

## THE BROAD AXE.

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WEDNESDAY FEB. 1, 1899.

### TO OUR READERS.

The Broad-Axe and the Silver Knight-Watchman will be sent to all who send us one dollar and six bits from the date the money is received until January 1, 1900. This applies to renewals and new subscribers alike. Also each subscriber, under this offer, will receive as a premium, either a copy of Senator Stewart's great book, "Analysis of the Functions of Money," or "The Gentleman."

Here is an opportunity to get a 16-page paper published at the national capital, which for independence and a thorough knowledge of national affairs has no equal. The stirring events that are daily occurring, and the questions that will absorb the attention of congress, and the administration in adjusting our relations with our recently acquired possessions, together with the action of congress on the pending Gage banking scheme, will make the possession of the Silver Knight-Watchman a necessity to every citizen who wants to keep posted up. Here, then, is an unparalleled offer to get your home paper, which contains all the local news, and a condensed form of the news from all over the world, together with a paper from the national capital, containing a reliable account of the doings of congress and the administration.

### Recent Deadlock.

The recent deadlocks of the legislatures of six different states on the election of senators make it more apparent than ever of the necessity of a change in the present method of electing that officer. About a month of the time allowed the legislatures of no less than six states has been frittered away in disgraceful wrangling over the election of senators. All manner of means have been resorted to by the aspirants and their friends to obtain their ends. Even bribery and other criminal offenses have been committed. And taking the most charitable view of the whole business, no American citizen having a moiety of pride and respect for his country can help but feel humiliated and blush for shame, when contemplating the frequent occurrence of these disgraceful holdups. And when we know that in nearly every instance of these occurrences the result terminates in the election of the man least deserving the place as he succeeds through corrupt methods and must of necessity be corrupt himself.

Then when we consider that the United States senate is a co-ordinate part of the highest branch of the government, whose functions pertain to the most vital interests of the people it becomes at once a matter of very grave importance, which demands the serious and immediate attention of the people. We believe if the people had an opportunity to test by ballot their sense on the matter, nine-tenths of the people would vote for the election of United States senator by the popular vote. Why not go about the matter in a practical way and have the present legislature instruct Simon, McBride and our congressmen to move in the matter of submitting an amendment of the constitution to the states for the election of senators and the president as well, by popular choice of the people?

Wonder why the Register doesn't continue for just a "little bit" longer, its attempted abuse of Ex-Secretary Kincaid? We did not suppose that what we said last week about its attack of Mr. Kincaid would cause it to "dry up" so soon. It now has our permit to take up the matter again to its heart's content, with the assurance that we shall not interpose further.

### A Republican House Unselfishly Stands by a Democrat Who Wants a Clerk.

"The matter of Virtue's clerk came up again, when Brattain recanted from the committee on resolutions his resolution No 16. This was a resolution to rescind the mistaken action by which an unnecessary clerk had been granted to the committee on Mines, of which Brattain was chairman, and which had no business before it and no use for clerk. Brattain moved the adoption of his resolution, but was headed off by Moody, who moved that action be postponed until Virtue, at whose request the clerk had been granted and who claimed to need her services, should be present. This was carried unanimously, it appearing that Virtue was not present among the members of the house.

If Brattain succeeds in riddling his committee of that clerk before the end of the session, he will have to get up early in the morning, for the sentiment of the house seems to be decidedly against him.

Thus do the high resolves with which the House attacked the clerkship abuse wither and fall by the wayside.

### More About that Franchise.

Hon. A. J. Zumwalt of Irving was a caller this week, and informs us that he has some landed interests that is covered by the Booth-Kelley Mohawk franchise and expresses great surprise at the action of the county court leasing the Mohawk river and its tributaries for 90 years to a corporation. And Mr. Zumwalt is not the only person we have heard express indignation at and condemnation of the court. The fear seems to be that other water courses in the county may be gobbled up by some corporation.

Judging the future by the past the people having seen what they consider a stolid indifference to public opinion, or to the interests of the people, constantly manifested by the court, they have no confidence in its acting at any time in a way to subvert the people's interest provided that interest conflicts with the court's settled policy.

The Corvallis Times is out with several sticks of matter on "feeding salines," which leads the Broad-Axe to ask the editor of the Corvallis Times if there are any hogs about the Times concern? The Broad-Axe has been trying to "Ex" with the Times ever since we resumed publication but has failed of success thus far. Hence we have feared hogs and not gentlemen had taken possession of the Times office.

