

HILLSBORO INDEPENDENT

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D. M. C. GAULT, Editor.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 1898.

The Philippines seem to think that they are corrupting our soldiers by offering their girls in marriage. Well, well. The dirty squaws.

Wagon county farmers say their fall wheat was greatly benefited by the recent heavy snow. The wheat grew all the time the snow was on the ground.

It is said that Secretary Alger of the war department is to resign and that Governor Merriam, of Wisconsin, is to succeed him. If Secretary Alger resigns, it would be better to promote Assistant Secretary McKillop.

Those Pull-downers at Washington better hurry up and ratify the Paris treaty before Germany and Spain acknowledge the Philippine republic. It is remembered how swift Spain was once before to recognize one of our enemies.

The proposition to give another circuit judge for this district ought not to prevail at this time. Judge McBride is not asking assistance, because he is able to hear and consider all cases coming before him. Mr. Banyon, court reporter, who keeps a record, finds that the business of 1898 was not of equal volume to that of 1897.

The Irish fair now open in Portland is a pictorial representation of Ireland. It is intended to entertain Portland people, no effort having been made to attract outsiders, tho' doubtless visitors of the city will generally see the fair, and indeed, there is no place in the city where an hour set apart for entertainment can be better spent.

Aguinaldo makes the statement that "large numbers of American troops are fraternizing with the natives, and many of them (American troops) are engaged to Filipino girls." But will there not be a lot of angry boys in the 24 Oregon when they hear of that speech. Just think of those duds bringing home to their mothers and sisters in Portland and Salem those off-colored women as wives. Ah, hem.

Let's see, it is Solomon who a few years ago remarked that "Though thou shouldst buy a fool in a mortar... yet will not his foolishness depart from him." The sentiment is recalled by incidents happening at Salem these times. It was said if we could be rid of the senatorial election the law makers would be free to formulate useful legislation, but the result does not meet expectations. The legislator of a senatorial contest is not hindered or disturbed in his occupation. The grating is not suspended.

So the Aguinaldo Philippine government is to play the ultimatum act. It was announced this week that, if the United States did not recognize the dinky ambassador, Agoncillo, he would be recalled and all diplomatic relations would cease, and if independence of the Philippine Republic is not recognized by the 24th, the time for doing so will have passed and a war of expulsion will be commenced. The natives of the Philippine Islands evidently do not understand us. We are striving to give them the most liberal government in the world. We are bearing with patience all their half-civilized affronts. We overlook their egotistical vapors, yet they reward us with contumely and insults. It really seems as though they think we are cowards and will submit to their uncouth domineering. Some day they will go too far, if they have not already done so, and will be punished as never before.

The sugar beet bounty bill and the salmon hatchery bill, the former appropriating \$50,000 a year for four years and the latter \$25,000 a year for at least two years and to be continued, ought not to be favorite measures in this county. The INDEPENDENT may not be classed as broad minded in this matter, but it really seems to us country jakes that the salmon industry ought to bear the burdens of its own promotion. And the farmers of Union ought to be willing to pay for bringing their land into profitable till just as the farmers of Washington county have done. It may take the beet growers longer to get a profit than it did us, but they boast that they will have a more profitable crop than we do. Our farmers never asked a bonus to assist them in fencing or plowing, or buying seed or providing profitable market. Further some of our farmers have worked ten years to get a field that will produce 20 bushels of wheat to the acre. No if beets will be a profitable crop in four years let the farmers who raise them resolutely continue putting money into the enterprise just as our farmers put money and experience into Washington county farming ventures.

MAPS, GIVE US MAPS.

The state heretofore has been quick liberal in making appropriations for advertising the resources of the state, and many individuals have spent more money for the same purpose. The funds have been spent in two directions—in making exhibits at the big expositions held in the East and in compiling and publishing books descriptive of the state and its industries, and pointing out opportunities for the thrifty immigrant. The money has been profitably employed, and without doubt more appropriations having for an end the location of immigrants should be made, but it appears that the time for preparing and publishing descriptive catalogs is past. These little books, however useful they may have been, find their way too easily into the waste basket. They are torn and washed away; they serve to kindle fires; they go to boxes of waste paper; in short they are not read. What is now needed is a good map. If the state is too large to be properly drawn on one sheet of paper, then let more be taken. This map should show water courses, timber belts, prairies and above all the vacant lands; for that purpose a section map is necessary. There is not a map in the state that shows the tracts still owned by the government and there is not a man in the state who has this knowledge. A gentleman was met a few days ago who had special reasons for wanting to know where he could find vacant lands. He visited three government land offices but saw no maps, and could only get his information by laborious delving into dusty records for which he had no time. An immigrant coming here knows not which way to turn, and there is no one to tell him. The interested inquirer in the East is asking for maps showing vacant lands. There is none to send him, and if per chance he comes here there is no one to receive him. There are real estate agents to be sure, but they have options on lands, which may not suit the seeker, whereupon he is dropped and allowed to hunt by himself.

