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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1897.

A San Francisco firm notifies Oregon claimants that it has \$400,000 to invest in state paper if our secretary of state will audit such claims. What a strong push that will make in 1899.

If the Oregonian had scored the obstructionists in the Oregon legislature in the way it unbranded Fitzsimmons' better half might have accomplished still greater benefit to humanity.—Tillamook Advocate.

Congressman Tongue realizes that the path of a representative from Oregon is not strewn with roses. One day last week, his mail contained 75 letters. 70 of these were applications for an appointment to a federal office. The day before there were sixty letters, and over fifty asked for a place.

The seed men, knowing the influence of the county press, are flooding the printing offices with circulars in opposition to the Congressional distribution of garden and flower seeds. The circulars show that the seeds are not used but are destroyed by being thrown into the stove and burned. The statements are not consistent for if the seeds are burned, private enterprise is not injured for no sales are lost. On the other hand, if business is injured, it is because the farmers and gardeners plant the seeds and hence they cannot be burned. There is no good reason why the country papers should fight the battles of the seed dealers and the advertising agents.

Not long ago a school-girl at Albany, aged 15 years, was whipped by her teacher. It was an outrage and the girl made complaint and had the teacher arrested on a charge of assault and battery. On the trial, it appeared that the girl had done some act which required the teacher to call her to order. She then mocked and jeered him and with thumb at nose, shook her fingers in defiance. For this he whipped her and the jury justified him in so doing and so will all good citizens. If girls and boys wish to carry a sacred personage with them, they must demean themselves as gentlemen and ladies. Teachers do not punish pupils for nothing or unjustly unless they in some way are deceived by some one.

Sixty-six republicans of the Kentucky legislature are voting for a republican for U. S. Senator, 2 are combining with the populists and democrats to defeat his election. This combination in opposition to the choice of the republicans as well as the filibustering tactics to defeat any election at all, are fully endorsed by the Oregonian. Possibly this republican organ has hopes that if there is a failure to elect, the governor may appoint Carlisle to fill the vacancy. This would be almost as good as a position in the treasury department, for which he was recommended so strongly and ought to satisfy a man whose former supporters would not bear him in the presidential canvass. The probability, however, is that the fusion of Cleveland democrats, Blackburn populists, and two bolting republicans will not be a success in Corn-Cracker state. The only comfort that republican fusionists in Oregon can derive from the senatorial contest in Kentucky is that Oregon is not the only state in the Union where men, calling themselves republicans, are sacrificing their principles by combining with the populists and democrats to defeat the republican party. "Politics make strange bedfellows."

The church papers are just now considering whether or not there are too many church societies. To begin with there is the church, then the Sunday school. These seem to be legitimate societies. Then there is the Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor, the Junior Y. P. S. C. E., the King's Daughters, the Ladies' Aid Society, the Ladies' Missionary Society. Some maintain that these various societies are hindrances rather than aids to religious progress. It is argued that strength is frittered away. Certain it is that in small societies where the church work falls to the lot of a few, the keeping up of all these societies becomes a burden. The "Congregationalist," of Boston, wants to know if the church has handed its work over to the societies. The same paper remarks: "Often only a nominal relation is maintained between these sects of our divided churches. Each glories in its efforts to maintain its own meetings. Sometimes one organization assumes the duty of investigating some of the others. In a Boston Christian Endeavor Society recently a motion to send a committee to the church prayer meeting was seriously discussed. Almost every sort of duty which used to devolve on individuals, is now placed in the hands of committees and personal responsibility, except to attend meetings, is reduced to a minimum." Really these sentences seem to justify the hint that we will be taken to heaven by societies and committees.

TIMES MADE BETTER.

There is little hope for an improvement in financial matters for our town and county unless we can have employment for the population already here and inducements that will call others to us. Now, we are a farming community exclusively, and, with the exception of an odd corner here and there, all our land is cultivated. To bring thrift more land must be brought under the plow by more people, or what we have must be planted to more profitable crops or to crops that will require more labor to cultivate them, always keeping in mind that such yields must be obtained as will pay for the extra labor. The harvest we now gather is about as large as can be disposed of. The surplus of wheat can be somewhat increased, it is true, but the tonnage of hay is about as great as the market can absorb. So with oats and potatoes, and even fruit.