Oregon City Herald: This is what direct legislation will do: It will simplify laws, simplify government, kill monopoly, purify the ballot, supplant violence, broaden manhood, prevent revolution, make men think, accelerate progress, banish sectionalism, sever party bondage, abolish special privileges, wipe out plutocratic rule, reduce taxation, prevent the bribery of law-makers, establish home rule restore the people to their natural rights, it will aid honest representatives in saving the people and give us a government of, for and by the people on a foundation of equal and exact justice to all. It is the quintessence of pure democracy.

### Took It Coolly.

The first news that the supreme court had affirmed the decision of the lower court in the Olberman murder case came to Roseburg Monday afternoon in a special telegram to the Review from Salem. When the paper came out Sheriff Stephens carried a copy to the prisoner, who read the article over carefully. He gave no outward sign of emotion over the outcome of his appeal. He asserted, however, that his conscience was clear and that he did not feel like a

murderer. Heretofore Olberman has steadily maintained that he would not ask for a commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment, and even took little interest in the appeal proceedings. He considered his life wrecked and cared not how soon the final act came. Monday, however, he seemed willing and a little anxious that his attorneys should make an effort to induce the governor to commute the sentence, saying that he cared more on account of his family than himself. Olberman's people reside in Kentucky and not in Canada as stated in Monday's Review.—Roseburg Review.

### Times office Moved.

Junction Times: "The Times office was moved last Saturday to the building north of the city hall next door to the donjon-keep. The new office room is large enough, the front door is according to orders and it suits us exactly. When it stops raining the moss on the roof will be replaced with shingles, a dash-board front will be added, the building repaired and painted white. If these arrangements do not suit you, please file your objections before the work commences."

We desire to offer congratulations to Brother Morehead on the evident fact of his good fortune. From what he says when it "stops raining" he will be "out of sight" away up on the topmost ladder of "prosperity." We "sorter" envy Brother Morehead, and warn folks not to void saliva on the gentleman's carpet.

### Our City Contemporaries and The Booth-Kelley Franchise.

The Journal comes out this week with rather a weak condemnation of the action of the county court in the matter of the Mohawk franchise to the Booth-Kelley corporation, taking the position that the action of the court is illegal, as against individual through whose premises the river flows but not illegal as to the individual who is not so fortunately situated. But even any objection to the proceedings of the county court by any newspaper of Eugene (excepting the Broad-Axe of course) must be quite refreshing to the average reader. The Broad-Axe hails with delight the slightest signs of the approval of its course by its city contemporaries. For awhile we thought we should have to stand alone in our position in behalf of the rights of the people of Mohawk. Of course we knew the Guard nor the Register dared not say one word in condemnation of anything the county court might do, however absurd because if they did, they might lose a few crumbs of the people's money, which the court had at its disposal for doing the county printing. No the Guard nor the Register never did, nor ever will even whisper one word of objection to anything the court may do. Reader, think over the matter, and call to mind if you can where either of these papers, ever uttered a word of condemnation of the extravagance, unnecessary and illegal proceedings of the county court? And yet these papers pose as public spirited impartial defenders of the taxpayers and entitled to the confidence and support of the public. Well, all we have to say in conclusion is any people that will support and uphold such outcasts as these papers deserve to be skinned, and peddled and cuffed taxridden, and put on a short allowance of bread and water until such time as a streak of common sense entered their brains and impelled them to a rational course of conduct which would insure them a better prospect in future.

### To Subscribers.

If any one receives this paper who does not want it, we shall only be too glad to discontinue sending it to him. Just tell your postmaster that you do not want the paper and he will do the rest. And furthermore if those who have been getting the paper, at any time fail to receive it, they may know that they have been dropped from our list because we are not able to buy paper and work from morning till night each day in the week and board ourselves, and furnish them the paper for nothing. We are determined to go to the prepay system, on the ground that a small list of paid up subscribers is better

than a large list of subscribers who will not pay. With this view, we will soon publish a list of newspaper accounts for sale to the highest bidder, giving the name of the delinquent debtor together with the amount of cash due us. We make this announcement, instead of earnest and much what we say, and after our friends (?) have had due time to come up and settle, either by note or the cash, each preferred—we shall proceed to carry our purpose into execution.

