

THE CITY ELECTION.

At Monday's election a total of 75 votes were cast, scarcely one-third of Heppner's voters taking interest enough to go the polls, doubtless from the fact that but one ticket had been placed in the field. Such lack of interest is to be deplored, as it casts a reflection on our town abroad, and will subject our citizens to a bitter disappointment some day. An interest in the election of our city officials is of the utmost importance, and should not be left to a small minority. Fortunately the men elected are those whose characters are beyond reproach, and, having met with no opposition, are satisfactory to all, and the election was void of the practices of scheming politicians. The new council will have many important considerations to heed for the best interests of the city, chief of which will be the opening of streets, enforcement of sidewalk ordinances and the important matter of building the much needed sidewalk to the depot.

OWING to the large republican majority in the Senate of the Congress shortly to assemble, the Senate committees will be changed so as to give the republicans nine out of the committees having thirteen members and seven of those having eleven. This will make the finance committee anti-silver for the first time in years, and will insure the prompt reporting of any financial bill that the republican leaders may wish to pass. This will be a fair apportionment of the committee memberships, as the republicans will have fifty senators, without taking account of the four vacancies, one each from California, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Utah, if Senator Hayward, of Nebraska lives, and fifty if he dies and is succeeded by a demopop, while there are only thirty-five senators; twenty-eight democrats and seven populist or silver republicans, on the opposite side. It will not cause any silver senator to be removed from the finance committee, as there are two vacancies left by the retirement of White and Turpie; these will simply be filled by republicans which will make the committee stand seven gold to six silver men.

SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY.

There remains three sorts of knowledge and training that the school ought to promote to a marked degree. One of these has to do with conduct in the ordinary social relations. The principals of practical ethics, not merely for the sake of intellectual perception, but for the sake of their incorporation into the very texture of character, should be one of the foremost concerns of school life. This fact has come to be very widely recognized.

Less widely accepted in practice, although now quite generally admitted in principle, is the duty of the school to play some important part in fitting the child for membership in the great producing community. All schools cannot teach the use even of the simplest tools, and much less, therefore, can they turn out skilled craftsmen. But all schools can at least be so conducted that they do not positively unfit their scholars for those very kinds of practical work by which it is certain that the great majority must obtain their livings when their school days are done. A successful country teacher will not of necessity turn the district school into an agricultural college; but it is true, nevertheless, that the wise country teacher will so train the boys and girls of the district that everything they learn will, in the most important sense, fit them for being better farmers and household economists.

Finally, it has come to be widely admitted among teachers and the friends of common school education that, in this country especially, the schools ought to have a great deal to do with the important task of rearing young citizens. It no longer needs any argument to secure acceptance for the view that boys and girls in the schools ought not only to imbibe high ideals respecting the institutions of the country, but also that the spirit of patriotism should be encouraged side by side with the inculcation of a great deal of practical knowledge about the duties and obligations of citizenship. From "The School City—A Method of Pupil Self-government" in the Review of Reviews for December

THE FOREST RESERVE QUESTION.

How It Affects the Interests of Eastern Oregon.

The following contribution is from W. A. DeWitt, who has traveled the interior of Eastern Oregon extensively, and voices the sentiment of the stockraisers in general, and particularly the Morrow County Woolgrowers' Association: HEPPNER, Oregon, Dec. 6, 1899. EDITOR GAZETTE:

It is, and always has been, acknowledged that the stock interest is paramount in importance to any other in this part of our state, and that that this interest is the source from which comes the bulk of our wealth, is an undeniable fact that no one will attempt to dispute. Cripple or destroy this great industry and the entire mercantile system of Eastern Oregon suffers correspondingly. Time has proven that reverses for our stockmen means reverses and hard times for the entire section known as the Inland Empire.

Unlike such states as Montana, Wyoming and Western Nebraska, where stock growing is concentrated and virtually controlled by a few corporations of combined capitalists, Oregon has always afforded its poorest settlers the privilege of embarking in that business, and drawing from the thousands of acres of rich and nutritious grasses, with which our mountains abound, a just return for the investment of their labor and capital.

The good fruits of such a policy are apparent today, not only in the leading cities, but in every county of our state. Instead of a vast concentration of the stock-raising interests in the hands of a few syndicates of wealthy aliens with headquarters in some of the large cities of the East, they are scattered throughout every county in Oregon, hundreds of well-to-do stockmen, public spirited, enterprising citizens who, having bravely faced the hardships and dangers of pioneer life, have drawn their wealth from a source which otherwise would have, as in ages past, gone to waste; a class of men who are in truth and indeed public benefactors. That the interests and welfare of this class of our citizens are of vital importance to every individual citizen of the state, and that to curtail their God given rights and privileges would be detrimental to us all as a great commonwealth is indisputable; but that these privileges and rights are even now endangered and menaced, is a fact that is gradually forcing itself upon the minds of those most vitally concerned in the matter, and the question should be thoroughly agitated and discussed, after which the free born American citizen can decide for himself at the polls, if necessary, whether or not he will allow the best interest of his state to be shattered and destroyed. Uninvested capital has for years had its greedy eyes fixed upon our wealth producing hills and mountains, and the financiers in whose hands that capital lays have schemed in every imaginable way to gain control of the stock industry and possession of the vast public domain from which the bulk of our wealth is drawn annually.

