

Polk County Observer.

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Monmouth, Oregon, Jan. 9, 1889.

THE OBSERVER FOR 50 CENTS For Four Months.

SENATORIAL ELECTION.

On next Monday the legislature of this State convenes and while there is some legislation in the way of amending existing laws and enacting new ones needed; yet perhaps the most important service which the members of that body can render the people will be to prevent vicious and unnecessary legislation. The first important duty will be the election of a United States senator, and the sooner that duty is performed in an intelligent manner the better for the legislature, and for the people of the State. Senator Dolph has made a good record and we believe it will be for the best interests of Oregon, the Republican party and the great northwest, to re-elect him. In a certain sense, our overwhelming majority in this state was an indorsement of Senator Dolph, for he was prominently before the people as a probable candidate in case the legislature should be republican, and whenever a democrat thought a vote might be changed by urging that a republican legislature meant the re-election of Dolph he urged it. They as a rule it is dangerous to change a true and tried officer for an untried one, just for the sake of a change. It was a concession to that political heresy which elected Grover Cleveland, but which has now been repudiated by the return of the Republican party to power. Mr. Dolph's course in the Senate has been consistent, energetic, able, honest and patriotic, and Oregon, as a state, ought to feel proud of him. Besides, admitting that we might get a new man as able and worthy, yet he holds and will hold positions upon important committees which no new senator could reach, for they are attained by experience and a regular line of promotion. For these reasons, we believe the wisest thing that the legislature can do is to re-elect Senator Dolph without delay or wrangling, and then settle down to the consideration of the other important matters that will come upon them.

All along the line the towns of Polk county show a steady and sure growth. We turn our faces to the future with much promise and encouragement. It can well be doubted whether there is any other section more prosperous than is the Willamette valley and Polk county. There is no boom and no exaggerated or fictitious views of any sort, but everything is on a substantial and permanent basis, which cannot be disturbed by any fluctuation. Buildings, roads, bridges, and farms are being extended and repaired in all directions, and before the year 1889 closes there will be greater improvements, value will increase beyond all conception and industries will multiply in every direction.

As the time seems to be propitious for calling the attention of the legislature to needs and wants of our people, why not experiment with a law that would cause every owner of a dog to pay a specified tax, and that tax to be kept separate from other funds of the county, and used to indemnify persons for losses of sheep by dogs, when the guilty dog cannot be identified, so as to make his owner responsible. Such a law would, we think, be wholesome to the greater number.

President Cleveland is determined to signalize his retirement by the exhibition of political spleen at every opportunity. There is no statute that protects him against making an ass of himself if he chooses to do so. His last exhibition is the appointment in President-elect Harrison's home city, of Leon Bailey, who is the author of the dollar-a-day lie, to be U. S. District Attorney. Bailey, as he must have known before he appointed him, will never be confirmed by the Senate. His appointment therefore, can only be looked upon as an exhibition on the part of President Cleveland of personal malevolence, intended as an insult to General Harrison.

NOTICE.—E. S. Cattron has sold his interest in the F. S. D. Co. to Mary E. Barce, consideration \$1,000. Persons indebted to the company will please settle in order that we may close our books for the old year.

From the crowded columns of the New Year's Oregonian we glean a few facts that will be of interest to our readers:

Register Burney, of the Oregon City land office, reports the business of his office as nearly three times larger than ever before in its history, and a great portion of this increase is credited to Columbia county.

Nearly 60,000 people settled in Oregon in 1888, and probably double that number will come in 1889. Almost every section felt the quickening throb.

There have been 115 school houses built during the year. The total loss by fire in Portland during the year was \$53,907 70.

The Portland real estate sales for the year amounted to \$3,035,866, an increase of nearly \$1,200,000 compared with 1887.

More tanneries are needed. It is estimated that Oregon produces 100,000 hides a year, which would make 200,000 sides. Leather loses little or nothing in weight by tanning, and these hides would average 50 pounds at 30 cents, or \$15 each. The total value of the tanned leather should be a million and a half of dollars and fully one-half would be for labor and profit, but Oregon sends her hides to California to be manufactured into leather and the tanneries of that state make the profit.

Oregon horses have acquired reputation and compare favorably with those of any other state. The demand is good for the heavy work on this North coast and San Francisco, and orders have been filled for teams averaging from 2800 to 3000 pounds, for use in the mines of Colorado. There are many teams in Portland in heavy work there that are valued at \$400 to \$600, and well worth the money.

The wool clip of the Columbia region was 18,250,000 pounds.

The year 1888 was remarkable for several meteorological facts. The lowest temperature ever recorded in Oregon occurred January 15; the month of May was the warmest with the least rainfall of any May on record; June had the most rainfall of any month in succession on which the temperature was above 90 degrees. Another fact which should not be lost sight of is that for eight months there was no freezing weather.

The total value of Oregon's exports was \$6,300,000, an increase of over \$2,000,000.

The grain fleet for the year numbered 104 vessels, registering 119,793 tons, an increase of 31 vessels.

Oregon imported from England goods to the amount of \$781,162, the largest item in the list being \$455,351 worth of steel rails.

The salmon pack for the year was the largest ever known, amounting to 1,121,000 cases.

The assessed valuation of all property in the state is about \$85,000,000. The real value is about \$300,000,000.

Columbia county is poorer than it was last year. In a horn.

Flour and feed worth nearly \$4,500,000 was ground in Portland and Albina.

The total product of the manufacturing industries was \$14,000,000. Portland's improvements amounted to over \$3,500,000.

I have been waiting a long time to see if some one would have the courage to send the items from McCoy to the OBSERVER; but I believe every body here would rather be entirely forgotten by the rest of Polk county than to exert themselves the least. But for all that our little town is looking ahead for a bright future. The hammers and saws are heard a good deal of the time. A. J. Teeling has bought property and is fencing it in, and will soon erect a house and barn, and then no telling what will take place—look out girls a house is no good without a woman in it.

I hear that a school teacher is wanted at McCoy a lady teacher is preferred.

D. W. Sears has just got home from Dallas. I shouldn't think it was necessary that Dave should go to Dallas so often.

What was the matter with the hack Jeff, that the girls had to walk down the mountain.

Miss Ota Pigg has gone to Roseburg. Poor Charlie we feel very sorry for you.

J. H. Sears has sold his farm here, and I hear he intends moving east of the mountains. Mr. Sears will be missed a great deal by the farmers of this county.

A few of our young folks, and I will say a good many of the older ones, met at Wm. Hunters last night and danced all night 'till broad daylight and, well I don't know what they did in the morning, but I guess they went home with their wives.

Harry Glandon and family have been visiting friends and relatives here for the last week, but will return to Seattle in a few days. He is very much pleased with his new home. Mrs. Glandon expects to vote for General Harrison when he runs for the second term.

We read in all the papers about the Christmas trees at every place except McCoy—even the Bethel correspondent tells about theirs; but the people of McCoy did not hear of any tree at Bethel at all, but we had a Christmas tree all the same, and we think the banner tree of the county to it. It opened by singing by G. O. Graves and wife and Hon. E. T. Hatch and wife and daughters, in their usual elegant style; followed by declamations, essays and singing by the little folks. After which came the distribution of the presents of which the tree was literally loaded down and a good many that could not be got on to the tree.

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J. H. Townsend, Attorney at Law. Office on Mill St., opposite the court house, Dallas, Oregon.

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