

HILLSBORO INDEPENDENT.

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14.

We must not play cat for the British monkey that wants those Japan-China chestnuts.

Bunco Kelly's life was in jeopardy, but he has passed the noosed rope on his way to the penitentiary for life. The verdict of the jury is murder in the second degree.

At the present rate of selling bonds, \$100,000,000 per year, it will not be long before there is an abundance of securities on which National banks may base circulation.

National and state banks can make paper money and be backed by the government, and it is all right—Yamhill Independent. That statement is about as near the fact as the other assertion made by the same paper to the effect that the legislature selected the books to be used in our public schools.

The news reports a few days ago announced that efforts were making in certain quarters to have this government interfere with Spain for the independence of Cuba. It is to be hoped that the United States will do nothing of the kind. We can't afford to meddle with the domestic affairs of other nations.

The thirteen democratic members of the next House from the North are contributed by New York five, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois two each, and one each from Massachusetts and California. The republicans have nineteen solid state delegations and the democrats six. One solid Southern delegation, that of West Virginia, is in the republican list.

Washington has a jute mill. It is located at Walla Walla, and made sacks for the farmers, but the farmers did not get them. They were stolen by the warden and sold, and the money sent to the poor in Arkansas. Hence Washington has a great official scandal. There is also a sensation caused by Colubent, the penitentiary warden committing suicide. He, it was, who sold the sacks. If Oregon don't want such an experience, we must build no jute mill or sugar factory. "Deliver us from temptation."

There is a royal battle on for this session of congress. It will be called to mind that a discriminating duty of 1-10 cent per pound is laid by the Wilson bill on sugar imported from countries paying an export bounty. This is what Germany does. Hence to even up with Uncle Sam, Han has put a heavy duty on imported meats. This is a blow at the catkings of the Platte and up, per Missouri rivers. These interests propose to attack the sugar trust and fight to the finish. The interests are large. The foreign meat trade is worth \$15,000,000 and the cattle men and packers who have always fought each other at home will unite in the face of the common danger. Or there will be fun.

The currency question is uppermost in the minds of the national legislators. There are three schemes prominently mentioned. One the Baltimore, another the Carlisle and the last, Eckels. All of these suggest radical changes with two main ideas—relieve the government of the necessity of redeeming any part of the circulating medium of the government and thus do away with the necessity of maintaining a gold reserve, and second, provide for a basis of national bank circulation to take the place of the U. S. currency which is to be retired. United States bonds, the present basis of national bank circulation are so expensive and so scarce that the banks cannot use them, hence Carlisle's scheme of falling back on the bank capital. There are \$488,000,000 in U. S. notes in circulation, wherefore it is an easy matter for holders to draw out of the treasury the paltry \$100,000,000 in gold attempted to be kept there as a reserve for redemption. To get rid of these notes is what is worrying our finance ministers. But so far they have failed to propose a plan that brings to their support popular approval. Lyman Gage, a Chicago banker, submits a plan to the currency committee that seems better. He deprecates any radical change in the present banking system, but would adopt a plan that takes the government out of the banking business and relieves it from redeeming its own notes. He would issue 250,000,000 U. S. 25-cent bonds bearing 2 1/2 per cent interest. These bonds to be exchanged for U. S. notes which are to be retired or cancelled. This \$250,000,000 bond issue will furnish a basis for national bank circulation. Amend the national bank act so that the banks can obtain note issues to the face value of the bonds deposited as security for circulation. Reduce the tax on circulating notes to half of 1 per cent.

Germany is proposing to levy an additional duty on cotton-seed oil, an article imported to that country from America. The present duty is \$1.00. The new rate is \$2.50, or 250 per cent ad valorem. Germany is discriminating, where she can, against America.

There will be no tariff legislation this session of congress. The popgun bills have gone dead.

A GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION.

The summary of the assessment of Washington county for the year 1894 in last week's INDEPENDENT, when compared with that of the year 1892, furnishes all the argument necessary to show the inefficiency of the present laws for the assessment of property for taxation. A falling off in the notes and accounts returned to the assessor of one and one half millions is a decrease of such magnitude as to open the eyes of the blindest to the necessity of a right inquiry into the cause, and a demand for its removal when found. That the cause and the only cause is that repeal of the laws taxing mortgages and allowing deductions for indebtedness, that was enacted at the last session of the legislature, at the demand of the creditor class of this state is too plain a fact to be argued further. That the greatest sufferers from this iniquitous legislation is that class most severely pressed by the present financial depression is not a question of doubt. To the value of the farm land and town property increased by the money expended in making improvements for which the bulk of their indebtedness has been incurred, they must pay taxes on this improvement, while the creditor's interest drawing an exorbitant interest practically escapes all taxation. The counties of this state have gone to great expense, and have acted wisely in so doing, to secure present ownership books and other expensive means to ensure the listing and full assessment of all real and tangible property, but have been for the last two years unable to secure the assessment of one-fourth of the notes and accounts, that every intelligent person knows full well would have been listed but for this change in the laws made at the dictation of a committee in the interest of the brokers and money lenders of the state. In this change the first and most important step was taken on the line of that single tax theory that strikes at the home of every real estate holder in the land. The free holdings of the state are threatened and seriously threatened by these changes in the laws that throw the whole of the burden of taxation on the real property, which of all property is the least productive. Let this class of taxpayers insist upon the enactment of a law, properly guarded, allowing deductions for indebtedness, and an equitable mortgage tax law; and the opportunity for evasions will be removed and with intelligent and honest assessors, our assessment rolls in the future will no longer be record evidence of the dishonesty of the owners and holders of three-fourths in value of the notes and accounts over the state.