Along in 1857 or 1858 the first step toward the fulfillment of this scheme was taken, some eastern, or possibly European tourist, evidently a disinterested party, suddenly made the startling discovery that the ranging of stock in our mountains and on the public domain was working a most serious injury to the native timber, and that unless the national government speedily interfered the result would evidently be that our annual rainfall would decrease until the entire country would become subject to droughts, devastation, impoverishment, and starvation would naturally follow, resulting finally in almost complete national ruin.

So vividly and ingeniously were these terrible results pictured to the public, and so thoroughly was the question agitated at the time, that every failure of crops, whether in Kansas, Texas or Ohio, was attributed to the injury suffered by our forests at the hands of stockmen and others. As the result of this agitation a bill was passed and approved by congress on March 3, 1851, repealing the timber culture act and recommending measures for the protection of American forests. Section 24 of this bill vested power in the president to set aside by proclamation all such bodies of public land as he might deem advisable for the public good.

Acting on the strength of the power and authority with which the bill clothed him, President Cleveland from time to time issued proclamations setting aside various tracts of the public domain throughout the several western states. Tracts of land so protected were designated as Forest Reserves and all persons were warned against entering upon them for purposes of settlement or personal gain. By the issuance of such a proclamation on the 29th of September, 1893, the greater part of the choicest grazing lands in the Cascade mountains was laid aside as a reserve, and from that time to the present the lines and restrictions have been gradually drawing tighter about the stockmen, the range becoming smaller and the general condition worse each succeeding year.

claimed by one as their right, and that the others as American citizens are as rightfully entitled to share with them. Now comes the question, what will be the final result of this contention and wrangling over range? and the citizen who has not given the matter sufficient thought and study answers unhesitatingly, "Let the government lease the public grazing lands to the highest bidder and all this trouble will be settled forever." Exactly so, and at the same time our local stockmen will share the same fate, for the very moment such a step is taken by the government, just at that very moment will the schemes of the financiers, who covet what by rights belongs to the actual citizen, be fulfilled. The octopus of wealth will concentrate all its powers for one short desperate struggle, its minions will be set to work in legislative bodies, both state and national; gold will be used freely to carry their point, and suddenly will come the news, like a thunderbolt to the unsuspecting public, that the entire range in the whole country has been leased—not parcelled out in lots to the nearest settlers, as they had been led to believe would be done, but leased to one large syndicate for a number of years, and owners of stock will be warned not to infringe on the rights of these robbers under heavy penalty of law.

Deprived thus suddenly and fraudulently of their range, the sheep and cattle men will be forced to give up without a struggle, and accumulations of years that have been expended in the improvement of their homes, ranches, stock, and everything else will have to be disposed of at a sacrifice to the very men who have worked their ruin, and hundreds of men who are today the backbone of this country will leave for other parts, taking with them their entire families—a loss that will be replaced in part by a few scattering herdsmen in the employ of the syndicates, while the bulk of the wealth which the country will still continue to produce will, instead of being used for the future development of this section of our country, be sent to swell the bank accounts of rich people of other states.

This statement may seem overdrawn and exaggerated, but it is correct, and one who has ever passed through the stockraising districts of Nebraska, Texas, Montana, Wyoming or New Mexico, where the industry is governed by a few specially favored corporations, will, by a careful comparison of our present condition with the conditions that exist there, be convinced of that fact. Some may argue that our great government would not perpetrate such a wrong on the people as to lease the entire public domain to one clique of men, but that the land would be leased to the settlers nearest the range, and having the most natural claim upon it. The same argument was used a few years ago when U. S. bonds were issued, and yet a whole edition was sold at private sale to one buyer. History can and does repeat itself.

To sum up the entire case means to reach the following conclusions: First, That the plea for the protection of forests against the incursions made by stock was a farce, as no sane man who has ever traveled the mountains of Oregon can truthfully say that damage has ever been done from that source. Second, That the so-called reserves at present being used by a class who may rightfully be termed non-producers as a hunting preserve, despite the fact that honest citizens have been deprived of the right to make a living and enrich the country in which they live, from that which is now going to waste, is an injustice that even the president should not have the power to inflict, and Third, That realizing the extent of the wrong imposed upon them, not only stockmen, but citizens of the entire state should guard against further encroachments of their rights by those who are sent to represent their interests in the legislative halls of the state and nation, and to bring an irresistible pressure to bear in having those laws amended which they already feel are against the best interests of the commonwealth. Let stockmen and merchants alike agitate this question, determined to find out its weak points and as a result the "nigger in the fence" must eventually be brought to light.