### How the Money Goes.

Under this heading we gave in last week's paper a summary of the county expenditures for the last year and promised to notice further on some of the items of expenditures, somewhat in detail. We can now only speak particularly of the amount of money the county commissioners received, as expenses of their offices during the last year. We do this mainly because the county commissioners are responsible for any unnecessary expenditure incurred. The two commissioners for last year drew \$1274.87 as their per diem, or \$53.70 per month average for each. The question is how these commissioners manage to get in claims to cover these amounts under any pretense and voted themselves the money. We wish our commissioners would furnish us with an itemized account of the claims for publication. We will publish the bills without charge, if those gentlemen will furnish the items. This is business, business which interests every taxpayer! That \$1274 that you took out of the treasurer's office for your services belonged to the taxpayers, and they have a clear right to see the account and know that you earned honestly what you took. Mind you we are not saying you did not honestly earn what, but we want to know how you earned it. We know several ex-commissioners of Lane county whose annual income from their office did not amount to as much as one of our present commissioners has got for one month's salary. But those ex-commissioners did not have lively turnouts to junketing through the county to look at some piece of road work in a remote part of the county and charge mileage in addition to lively hire for the trip. But those old commissioners were close-fisted fellows—were old-fashioned farmer's garbs and were just as close-fisted, even more so, with the people's money. But it appears that our modern day commissioners have drifted away from the old landmarks, and being allowed as it were free access to the people's money, now manipulate their offices so as to vote themselves a bigger salary each than that of the county treasurer or the school superintendent. And as is nearly always true in such cases, it turns out that extravagant use of other's means inaugurated by an official in one instance without being called to account, will go on growing from bad to worse until the master—the people—all him to account for his stewardship.

Does this reasoning not hold good in the case we have under consideration? There is nothing clearer than that the \$1274, which our commissioners drew from the treasury as the expenses of their offices for the last year were out of the question from an economical standpoint. And so we see the same degree of extravagance characterizing the action of the commissioners in every branch of their administration. It is seen in the expenses of the road supervisors, which was \$3,294.29, seen in the Assessor's office, which was \$2,510.50, seen in the Sheriff's office, which was \$5,009.75 and seen in the item of county printing, which was \$1,399.88.

It would require too much space to show in this article that an economic management of the commissioner's court for the last year would have resulted in a saving of thousands of dollars. A multiplicity of deputies with too much pay—too many road supervisors with a disregard of business rules in allowing their claims—and the same with regard to allowing printer's bills and almost all other bills brought before them for allowance may be set down in proof of the fact that a willful disregard of strict economy, and business methods by an official in one instance will generally characterize that official in all his official doings. But we shall have occasion from time to time to show thru these columns the truth of our assertion.

### The County Tax Levy.

MOHAWK FRANCHISE AND CANNST. TUTIONAL INDEBTEDNESS.

By J. C. Richardson.

Eugene Oregon Jan. 23, 1899.

DEAR BROTHER AXE:

It is not difficult now to see what is before the people of Lane county, a levy of twenty mill's for State, county, and school. The city yet to hear from and no doubt that will be up to the top notch. Scanning up the whole matter we may expect to pay about thirty mill (tax in the corporate limits of Eugene city). About one-third of the income on money loaned by men of small means. This begins to make such men think that Eugene is not a very desirable place to locate, especially if he has no business, and but very little money, and the more property the worse.

Let us now look for a moment how things are going? By the action of our court in leasing those two water ways, Mohawk and Mill Creek to that Saginaw lumber corporation, a precedent is set, an invitation given to that and other syndicate to lease other water ways for the self same purpose. On that plan may we not expect that our great forests will soon be under the control of a few companies?

Thus driving individual millers out of the milling business, or into these companies. A similar attempt was made by millers a few years ago engaged in grinding the people's grain. The difference being on the present plan is that the company by entering into an agreement with the county court. The court giving the company complete control of the only way possible for any one to move logs from those mountain forests without buying the way over the company's highways. Thus making it impossible for him to compete with the company who controls the only way to get logs to his mill below. And in order for miller's, not in the the monopoly to continue in his business he will be compelled to sell his lumber at a higher price or go out of the business. This is a step to form another dangerous monopoly, such as we have on other lines of business, well known to our people.

