

Lane County Leader

COTTAGE GROVE OREGON

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A. CLIFFORD GAGE, Editor and Publisher

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FRIDAY JUNE 17, 1904

The Lane County LEADER, under the management of A. C. Gage, who takes control with the present issue, will continue its efforts to publish all the news in interesting form. Improvements will be made if it is possible to make any. While the editor is not a new man at the business, he is a new man in the community and as such would simply ask the people of Cottage Grove and Lane county to consider him one of them, working for the betterment of the town, the county and the State.

What was that about an opera house in Cottage Grove? Repeat that, please—a little louder.

Preparations are being made for a Fourth of July celebration at Cottage Grove that will attract crowds on that occasion. An invitation is extended to the people of all nearby towns to come and assist in making the day a jubilant one.

In the clubbing list at the head of the editorial column will be found the offer of "Sunset Magazine," with the LEADER one year for two dollars. This offer is remarkable for the reason that Sunset Magazine is one of the most valuable of Western publications. It can be secured for fifty cents per year by this combination and is filled each month with most interesting reading and is beautifully illustrated.

Because election officers who delivered ballot boxes to county officials failed to keep a copy of the returns for immediate use unofficially, definite news was somewhat delayed in last week's election returns. In the future the use of voting machines, which have proved successful in other states, will doubtless render unnecessary the suspense that generally follows the closing of the polls, and will supply reliable returns for publication.

Press comment on the change in management of the LEADER is all in kindly tone—a good word for the retiring editor and a friendly welcome to the stranger, whose desire is to be a stranger to contemporaneous publishers for as brief a time as possible. It was confidence in the future of Oregon that brought the writer to this State with a determination to assist in its development.

Men everywhere have found it essential to organize commercial bodies where they may meet for discussion of topics concerning the interests of towns or cities. Cottage Grove is not blind to this necessity. The Commercial Club is the result of recognizing this need. The LEADER wants to endorse the membership fee idea. If a man is seriously interested in forwarding the city, he is interested twenty dollars' worth. If the fee is nominal he goes in because the other fellow did—sort of jumps in the band wagon for a ride with the rest of them. When a man puts a larger sum into a movement it is safe to say that he is not doing it for the ride. He gets behind the wagon and puts his shoulder against it. He exerts himself. Then things move. Every man who means it in Cottage Grove can apply for membership as the charter is still open.

OREGON'S FUTURE.

Based upon the growth of the city of Portland, its expansion and accumulating wealth, may be made the statement that all growth in a commercial center is dependent on the growth and prosperity of the country surrounding and tributary to it.

Portland's present growth is but evidence of the growth of Oregon. Not alone from Oregon, however, does Portland derive commercial benefit, but from three States which buy and sell through the channels of Portland trade. This trade is produced not only from established sources, but from the increasing creation and dissemination of new wealth from resources now being developed.

It has been remarked that the Lewis and Clark centennial will be the making of Oregon. Why it should be the making of Oregon is hard to imagine when Oregon is already made. God did that. It remains for men to develop Oregon. The Lewis and Clark Fair will direct attention to the State and what is here, but these things would be known and the resources of the State developed just as certainly if the fair were never held. It is not necessary to force evidence of productiveness upon the commercial world. Everywhere men are looking for investments. Everywhere men are making new homes. There are just as many pioneers now in the making as there were in 1850 or in any other year. They are in Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Mexico, Alaska, Canada, California, Washington, Oregon—in every place where the soil—the basis of all wealth—has possibilities undeveloped.

The growth of Oregon is based on this solid foundation—the soil and its productiveness. Agriculture, stock raising, mining, lumbering are the factors of production, and the waterways, themselves great channels of trade, add to these resources that of the fisheries. Resting upon these industries, yet new in their course, and with vast tracts of timber, mineral and cultivable lands yet uncultivated and unopened for settlement, the fabric of the State of Oregon is still in the building period.

The Lewis and Clark Fair will prove beneficial and should receive endorsement from all sides, yet it is only a happening in the life of this Western domain. Just as the midwinter exposition gained temporary prominence for San Francisco, the coming fair will draw attention to Oregon, but the future of the State is in no wise dependent upon it. Natural increase will surely and substantially create the future of the Northwest. All that serves to educate the investor, inform the home-seeker and draw attention from people everywhere, will assist and accelerate development in every form, but the future of Oregon is without these a certain and substantial growth.

How to Secure Mining Patent

Application for patent for a mining claim may be made by filing in the proper land office an application for patent, and showing compliance with all the requirements of the law, together with a plat and field notes of the claim, or claims in common, made by or under the direction of the United States Surveyor-General, showing accurately the boundary of the claim or claims, which shall be distinctly marked by monuments on the ground, and shall post a copy of such plat, together with notice of such application for patent, and shall file an affidavit of at least two persons that such notice has been duly posted as aforesaid, and shall file a copy of said notice in such land office, and shall thereupon be entitled to a patent for said land in the following manner.

