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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22.

The Salem woolen mills were burned this week. Loss, \$75,000, covered in part by insurance. It is proposed to rebuild.

It is reported that an engagement November 17th, between Spanish troops and Cuban insurgents, resulted in favor of the latter. The Spaniards lost 500 in killed.

Congressman Hunter, of Kentucky, is prominently mentioned by republicans for senator from that state to succeed Blackburn. Wilson, a prominent republican campaigner in that state, is another senatorial possibility.

Official bulletins by way of Constantinople declare that the massacres in Turkey are the result of Armenian fomentations. Taking that view of the riots, it is a little remarkable that the Armenians have been the only ones that have lost their lives. One would naturally suppose that if the Turks are the peaceable people and have been attacked by Armenian mobs, that a few of them would be found among the slain.

Senators Hill and Murphy, of New York, and Senator Gray, of Delaware, were in consultation late last week with Secretary Lamont and later with Attorney-General Harmon. Wise ones declare that the subject matter considered at these conferences was the appointment of a supreme justice to succeed Jackson, deceased. It is further stated that Gray is the man. It is possible that since Delaware has gone republican, Gray wants to get in out of the storm.

The Newberg people, in Yamhill county, produce figures to show that they have evaporated 133 tons of prunes this year and sold green fruit that would have made twelve tons more, bringing their fruit crop up to 145 tons. This is worth on an average of 4 cents per pound, or \$58 per ton—equal to \$11,000 for the crop. This was grown on an area of three by seven miles, therefore it is seen that a neighborhood that has \$11,000 dumped into it every year is fairly prosperous.

The sultan of Turkey has been assassinated by some member of his own household. This is inferred from the fact that the method of the deed was by poison. This had to be administered in his food or in his drink. This is not the first time that violence has changed the rulers of that almost barbarous country, for his immediate predecessors, his uncle and brother were assassinated. There are grave charges laid to the door of the dead sultan to the effect that he was privy to the atrocious massacres that recently have so terrorized civilization within his dominions. Now what? The powers were all but agreeing to assemble a force and compel the violent elements to keep the peace, and the sultan had come to know the necessity of the times, so that he remained at a telegraph instrument the night through last Saturday, issuing orders to the governors of his provinces. But there were two parties, and the half-formed plans are left unfinished. Russia is ambitious. England is grasping, but weak, though appearances are to the contrary. The peace of England is threatened. Later dispatches do not mention the assassination of the Sultan of Turkey, and the first report is now discredited.

Mr. E. N. Ordway advocates the improvement of our main roads, raising funds therefor by the act known as the cross law. As Mr. Ordway presents the scheme, it appears to be innocent, but the claws are in existence and they are sharp, too. The law provides that a tax shall be levied for a period of ten years, upon the lands bordering on the road for a distance of three miles, assessed according to the benefits accruing. Mr. Ordway proposes that the first half mile shall pay 30 per cent, the second 25 per cent, the third 20 per cent, the fourth 15 per cent, the fifth 10 per cent and the sixth, or last, 5 per cent, making 105 per cent. What he proposes to do with the extra 5 per cent, he does not state. Mr. Ordway estimates the expense of improving the road at \$4,200 per mile. As it has two sides, there would be a belt of land six miles wide liable for the improvement. Then a quarter-section farm, or a farm bordering on the road for a half mile and extending back a half mile would be taxed 30 per cent for the improvement, costing \$1,050, or \$210. A half mile of road to cost \$2,100, of which the farms on one side would pay one-half and those on the other side the remaining half. But \$315 may be extended over a period of ten years, which makes an annual payment of \$31.50, with interest at 8 per cent on deferred payments. If default in any payment is made, then the whole sum unpaid becomes due. The sixth half mile pays \$52.50, or \$5.25 annually. The policy of bonding real estate for these sums is doubtful. It may have to be done, however, but the INDEPENDENT desires to call attention to the sharp claws.

HOW THE PROMISE TURNS OUT.

The point most strongly urged by the free traders in 1892 was that free raw material would so cheapen manufactured goods that our artisans would be able to invade the markets of the world and compete with foreigners. Especially was the claim persistently put in the lead for wool. An addition was made. Cheap wool would drive shoddy from our shores, and Americans for once would have strong, firm, all-wool garments. Wool would be so cheap that the temptation to mix shoddy would not exist. We got free wool, and it is cheap. Note the result.

We are not able to spread our cloths on the backs of foreigners, but on the other hand the foreigners are invading our markets. But worse than that, our domestic woollens are adulterated with more shoddy than cursed us before. The duty of thirty cents per pound was removed by the Wilson bill, and now, according to the Inter-Ocean, 147 times as much of the vile stuff is imported as there was before, and since it is not imported to be thrown into the ditches, it is woven into cloth, and Americans wear 147-fold more of it than in former times. The whole scheme of tariff reform, as formulated by Wilson and Gorman, is a complete breakdown.