Now then from these standards we must depart and either cultivate new crops or find new uses for some of the old. In this the land owner must lend his assistance which heretofore has not been promptly done. A creamery has been started in Hillsboro at two different times but failed not because there was no sale for the product but because the manufacturer could not get milk enough to keep the machinery busy. That the industry will pay is beyond question since in South Tualatin where there are three creameries the farmers are all prosperous. There is drudgery about farm work and there is drudgery about any other employment, be it in the counting house or office and the hard detail work must be done.

This year the Hillsboro Board of Trade is doing its utmost to introduce a new crop—sugar beets. The yield is claimed to be worth from \$50 to \$60 per acre. The same land planted to wheat gives a yield worth no more than \$25 to \$30 per acre under most favorable circumstances. The beets cost \$30 to \$35 per acre to cultivate while the wheat will not cost the half of it. The profit seems to favor the sugar crop since it nets more to the land owner per acre and furnishes more labor to the community, but there are drawbacks. Wheat culture is more independent since an individual can engage in the industry and if he has a surplus of only 50 bushels he can sell it regardless of whether his neighbor produces a single grain or does not, while the beet farmer who produces 20 acres of beets must depend on his neighbors cultivating 2,000 acres more before he can hope to find a market. And again all these must depend upon the willingness of the manufacturer to put up machinery to use the raw material. It is a case of co-operation. It is immensely profitable when a community is willing to pledge itself to go into the new enterprise, and where each individual is prepared and willing to keep his part of the pledge, but without such co-operation a disastrous failure results. Our farmers must take up this scheme of co-operation and become accustomed to the slight chafing of its bonds.

Another new industry that can be undertaken and one that does not require such great aggregations of capital, is the growing of flax for the fiber, though the profits per acre would not be as great as for beets. It is estimated that two tons of straw can be grown on an acre, worth at the scutching mill from \$12 to \$14 per ton. The demand is unlimited. Scutching mills are not expensive to build and may be put up every six or seven miles. The work of this first process factory is to prepare the fiber and bale it, so that it can be shipped to the ends of the earth. The crop is about like that of oats save that the land must be absolutely free from noxious weeds. In 1876 an Oregon flax exhibit competed at the Philadelphia fair with the world and obtained the premium. Ireland had an exhibit, so did Belgium and Russia and many of the states of our Union yet Oregon surpassed them all. So good is our fiber that Barbour, the great linen manufacturer, offers 15 cents per pound for Oregon fiber whereas he pays no more than 7 and 8 cents for Minnesota fiber. Will our farmers co-operate and raise a sufficient acreage to keep one scutching mill going? A mill is to be built this year in Linn or Lane county. Let us at least watch the experiment.

What can be done toward finding a new use for our old products? A starch factory is now in mind that would use all the potatoes that can be grown on a radius that could be reached from the factory. Here the profit would not be equal to sugar, but it would be better than to let the land lie idle as summer fallow.

The season is far advanced and no new manufacture can be started this year, but we all can accustom ourselves to co-operate and bring ourselves to be willing to make pledges to do our part in the general agreement necessary for a prosperous community.

BRAZEN-FACED CORRUPTION.

If anything more was needed to add to the infamy of the populist organization in Clackamas county at least, the endorsement by the Populist Central Committee of that county of the acknowledged acceptance of money furnished by the "enemies of Mitchell" to all of the populist members of the legislature engaged in the "hold-up," except Mr. Ogle, to pay their expenses, would make this infamy complete. The price paid, as stated by U'Ren, one of the number, was from \$50 to \$100, and upwards; the difference,

presumably, occasioned by the amount and variety of refreshments indulged in by these precious representatives of a party that sets itself up as the model of reform and purity. This consideration, in cash may account for their refusal to take the oath of office until the "enemies of Mitchell" had no further use for them, and would no longer pay the expenses of their orgies. Had oath been administered before these reformers took this bribe, such sale of themselves would have, in all probability made them amenable to a criminal prosecution. As the matter stands, they are in the estimation of all honorable men, in morals, equally as guilty as if they had taken oath. In future, taking pattern after the "Anti-Mitchell" hold-up, we shall probably see a U. S. senator to be elected or other important legislation is expected, the purchasable members of the legislature selling votes in advance and pocketing the proceeds before they take the oath of office. This plan of violating law is somewhat safer, than open brazened bribery, but has nothing else than its cowardice to recommend it. There is one point on which the people of Oregon may rest satisfied and that is that such a system of infamy may be endorsed by the demo-pop party, but will not be by the republican.

