

INVESTORS and HOMESEEKERS will here find opportunities nowhere else afforded in Oregon. The Leader will give you the news and facts concerning this favored locality.

DID POISON CAUSE DEATH?

That is the Question Asked of Nelson Elsea's Sudden Demise.

"Was Nelson Elsea poisoned or not?" This is the question that is being asked by the people of Northern Douglas county just now. Circumstances surrounding his death seem to justify the suspicion. Last Friday morning the body of Nelson Elsea, a man about 60 years of age, was found on a trail about 200 yards from his cabin, by George Long. His shoes were unlace and one suspender was off his shoulder, which would seem to indicate that he had left his place in haste and was endeavoring to get to a neighbor's home, when death overtook him. At his cabin there was kudding in the stove indicating that he was making preparations to start a fire probably to prepare a morning meal, which was cut short by circumstances at present unknown.

After the finding of his body, word was sent to Roseburg for the coroner, but he being absent from the city, Justice Krewson of Drain was summoned to hold an inquest and the following verdict resulted: We, the jury empaneled to inquire into the cause of the death of a man found dead about two miles east of Comstock, in Douglas county, Oregon, on the 20th day of January, 1905, find as follows: That his name was Nelson Elsea; was about 60 years old and that he came to his death by causes unknown to us.

FRED BALMAN,
I. S. BEAUFÉ,
W. H. LAWRENCE,
J. A. GREGG,
C. R. LAWRENCE,
J. W. KREWSON, Acting Coroner.

Dr. Brookhart was present and examined the body and stated that its condition gave evidence of strychnine poisoning. This was further evidenced by the fact that some ground coffee, also some coffee that had been prepared for drinking, gave indications of containing poison. The indications of poisoning were so strong that the man's stomach and the coffee were sent to Portland for analysis. The case is being thoroughly investigated and the report of the analysis is being anxiously awaited.—Drain Nonpareil.

Nelson Elsea was born in Tennessee in 1841. He served in the Confederate army. Previous to his coming west he was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

He leaves to mourn his death a wife and two sons, who have been residing in Portland where the boys were attending school.

The funeral was held in Cottage Grove Monday from the Methodist church under the auspices of the

Foresters of which he was a member. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. F. E. Billington. At the time of his death deceased was living on a homestead claim which he had filed on, 2 miles east of Comstock.

Dr. H. C. Schiefel, of this city, to whom the stomach contents and samples of the food found in the house of Elsea, made preliminary analysis of portions of the samples, and also sent some to the experiment station at Corvallis and to the State Board of Health. He has received replies from both places, from the former stating that they had not the time to devote to the work and from President Hutchins of the state board, announcing that their laboratory was not supplied with the necessary equipments to make analysis of stomach contents in that it was only a bacteriological laboratory. However Dr. Hutchins offered to turn the samples over to the proper parties for analysis. Dr. Schiefel believes that a thorough investigation of the matter should be made.

Dairying and Prunes.

This is an unusually good time for starting into the dairy business in Oregon. The scarcity and the high price of feed due to last summer's drought has discouraged a good many who are in the dairy business and it is therefore a good time to buy cows and dairy farms. It is also a good time to buy prune orchards provided they are in good condition and have been in the habit of bearing in favorable years. A prune grower of many years' experience said a few days ago that in spite of all the failures his prune orchard averaged for the past eight years larger returns for his work than he could get from the land in any other way. This would not be true on land where failure had been the rule.—Rural North west.

Coos Bay Road Again.

It looks as if the long talked of project of a railroad from Coos Bay to Roseburg was about to be realized. It is understood that McLaughlin Bros., of Boston in combination with the Spreckles people and local capitalists here and in Roseburg have undertaken to complete the road at least from Myrtle Point. It is said that the Simpson Lumber company has been asked to figure on a contract of furnishing four hundred thousand ties for this road. It is the expectation that work will begin very soon.—Coos Bay Harbor.

All kinds of engraving at H. C. Madsens.

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are prepared to do all kinds of machine and general repair work, metal turning, fitting and adjusting of machine parts. All orders will be given prompt and careful attention.

