and as a natural consequence, letters are frequently a day longer in reaching their destination than ordinarily.

Sunday there was a private circus in the street. A greaser, who couldn't understand English, made a contract to saw wood, and thinking the man was cheating him, decided to see what effect a dagger would have upon him. The man distanced his pursuer and took refuge in the recorder's office.

CATARH CAN'T BE CURED with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you have to take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh cure is a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect purification of the two mucous linings is what produces such wonderful results in curing catarrh. Send for a test bottle free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Prop., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists, price 75c.

LEXINGTON G. A. R. DOINGS.

The G. A. R. held a regular meeting in the church on Dec. 31, 1890. The programme consisted of declamations and recitations by the young folks, with a very appropriate poem read by J. F. Mills, and a neat speech from W. R. Ellis.

After the exercises at the church the congregation was invited to the Armory Hall, where was found tables loaded with the best of the country affords, such as pies, cakes, boiled ham, roast chickens, roast beef, broiled butter and preserves in any quantity. They also gave a masquerade ball at Penland's hall on the same night.

Many did not give name of characters represented, and consequently are not mentioned in our report of the ball on eighth page.

The floor was managed by G. W. Sperry and N. A. Leach. Everything went off quietly. READER.

A FEARFUL HERITAGE. The transmission of BLOOD TAINTS entail fearful consequences, and those so afflicted, have urgent need to purify the blood thoroughly every spring. Neglect of this often leads to fearful complications of disease. A gentleman whose family were greatly afflicted writes us thus:

GENTLEMEN: My wife and babe, four teen months old, and a boy of five have suffered for years from hereditary rheumatism or King's evil, and would frequently break out in sores. I have employed the best physicians, but found nothing to relieve them until I tried Hibbard's Rheumatic Syrup. Have used fourteen bottles and find to my astonishment they are entirely cured. Words cannot describe the value of your medicine as a blood purifier. I shall recommend it to all who are troubled from impure blood.

JOHN MULLENBERG, JR., Dealer in groceries and provisions, Alpena, Mich. Prepared only by The Charles Wright Medicine Company, Detroit, Mich. For sale by all druggists.

INSTALLATION I. O. O. F. The following were installed as officers of Willow Lodge No. 66, I. O. O. F., last Tuesday eve: R. A. Ford, Noble Grand; J. B. Sperry, Vice Grand; A. M. Gunn, Sec'y.; M. Lichtenthal, Treas.; Thos Morgan, J. L. Yeager and N. S. Webster, Trustees.

HIBBARD'S RHEUMATIC AND LIVER PILLS. These Pills are scientifically compounded, and uniformly in action. No gripping pain so commonly following the use of Pills. They are adapted to both adults and children with perfect safety. We guarantee they have no equal in the cure of SICK HEADACHE, CONSTIPATION, DYSPEPSIA and BILIOUSNESS; and, as an appetizer, they excel any other preparation.

NOTICE OF INTENTION. LAND OFFICE at La Grande, Or., Dec. 1, '90. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before W. R. Ellis, Comm. U. S. Circuit Court at Heppner, Oregon, on January 9, 1891, viz: JOHN W. M. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: James Jones, Heppner, Oregon; George Luttrell, James Hanger, Lem, Or. 402-67. JOHN W. LEAHY, Register.

NOTICE OF INTENTION. LAND OFFICE at La Grande, Or., Dec. 26, '90. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before W. R. Ellis, Comm. U. S. Circuit Court at Heppner, Oregon, on January 9, 1891, viz: ALBERT A. TWELVE, Walter Crosby, Jon Lockman, John Beiler, all of Heppner, Or. 402-67. A. LEAHY, Register.

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DO YOU KNOW WHAT AILS YOU? You feel tired—Do you know what it means? You are nervous—Why? You cough in the morning—Do you realize the cause? Your appetite is poor—What makes it so? You seem like a changed person to your friends—Do you know what is the matter, or has the change been so gradual it has escaped your notice? You have Consumption! We do not say this to frighten you, but it is true. These are the sure symptoms of this terrible disease. There is one thing which will check it and that is DR. ACKER'S ENGLISH REMEDY. It is recommended by the best physicians in Europe and America. 25 cents, 50 cents and \$1.00 per bottle. W. H. HOOKER & CO., 46 West Broadway, New York. For Sale by SLOCOM-JOHNSTON Drug Co., Heppner, Oregon.

HEY! HEY!! COME ON!

Let us go to Mat Lichtenthal's Exclusive Boot and Shoe Store, for our winter footwear. He keeps the best Buckingham & Hecht boots and shoes, the Fargo \$2.50 Shoe and other goods of standard makes. A big stock. Footwear must be bought cheap, quality considered, to get such bargains as you find at

MAT LICHTENTHALS, MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON.

W. A. KIRK, J. C. HAYES

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