Naturally the inquiry comes in as to who are the "enemies of Mitchell" that furnished the funds for these purchasable reformers. Can it be possible that there was truth in the charge made by the Oregonian before the fusion of its gold bug friends with the free silverites and flatists, that while J. B. Bourne was connected with the police department in Portland he was prostituting his position in securing a fund to be used in Salem, or Mitchell hold up which these "anti Mitchell" hold ups sold themselves, furnished by some of the despised gold bug bankers of Portland? The efforts made by some of these law to defeat an election of senator by the legislature, and generally to defeat all legislation in the interest of the people, make this supposition extremely probable. The people of the State of Oregon are fully satisfied that the corrupting fund used in the organization of this "anti Mitchell" hold up and for the defeat of any economical legislation in the interest of the taxpayers of the state was furnished from Portland. Now let the fusion republicans show as much pluck as their co-conspirators, the Clackamas county populists have and openly endorse the purchase.

REPUBLICAN.

The message that King George of Greece is said to have sent to the Car in which he stated that it was impossible for Greece to yield to the Powers regarding Crete, is almost a declaration of war. If the message was sent, it now is Russia's time to back down.

Some papers who are unfriendly to paying pensions or to the pensioners assert that the rolls are padded and that they should be published. If the rolls are padded, by all means let the list be published. If anyone in Washington county is receiving a pension who is unworthy let us know it. Publish his name by all means, and the amount he draws as well as his disability.

A WORD ABOUT PRUNING.

This is a season of the year that the tree butcher gets in his work. The "expert pruner" with ax, saw, a pair of hedge shears, and who cuts trees down to mere stumps, is about offering his services. Orchardists should give him a wide berth. This is applicable to all parts of Oregon, but the thought has been suggested by institute workers returning from Southern Oregon who report overpruned orchards as about the worst feature of orcharding in that part of the state.

A healthy tree well headed at the start, the head twenty to thirty inches from the ground, needs only to have deformed, crooked and crossed limbs removed, with now and then a branch taken out to thin out the top. The shape of the tree should be governed by pinching, and removing small twigs with a budding knife. All other pruning is unnecessary, and a wanton destruction that seriously impairs the vitality and usefulness of the tree.—U. P. Hedrich, O. A. C.

Advanced in years as he is, Sir William Gladstone of England is yet vigorous in politics. But recently he has written a letter on the present difficulty with Greece that should, if he has feelings, make the ears of Salisbury tingle with shame. The New York Tribune criticizing the letter, says: "The whole message is so studiously calm and judicial in tone that it might have been written upon events of a thousand years ago instead of a burning crisis of the present day; or it may have been uttered by some one beyond the border-line so close to which its actual author is standing; someone forever removed from worldly motives and devoid of carnal passions. And this very calmness and dispassionateness, instead of emasculating the message, gives it its most convincing vigor. The sentences sound not like the voice of a politician seeking the advantage of his own country or striving to keep the peace among the powers, but rather like that of a seer to whom all things are vanity save eternal truth. There is no use in trying to answer it with words and praises. It is addressed to the conscience; it must be answered by the soul."

THE COMMISSIONS.

Governor Lord did not deliver his biennial message to the legislature last January for the reason that body never organized. The message, though written, was never published till this week. A subject that has occupied the attention of citizens quite as much as any other is the commissions. What the governor has to say on the subject is given below and contains many good thoughts.

Our scheme of government contemplates a division of powers into three great departments, known as the legislative, executive and judicial. It is intended that these departments shall be separate and independent in the exercise of their functions, and any infraction of the principle which confines each to its own appropriate sphere of action, is inconsistent with the spirit of our institutions, and an encroachment on the prerogatives of the department affected by it. Moreover, where this division of power and responsibility is strictly maintained, no department interfering with the action of any other, but each moving in the circle of its activity in conformity with the general design, there can be no confusion of authority, and every department will be answerable for the conduct of its own affairs. But, while these departments act independently, and exercise distinct functions, in subordination to the general plan, they constitute one government, whose strength and symmetry lies in the preservation intact of this division of power and responsibility. Hence, any action of one department in assuming duties that belong to another or in transferring to some board or commission duties that belong to one of the other departments, whether sanctioned by custom or otherwise, is a usurpation which is inexcusable, and ought to be summarily condemned. This confusion of authority, too, has the tendency to divide responsibility, which experience has shown inimical to good government.