I wish to call attention to another danger line along which our county court is going. I refer to our indebtedness to a county, which is somewhere near sixty-five or seventy thousand dollars so says the Broad-Axe. This amount of indebtedness is no so much as to endanger the future welfare of the people if we had any assurance that it would not be continued. But judging the future by the past, we may not assured that it is likely to grow no larger. It is true however, that during Judge Fish's administration that the indebtedness of the county was reduced from about one hundred thousand dollars to fifteen or twenty thousand. But to my mind there is a danger in our county court contracting this indebtedness in palpable violation of the constitution of the State which says "No county shall create any debts or liabilities which shall singly or in the aggregate exceed the sum of five thousand dollars except to suppress insurrection or repel invasion." Article 11 section 10, Constitution of Oregon. Notwithstanding this plain prohibitory clause, we find our county in debt to the enormous sum before mentioned. There to my mind is another dangerous precedent. If we may disregard this clause of the constitution on the same principle we may disregard another, and another, and pray, tell us where may we drift? I have always regarded the constitution a very sacred document. According to this clause of the constitution we have an unconstitutional debt of about sixty thousand dollars or more. But we are told that this county cannot be run without great indebtedness than the constitutional limit. This to my mind is pitiable ignorance. On a statement made by one who has moneyed interest in county indebtedness. One who has money invested in county warrants and probably wishes that this constitutional limit question should not be raised. If the county business can not be run on a cash basis. Why I ask did Judge Fish and his court try so hard to clear the docket of its indebtedness if this county cannot run without contracting a debt. How is it that Lane county is clear of debt and money in her treasury?

### Elmira Items.

Elmira Jan. 23, 1899.

Hark Mr. Editor! Did you hear the frogs singing? You said in the last number of your paper they were singing in Eugene. They are singing here in Elmira, and the garter snakes are marching before them. Where is the State that can beat Oregon? She beats old Kentucky, no native State for climate, but not for fine timber, apples, peaches, fine houses and pretty women. I name some of the timber of Kentucky: The poplar I think is the finest timber in the world. It grows very large, and as straight as a hummer and 100 feet to the first limb, and oh, what a beautiful yellow flour it has which makes it charming

to look at. Then there is the chestnut, the sugar, the hackberry, the locust, the hickory, the walnut, and half a dozen kinds of oak, which is the finest in the world. The Bible speaks of John the Baptist's meat being locust and wild honey. The pods of the locust grows 12 inches long in Kentucky and is full of honey.

The Elmira school closes Friday. There has been a month's school, Mr. Harry Bowns is teacher, who has given good satisfaction although it has been his first school in Elmira. There will be a grand exhibition the last day. All are invited.

Who Are You.

### Read! Read!

### Get a Bicycle Free.

### A Big PRIZE Offered for the Largest List of Subscribers by Feb. 14, 1899.

WE WANT 500 ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIBERS ON OUR LIST by the 14 of February, 1899. And in order to induce our friends to interest themselves in behalf of the Broad-Axe, we have concluded to offer as a prize a brand new, No. 1 Bicycle to the one who will send us the largest list of subscribers between now and the 14 of February, 1899, provided, however, that as many as ten persons compete for the prize.

In order that the ladies may have an equal chance with the gentlemen for the Bicycle we will gladly accept to the "Ladies & Ladies' Wheel" if she is the fortunate one. For secure the greatest number of names. Now go to work in your localities the coming month, especially through the Christmas Holidays, and secure as large a list as possible, and send in your names once a week at least—always stating that you are competing for the Bicycle.

Persons wishing to try for the prize should call or write for sample copies of the paper, and we will supply you. A strict account will be opened with those competing and a credit duly entered of every name sent in by each competitor, so that strict justice shall be awarded the one who wins the prize.

The PRIZE will be AWARDED TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1899. Read the TERMS CAREFULLY, and remember, that in order to WIN you must comply with all the conditions set forth herein.

### ORDER BLANK—CUT THIS OUT.

When filled in, paste on the top of a sheet of paper, and continue the lines down, just the thing in getting up lists.

BROAD-AXE.

EUGENE, OREGON.

First send me a copy of the paper, for which you will please send the BROAD-AXE in the following amounts until January 1, 1899:

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## JACKETS and CAPES.

New Goods Arrive Weekly so you can have a new Stock to Select from at any time. Prices always the Lowest. S. H. FRIENDLY

PRICES ARE RIGHT. The public will please take notice that I am still at the OLD STAND on 8th St. Eugene, Ore. with a variety of Goods for Eggs too numerous to mention.

Burg's Variety Store.

To our Friends and Customers. We wish you all a

HAPPY and Prosperous NEW YEAR

and when you need goods in our line, remember

Overton The Paint & Wallpaper Man

We Have Lately Received a Carload of Jewel Stoves and Ranges

Consisting of— 20 STYLES and SIZES of HEATERS 16 " " " " CAST COOKS and RANGES 8 " " " " STEEL RANGES.

Our Prices are Low and the Quality is of the Best. Call and inspect them.

GRiffin HARDWARE CO. 11-19-1898.