FIGURES AND FIGURES.

MR. EDITOR: The last Argus, in its leading editorial, has come to the conclusion that "it might be the proper thing for the city to bond the city for twenty years, and it might not." This is rather non-committal, but the drift of the article indicates that he is in favor of bonding for five years rather than twenty. If this is the issue, five or twenty years' bonds, it may be advisable to fully discuss the merits of both plans.

The only object in bonding at all is that such action would give some relief to the taxpayers during the present financial paralysis. Were money abundant it would be better to pay off all indebtedness at once, and stop interest. But during the present financial pressure this could not be done without ruining the taxpayers of the city. The inability to pay at once being an acknowledged fact, the only matter to determine is as to when and upon what plan shall this debt be paid. In determining this matter the council should be governed by such rules as experience has heretofore shown are most feasible.

Provisions for bonding to pay debts already incurred, or for improvements in the future, have seldom been for less than twenty years, often more. The reasons for this are many, and one of the most potent is, that the bonds will bring a better price than for a shorter term. Bonds for twenty years, issued for Hillsboro, to the amount of \$20,000, drawing six per cent interest, could, in all probability, be sold for their face, while for five or even ten years they could not be floated at par.

The only reason why time should be required, either by a municipality or an individual, is that it is inconvenient or impracticable to pay at present, and in fixing the day of payment, the reasonable probability of meeting the payment at maturity should be considered. If, owing to improvement in the financial outlook and enhancement of values, the indebtedness could be wiped out at an earlier day, this possible contingency can be provided for in a sinking fund.

I have carefully examined the figures in the communication of Dr. Tamsie, in the INDEPENDENT, and, if his statement is correct, am unable to agree with the editor of the Argus, that "the city could wipe out the warrant debt at the end of six years," unless by an increase in the already burdensome tax levy. The present levy of ten mills should be reduced rather than increased, as an increased levy will be required in the Hillsboro school district, or the efficiency of the school, of which the people of Hillsboro can truthfully boast, will be sacrificed. The interest of Hillsboro will not allow this. The suggestion of the Argus, to float new bonds running five years at a lower interest, after the warrants are paid, at the time estimated (six years from this date) is, I think, impracticable, but even were it probable that that could be done, why not float them now, and save the difference in the interest?

The conclusion, though claimed to be "by actual computations," arrived at by the editor, that at that time (I suppose the end of five years from the time the warrant debt is to be wiped out), which would be eleven years from this time, the city would be "free from debt" and "have as assets the water and light plant, and the city hall" are visionary, to say the least. The cost of the water and light plant, at a conservative estimate, would be \$30,000. The expenses of the city government and interest will, say, \$4,000 annually. The receipts we will estimate at \$5,000. The interest on the price of water-works and light plant, \$20,000—exclusive of \$10,000 bonds already provided for, at six per cent, would be \$1,200.

The account at the end of the five years would stand thus:

Income for 5 years @ \$5,000	\$25,000
Expenses for 5 years, exclusive of interest	\$20,000
Net income for 5 years	\$5,000
Interest on bonds \$20,000 @ 6 per cent	\$1,200
Am't paid for L & W plant 30,000	
Total	\$4,800
Indebtedness at end of 5 years	\$21,000
Leaving the city assets, the "water and light plant and city hall" encumbered with a debt of \$21,000.	

Now, suppose the city sells its bonds at twenty years for an amount sufficient to pay off all indebtedness at this time and retire the present bonds, and pay off the present war-

rant debt. This would require the

selling of bonds, drawing not to exceed 6 per cent, to the amount of, possibly, \$20,000. These bonds would, in all probability, sell at par.

Now, let us see how the account would stand at the time they matured:

Income for 20 years @ \$5,000	\$100,000
Expenses, exclusive of interest	\$80,000
Net income for 20 years	\$20,000
Interest on bonds \$20,000 @ 6 per cent	\$1,200
Bonds	20,000
Total	\$41,200

Balance in treasury \$15,000. This gives an opportunity for a large reduction in taxes in the near future, even without estimating any increase in the value of property to be taxed. Looking to a conservative increase in such valuation it is evident that long before the bonds matured, a sinking fund would be provided that would pay them off and that by a much lower rate of taxation than at present. If it were thought advisable to buy the water and light plant, the account, at the end of twenty years, would be thus:

Income for 20 years	\$100,000
Net income for water and light	\$20,500
Total	\$120,500

Expenses, exclusive of interest, 20 years @ \$3,000

Interest on \$20,000 @ \$1.80 = 36,000

Bonds 20,000

Total 120,500

Balance on hand 522

In this I have only estimated an

income from the water and light

plant equal to the present charges,

shown in Dr. Tamsie's statement,

as paid to the company by the city,

leaving all other income from that

source at a balance expense of running

the plant.