At the present time there are several boards, composed of the executive, the secretary of state, and the state treasurer, and the two former with the superintendent of public instruction, who are invested with authority to appoint superintendents to the various institutions of the state, and these superintendents, under the supervision of such boards, manage these institutions and administer their affairs. These boards are known as the trustees of the asylum, of the reform school, of the deaf-mute school, of the blind school, the domestic animal commission, and others not now recalled. These boards are invested with the power of appointing the superintendents (who cannot appoint their subordinates without the board's consent), and of making rules and regulations for the government and management of the affairs of the institutions not inconsistent with our laws. In effect, the board administers the law regulating the management of such institutions through the superintendents, when the full responsibility of the administration of their affairs under the law ought to devolve on the superintendents, subject to such supervision by the governor as may be embraced in his constitutional duty "to take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

Every officer, in discharging his duties under a law, is its administrator. Upon him ought to rest the full responsibility of the faithful discharge of his duties, and the economic management of the institution committed to his charge. There can be no bandying of responsibility between him and the board. The superintendent will be personal accountable for his conduct in the discharge of his trust. He will be rid of the ugly task of trying to balance his official conduct to suit the idiosyncrasies of three members of a board, which is always impossible of performance; for, it is a scriptural saying that a man cannot serve two masters; ergo, he cannot serve three. The truth is, a divided authority is inimical to economic and responsible government. Nor is there a public need of such boards, which, fact of itself, should be sufficient to demand their abolition. There is no place in the scheme of our government for their existence. The legislature has no authority to create boards and invest them with authority to appoint public officers to discharge important duties that concern state affairs. The power to appoint belongs to the executive department, or to the people, by election. The legislature has no legal right to exercise such power, much less to delegate it to a board or commission. It goes to the full extent of its powers when it provides by law for the election of officers by the people, or their appointment by the governor, as may be deemed best, when not prescribed by the constitution, and to declare their duties and responsibility in the conduct and management of such institutions. It is on this principle that the superintendent of the penitentiary is appointed and discharges the duties of his office. He directs, manages and superintends the affairs of the penitentiary on the same principle that other officers discharge the duties of their office. He appoints his subordinates who are subject to his direction and authority. The responsibility of managing the institution economically and effectively devolves upon him subject to the supervision of the executive. What possible use, then, can there be for a board? There is none. A board is a mischievous administrative instrumentality, because its effect is to divide responsibility, destroy the symmetry of our governmental system, trench on the prerogatives of the executive, and injuriously affect the management of the institutions.

But, it has been said, the object in creating these boards was to increase the salary of the governor (although the other members of the board are allowed the same compensation)—the implication being that, to raise it directly and commensurately with the duties and responsibilities of the executive office, would be unpopular and unconstitutional. The supposition is absurd. The passing of an act to effect indirectly an increase of the salary of an office ought to be more unpopular than the passing of an act which directly increases it. If the people will consent or submit that the increase should be effected through the agency of a board, they will not object that it should be accomplished by a direct increase of salary which only affords him reasonable compensation for his services. Nor is the objection to an act indirectly increasing the salary of the governor of any constitutional weight. It is entirely within the constitutional province of the legislature to raise the salary to such sum as is just and proper in its judgment, and the best lawyers and judges—some of whom served in the convention that framed the constitution—have expressed the opinion on this subject with a unanimity that could not exist if there were any doubt of the constitutional power of the legislature to do so. It is not the salaries of officers that embarrass the operation of government, or burden the people with excessive taxation. It is "jobs," wasteful practices, lavish and unnecessary public expenditures, pillaging state contracts, useless boards and commissions, freebooting the treasury with fictitious claims and needless appropriations, that put an unjust burden upon the people, and serve to retard the growth, development and prosperity of the state.

The state is entitled to honest, efficient, and intelligent service, and no detriment comes to it, or disadvantage to its people, by awarding a high compensation for such service. But, so far as I am personally concerned, if you cannot give me reasonable salary without continuance of these boards, then I say, abolish the boards and let the salary go. It is vastly more important that these boards be abolished, and that an end be put to a system that affords temptation to favoritism and opportunity for the existence of abuses.

