

Editorial Page

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Republican in Politics.

Published every Friday at The Independent Printery, Hillsboro, Oregon.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1903.

OFFICES:

Forest Grove: Abbott Building
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Hillsboro: Crandall Block,
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Circulation guaranteed to exceed 2000.

Advertising Rates: Display, 60 cents an inch, single column, for four insertions; reading notices, always starred (*), one cent a word each insertion (nothing less than 15 cents); professional cards, one inch, \$1 a month; lodge cards, \$5 a year, payable quarterly (notices and resolutions free to advertising lodges).

When the most serious charge against General Wood is that he insisted that "freedom of speech, untrammelled criticism of the military government and absolute independence in all matters was a necessary part of the education of the Cubans to fit them to conduct a liberal government," the American people are apt to view leniently his insubordination to his superior officer. The man who did so much for Cuba is deserving of praise for his adherence to American ideas and resistance to the despotism which General Brooke attempted to set up under the name of military government.

Republican members of the Legislature have been receiving a type-written slip, sent out from Portland, saying: "Don't you think the Legislature ought to amend the Lewis & Clark Fair law so that it should name the members of the State Commission? Is it fair that this important body should be composed of Democrats and renegade Republicans? Is a Republican Legislature to be held responsible for a \$500,000 appropriation without having a word to say about who spends the money? Think this over." The signature is an "Eastern Oregon member" but though anonymous the communication promises to enlighten somewhat the extra session.

Contempt of court, criticism of the one man who sits on his bench arbitrarily ruling his little world until he forgets he is living in a republic, has been stretched so that it rivals the ridiculous senselessness of the despots, but the twelve good men and true in the jury box are open to the attack of all, not excepting the one whose province is supposed to be the law as is their's the evidence. However justifiable may have been Judge Bellinger's roast of the Logan jury it is to be questioned if there is any federal statute which requires the court of its own motion to review a verdict of acquittal.

Senator Mitchell is pressing a bill increasing Indian War veterans' pensions to 12 dollars a month, and granting each person who served 14 days in any Indian war prior to the Civil war 160 acres of bounty land. Such recognition is deserved and is only one of many acts justifying the confidence the people of Oregon have always had in the senior Senator which have marked his legislative career. Quick to recognize the justice of any claim Senator Mitchell has always been untiring till he brought the matter to successful completion. Such will be the history of this bill which means so much to so many in Oregon, not a few of whom are in Washington county.

ROOSEVELT CLUBS

(Portland Oregonian, Nov. 28.)

That there will be any serious efforts to push Mr. Roosevelt into the background and to work up the nomination of another for the Presidency The Oregonian deems improbable.

Yet it is altogether well enough for the supporters of the President to be prepared to meet such possible efforts. During months past "feelers" have been thrown out in many directions, but without encouraging response, yet the project seems not to have been given up wholly, and will yet be pushed, undoubtedly, if there should appear to be a chance for its success.

The chief opponents of President Roosevelt are certain great capitalist and plutocratic interests, which have resented his action in important matters, like the great coal strike and the merger cases. They were obliged to yield, but they yielded grudgingly; and it has been understood all along that they were biding their time, in the hope of accomplishing his undoing in the Republican National Convention. What is known as "Wall Street" is against Theodore Roosevelt. But it is not confident of its power to turn him down, though that is the dearest object of its desire. Failing in this, as it is sure to do, it will address itself to the work of putting up for the Democratic party a candidate of its own liking. In this it may succeed, or it may not.

Besides the capitalistic combinations that would like to defeat Mr. Roosevelt, in almost every state there are disgruntled republican politicians who would quickly manifest the same inclinations, if they should see any movement that way. There are such in Oregon, as elsewhere. It is proper, therefore, for the supporters of the President to be on their guard against machinations through which hostile delegates might be slipped into the National Convention. Organization of Roosevelt clubs throughout Oregon, began already with vigor in Portland, as announced in The Oregonian of yesterday, is a measure both of precaution and of aggression, on the part of the President's supporters. There may be no great need, but it is just as well to be vigilant, and moreover to have the organization effected through which any demonstration or effort like that threatened during some time past in news reports from various parts of the country may be met and failed.

The Oregonian's own belief is that without any real opposition in convention. But there are elements of opposition that would defeat him if it were possible. They may not appear in the convention at all; but they might and probably would be a force there, if no precautionary measures were taken against them. Plutocratic influences are always found to be powerful among irresponsible delegates from states that never can be depended on for a Republican electoral vote; and there are great bunches of delegates from such states. The Oregonian approves the project of forming Roosevelt clubs throughout the Pacific States, even though the sentiment here is so solidly for Roosevelt, and from this point of view such action might seem unnecessary. Nevertheless, push the Roosevelt clubs!

Secretary Geo. E. Himes, of the Oregon Historical society, on his recent visit to Washington county secured a specimen of Oregon Grape which completely eclipses anything before exhibited. It is about 15 feet in height and the "trunk" is 3 inches in diameter as far as the first branch, which is four feet from the base. It is a regular tree and near the butt bears a scar where another stalk about the same size has been sawed off. This prize is now in the Historical society museum and makes a curiosity no longer of the Clackamas county specimen, 12 feet high and an inch in diameter, which Colonel Hawkins has been proudly exhibiting at the Portland Free Museum.