In this there is no estimate for in-

crease in income from enhancement

in valuation of taxable property in

the future, which there is a reason-

able assurance will far exceed any in-

crease in current expenses. The esti-

mate of expenses, exclusive of interest

charges, is also placed at \$1,000 per

year more than at present. This, I

think, is a liberal allowance for any

probable increase within the next

twenty years.

I think I have presented a fair con-

trast between the final results of the

different plans far proposed. Other

better plans may be suggested in

the future. My only desire is that

the best may be selected. Any im-

provement upon that now in use will

be a gain to the taxpayers, and de-

pends, for its adoption, upon who

may be elected, on the first Monday

in December, to the offices of mayor

and councilmen. Let us hope that

whatever change may be made will

be to the best interest of the city.

ECONOMY.

GREENBACKS AS MONEY.

The secretary of the U. S. treasury

attended the annual banquet of the

New York chamber of commerce last

Tuesday evening. During the progress

of the dinner, he was invited to

address the company. In the course

of a short speech he said this of our

paper currency:

"The fundamental vice in our cur-

rency system is the legal-tender note

redeemable in coin by the govern-

ment and re-issuable under the law.

There are other defects, but this

threatens the stability of the whole

volume of our currency. So long as

these notes are outstanding, the

slightest diminution of the coin re-

serve excites a feeling of apprehen-

sion and distrust, affects the values

of all securities, curtails investments

and more or less systematically em-

barrasses the business affairs of the

people. In attempting to provide a

circulating medium consisting of its

own notes redeemable in coin on pre-

sentation and reissuable after redem-

ption, the government of the United

States is engaged in a business

for which it wholly is unfitted and

which was never for a moment con-

templated by its founders. It has a

right to borrow money and issue evi-

dence of debt, but it was never in-

terposed that it should convert it-

self into a bank of issue, and furnish

legal tender paper currency for the

use of the people. The treasury de-

partment ought to be and was in-

terposed to be a public agency for

HE DRANK WINE AND TOYED WITH IDLENESS.

The following editorial comment of the Oregonian, made just after Hall Green had taken potassium cyanide with suicidal intent, is so eloquent with warning that it ought continually to thunder in the ears of every young man and in the hearing of every father and mother, as beat the restless waves upon the ocean's beach:

"A young man, scarcely more than a boy, lies upon a suicide's bier in this city to-day, his tragic and untimely death the effect—of what? Of the baleful influence of unearned wealth, with its attendant of idleness, of society—'good society,' so-called—with its late hours of feasting, drinking and revelry; of utter lack of responsibility, even of personal responsibility for the decent care of his own vital forces.

"Life presented to him, in its morning opportunities for education, for usefulness, for many endeavor, that men have toiled to middle age or worse; yet he slighted them, or, worse still, he abused them. Travel came and took him where he wished, but he learned only lessons of frivolity, of dissipation, of idleness, from its opportunities. A long ocean voyage was given him, in the hope that he might recover his physical and moral tone and come back prepared to enter upon a life of business integrity and usefulness, but social festivities met him at the very threshold of his home and urged again upon him tempting wiles, late hours and questionable pleasures. Even the family banquet spread in his honor presented a challenge to his lips that, to his enfeebled will, was brimming with distraction, the final draught of which he quaffed under the name of 'dog poison.'

"Sinned against by his environment, doubly sinned against by friends who should have guarded where they tempted, deprived of the healthful stimulus of industry through his growing years, without duties or responsibilities in life so far as he had been made able to comprehend them, this youthful wreck of humanity is entitled to the most compassionate judgment. If the accusing verdict, 'Ye knew your duty, ye did it not,' follows the final summing up of this pitifully tragic story, it will apply less to the victim than to those who ordered the conditions that marred this life to its undoing.

"The warning that appears upon the surface of this recital is to young men, the late born companions of the suicide, and to those who, confident in their own strength, are entering upon evil courses in the name of a 'jolly good time.' But it must appeal with deepest significance to those to whom nature delegated the shaping of this boy's course from the cradle, and who conspicuously failed to inculcate in him mainly principle, habits of industry and a wise economy of time and resources. The ghastly effect in this case is apparent; the cause is equally unmistakable; and this plain speech is solely justifiable for the lessons it may afford to many who need them."

A STORY OF STATE POLITICS.