ENLARGE THE MAINS

Water System Inadequate to Supply Demands

SOLONS PONDER WAY

An Increased Bond Issue is Favorite Idea of Councilmen, Probable Increase of \$10,000 Needed.

The most important matter which now confronts the city council is the extension and enlargement of the city water system.

The four-inch main leading from the reservoir to the city limits has become inadequate to supply the amount of water consumed and furthermore the extension of small pipe lines to the property of would be consumers is imperative to the financial interests of the city and to the supply of water to the residents.

As is well known to the citizens, improvements to the water system are made by issuing bonds which must be voted by a special election by the people.

The interest and principal of these bond issues are paid from the moneys received from consumers, and not in any manner from a tax levy on property. The people who use the water and no others, ultimately pay the indebtedness.

At the present time the improvements, which to the council seem imperative, would require an increase in the bonding of the city for an additional \$10,000 or \$12,000. The bonds voted at last election, were in the sum of \$15,000, bearing 5 per cent interest, and in order to make an issue for the proposed improvements, the outstanding bonds would have to be taken up. The idea of the council is to present to the voters the question of issuing bonds to the amount of \$25,000 or thereabouts, which will cover the old issue and provide for the enlargement and extensions needed.

The old four-inch main could be utilized in a place where it would have a carrying capacity sufficient for requirements and in this way would be no loss.

Surveys and estimates will soon be ordered by the council, in order to establish an approximation of the funds needed to make the proposed improvements, and the question of issuing the new bonds will in all probability be presented to the people within the next ninety days.

LAND OFFICE JOBS LOOK GOOD TO MANY

Plenty of Takers for Positions Held by Bridges and Booth at Roseburg.

Official information as to what action the government intends to take in the case of Messrs. Booth and Bridges, the suspended receiver and register of the Roseburg land office is still withheld from the public, says the Roseburg Review. Rumors, however, are gaining circulation to the effect that neither official will be reinstated. These rumors are strengthened by the appearance of several candidates to succeed them, indicating that the aspirants are possessed of sufficient information to encourage their efforts. Among the more prominent candidates named is A. C. Marsters, ex-senator of Douglas county, who is said to be seeking the position held by Mr. Bridges. It is stated on good authority that Mr. Marsters will be endorsed by the Oregon delegation in congress, or rather that portion of it not at present connected by allegation in any way with the Oregon land frauds.

It is also stated that ex-Representative Jas. M. Hansbrough and Geo. W. Riddle are active candidates for either the position of register or receiver. Among others to whom

either of these positions look good, it is averred, are ex-county Clerk D. R. Shambrook and County Treasurer G. W. Dimmick, each of whom are reported to be working earnestly for appointment. It is safe to say, however, that in view of all the alleged candidates mentioned being from Douglas county, only one will receive a plum, it being the custom to give one of the positions to a man from some other county in the district.

(Lane county also has one or two candidates for either of the positions, but they have not publicly announced their candidacy.)

Assay Office for Oregon.

Seattle's opposition to the establishing of a mint in Portland, when that question came up some months ago, was not simply a factious freak begotten of petty jealousy, but a wise and far-seeing protest against that which might become the initiative of a series of events that would ultimately in serious loss to her business, both in Alaska and in the Northwest.

Senator Mitchell has expressed the opinion that it is hardly possible to secure a mint for Portland, but that a United States assay office is quite within the possible.

A moment's reflection is sufficient to convince anyone that it is a most fitting place for such an office.

Portland is a natural distributing point for the Columbia River Basin, Western Oregon and much of Western Washington. It is also the converging point of the railroads, and is at the junction of the two great rivers of the Northwest. It is also well located for the Oriental trade.

In a large sense this is applicable to Alaska. Probably nineteenth-twentieths of its coast line can be as easily reached from the mouth of the Columbia as from Seattle. This certainly is true of all the coast lying west of the 142d degree of west longitude. This includes the mouth of Copper River, Prince William Sound, Cook's Inlet, the Alaska Peninsula, St. Michaels, Nome, Kotzebue Sound, Norton Sound, etc.

The steamer that puts out to sea direct from the mouth of the Columbia for these points will make a safer and quicker trip than one leaving Seattle by the inner channel.

