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D. M. C. GAULT, Editor.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY

FRIDAY, JANUARY, 26, 1900.

STATE PRESS.

The representation for the republican county convention will be 184 delegates. We believe in large conventions. The more good solid republicans we have at the meeting of the men who are to conduct affairs for the next term the better. The enthusiasm of the county central committee yesterday indicates that the party will be on deck for a winning campaign this year.—Eugene Register.

All the discussions over the deplorably wrong practices carried on by county assessors, cited by Governor Geer in a recent interview, may be ended and the wrong righted by a very simple plan: Let the assessors obey the law. It is the real intention of the statute to have property assessed at its cash valuation. Rain falls and wash of the soil thus preventing the growth of vegetation. Plant life becoming extinct, the climate insensibly changes and the country becomes a desert waste like the hillsides of Asia Minor and some sections of Greece.

There is no such thing as "imperialism" in the United States. The country however, has been expanded ever since the declaration of independence, and the original thirteen colonies are now only a small part of this great nation.—Albany Herald.

There may be a number of aspirants in this congressional district who want to jump into Congressman T. Tongue's shoes but the interests of the state cannot be sacrificed to their caprice or greed for public office. He is now in a position to do the state some good, and it would be a suicidal policy for the republican convention to nominate, or the voters to elect, any other person than Mr. Tongue for congressman for this district. This is, we believe, the sentiment of those who look at the situation impartially, for it is a case where even Mr. Tongue's political opponents could do the state a good service by voting for him.—Tillamook Headlight.

Two Sunday's ago Winnie Thorn aged 16 years was returning home from church at Cottage Grove, Lane county. When within 150 yards of home at Latham, she had to pass a train of freight cars waiting for a signal to start south. As she picked her way in the dark, it was after five o'clock in the evening, two men lifted her on a flat car and then carried her to the caboose. Next day she found herself in Roseburg, an inexperienced child among strangers and without money save a half dollar which one of the villains had given her to pay for the ruin he had wrought. Commenting on the abduction the Corvallis Times writes:

The pentitentiary will be too good a place for Patterson and Harvey, debauchers of Winnie Thorn. The girl is only a child of 16. She is sorely out of the way of babyhood. But her name is sullied, her life is darkened by the shadow that falls over it.

Patterson and Harvey, steeped in lust and lost to shame, wrought this ruin. Even if the child's detention were not by force, the crime is soverely less heinous. She was a little unprotected girl; they were two strong men who should have chivalrously defended little children, instead of devilishly ruining them. If there is not a hell, there ought to be.

Oregon will elect a senator next winter to succeed McBride, and all political cloth is being cut with that object in view. East of the mountains the editor of the Oregonian seems to have many friends who desire that the garment, when ready, shall fit no other man; but we are not heard from Mr. Scott himself, yet.—Tillamook Herald.

The Portland papers are having a rather hard time defending against the \$11,000,000 slump in the valuation of Multnomah County property. One says real estate is assessed as high as it ought to be, that the income derived from it will not justify a more liberal valuation. Perhaps. But does the defender consider that there are many pieces of residence property whose owner and occupant does not credit income. Then he claims a jobbing trade of \$100,000, 000, per year yet has a Merchandise stock of only \$2,405,745. That is to say, that stock must be turned—sold—forty one times per year. There is business life for you. But it is said its citizens pay per capita as much tax as the citizens of any other County. Of course they do, they ought to pay more. Portland has millions where we in the country have hundred dollar people. That is just what we of the country are complaining of. We poor people are required to pay as much tax as Multnomah's wealthy citizens.

LEASED RANGES.

The stock men of the great ranges in Eastern Oregon are opposed to the bill now before congress which provides for the leasing of the ranges on those vast prairies to herdsmen. Their objection is that the system will prohibit individual ownership of land and destroy the small farmer and stock grower. The lands if leaseable will be controlled by rich corporations and when the small stockman comes in contact with them he will go to the wall or rather to the sand plains of the Columbia. How the system works is illustrated by the condition of the range in Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. A small man stays away and has reason for doing so. The country is unsettled, industries are neglected, schools and churches and society are unknown. No revenue for the support of government is collected. Only a few beavers are turned off.

