

THE HATCHET.

Published at the post-office at Forest Grove, Or., as Second-class mail matter.

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One year \$1.50
Six months 75
Three months 40
In Advance.

Established for the dissemination of Washington county news, the elevation of humanity and the money we can make.
Items of general interest gratefully received.
Editor's hobbies and opinions on this page, all the rest facts—impartial and uncolored.
Editor is at home in his sanctum, HATCHET Building, Forest Grove, from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m. of each week day and always glad to talk and be talked to.

ISSUED EVERY WEEK IN THE YEAR ON THURSDAY FROM THE HATCHET PRINTERY.

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AUSTIN CRAIG, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

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REPUBLICAN WEEKLY

THE PRINCIPLE INVOLVED.

The thought that congress convenes next Monday calls attention to the fact that Mr. H. W. Corbett's right to a seat in the senate will be decided either for or against the appointee during the next few weeks. The question in this case involves a great principle which should be settled, and settled right, once and forever. The question as to whether Mr. Corbett did or did not furnish the sinews of war in the hold-up last winter gives rise to some diversity of opinion, though it is generally believed that he did furnish the money that paid for hold-outs at the minimum rate of \$50 per head. This in itself, if true, should forever prevent his occupying a seat in the highest legislative branch of the government, or any other position of trust.

But let us put aside the personal character of Mr. Corbett and take a glance at the great underlying principle involved in the case. Mr. Corbett was appointed immediately after the close of the legislative session upon the earnest recommendations of men who had taken an active part in preventing an organization of the legislature and consequently the election of a senator, and as a direct result of the greatest scandal the state ever knew, in which a minority prevented the rule of the majority by the most shady transactions on record, considering all the circumstances. Should Mr. Corbett be seated it would establish a precedent whereby eleven men in the senate or twenty-one in the house could at any time defeat the will of the majority and by conniving with the governor, who has the appointing power, prevent an election and secure the appointment of any man they might agree upon for senator. It would be virtually saying to the governor and one more than one-third of either house that in you is vested the authority to select whom you please for that high office, and the opportunity might be taken advantage of at any session of the legislative assembly. It would establish a precedent that would forever be a menace to good government and pave the way for biennial repetitions of the scenes of last winter at Salem.

The great principle involved in the Corbett case means much to Oregon, and the sooner the stamp of condemnation is placed upon such methods as were enacted that should be appointed senator, the sooner the stench cast over this great state by those proceedings will be removed. We believe the people of the state, with the exception of a very few, have had enough of the hold-up, and the failure to seat Mr. Corbett would go a long way in preventing such conduct on the part of unscrupulous and dishonest legislators.—Oregon City Enterprise.

A "REFORMER" SIZED UP.

The vociferous outcry raised just now by the Oregonian about the prevalence of vice and crime in the city is wholly meretricious. It is cry of the "stop-thief" order. It is two-thirds false and nine-tenths

insincere. It has two motives; first, to cast discredit upon a portion of the present municipal government because it stands opposed to the Simon-Corbett-Scott ring, than which none more unscrupulous and corrupt ever existed; and second, to "work" the sensational "racket", in order to maintain its decaying prestige as a newspaper.

There are always too much vice and too many crimes in every city; but Portland is no worse in respect of vice and crime than other cities; not even so bad, in proportion to its population, as it has been under the rule of the Oregonian's present political friends and allies. These hysterical fake reforms are wholly injurious.

Whenever the Oregonian's political or personal friends are grossly mismanaging municipal affairs, even to the swindling of taxpayers to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars, it is dumb, or speaks only with approbation. It is only when those whom it and its political "pals," cannot "run" are in power that it becomes hysterically and volubly irritable.

A few years ago it happened to be "at outs" temporarily with Mr. Joseph Simmon, who was then, or sought successfully to be, the complete, the absolute "lord of this city," and then it had a spasm of truth-telling; which it soon recovered from, however, presumably when suitable "terms" were made and a proper "understanding" had.

The grafting system, the official recognition and protection of gamblers, prostitutes, grafters, etc., was never so methodically and unconscionably and mercilessly worked as it was under men whom the Oregonian, with full knowledge of the same, supported, except when it was not satisfied with its share of the "spoils," or had some grudge to pay off. Its wailing solicitude for radical reforms is merely a compound of Pecksniffian hypocrisy and Black Bart audacity.

When the Oregonian thus cries for reform in city affairs, all old residents who are acquainted with its character look suspiciously askance at the first large and disordered wood pile, and recognize the voice therefrom as the voice of the proverbial concealed African.

What kind of reform did this suddenly converted organ propose or demand when the city administration was the most shamefully corrupt in its history, when its present bosom friends were in power?