The offices of food and dairy commissioner and veterinary surgeon should be consolidated into one office under the latter, at his present salary, and the domestic animal commission should be abolished. This would secure a better service and effect a saving alone of \$2000 a year. Nor is there any need of a railroad commission, composed of three members. One commissioner, with a clerk, is enough, if the office is of any public benefit. In any event, either abolish the commission, or cut its number down to one. There is, too, the board of equalization, which is composed of excellent men, desirous of serving the interests that were the object of its creation. It is greatly doubted whether the board is rendering a useful service, but its abolition is not desirable. Its expense is considerable, but that is a consideration for which the public receive an equivalent, if the board is successful in equalizing taxes. It seems to me that it would be better to have a board composed of three members, appointed by the executive, whose duties should be confined to equalizing the state tax between the counties, leaving the matter of taxation for county purposes wholly to the counties. A board, composed of representatives from different districts, may be swayed by influence that are disqualifying for the impartial duties of equalization, because its members are apt to feel a local pride in guarding the interests of their respective districts. At any rate, the equalization of taxes is a matter of high importance and interest, and it is for you to determine, after careful consideration, whether the present board merits a continuance or deserves extinction of official life. To avoid further enumeration in detail, I earnestly recommend that you abolish all boards, commissions and offices that do not serve a useful public purpose, and thus cut off the unnecessary expense of their longer continuance.

Let me repeat that, while the appointment of officers by the legislature is not so objectionable, as empowering boards to exercise such authority, it is nevertheless wrong in principle and of doubtful validity though sanctioned by custom and sustained by some judicial precedents. The courts, as the cases will disclose, have sanctioned legislative appointments with reluctance, and under circumstances which furnish the explanation and justification of their decision.

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The allied fleets about Crete has fired upon the Cretans. The five great, strong nations of Europe have jumped on little Crete, an island of only about 200,000 population. The island is not as large as the Willamette Valley.

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cision. In the late case of Eddy vs. Kincaid, 28 Or. 259, where the question involved was the power of the legislature to appoint railroad commissioners, Chief Justice Bean said: "We feel constrained to hold the act constitutional, although, if the question was one of the first impression, the court, as at present organized might probably hold otherwise." It was on account of the reasons and circumstances to which the chief justice alluded, and the hesitation which a judge always feels in declaring an act of legislature unconstitutional, that the court was induced to uphold the act and thus sanction legislative appointments to office. That the court felt such appointments to be of doubtful constitutional propriety, as an original question, is emphatically announced, and it must be conclusively inferred that the court felt that all laws authorizing the legislature to exercise such function ought to be repealed. How much more objectionable, then, is the delegation of such power to a board. The truth is, the power to appoint to office, when not lodged in the people, belongs to the executive. It is a prerogative of his office, and needs no express declaration in the constitution to establish it. The legislature ought not to make any appointments, except of officers of its own body. The logical consequence to which the exercise of the power by the legislature may be carried furnishes the strongest argument for its abolition. For, if it be a legislative function, then there is no limit to the power of the legislature to select officers, or to create offices and fill them, when required for the public service, except such officers as derive their title from the constitution. Upon this theory, the legislature may absorb all power to appoint officers for the public service, or to manage the state institutions, except the few named in the constitution. Instead of appointing, as now the railroad commissioners, the state librarian, the game warden, the food commissioner, etc., the legislature could extend the list by appointing superintendents of the penitentiary, the asylum, the reform school, and others, when required for the public service. Such a grant of power to the legislature was never contemplated by our constitution, and is inconsistent with its spirit and letter, and the further exercise of it ought to be stopped at once and vested where it properly belongs, either in the people or in their executive. Such a change would be of incalculable importance to the members of the legislature. Your every step would not be hounded by the persistent office-seeker; much of your time would be saved for legislative service, which is your legitimate duty; vote-trading and combinations to assist political friends or pay off political debts, would come to an end; you would find yourselves in the possession of the disposition, and the opportunity, to perform pure legislative duties with fidelity and deliberation, which, I hope, would include the adoption of the reforms suggested, which I confidently believe, when enacted into law, would be so pregnant with public benefits as would embalm the memory of this legislature in the hearts of a grateful constituency.

A correspondent in Sunday's Oregonian calling attention to Judge Northrop's proposition to withhold the state taxes and pay county warrants, asks that paper why it would not be just as well, or even better, for the taxpayers to pay all their tax except that portion—getting a receipt for what they pay on account—and use that to pay some of their debts or interest on the same. The Oregonian, that had so much to do with bringing about the present condition of affairs, does not answer the inquiry but refers it to Judge Northrop.

The statement telegraphed a few days ago that Congressman Tongue and Ellis did not get good seats in the lottery assignment is referred to as though it was either a fault of those gentlemen or some slight purposely put upon them. The paragraph is purely gratuitous. Congressman Tongue might have taken a different place in the hall if a choice had been allowed, but he is satisfied with his allotment. He is between Bottelle of Maine and Hepburn of Iowa—a good company to say the least.

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