The INDEPENDENT is not informed on the cost of map making, but the state, considering the value of the publication, can afford to spend \$10,000 or more for that purpose. It is wonderful to note how careful strangers scan the crude railroad maps showing only transportation lines.

The railroad companies, without doubt, would willingly furnish every facility for the distribution of these maps to passengers coming to the state as well as mailing them to inquirers.

IT PASSES THE SENATE.

The Nicaragua canal bill passed the senate last Saturday afternoon without a division. The cost will be \$115,000,000, and the government will own it. The bill provides that the United States government is to contract with citizens of the United States for the construction, completion and equipment of the canal within six years, at a cost not to exceed \$115,000,000. All maritime nations can secure its innocent use.

Secretary Hay's plan all along has been to have the canal built by the government of the United States, without the intervention of any private corporation. He is confident Great Britain will cordially waive any rights it may have by reason of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, provided proper assurances are offered that the canal will always be open to commerce and that British vessels will have equal rights of navigation with those of the United States. Secretary Hay's long residence in London and familiarity with the sentiment of her majesty's government enables him to speak on this subject with confidence.

But because the canal is always to be open to commerce it does not mean that we may not fortify both Pacific and Atlantic entrance with formidable batteries, otherwise an enemy might section a battle ship along the line and rob us of all advantage in time of war.

THE INDIAN WAR VETERANS.

A few days ago the INDEPENDENT contained a personal letter from Congressman Tongue to a Hillsboro citizen that was not as cheerful as could be wished. But Mr. Tongue never quit work, and now he is hopeful of success. Speaker Reed withdraws his objection to the Indian war veterans. Work is now with the committee each member of which has been furnished with a copy of a letter which makes a strong argument for the veterans: Mr. Tongue in this letter writes:

"Gentlemen: I desire to earnestly call your attention again to senate bill No. 344, now pending before your committee, and being an act to amend the present law granting pensions to the survivors of Indian wars. This bill has twice passed the senate. It was favorably reported from your committee at a previous congress. It was passed by this senate at its first session, and has been in your committee from the time of your appointment, but has received no report. Those who are sought to be benefited by it are now very old. But few of them survive. The commissioner of pensions, on February 7, 1895, estimated that the average period of their lives would be 7 2/3 years. Nearly four years of this period has gone, over one-half, and yet the bill is not reported by your committee. These men were not camp followers, they were not engaged in holiday pastimes, they were not adventurers. They settled up the Northwest portion of this conti-

ment when it was in dispute between the United States and England. They seek nothing for defending their own homes, or their own possessions, or their own property. But they were called hundreds of miles away, sometimes to another territory than their own, to protect citizens of the United States whom this government had neglected, had left unprotected. They performed the duty this government ought to have performed. They risked lives, property, left their own homes, left their own families unprotected, equipped themselves, and marched hundreds of miles to protect men, women and children in other communities. They did the work that should have been done by the United States troops. The government has pensioned nearly every other Indian war veteran, and should do equal justice to those.

"Permit me to say that in my judgment it is a gross injustice, an exceedingly gross injustice, that no action has been taken by this committee. If the bill is just one, it should be reported favorably; if it is not a just one, it should be reported against. If it is imperfect, it should be amended; to absolutely take no action is a serious wrong. The government was criminal in its neglect of Western settlers at an early day, and this delay is condoning a past crime. I am receiving many letters from old men from 75 to 80 years of age, begging that the government at least recognize them as among its firm defenders, and as among the men who are entitled to some consideration at its hands. Pension can do these men little good. They ought to be able to close their eyes with the comfortable feeling that their early services in favor of their country have at least merited the grateful consideration of their countrymen.

"These men, by their courage and heroism, sacrifices and hardships, gave to the United States the best portion of the Western continent. They ought not to be forgotten. No class of soldiers of this government ever excelled them in cool, steady, unflinching courage. When they were called upon there was no stirring appeal from inspired poets or orators, no flying banners, no life or drum, or martial music, nothing but the cries of suffering and distress and the appeal for help. They heeded these manfully. They in turn ask for help, and for God's sake don't turn them away without some answer.

"I feel strongly the injustice of this delay, and I beg of you to continue it no longer."

THE MEDICINE SEEMS TO BE BITTER.

Our neighbor, The Argus, is the one paper that yet picks out the tunes that two years ago made some promise of being popular. The Oregonian, last Saturday, gives this week unless The Argus decides to take its medicine. The article reads:

There is a demo-populist paper at Hillsboro, Washington county, whose wrath against gold is unappeasable. It is resolved to give gold no rest or quarter, but to "roast" it without ceasing. From one point of view this writer looks upon gold as an instrument used by abominable wicked tyrants for enslavement of mankind; from another point of view he regards it as a horrible monster, ranging up and down the world on its own account to devour helpless men.

