

COTTAGE GROVE LEADER

COTTAGE GROVE OREGON

J. McKean Fisher, Manager.

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SATURDAY.....DECEMBER 15, 1906

Vote For the Tax.

At the school meeting on Saturday the voters will have to vote on the question of an eight mill tax to pay the present indebtedness of the school, and to pay the expenses to the end of the current year, which it is estimated will amount to about \$5000. An eight mill tax on the recent valuation will bring in practically that amount. It certainly is better for every tax payer to vote for this tax, and pay the debts all up, rather than have several thousand dollars worth of warrants drawing interest which the taxpayer would eventually have to pay. While the tax may seem large, yet the amount is necessary to pay the just debts of the schools, which are run very economically. Teachers are paid very low salaries, in fact too low, for such service as is expected and demanded of them. Good schools are the foundation of good government in the future, and mean strong and able men and women, and whatever the schools cost, they should be kept to the highest standard of efficiency. Don't forget to be on hand on Saturday and vote for the tax.

The Womens Club of Cottage Grove is anxious to see the school rooms of our public schools made more attractive, and right they are. The rooms are neatly finished and painted, but most of the walls are bare and unrelieved by any decoration. If the board can set aside any funds for pictures, or other decorations of the rooms, or improvement of the grounds, they should do so with full consent of the taxpayers. Some of the older folks may have gone to rough school houses, compared to which the present school houses are palaces; but that is no reason why we should not make as attractive and pleasing as possible the school rooms for our children. The Womens Club wants to help in furnishing some decoration, and in the framing of pictures. Let everyone who can individually help.

Nearly all of the people that own orchards large or small have been giving them considerable attention lately pruning them up, spraying the trees, plowing the ground, and generally preparing to give the trees more attention. The awakening in this matter will eventually mean a great deal to the value of the orchards. With the start now being made to start large orchards and build up that industry, every acre of orchard well cared for will help in the great total.

Silk Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Wheeler visited the school at the Royal Academy one day the first of the week.

Mrs. Kendall went to Cottage Grove Tuesday.

Mr. Gray has joined his telephone wire on to W. N. Wheeler's at his place.

One of A. D. Owen's horses got a leg broken Wednesday morning and had to be shot.

Neal and Carl McCoy, Hiram Wheeler and Roscoe Owens, visited Walter Babcock Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly returned to Cedar Creek Tuesday.

Ethyl Damewood was kept from school Wednesday, by a sore throat.

Mr. Sley is putting in a telephone.

Miss Amy Owens and Mrs. D. J. Smith visited at Mrs. Emily Wheeler's Wednesday afternoon.

Prof. L. G. Paap took dinner Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich.

Miss Nina Randolph is stopping with Mr. Wilson this week.

Washington Letter.

Washington, D. C. Dec. 10, 1906. Washington is honey-combed with formalities and customs and any man who can "get away with the goods" in the legislative, judicial or executive departments of the Federal government without violating some time-honored tradition is a fit subject for a dime museum.

For several days, in fact weeks, Congress will be busy shaping up the more important matters to come before it this winter, but it will be some time after the New Year before serious work is attempted. Two matters matters stand out in bold relief: Emptying the "pork bar" and talking. The latter has become a fine art in Congress, while the "bar" has been somewhat neglected of late years because of the limited income of the Treasury department. But Secretary Shaw has announced a comfortable surplus, and a bargain-counter rush will be a small affair compared with the eagerness to participate in its distribution.

Although labor took a small part in the late campaign, there is but a slim chance for the enactment of legislation which will affect the status of the working man. A start has been made in that direction, however, for some of the congressmen realize the strength allied against them and would willingly grant some of the demands for anti-injunction and other labor measures. The leaders are adamant on the subject and with only a short session no definite action can be expected.

The Hon. "Jeff" Davis of Arkansas has been reported as saying that the Senate needs "stirring up." Probably that is true to a certain extent, but rest assured that the gentleman from Arkansas will not do the stirring. That dignified body has partially suppressed Tillman, and it will succeed with the new aspirant for notoriety. One reason for the ease with which a new member of Congress is suppressed, is that all legislation is handled by the leaders, the various committees whipping the material into shape after an outline has been given. Votes in Congress are not made by eloquence on the floor, but by dictation of leaders and "swapping"—you vote for my bill and I will vote for yours.

The appropriation committees of Congress have been at work for some weeks shaping their supply bills, and one of the first obstacles they bumped into was "simplified" spelling. The President's order requiring the use of the 300 words recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board has been generally followed by the various departments but when it came to making laws a new condition arose. Congress will settle the matter one way or the other—probably in favor of the orthodox method—within a few days.

Apocryphal of simplified spelling, the methods of the government printing office is coming in for considerable criticism, but what public officer endeavoring to change time-honored and moth-eaten methods is not held up to ridicule. There has not been a single government official for years who has endeavored to do his duty and his whole duty who has escaped. Regardless of the howl, the greatest printing office in the world is being brought to a sensible basis. Employees work eight hours, get eight hours pay and do not get "fired" if their politics is not right; materials are purchased at the lowest price and the endeavor is being made to increase the product by commercializing the plant.

