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BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

Business men of Condon have organized, temporarily, the Condon Business Men's Association.

The Oregon State Wireless Association was organized at a meeting of amateur wireless operators held in Portland.

The proposed commission form of charter submitted under the initiative at a special city election in Ashland was overwhelmingly defeated.

The train service on the Pacific Railroad & Navigation Company is causing a large amount of travel between Tillamook and Hillsboro.

Pendleton will be the scene of another state convention this week, when the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union meets in its second annual gathering.

Ed Jurgens and F. Foster, the two men held in the county jail at Roseburg charged with holding up the Drain-Scottsburg stage, have made a complete confession.

Under orders issued by the war department, Colonel James Jackson, retired, will move his headquarters as instructor of the Oregon militia from Salem to Portland.

The Ashland Tidings (newspaper) is now under the ownership and management of Bert R. Greer, a newspaper man from Muskogee, Okla., who purchased it from R. B. Bennett and brother.

It is estimated that 35,000 sheep will be fed for mutton in and surrounding Joseph. Of this amount 22,000 are long-wool sheep, which make the finest mutton obtainable as they fatten out quicker and run heavier in weight than the finer grades.

That part of the city of Brownsville, one of Linn County's leading towns, lies in the Oregon and California land grant, which may be forfeited to the government, is a fact which has developed in a case now pending in the circuit court of Linn County.

Improvement on the entire high school course of study in the state is contemplated for the meeting of superintendents, principals, high school teachers and anyone else interested, which has been called by Superintendent Alderman for December 28 and 29 in Portland.

County Judge George D. Culbertson has announced the appointment of P. S. Davidson, W. E. King, Captain Charles R. McCan, W. S. Gribble and Walter Mason as delegates from Hood River County to the International Irrigation Congress, which will convene in Chicago about the middle of December.

State Capital Gleanings

The state tax commission, sitting as a board of equalization, met Monday to begin its work.

Acting Governor Olcott revoked the conditional pardon of J. W. Norris, convicted of larceny in Klamath County and sentenced to serve a four-year term in the penitentiary.

Dividends declared during the past year by the Oregon Short Line amounted to the huge sum of \$68,680,000, being 68.68 per cent of the total par value of stock and yet a surplus was left bigger than that at the outside, according to a report just received by the railway commission.

Fear that the Southern Pacific will interfere with rapid construction of the Oregon Electric between Harrisburg and Eugene by refusing to unload piling along the main line of the Southern Pacific, as desired by the Hill road, has led the F. L. Botsford Company of Portland, which has the contract, to complain to the Railroad Commission.

Papers which are on file in the archives of the state land board probably will figure in the controversy which is threatened as the result of a letter of protest which the attorney-general has just directed to the members of the desert land board warning them against using state funds for hiring outside counsel in relation to Carey act matters.

Concluding that where state offices, other than that of the secretary of state, are provided with a maintenance fund by legislative appropriation the secretary of state should not furnish office supplies. Secretary Olcott has announced that the railroad commission, the tax commission and all other separate offices created and provided for by the last Legislature, will not hereafter receive supplies from the secretary's office.

Suffering under the delusion that enemies were seeking their lives and wished to poison them, Max Pawlack and George DeBrowski, both insane patients from Portland at the state insane asylum, plotted to take the life of S. A. Parks, one of the attendants at the institution, and Pawlack attacked Parks in ward No. 5, stabbing him six times about the head, one of the wounds being near the temple. A wound on the top of the head nearly penetrated the bone and gouged out a portion of the skull. While Parks is in a serious condition, it is believed his life will be saved.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Events Occurring Throughout the State During the Past Week.

Dry Lands Grow Good Potatoe Crop.

Metolius.—One hundred and twelve sacks of potatoes—sowed sacks at that—is the amount dug from one acre by R. O. Clark, whose home-stead is situated at Round Butte. They were grown on dry land, without receiving a drop of rain from the time of planting until the rain that fell the latter part of August. Round Butte is springing some great surprises this year—as it has done every year since farming began there seven years ago—in the variety and volume of its productiveness, with especial emphasis on the potatoe crop.

Scio Election Campaign Quiet.

Scio.—The new charter has seemed to take on management of the first election under an air of secrecy, whether intentional or not. One of the provisions requires that all candidates must be nominated ten days before election. This has been done away with by the city recorder having the tickets printed outside the city, the names of candidates withheld from the press, so that few voters know for whom they are to cast their ballots.

HARNEY ANXIOUS FOR ROAD

Long Period of Waiting Soon to Be Rewarded.

Burns.—The latest railroad news sent out by the Harriman and Hill lines is good news to the people of Harney County. It seems that this county will soon be connected with the outside world. There is no place on the Pacific Coast that has been troubled as much by false promises of railroads as this section of the state. Ever since construction started on the road from Yaquina Bay to Boise, Idaho, in the early eighties, people have been expecting the railroad.