J. W. Hughes will auctioneer your sale. Write or call, R. F. D. No 1 Forest Grove.

All kind of tinware and granite ware at Cheney's.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR BETTER ROADS

If the bill which was introduced into the House of Representatives of the 58th Congress, on November 18, by Representative Brownlow (Penn) becomes a law the State of Oregon will become entitled to the of sum \$250,000, payable in three years, 1904, 1905, 1906, to be expended in the improvement of her public highways, providing that the state, counties and municipal districts in which the proposed improvement are to be made will co-operate in the work and bear their pro rata share of the expense.

The bill referred to is the same as that introduced during the 57th session of Congress, but contains two or three slight amendments, which are quite important and effect Oregon materially. The bill has been introduced in the House by Mr. Brownlow, and Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, has agreed to introduce it in the Senate before the adjournment of that body this session.

The first bill provided for an appropriation of \$20,000,000 for the permanent improvement of public highways, and provides that this amount should be equally divided among the several states of the Union, in the manner prescribed by the bill, but the new bill, as amended, provides for the appropriation of \$24,000,000, to be available at the rate of \$8,000,000 a year during the years of 1904, 1905 and 1906. While the amount of the appropriation is increased by \$4,000,000, the chief virtue of the amendment, so far as the State of Oregon is concerned, is the manner in which this sum is to be distributed. The amended bill says: "States having a population of less than 700,000 inhabitants are to receive the sum of \$200,000. The remainder of the appropriation to be distributed pro rata among the states having a greater population than 700,000, each of said states to receive a sum equal to the proportion its population bears to that of the total of the states having a population of over 700,000." The population is to be based upon the census of 1900. Oregon, under the census of 1900, is credited with a population of over 300,000 inhabitants, and thus would come under the provision for the greater sum easily and will receive \$100,000 more under the amendment than it would have under the original bill, should it have become a law.

The main objects of the bill are to create, in the Department of Agriculture, a bureau to be known as the Bureau of Public Roads, and to provide for a system of national, state and local co-operation in the permanent improvement of the public highway. The general policy of the bureau is to bring about, so far as may be, a uniform system of taxation for road purposes, and a uniform method of road construction, repair and maintenance throughout the United States, and to co-operate with any state or civil subdivision thereof in the actual construction of permanent highways.

The bill also provides for the appropriation of \$75,000, for the salaries of the officers of the bureau, and for the payment of its general expenses, such as to enable the director to investigate the systems of road building throughout the United States; to investigate and experiment in regard to the best methods of road building and the best kind of road material; to co-operate in the building of object lesson roads in the several states, etc. The officers of the bureau shall consist of one director, salary \$4,500; assistant director, \$2,500; chief clerk, \$2,000; clerk, \$1,500; messenger, \$720; four field experts, \$2,000 each; four civil engineers, \$1,800 dollars; four road experts, 1,400 dollars; one assistant, in charge of road material laboratory, 2,500 dollars; engineer, 2,000; chemist, 1,800 dollars; petrographer, 1,200 dollars, and such other officers as the director may from time to time require.

The bill provides that, in order to receive Government aid in the construction or improvement of roads in any state in the Union under the provisions of this bill, a petition for the same must be presented through the proper officers having jurisdiction of the public highways in the civil

subdivisions of the states, giving the description of the contemplated improvement and an estimate of its cost, and, in case the proposed road and plans therefore are approved by the directors of the bureau the Government will pay one-half of the expense of such improvement, and the state or its subdivisions is required to bear the other half. Nothing shall be construed to prevent the state or civil subdivision thereof from distributing its one-half of the expense so that the state may pay a portion, the county or parish a portion, the township or district a portion, and the owners of land abutting upon said road another portion. It also provides that any state or civil subdivision which avails itself of the advantages of the act shall, because of having accepted such national aid, contract and bind itself to maintain and keep said roads in good and efficient repair for the free use of the public.

FOR BETTER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

County School Superintendent Ball has inaugurated another improvement in the public school system of this county which he has so efficiently organized, this time to do away with unnecessary absence. Although there is a compulsory attendance law it is better to prevent and this device of Supt. Ball's will lead to interesting the children in punctuality and regularity by recognizing those virtues.

Each teacher has been sent a bundle of neatly lithographed "certificates of Perfect Attendance," commending the holder for punctuality and regularity of attendance. The accompanying letter says:

"I enclose herewith a package of Certificates of Perfect Attendance to be used by you for the purpose of stimulating the attendance and punctuality of pupils. Good work cannot be done unless the pupils can be kept regularly in school."

"Please announce to your pupils that you will issue at the close of the month one of these certificates to each child who is neither absent nor tardy, and after four have been issued to any one pupil, the County Superintendent will issue him a much larger and nicer one direct from his office on the presentation of the certificates he holds."

"It is not necessary that the child receive his certificates consecutively each month, in order to receive the Certificate of Award from this office. At any time during the school year when he has received his full number of four monthly Certificates of Perfect Attendance, he can send them to this office, and a Certificate of Award will be issued him."

"You are especially cautioned against making allowance for any failure on the part of pupils to comply with the requirements. They must attend every day and be on time in order to receive this certificate. No allowance must be made for tardiness even if it is only for a minute. The rules are absolute."

"I anticipate that the use of these certificates will greatly increase the attendance and stir up interest and enthusiasm among the pupils, which will in the end materially increase the value of your work."

"If we can get the children into the schools every day, then it is our fault if they do not do as well in their work as their talents will warrant."

"When you leave the district you will place this envelope, with the remaining certificates, in your register and leave them with the proper officer of the Board. Under no circumstances should they be mislaid or lost."

"Please take hold of the matter with interest, and you will find ready response from your pupils."

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Hot tamales, oyster stews and fries at the Pacific Restaurant.

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