One great reform being worked out by the public printer is in the sale of public documents. The superfluous of documents is rearranging the system of handling governmental publications with a view to facilitating delivery and centralization of distribution. When this plan is in operation the people of the United States will be informed through press notices in news, agricultural and technical of the issuance of various reports and bulletins, the price and where to obtain them.

The government charges cost price for its publications and of course an increased demand will reduce even the small charges made at present. Even with the added cost of composition the present editions of governmental publications sell for from 5 to 50 cents. What is the use of having several hundred experts making investigations of various subjects and then printing a couple of thousands copies of their reports—never to be heard from again. Create a demand for 100,000 copies and the country will soon decide whether the investigations should go on. It is hoped that Congress will relieve the situation by centralizing the distribution in the documents office and sell every volume, not give them away to people who wish to fill a bookcase with finely bound books and

have a friend in Congress.

"WHO'S THE THIEF?"

The Interior Department is pretty well torn up at present over the land-grab scandal and the question is often asked, "Who's the thief?" The evidence appears to be strong that the land office officials were notified time after time that patents were issued in contravention of law. There is a lingering suspicion in the minds of some that if the complainants after sending fifty letters to the land office as alleged, would not send a few to the head of the Interior department. To "a man up a tree" it would appear that somebody was either a rascal or an ignoramus—both common in the capitol city.

WILL BEA WATCHING.

Every action of a department head or member of congress is looked at pretty sharply these days, past experiences having made a bad impression on the thinkers of the country. Two wrongs do not make one right, nor does one scheme that is wholly bad mitigate against another in the same shape if its innocence can be proven. It has been the practice for years in congress to saddle onto an outgoing member the responsibility which a man with a future would not accept, and this is what apparently happened when the lines were laid to pass a ship-subsidy bill this winter. For years the steamship men have tried to get more money out of the government, in the shape of subsidies, but to no avail. Now, however, they expect to "get what is coming to them." Some people are rude enough to say that would mean the penitentiary.

One way of looking at the matter is that it will not be a decided advantage to seafaring men, for their wages are notoriously small. The employees of ship-building companies are largely iron and steel workers, who can get employment at high wages any time. (The erection of the union depot in this city has been delayed a year because of the lack of iron workers.) The larger ship owners will be the ones to get the largest subsidies, and rich men do not need more money. The ship builders are also rich men and should be satisfied after robbing the government for years on the fat contracts for the Navy Department. The foreign ships carry cargoes from New York at so low a rate that men will not build boats to compete with them. If the ship owners and builders are rich, if the workers are busy and not wanting employment; if the foreigners carry our exports cheaper than we can carry them, will someone please rise and explain in a sensible way why the Government should set men up in business with the understanding that the business will not pay—pouring money in a rathole?

A. J. BENTON.

Will Close Sunday Afternoons.

Our butcher shops will be closed hereafter on Sundays from 10 a. m. until Monday morning. Our patrons will kindly take notice.

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I cannot speak too highly of Dr. McClary's lecture on "Mission of Mirth". It was grand. Everyone was greatly pleased. Evanston will welcome him again. Dr. McClary has a useful mission and he realizes it and makes the most of it. —Rev. Leon C. Hiles, Sec'y Lecture Course, Evanston, Wyo., Oct. 10, 1906.

The Scientific American in its past issue gives a long article on the Panama Canal, which gives in concise form the work that is to be done and the magnitude of it. Following so closely on President Roosevelt's trip to Panama, the article is of especial interest. The magnitude of some of the great locks, and that the gates that hold the water are wonderful. Some of the gates will be 75 feet high, and 50 feet broad, and will contain 15,000 tons of steel. Imagine the power it will take to operate a gate of that height.

When a man can completely captivate large and critical audiences of the many great Chautauqua Assemblies which employ the best talent only, and when he can repeatedly appear in such city entertainment courses as those conducted in Boston, Atlanta, Buffalo, Detroit, New York, Chicago, Nashville, Toledo, Indianapolis, Portland, Seattle and Los Angeles, he certainly is a star entertainer. Such has been the record of Dr. Thomas McClary, who comes next Thursday in the Commercial Club Lecture Course.

Cottage Grove Churches

METHODIST EPISCOPAL. Rev. J. L. Beatty, Pastor. Preaching services at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday School, 10 a. m. Epworth League, 6:30 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:30. All are cordially invited to be present.

First Presbyterian Church. Pastor R. C. Grace. Morning service, 11, evening 8, Y. P. S. C. E. 7 p. m. All strangers and sojourners welcome.

Morning subject "Distinctive words in the Christian religion." Evening subject "Hours of Darkness."

Episcopal Church. Services held the second Wednesday evening of each month at 7:30 in Masonic hall. There will be services every fifth Sunday of a month.

Catholic Church. Father Carroll. Services the second Sunday in each month.

Christian Science services held over Allison's Barber shop every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Christian Church. Rev. D. E. Olson Pastor. Services at 11 in the morning and 7:30 in the evening. Y. P. S. C. E. meeting at 6:30 p. m. Sunday school at 10 o'clock. Intermediate Endeavor Society at 2:30 and Choir practice every Saturday evening at 7:30.

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Benson's Pharmacy

Cottage Grove, Oregon

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