RUMEX ANZONICUS.

Attention has been directed within the past few months to a plant rich in tannic acid, growing wild in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, popularly known by the name of canigre. (Pronounced can-yer.) Rumex hymenosepalus, R. anzonicus or R. Saxii. The plant belongs to the dock family which has many varieties in Oregon. Its favorite soil is a well drained sandy loam where, watered by an annual rainfall of fifteen inches, it reaches to its full growth. It has, however, been cultivated on heavier soils to the full satisfaction of the farmer. The valuable part of the plant is the root, resembling a carrot in shape but not so large. The root is from four to seven inches long and an inch or more thick. The product is from ten to twelve tons per acre—which before marketing is dried down to a third. This dried root is worth \$40 per ton in the American market, and one authority states that in Vienna, Austria, it is worth \$65 per ton and cheap at that. The dried root yields 30 per cent of tannic acid. In America 90,000 tons canigre will be required to replace imported gambier. The bulbs should be planted in the fall on sandy and well drained land in rows about thirty inches apart, the plants standing fifteen inches apart in the rows. The land should be kept free from weeds, and in general, canigre should have the cultivation which the successful potato grower gives his crop. What is feared here is that our wet winters will drown it out.

Experiments are to be made in this county next season. State chemist Shaw of the Agricultural college at Corvallis has sent thirty pounds of the bulbs to Hillsboro which have been distributed to Messrs. Zina Wood, John Masters and A. H. Garrison, Hillsboro; and John Caldwell, Progress. If it does well here our farmers may engage in an industry that will prove profitable without the intervention of an expensive manufacturing plant. A cynical neighbor remarks, "suppose you are introducing a plant on our farms that will be troublesome to get rid of—a noxious weed?" In answer it can be said that farmers can hardly have too much of a plant that will produce three tons to the acre of a marketable product worth \$40 per ton. Digging time next fall is awaited with much interest.

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CITY FINANCE.

It appears by the city treasurer's report that the floating debt of Hillsboro is \$7480.76. On this sum we are paying 8 per cent interest. The consideration of these figures is reason for the assertion that there has been bad financing in the administration of the city government. Some could perhaps have been avoided, but a large part could not.

It will be remembered that a year ago by reason of a change in the state assessment law and the linking to that law of cities and school districts, no tax was levied or collected for current expenses, yet those expenses had to be incurred. That was bad financing that could not be avoided by the city government.

But now that we are in the hole, steps must be taken to get out. It is hardly good policy to pay off this debt in one year by taxation, but some scheme should be devised for reducing the rate of interest and bring our warrants up to par. By the present system we pay a fifth more for what we buy than we would provided we went into the market with cash. The only exception is the small amount that is paid out on fixed salaries. One plan that seems feasible is to bond the city for sufficient money to take up a part of the warrants now outstanding. Bonds bearing 6 per cent interest can be sold at par. Possibly, 5's could be floated. If this is done \$150 paid would be saved in interest each year besides our city paper for current expenses would be at par. But we ought not to sell more than \$5,000 bonds, but leave the remainder of the outstanding warrants to be paid by a tax raised this year. Current expenses should be met by taxation. Then what ought to be done is to issue bonds to the amount of \$15,000, and refund the \$10,000 water bonds and \$5,000 of floating debt. The remainder of the city warrants should be provided for by taxation. After this year a sinking fund must be created for the payment of the bonds.

There is a prejudice against selling bonds and it is well founded. It is to be regretted that such antipathy had not been so far reaching as to prevent going in debt at all. But it is always good policy to reduce expenses, and if the interest account can be reduced, let it be done.

The idea here outlined does not contemplate further street improvements or ditching. Let those things be done by property owners or remain undone. The thing now to do is to get out of debt.

THAT CITY ELECTION.

EDITOR INDEPENDENT: In your issue of last week is an implied charge of the 262 voters of the city of Hillsboro for not taking a part in the city election. When the good people who read your paper learn that no notice of this election was given, though required by law, they will probably lay the blame for this neglect to vote where it properly belongs. Some of these voters who learned at the last moment of the plans of these little ringsters refrained from voting through disgust of the whole proceeding. Whether this failure to give notice was a part of the program laid out by the party engaged in the still hunt for the various high salaries offices provided for in the charter and ordinances of the city of Hillsboro, is a question not yet determined. 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