Substantially the same proportion holds true of the mining district that it does of the coast line. Portland is fully able to handle that trade, but as yet the transportation arrangements have not been worked out.

With the consummation of necessary commercial relations and the equipment for taking care of the miner's products, there would be no good reason why Portland should not succeed in getting a large portion of the Alaska trade.

J. D. LEE.

Social and Lunch.

The Altar Society of the Catholic Church on Thursday night held a social and gave a splendid lunch at Woodman Hall.

For some time the ladies of the society had been making preparations for the entertainment of their guests and succeeded in every particular.

The first part of the evening was spent with cards, music and social enjoyment.

A handsome pieced quilt had been made by the ladies and when the chances were disposed of, a drawing was held and ticket No. 45 gave the prize to C. C. Cass.

A neat sum was secured by the efforts of the ladies of the society and they are much pleased with the attendance and patronage of their friends.

Whist Club Organized.

On Tuesday evening a number of the ladies and gentlemen of the city met in the parlor of the Commercial club and organized a whist club. It is largely composed of the members of last winter's club. The reception room of Woodman Hall has been secured and the club will meet the first and third Tuesday nights in the month.

W. H. Abrams was elected president and F. H. Rosenberg secretary and treasurer.

RUSSIA IS IN REVOLT

St. Petersburg in a State of Seige.

NEW PROCLAMATION

Declaring That the Czar's Government Has Outlawed Itself Scattered Broadcast—End to Japanese-Russian War.

A proclamation declaring that since the Emperor and the Emperor's Ministers have refused to listen to the people's grievances and fired upon them, the government has outlawed itself, and that every man's hand should be raised against it, and calls upon the people to slay the outlaws and destroy the government root and branch, has been distributed throughout the Empire; laborers, sailors and soldiers are in sympathy with the people.

St. Petersburg, Moscow, Sevastopol and other cities are in much danger from strikers.

Troubles of their own are liable to interfere with General Kuropatkin's plans and will seriously interpose with the replenishing of supplies which were to leave St. Petersburg the last of this month.

It may cause the withdrawal of the Russians from Japan and thus end the bloody strife that has been raging for so many months. Finite or infinite powers seem to be invading the Russian fields.

Japan has done her part, well followed by the uprising of her own common people, may teach the powers of Russia that no country can be run forever with a policy that has for its motto, the same as is demanded in every civilized Christian nation, "Of the people, by the people and for the people."

Conditions in Russia are serious. An end to the present uprising seems to be hopeless without great slaughter and suffering of the people of the Empire. It is hoped that peace conditions may be brought about without the great blood shed of historic revolutions and massacres, some of them a matter of history to us, others within the memory of our readers.

Some of the most horrible are noted in the following: The bloodiest massacres of modern times was that of St. Bartholomew in France. Seventy thousand Huguenots were killed August 24, 1752.

Sixty-five thousand Croats were slain by the Turks in 1592.

At the taking of Ismailia by the Russians in 1790 30,000 men, women and children were killed.

Massacres of the last century follow:

Whites in Santo Domingo, March 29, 1804.

French in Madrid, May 2, 1808. Massacre at Reio, Greek Archipelago, April 2, 1822.

Janisaries at Constantinople, June 14, 1826.

Christians at Aleppo, October 16, 1850.

Christians at Damascus, July 9-11, 1860.

French missionaries at Tientsin, June 21, 1870.

When Jerusalem was destroyed in the year 70, it is said that 100,000 Jews were slain.

In the city of Alexandria in the year 215 thousands of citizens were massacred by order of the Emperor Caracalla, because he had been insulted on a visit there.

In Thessalonica 7000 persons were invited into the circus and put to the sword by order of Theodosius in the year 390.

To Improve Roads.

Another measure introduced by Senator Kuykendall provides for the expenditure of \$10,000 on public roads and reads as follows.