Did it ever demand "reform" when the city was being looted out of anywhere from one to two and a half million dollars at Salem, and by men there selected for the jobs—the Oregonian's personal and political and business friends?

It raises a tempest in a teapot over a dive-dance, but is virtuously and solemnly silent over worthless reservoirs costing half a million; over a city hall on which a hundred thousand or more was squandered; over the sale, to please and profit its would-be senator, of a bridge and old ferry-boat, for two or three prices; over tens upon tens of thousands squandered by a committee of which its editor was a member. None of these great swindles and steals are worthy of the least opposition or adverse criticism; but if the toughies of the North End carouse after ten o'clock at night the very devil is to pay!

To slightly paraphrase the classic language of a Tammany brave: "To h— with such reformers." —Portland Morning Tribune.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Postmaster-General Gary expresses pleasure at the widespread comment upon his recommendation for the establishment of postal savings banks and invites further discussion of the subject. "If we all put our heads together," the postmaster-general says, "the right plan can be devised, and that is what the country wants."

It is not often a cabinet officer manifests such a disposition to learn the desires of the people on matters of legislation connected with the development of his department. Postmaster-General Gary's request for a widespread popular

expression of opinion on the subject should meet with hearty response on the part of the people.

The newspapers have already performed their duty in the matter. Labor organizations, too, have very generally given consideration to the subject and with almost unanimous voice have asked for postal banks. It remains now for other bodies, especially those representing the commercial interests of the country, to give their approval to the agitation, in order that congress may be assured that the sentiment of all classes in the nation is virtually united in favor of the early establishment of these much-needed institutions for the safe-keeping of the savings of persons of moderate means. It may be true that the commercial and business classes of the country have not such an immediate personal interest in the establishment of postal savings banks as have the wage-earners. But the commercial portion of the community cannot afford to manifest indifference to the well-being and contentment of the working population of the country. Let them do what they can to promote good feeling at least by giving consideration to propositions like that for the establishment of postal savings banks, the only object of which is to do something for the people, whose interests are only too rarely the subject of intelligent consideration by lawmakers.—Chicago Record.

SCOTT PREFERS CLEVELAND.

These timorous republican politicians who are afraid of doing anything on the currency question need a man in the White House who will take them by the neck and bring them up with a round turn for remedial measures, as Cleveland did the democrats in 1893. Whether President McKinley is such a man remains to be seen. Emergencies of this sort were in the minds of many persons who wanted Reed for president.—Sunday Oregonian.

The Oregonian, to be in keeping with its former record, should glory over the fact that two veterans of the civil war have died in Washington county within the last week and thus two more pensions are cut off.—Portland Tribune.

Circuit Court.

Dec. 2.—The case of J. L. Honeyman vs. W. D. Bradford, sheriff for return of personal property and damages, was set for hearing Dec. 6.

The cases of T. H. Coffin vs. W. N. Duyck, and Henry Hogrefe vs. George N. Myers, actions for damages, have been dismissed.

Gus Seidler was arraigned on a charge of selling liquor to minors, and given until tomorrow to plead.

The case of L. Rabbe, charged with selling liquor to minors, was submitted to the jury.

The jury in the case of James Lee, jr., charged with rape, which retired yesterday, is still out, no agreement having been reached.

The trial of John Moore, charged with aiding the escape of John Fisher from the county jail, was begun this afternoon.

Dec. 3.—In the case of John Moore, the jury, under instructions of the court, returned a verdict of not guilty. Moore was serving out a sentence in the county jail when a prisoner named Fisher escaped, July 3. Moore was charged with having aided him, and held in the county jail here and in Multnomah county. The judge not having signed Fisher's commitment papers, the verdict of not guilty was ordered returned. Moore has been rearrested on a charge of defacing a public building.

The jury in the case of James Lee, jr., charged with rape, returned a verdict of guilty.

L. F. Rabbe was acquitted of a charge of selling liquor to minors.

Gus Seidler was arraigned on two charges of selling liquor to minors, pleaded not guilty, and his trial was set for December 11.

Theresa Constantine was granted a divorce from G. Constantine.

The cases of Mary A. Barrett vs. John Schleick and J. B. E. Garner et al. vs. Ira E. Wheeler et al., both to set aside deeds, were set for trial December 12.

A nonsuit was granted in the case of Flora A. Cutts and Julia A. Goudy vs. Chris. Molstad, and plaintiff allowed 60 days to file a bill of exceptions.

Judgment as prayed for, and \$25 attorney's fees, were granted in the case of the Arlington National Bank vs. Mark L. and Mary H. Noble.

In the matter of the assignment of Anton Planner, the petition of J. D. Hibbs for credit on a note was allowed.

Dec. 4.—Minnie Latmer was granted a divorce from William Latmer.