The advocates of the lease system reason that it, as heretofore pursued, in Eastern Oregon over-pastures the plains. The grass is eaten off, and the herding grounds no longer produce forage but are dusty wastes. The cattle and sheep men therefore drive their herds and flocks to the mountains for the little herbage yet to be found there. The cattle attack the shrubbery and it goes, they tramp out the young pines and the hillsides are denuded of a covering. The herders set fire to the forests and the timber is destroyed. Mountain rains fall and wash of the soil thus preventing the growth of vegetation. Plant life becoming extinct, the climate insensibly changes and the country becomes a desert waste like the hillsides of Asia Minor and some sections of Greece.

All this the cattle-men deny. They point to the fact that where sheep are herded the growth of young pines is promoted. That neither sheep nor cattle browse on the conifer. Only fires are to be dreaded. These can be controlled by the herds-men who for that purpose are to be forest wardens. They deny that the wastes of Asia Minor have ever been anything else than what they are, or that the climate of those countries have been changed by the agency of man or in recent times by any other agency. True there are manuscripts that seem to allow a different understanding, but they are not the records of trained observers but rather the rhetoric of oriental scribblers who delighted in visionary insubry.

Dr. Withycomb of the U. S. Experimental station Corvallis is authority for the statement that grounds pastured by sheep are better fitted for starting a growth of pines. He points out that in Douglas county the most thrifty fir thickets are in sheep pastures that have been grazed for forty years.

It is not true that the climate of Eastern Oregon has become more arid by reason of the 25 years herding of stock on the ranges. This winter is ample refutation of the charge.

Fire is the element to be dreaded. The friends of the lease bill declare there must be a fund raised to pay the expenses of guarding the forest, and that rent income can be devoted to that purpose. The stock-men reply that they are willing to assume responsibility for their own acts, and that their herders will take care of their own camp fires. Then there are the hunters and tourists to be looked after. This is an expense, but collecting money from rents is not the best way. A better plan is to gather a head tax on stock. The stock to be counted in January when it is about the hay stacks. Thus every man, rich or poor, possessing many cattle or few, would be treated equally.

There is no doubt that for Oregon the lease bill is a bad measure. Climate would be changed by denuding leased grazing grounds as quickly as under the present arrangement. The poll tax system is proposed by Eastern Oregon stock men and the INDEPENDENT believes it to be the better plan.

DEFENDS MR TONGUE

Some time ago the Corvallis Times, an advocate of Bryan's peculiar views, made an ugly attack on Congressman Tongue because the board of engineers had reported against further improving Yaquina Bay. What makes the attack more despicable is, it is an accusation that is not true. Congressman Burton, Chairman of the River and Harbor committee talking to the Washington correspondent of the Oregonian, defends Mr. Tongue, and gives the true reasons why the appropriation was denied. Mr. Burton says:

"The article does Mr. Tongue gross injustice. Any one who is familiar with the situation cannot count it otherwise than an unjustifiable attack. No one could have labored more strenuously or more ably in behalf of Yaquina bay than Mr. Tongue did. He twice made the fight before the house, and presented every possible argument in favor of the project. The simple fact is the house was utterly opposed to this improvement. The engineering force of the war department has always regarded this improvement as impracticable, and has opposed it in its recommendations more than any other project within my recollection. "I am willing to take a large part of the responsibility myself for the defeat of the project in the house. It appeared by the official report of the chief of engineers that some \$700,000 had been expended there; a depth of about 12 feet obtained at low water,

and 20 feet or more at high water; a depth which was reported to us as sufficient for the purpose of accommodating coastwise vessels on the Pacific coast. Notwithstanding this the traffic gradually fell off, amounting to only 17,883 tons in the year 1896; a decrease of 7000 tons from the previous year. In 1897 there was a still further decrease, so that the quantity of freight handled there in a whole year, according to the official statistics, was less than the amount handled at more than a dozen ports in the United States in a single day. Under these circumstances it did not seem right to authorize the expending of \$1,000,000 for further improving this waterway.

"A more vital fact, perhaps, was that the engineers who examined the harbor do not think that the large expenditure sought would result in giving a permanent and reliable channel. For these reasons a provision was inserted in the house bill repealing the provision for Yaquina bay. That Mr. Tongue was unable to convince the committee or the house that it should be retained was not his fault. It was due to the small results thus far obtained, and the improbability of obtaining any future results by a further expenditure. As a matter of fairness, however, in deference to his wishes, a provision was agreed to by the house committee to the effect that a further board of engineers would examine the locality and make a further report, and that until they reported no further action in the way of repeal should be taken. This board has made a report, and as is known, it was unfavorable to the project.