Whereas, there has been a widespread demand that the labor of convicts be applied on the public roads of Oregon; and, Whereas, there are great difficul-

ties, danger, and expense attending any plan for working convicts on the roads at any point except very near the capital city; and,

Whereas, the labor of a large number of convicts is now leased to a manufacturing company within the penitentiary grounds, where they may be safely managed without increased expense and at a net profit to the state of about fifteen thousand dollars per year; therefore, be it enacted by the people of the State of Oregon:

Section 1. That there be and hereby is appropriated out of the funds received by the state for the use of convict labor by private individuals, firms or corporations the sum of ten thousand dollars per annum to be expended upon the public roads of the state of Oregon, under the supervision of the governor of the state.

Section 2. The exact place where the funds hereby appropriated are to be used shall be determined by the governor, but must be upon established public highways and in such manner as will make a continuous permanent, and first class road bed so far as the available funds will go each year.

Good Service Rendered.

Senator Fulton is fully justified in all that was said of him by his supporters when elected to the United States Senate.

His work in securing appropriations for Oregon's waterways are especially worthy of mention as the following will show:

The rivers and harbors committee today completed its bill. It will make liberal appropriation for the mouth of the Columbia and will provide for starting the Celilo canal and also provide for a few other northwestern projects. The items as agreed upon are as follows.

Celilo canal, \$50,000 cash and \$250,000 additional under a continuing contract.

Jetty at the mouth of the Columbia river, \$300,000 cash and the same amount under a continuing contract.

The river from Portland to the sea, \$100,000 cash and \$125,000 under a continuing contract.

The Columbia at Cascades, \$30,000.

Columbia from the mouth of the Willamette to Vancouver, \$30,000 cash and the same amount under a continuing contract.

Willamette above Portland, \$50,000.

The upper Columbia and Snake, \$15,000.

Harbors on the Oregon coast below the mouth of the Columbia, \$10,000.

Coquille river, \$55,000.

The Southern Pacific Company has just completed a new section house and other equipments at Divide which has made quite an improvement and added much to the convenience of the station at that place.

FRATERNAL SPIRIT WILL FLOURISH

District Conventions of Women of Woodcraft, K. of P. and W. O. W. Will Come to Our City.

Women of Woodcraft, February 15th.

Knights of Pythias, February 18th.

Woodman of the World, March 14th.

Three district conventions of fraternal orders are to be held in Cottage Grove during the months of February and March. The first will be that of the Women of Woodcraft on February 15th, preparations for which are being made in a grand style by St. Valentine's Circle, the local lodge of the order. Aside from the many matters of interest to be discussed within the secrecy of the lodge hall, the occasion will be made a great event in a social way and the visitors will be given the best the city affords. A banquet will close the events of the convention.

Following soon after comes the district convention of the Knights of Pythias, which convenes on the 18th of February. A large number of delegates are expected to be present as well as the drill teams from every lodge in the district, which will engage in competitive drills during the days of the convalesce. It is the plan to select from the several teams the personal of a team to go to the Lewis & Clark Centennial during the Grand Lodge Convention. Like the others the work in the lodge rooms will only be apart of the occasion for it is the intention to make the occasion a great social event.

The Woodmen of the World district convention is set for the 14th of March. This district extends to the California line from the northern boundary of Lane county and includes many camps. That this will be a large gathering is an assured fact and arrangements are all ready on foot by the local camp for their entertainment.

Machinery For Great Northern.

Machinery for the aerial tram to be erected on the Great Northern property in the Blue River mining district is arriving in Eugene, and will be transported to the camp soon. Roads are in bad condition at present, mud along the McKenzie being deep, while snow has fallen up the Blue River canyon, making the grade dangerous. The Great Northern management will probably rush their machinery in despite the weather, as the improvements will be largely increased in efficiency by the tram. The tram is to be of the single cable pattern, with buckets about 150 feet apart to begin with.

NO DOUBT

You are anticipating the approach of the holiday season with gladness, and visions of limitless turkey and cranberry sauce rise before your mind's eye; and

YOU'LL HAVE

The usual accompanying delicacies, such as mince pies, pumpkin pies, etc.; but one thing you must not forget. What HOLIDAY dinners is complete without that time-honored institution of our grandfathers—

A PUDDING

With plums, raisins, currants, lemon peel, citron and the sauce that makes it complete? "No matter how much you eat, you've always room for the pudding."

The freshest of everything for the dinner and for the pudding.

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