The Oregonian has this account of

the political situation in which we

county are more or less interested:

While Mr. Binger Hermann, repre-

senting the first congressional dis-

trict of Oregon, does not enter upon

his duties as congressman for his

sixth consecutive term until De-

cember 2, he is already engaged in an

active campaign for re-election.

Mr. Herman has been assiduously

at work among his constituents for

many weeks, cultivating acquaint-

ance, new and old, but with such

astuteness, he has not entirely de-

pend upon his vigorous handshake

or powers of instantaneous recognitions

to push his campaign along. Instead

of the representative of the first

district seeks another term in

congress from the fact that he is to

be chairman of the house committee on

rivers and harbors, and with such an

honor awaiting him, it is held that

his district should not desert him.

Mr. Herman, during his campaign

is apologetic when called upon to ex-

plain his vote for free silver, given

contrary to the wishes of his party

and in opposition to the republican

platform, state and national, which

he was supposed at least to respect.

He leaves Portland today for Wash-

ington, to be present at the opening

of the 54th session of congress, but

he takes his departure in a somewhat

dubious frame of mind concern-

ing his chances for a seventh term.

There is no denial from any quar-

ter of the fact that a formidable op-

position is being arrayed throughout

the first district against the renomina-

tion of Mr. Hermann. This op-

position is not confined to any lo-

cality, but seems to permeate the

entire first district. Judge J. C.

Fullerton of Roseburg, who in 1884

first placed Mr. Hermann in nomi-

nation for congress, in the republican

state convention meeting in Masonic

hall in this city, is now no longer

numbered among his friends, and

two years ago, his own county, Coos,

repudiated him, as Douglas has also

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder
ABSOLUTELY PURE

Medford, Jackson county; Henry B. Miller, of Grant's Pass and Eugene; Theodore T. Geer and Charles B. Moore, Marion county, and Senator B. F. Alley, of Florence, Lane county. All these men have more or less of a following, but not one of them so far has developed strength sufficient to alarm greatly the friends of Mr. Hermann, who boastfully claim that their man will win, hands down.

Mr. W. I. Vawter is a young man, but staunch republican, and has lived in Medford for a number of years, going there from Eugene. He has been engaged in the banking business, but of late directed his attention more particularly to the practice of law. The fact that Mr. H. B. Miller lives in the next county, though now temporarily residing in Eugene, will have the effect of splitting up the southern delegation from the start, with a strong likelihood of its strength being given to some outside candidate, if both men remain in the field.

While the men above named are looked upon as candidates for congressional honors, there is also considerable talk about springing a dark horse at the proper time. In fact, there may be two dark horses when the time comes, and their names are likely to be Robert Sharp Bean, the present chief justice of the supreme court, and Thomas H. Tongue, the well-known attorney of Washington county. It is true that several prominent republicans of Marion county are urging the name of Judge Bean as a proper man to succeed Binger Hermann in congress, but it does not seem at all likely that he will allow the use of his name in that connection if he should, the second judicial district would likely stand as a unit for him, while the greater portion of the third district would also rally to his support. Many of the leading attorneys in the state are adverse to removing Judge Bean from the supreme bench. His term of six years will expire with next June, but, if he desires, the probability of renomination and re-election to further judicial honors awaits him.

Judge Bean is regarded by his closer friends as a man who would be far more content to remain as he is rather than to enter into the active field of politics, which he would have to do if he accepted a congressional nomination. Besides this, a place on the supreme bench of the state is a certainty for six years, while a seat in congress may always be regarded more or less uncertain.

While no one can exactly explain why, there seems to be a prevailing opinion that at the proper time the republicans of Washington county will urge the name of Thomas H. Tongue as representative in congress for the first district of Oregon. Mr. Tongue disclaims any idea of being a candidate, but it is none the less certain that he is taking an unusual interest in the preliminary skirmish and keeping a watchful eye on passing events. He seems to know that there is rebellion against Mr. Hermann, and every promise of a lively fight to succeed him. Washington county republicans are not the only ones who are saying pleasant things about Mr. Tongue. Republicans in Marion, Benton, Lane and Linn counties favor him, and should Judge Bean serve notice that he must not be considered a candidate for congress Mr. Tongue may be more than a dark horse, who will develop some surprising strength when the state convention gathers.

The fact that there is appearing organized opposition against him is not pleasing to Mr. Hermann, and even the possibility of being chairman of the house committee on rivers and harbors may not prove sufficient to carry him through another term in congress. Whatever may be the final outcome, a fight is now on, with several candidates anxious to secure recognition, and Mr. Hermann will find himself busily employed to carry the day with such a formidable field against him.

ENGLISH "RIGHTS" IN THE UNITED STATES.

What do British trade-journals

mean when they say that "the new

tariff in the United States gives Eng-

land those rights of which she is