The Register of the Land Office, upon the filing of such application, plat and notes, notices and affidavits, shall publish a notice that such application has been made, for the period of sixty days, in a newspaper to be by him designated as published nearest to said claim; and he shall also publish such notice in his office for the same period. The claimant, at the time of filing his application, or at any time within sixty days of publication, shall file with the Register a certificate of the United States Surveyor-General that \$500 worth of work have been

expended, or improvement made upon the claim by himself or grantors, that the plat is correct, with such further description by such reference to natural objects or permanent monuments as shall identify the claim, and furnish an accurate description, to be incorporated in the patent. At the end of sixty days' publication the claimant shall file his affidavit, showing that the plat and notice have been posted in a conspicuous place on the claim during said period of publication. If no adverse claim shall have been filed with the Register and Receiver of the Land Office at the end of sixty days' publication, it shall be assumed that the applicant is entitled to a patent, upon the payment to the proper officer of \$5 per acre, and that no adverse claim exists, and thereafter no objection from third parties to the issuance of the patent shall be heard, except it shall be shown that the applicant failed to comply with the provision of the act.—Mining Press.

Registration Law a Dead Letter

When the registration law was enacted by the legislature, it was thought to be a measure that would shut illegal voting in Oregon, but people have discovered a way to evade it and make it possible for anybody to vote, no matter where he resides. The provision which allows six freeholders to certify to the qualifications of an elector to vote, is the lame place in the law that defeats its purposes. This provision was made for the relief of actual voters, who might find it impossible to register during the time prescribed by law for registration, and seems just, but when this privilege is abused, it thwarts all the purposes of the law, allowing anybody and everybody to vote.

When laws that have been enacted for the benefit and protection of the people are found to be defective they should be amended so as to meet the ends for which they are intended, and certainly the registration law has been found so utterly defective that it is a dead letter. It should, therefore, be the desire of every voter who wants pure elections to have the law amended so that none but qualified voters shall be allowed the right of suffrage. This can only be done by repealing that clause providing for voting on affidavit of freeholders. Such an amendment would probably not meet with favor in the next legislature, since there is already some talk of repealing the registration law; but thanks to the initiative amendment to the constitution, the people of Oregon have a right to legislate for themselves, and it is possible to enact new laws or amend old ones without the consent of the legislature.

An election is to be held in Oregon next November, and if those who favor a pure ballot will interest themselves in the matter, the registration law can be amended at that election so as to disqualify all voters whose names do not appear on the registration books.

It would no doubt be argued that such a provision would work a hardship on those who were absent from their customary places of abode during the five months prior to an election. Certainly it would, but it is better that a few qualified voters be discommodated than that a horde of non-residents, people who have no interest whatever in the affairs of a community, be allowed to exercise the right of suffrage and thwart the will of those who are actual residents of a community and have interest at stake.

The provision of the present registration law which opens the way to indiscriminate voting may at some time prove a menace to the welfare of the entire state. For instance, if some radical or, in fact, revolutionary measure were to be voted on at an approaching election that was meeting favor with a strong minority of the voters; say that a careful canvass was to show that it would require only a few thousand votes to carry, and that the measure was popular with a considerable number in an adjoining state, it would not be difficult to run in the necessary number of voters from outside to carry the

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objectionable measure, since they could be voted on affidavits. Thus the will of the actual residents could be thwarted by the vote of people who had no direct or indirect interest in the state.

When the Australian ballot system was first adopted in Oregon it was in a crude state, but its defects were soon discovered, and it has been so amended from time to time that it is now very nearly perfect. So with the registration law. In its present form it is virtually a dead letter, but it can be amended so as to make it effective and cause it to meet the end for which it was intended—the exclusion of voters who are not qualified electors.—The Dalles Times-Mountaineer.

Ye Mardi Gras.

On account of the elaborate Mardi Gras Carnival to be held at Portland June 28 to July 9th, inclusive, the Southern Pacific Company will sell special tickets to Portland and return at the rate of \$6.25 (including one admission to the Carnival).

These tickets will be sold only on the following dates: June 27th and July 7th, 1904. Limit for return, six days after date of sale.

J. M. ISHAM,
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Newport on Yaquina Bay is the ideal seaside resort of the North Pacific Coast. Round trip tickets at greatly reduced rates on sale from all Southern Pacific points in Oregon, on and after June 1st. Ask agent for further information and a handsomely illustrated souvenir booklet, or write to Edwin Stone, Manager C. & E. R. R., Albany, Ore., or W. E. Coman, C. P. A. S. P. Co., Portland. (J10)

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Dr. A. W. Kime has just completed and furnished new offices in the McFarland building over Wynne's hardware store, where he has equipped himself for his practice. Office telephone has been installed, Main 341.

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