From the first point of view gold is a thing over which wicked and mighty thiamatargists have a sort of magical or necromantic power, so that they are able to summon it up at will and make it do their bidding in a variety of nefarious endeavors and transactions. The word "gold" has so often been used as a metaphor for malevolent power that he forgets that it is simply a beautiful, useful and non-oxidizable metal, no more easy to manipulate than any other substance—sugar or wheat, for instance. Gold, in fact, responds to the chespening brought about by modern machinery more readily than some metals; less readily by others. From the way it is distributed all over the earth, it tends to an average cost and value, giving no nation a monopoly, as Russia has over platinum. It does not afford any facilities for "the creditor class to seize the currency," since in no country can the people be divided into "debtor and creditor classes," and nearly every person in any kind of business owes money, while others owe him.

From the second point of view, gold is regarded as a sentiment, active and malevolent metal, working with its own ends. It is not a passive instrument, but an independent agent, full of, surcharged with, the most diabolical instincts, and endowed with terrible power, which it takes pleasure in using to distress mortal men. It is curious to observe these workings of the populist mind on gold.

Both these notions are revealed in the opore efforts of this able publication at Hillsboro—a journal which remains stubbornly faithful through all adversity to the concepts of the lost campaign of 1896. It never misses its hebdomadal issue, and never talks on anything else. It is an amusing spectacle, in a county solid for the gold standard.

PROPOSED ROAD LAW.

Senate Bill No. 68 introduced by Senator Bates and house bill No. 45 by Whalley is the one that proposes to create the office of a road engineer. The parts of the road law that are

materially different from the present law are found in the last part of Sec. 1, which is in these words:

The county court of each county in this state shall appoint a roadmaster who shall be a competent civil engineer, who shall, under the direction of the county court of his county, lay out, oversee and direct the construction of all roads of his county, and perform such other duties as the county court may require. He shall receive such salary, to be paid at such times and in such manner as the county court shall direct, and shall be subject to removal at the discretion of the county court.

Sec. 7 of the same bill introduces the greatest change in our road law, and is the one that receives the unfavorable comment of the farming community:

Sec. 7. There shall be appointed by the governor of this state a state road engineer who shall be a competent civil engineer. Said state road engineer shall hold his office for four years, but may be removed by the governor at any time and a successor appointed. Said state road engineer shall receive an annual salary of twenty-five hundred dollars, payable quarterly as other state officers are paid. It shall be the duty of the secretary of state to furnish said engineer with a suitable office in the capitol building at Salem and to equip the same with proper furniture and stationery. Said engineer shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take an oath that he will not, during his continuance in office, become directly or indirectly, financially interested in any road work, in the state, nor in any contract in this state, for the building of any road, culvert or bridge; and that he will faithfully and honestly perform the duties of his office. He shall also execute and file with the secretary of state a bond to the state of Oregon, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties, in the sum of five thousand dollars with at least two sureties thereon, the said bond to be approved by the governor. It shall be the duty of said state road engineer to thoroughly advise himself as to the best methods and material for building roads, culvert and bridges in Oregon, having reference to difference in soil, climate and other differing conditions, and to use his influence with the county courts of this state, to induce and encourage them to begin and prosecute the improvement of the roads in their respective counties; to advise with them regarding the best manner of making temporary and permanent improvements on the roads of their respective counties; and of the most advantageous method of using the means they may have, to secure the greatest benefit to their various county roads; and to endeavor to pick out good road building throughout this state.

And when any county court within this state contemplates making permanent improvement of any road or building a bridge or bridges, the state road engineer shall prepare the plans and specifications therefor, and give such instructions and directions for doing said work as may be necessary, and it shall be the duty of said state road engineer, when requested by any county court within this state when it contemplates building any bridge or bridges or permanently improving a road, to visit said county and confer and advise with such county court about such work, and when said state road engineer shall so attend upon such county court at its request, said county court shall, from the county road fund of its county reimburse said state engineer for his actual expenses incurred in making such visit.

Each county court shall report to the state engineer, the completion of any important work done on the roads of its county or any important county bridge built, and if said work done or bridge built, shall have been done according to plans and specifications prescribed by him, it shall obtain and file his approval of said work; and each county court within this state shall annually, during the first week in December, make a report to the state road engineer of the road work done and bridges built within its county and how much has been expended thereon during the year. The said state road engineer shall on the first Monday of January, 1901, and biennially thereafter, make his report to the governor of this state, showing how much each county has expended on roads and what road work has been done by each county in the state and what bridges each county has built, and shall make such recommendations regarding roads and road work as he may deem advisable.

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Dr. Meyers & Co. cure Nervous Debility, Lost Manhood and all Private Diseases including contagious blood poison, quickly and permanently, and at reasonable rates.

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Notice of Final Settlement. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed his final account as administrator of the estate of the estate of David McDonald, deceased, in the County Court of the State of Oregon, by Washington County and that said Court has set at 10 o'clock A. M. on the 20th day of February, 1898, Hillsboro Oregon as the place for hearing objections to said final account and settlement of said estate. W. N. BARKLEY, Administrator of the estate of the estate of David McDonald, deceased.

FERRY'S Seeds. A big yield of both profit and satisfaction will result if you plant FERRY'S Seeds. They are always the best. They are big, they are true, they are pure, they are clean, they are healthy, they are strong, they are reliable, they are sure, they are the best. D. M. FERRY & CO., Detroit, Mich.