THE MYSTERIOUS SWORDFISH.

They Come From Afar and Never Until They Are Full Grown.

These big creatures come and go as mysteriously as any of our sea visitors, and all fishes have their peculiarities. Who knows where the shad are before they begin to run up the rivers in the spring? The swordfish come to American waters grown up. Of course they vary in size, but no young are ever seen here.

This fact has been clearly set out by a government report on the subject. The young are found chiefly in the Mediterranean. After they are able to go it alone more or less of them strike for the North American coast—most of these gathering about Block Island. There they lie and sun themselves on the top of the water, the prey all summer of the fishermen and their spears. What mistnet brings these fish across 3,000 miles of water to spend a season and return? They come when they arrive; they go when they leave. That's all we know, although the season comes within approximate dates.

Our Third Special Sale

Our former special sales of Capes, Jackets and Fascinators have proven unexpectedly popular and this week we supplement them with a

Special Mackintosh Sale

We haven't a very large stock this season's stuff, with the exception of a few men's mackintoshes, and we are going to clean them out at special bargain prices.

- A Misses' brown mackintosh with cape, length 44 to 50 inches, double texture, velvet inlaid collar, \$3, now \$2.50
A ladies' mackintosh with cape and velvet collar, solid colors, navy blue and black, lengths, 58 to 62 inches, \$3.50 2.75
Men's black tricot mackintoshes with capes at the very low price of 1.75
Men's heavy, tan colored, all wool, lined mackintoshes, cut in box coat style, silk velvet collar, were \$5.50, now 4.50

Our 'Xmas Stock

Is opened up and you will find it surpasses them all in the matter of price. Because they are Christmas goods is not a good and sufficient reason for asking double prices. Look them over.

You can Save Money. Minor & Co., Heppner, Oregon.

GOLD GOLD GOLD

You can save it by trading with Gilliam & Bisbee. COMPLETE LINE. Of Heavy and Shelf Hardware, Graniteware, Tinware, Agricultural Implements, Wagons, Hacks, Etc., Paints and Oils (the best in the world), Crockery and Glassware.

Robertson & Co., (Successors to Hart Bros.)

Heppner Candy Factory. We manufacture our Taffies, Caramels, Creams, Nut Candies, Etc. They are always fresh. Fresh Oysters served at all hours. Full line of Lunch Goods, Fruits, Stationery, Cigars and Tobaccos.

THE WHEAT TRADE

Wheat continues to weaken here in sympathy with the steady decline going on in Europe. Local prices have reached a very low level, nearly as low as wheat sold here in 1893, yet, in spite of present cheapness, the demand cannot be said to have been stimulated thereby. Trading is very inactive, partly owing to difficulty experienced by exporters placing cargoes in profitable terms and partly due to small offerings. Wheat in the interior appears to be in strong hands, and the prospects are large parcels will wait long after the turn of the year before marketing.

Heppner Steam Laundry

All kinds of laundry work done first class. Special rates on family washing. White Shirts a Specialty. Washing without ironing 3/4 cents per pound. Steady customers, 3 cts per pound. Carpet washing 3 cts per pound. Cash on delivery.

Drugs. The largest and best selected stock in Morrow county. Paints, Oils and Glass. A full stock. Jewelry. A fine stock to select from. Kodaks. Supplies of all kinds. Stationery. The very latest. CONSER & WARREN.

Fresh Fruits Vegetables Fancy Groceries. When you want anything to eat you will find it at Ed. R. Bishop's, Successors to P. C. Thompson Co. Headquarters for Guns and Cartridges.

Christmas Goods. Find Hand Painted Chinaware Leather Goods Purses Xmas Candies Xmas Goods of all kinds. Pocket Books Toilet Cases All kinds of leather goods Picture Frames. LOWNEY'S Chocolate Bonbons. FOR SALE BY Patterson & Son. Photographers' supplies of all kinds. Dark room in rear of store free to all amateur photographers. Call and investigate. PATTERSON & SON, Up-to-date Druggists.

FLOUR FLOUR. The Heppner Flouring Mill Company. Have perfected arrangements to run the mill permanently. They have secured the services of a first-class miller, and wheat sufficient to make and keep on hand a permanent supply of Flour, Graham, Cerm Meal, Whole Wheat, Bran and Shorts. Of the very best quality and guaranteed to give satisfaction. We are here to buy wheat and exchange with the farmers, and solicit their patronage.

When Wheat is depressed. Prepare for a reaction by concentrating your grain with The Mutual Warehouse Co. at tidewater. If you are not fully posted about the advantage of the offer, drop us a line and we will explain.

The Mutual Warehouse Co. Office, 7 First Street, Portland.

Fresh Meats. Salt and Smoked Meats Pure Rendered Leaf Lard Fish every Friday. Liberty Market. Highest price paid for fat Stock. Heppner, Oregon. Proprietors.