Then the Hill people got busy with the road up Deschutes River, which gave the people new encouragement to go out further in unknown valleys for homes. There is not a valley that has not been visited by the homeseeker. Several railroad men have visited this section lately and several surveying parties are in the field, relocating the old survey in Malheur canyon and Crane Creek gap. The people along the line are in better spirits than formerly and feel sure that the railroad builders mean business this time.

Paving Agent Indicted.

Klamath Falls.—True bills were returned as the result of a grand jury investigation into the accusations against S. A. MacMahon and J. H. Hughes, directors of the Rudolph Blome Paving Company, asserted to have offered Mayor Sanderson and four councilmen \$1000 for their influence in awarding a street-paving contract.

6417 AUTOS IN OREGON

Their Value Exceeds Ten Million Dollars.

Salem.—Secretary of State Olcott has mailed to the various automobile owners and registered chauffeurs in the state blanks for filing formal applications for renewal of their licenses for the year 1912, as required by the motor vehicle law enacted at the last session of the Legislature. It is provided in the law that re-registration by both motor vehicle owners and chauffeurs shall be renewed annually to take effect on the first day of January in each year.

In order to expedite such registration for 1912, such instructions and directions as were deemed necessary for the guidance of the applicants were incorporated in a circular letter and included with the blanks. On December 1, there were 6417 motor vehicles, which includes 410 motorcycles, 40 electric, 235 trucks, 41 delivery wagons, 31 taxicabs and 5660 autos of various kinds registered with the secretary of state and 1665 chauffeurs.

First Freight Arrives at Bend.

Burns.—The first "freight train" for Harney County arrived in Burns Wednesday. It wasn't drawn by a locomotive, but was the next best, consisting of two auto-trucks carrying seven tons of merchandise, and made the trip from the railroad at Bend in less than two days.

Boys' Clubs in Session.

Corvallis.—The sixth annual state boys' conference, under the auspices of the Oregon-Idaho Y. M. C. A., which was in session at the Oregon Agricultural College, closed Sunday. Between 175 and 200 boys from different parts of Oregon and Idaho were in attendance.

Two Visiting Cards. Visiting cards differ in style according to latitude, and as an example of Paris contemporary results an incident in 1844 when M. de La Roche was sent under Louis Philippe as ambassador extraordinary to China. The courtesy of the ambassador greatly impressed the Chinese statesman, particularly their "doyen." When the credits had been completed and M. de La Roche was ready to embark a delegation bought him a great roll of paper. The ambassador seeing this parcel at once thought this was a present, knowing Chinese methods, but to his surprise they started to unroll the cylinder, which extended to about fifty meters of paper, over 162 feet. Then he learned that it was the visiting card of the "doyen." In returning his modest little Bristol board the humiliated ambassador added a few words, which read, "The ambassador of France regrets that he is able to offer only these simple words to your excellency."

The Building of Homes.

Dwelling houses may be constructed of anything from paper to concrete. When built of paper they consist of ground plans, front elevations and mortgages. When they progress to something more substantial they do not resemble in any way the front elevation or the ground plan of the paper stage and are therefore disappointing in these particulars. The mortgage, however, always comes up to expectations. The houses of the elect may be distinguished by the butler's pantry, the middle classes by the reception hall and those of the hot polio by the parlor. Houses are useful to eat in, sleep in, bathe in, dress in, hide in, be seen in, die in, store junk in, insure and burn down. Dignity in houses is typified by a parking inclosed English country place, romance by a southern planter's mansion, poetry by a rose embowered cottage and humor by a modern flat.—Life.

Serpents and Music.

Barnard concludes from his personal observation of cobras in Ceylon that the Scientific American, that the serpent's traditional love for music is a pure fable and that the only effect of music is to arouse the reptile's curiosity, which is excited by any loud and acute sound. The cobra protrudes its head from its burrow alike on hearing the snake charmer's flute, the rattling of a chain and the sounds made by beating the ground with a switch. It appears to perceive only sounds of high pitch, for it pays no attention to the low notes of the flute or the beating of the drum. Barnard also confirmed, in Ceylon, the results of observations made in the London zoological garden on the supposed power of fascination exerted by serpents upon birds, and he concludes that this power of fascination is also purely imaginary.

Blow the Steam Aside.

The wise woman sent a sudden vigorous puff of breath at the jet of steam rising from the copper teakettle she was tilting, repeated it hastily as she filled the blue teapot and set the kettle back on the stove with a nod of triumph. "That trick has saved me many a scalded hand," she asserted. "Whether I read it or was told it I am not sure, but until I tried it I was always getting most painful little burns. Steam is so easily blown aside if you have the presence of mind to remember it that you can easily keep it from reaching your hand until you can set down the kettle or pot. Don't forget it next time the lid slips or the steam comes unexpectedly from the kettle spout. You will bless me for the hint."—New York Tribune.

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