In the case of G. H. Baber vs. J. R. Catching, an order of confirmation was set aside and the sheriff ordered to correct return of sale.

In the case of the state vs. James Lee, jr., a motion for a new trial was argued and submitted. Lee was admitted to bail in the sum of \$1000.

The case of the Hillsboro Water & Light Company vs. J. P. Tamiesie, appeal from a justice court, was heard, but will not be submitted to the jury until Monday morning.

Dec. 7.—The jury in the case of the Hillsboro Water & Light Company vs. J. P. Tamiesie reported it could not agree, after 20 hours' deliberation.

The jury in the case of J. L. Honeyman vs. W. D. Bradford, sheriff, for the return of personal property and damages, returned a verdict for plaintiff, assessing the damages at \$25.

The case of the State vs. James Briggs, of Sherwood, charged with stealing \$4, was submitted to the jury.

Dec. 6.—In the matter of the application of Charles F. Lord for allowance for fees as district attorney of the fourth judicial district in the trial of the case of the State vs. X. N. Steeves, tried here on a change of venue, it was ordered that the county clerk draw a warrant payable to Charles F. Lord, for \$97.50, of which amount \$15.50 is for trial fees allowed for an acquittal, and \$85 for appearing in the court 17 days.

The case of the Hillsboro Water & Light Company vs. J. P. Tamiesie, appeal from lower court, was given to the jury.

The case of J. L. Honeyman vs. W. D. Bradford, sheriff, for return of personal property and damages, is now on trial before a jury.

Dec. 8.—The trial of Gus Wachlin for the murder of John D. Ledrick, about 3½ years ago, began today. The interest taken in the case was shown by nearly every seat in the courtroom being occupied at both the morning and afternoon sessions. Most of the day was taken up in the selection of a jury. Many questions were asked jurors, touching their qualifications to act on the case. Only seven jurors were chosen from the regular court panel, 38 persons being examined, and several rejected by the state because they did not believe in capital punishment, before the following jury was completed:

Ed. Hoffman, of Tigardville; A. Thornburg, Greenville; William Stevenson, Laurel; Ole Olson, Raleigh; L. O. Spencer, Tualatin; J. Q. A. Young, Cedar Mills; G. W. Stitt, Beaverton; William Jackson, Dilley; A. W. Saxon, Hillsboro; Eugene Dant, Reedville; Fred Olsen, Hillsboro; J. R. Walker, Greenville. The taking of testimony was not begun until 4 p. m. The court will hold night sessions, and the case will be pushed as rapidly as possible.

Court House.

Probate.—In re estate of Wm. Twigg, deceased. Bond filed and approved and letters ordered to issue. Herman Collier, E. C. Miller and James S. Miller appointed to appraise property in Washington county and Thomas Walker, Alvin Wilkes and George Gordon appointed to appraise property in Multnomah county.

In re estate of Thomas J. Reed, deceased. Report of sale of real property confirmed and executor authorized to make proper conveyance.

In re estate of John Forester, deceased. Final account filed and set for hearing on Monday, Jan. 10, 1898.

In re estate of Anna S. Baker, deceased. H. F. Gordon appointed administrator with bonds fixed at \$1000.

In re estate of Ellen Godfrey, deceased. O. M. Godfrey appointed administrator with bonds fixed at \$3000. Bond filed and Alex. Todd, Wm. Pointer and J. W. Morgan appointed appraisers.

In re estate of John D. Ledrick, deceased. Administrator authorized to employ counsel to assist in prosecuting the party accused of the murder of said John D. Ledrick.

Law Docket.—John Boswick vs. Jos. Dillery. Sheriff authorized to change date of his return of his sale herein.

The J. M. Russell Co. vs. M. W. Patton, et als., judgment against defendants for \$92.28 with 8 per cent interest since Sept 12, 1895 and \$50 attorney fees and for costs of action.

The state of Oregon vs. Arthur Pike. Action dismissed upon motion.

The First National Bank vs. A. N. Davies, judgment by default for plaintiff.

Mrs. R. E. Gresham adjudged insane and ordered committed to the asylum. Warrant for \$5, examining fee, ordered drawn to Dr. S. T. Linklater.

The ballad and lyric concert given last Wednesday evening at the Congregational bazaar was a very successful affair. The main part of the church was comfortably filled with a fair-sized crowd, who showed considerable enthusiasm at times. The local favorites were assisted by Miss Jean Shupp and Miss Evans, the singing teacher and the instructor of vocal culture at the Pacific university. Both were at their best, and received deserved encores. The opening duet by Miss Shorthill and Miss Edwards showed careful training and was well received. Miss Gladys Jones gave one of her inimitable songs and responded to an encore.—Sunday's Oregonian.

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