"There is still another reason why it would be unfair to blame Mr. Tongue for not obtaining a reversal of the action of the committee in the premises; not a single amendment was made by the house during the two days' debate of the bill without the consent of the committee. It is probable that in the next river and harbor bill some provision will be made for the removal of rocks in the harbor. There is no disposition here to discriminate against that locality."

Registration of voters is not all pleasure as the following paragraph from the Albany, Lin Co. Herald discloses: County Clerk Crabtree and his deputies have their hands full these days getting the voters registered according to law. Many amusing incidents happen and it would take a whole column to relate even a portion. One notary public residing a few miles from Albany supposed that each blank must be sealed and as the blanks are gummed along one side like an envelope, for pasting in the books, he proceeded to fold them separate and glue the side down hard and fast. When this bundle of blanks arrived at the clerk's office, the lady deputies were given a half holiday in order that the boys could express their feelings in plain English. Blanks are arriving from different precincts and many of them are incomplete, failing to give the section and township where the voter resides, and in many cases the precinct is omitted. It is a very aggravating matter and requires the most careful attention.—Herald.

The situation in the Philippine Islands is most satisfactory. In Northern Luzon the insurgent army has been scattered and only robber bands remain which are cared for by companies and detachments of our army. To the south of Manila the same condition is fast obtaining. The hemp ports are freed from Tagal domination and commerce is resuming its accustomed channels. Civil government is being organized and American supremacy is every where acknowledged. This is true not only in Luzon but in the other islands as well. Events are moving so rapidly that the Philippine question will be out of politics before our election campaigns engage the attention of voters or it will be in some other form than it is now.

The democrats by fixing the box before drawing the committees got all they wanted on the committees that are to decide the Kentucky contests. Of course this contest will be a farce but the democrats by not shaking the box got the members on the committee that would do as the machine told them to. A democratic election board has said that the republican ticket was elected now a democratic legislature will say that this same republican ticket was not elected if the machine can run the party and it looks as if it would. This is a republic.—"X."

Woolen mills in Oregon are unable to fill their orders, and seeing that Oregon is the first wool producing state in the union, it would seem that more ought to be built. And while building, Hillsboro is suggested as a favorable location. We have wood, water and transportation which are three indispensable; another is capital. That will have to be invited, but if we can show that the other elements are favorable before every other place, capital will come.

Conservative authorities estimate that the Sheep industry of Oregon, wool and mutton will be \$6,000,000. The State leads as a wool producing state, the clip tipping the beam at 21,291,872 pounds in 1899. The State next below was Montana 20,935,105 pounds, California and Texas with 16,000,000 pounds each. With such an industry it is no wonder that Oregon is strong for protection.

The Evening Telegram, Portland speaking of possible candidates for Congress in the 1st District states that "Thomas H. Tongue is said to have his County solid." The INDEPENDENT desires to amend the statement so as to read Thos. H. Tongue has his county solid. In 1898 his plurality in his own County was 658. Tongue is from a republican County which he helped to make reliable.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

PURSUANT TO A DECREE AND order of sale rendered in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Washington county in favor of T. Geer, Administrator of the estate of E. A. Knotts, deceased, against Thos. H. Tongue, Sheriff of Washington County, Limited, a corporation. Dated Dec. 12, 1899.

The north half (1/2) of the donation land claim of George Egler, be. ag. Notation No. 1711, courtay A. W. Johnston and 42 in township one (1) south of range two (2) west of the Willamette Meridian, said north half (1/2) of the donation land claim of Michael Moore and wife in township one (1) south of range two (2) west of the Willamette Meridian and containing twenty-nine and two (29 2/10) acres, also that tract described as follows, beginning at the south end of the donation land claim of George Egler, be. ag. Notation No. 1711, courtay A. W. Johnston and 42 in township one (1) south of range two (2) west of the Willamette Meridian and containing twenty-nine and two (29 2/10) acres, also that tract described as follows, beginning at the south end of the donation land claim of George Egler, be. ag. Notation No. 1711, courtay A. W. 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