

# The Coquille Herald

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P. C. LEVAR, Lessee.

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## WHO SHALL FIX RATES?

The Southern Pacific publication "The Bulletin," has an editorial which is being sent around to the newspapers for their use. It deals with the announced intention of the postmaster general to again present to Congress the Moon bill which failed of passage last session. It would require the railroads to carry the mails at a price fixed by the postmaster general, limited only by the maximum set by the law itself. The Bulletin tells a story to illustrate the point, running as follows:

John Smith is a storekeeper. He deals in clothing. The other day a customer came in and looked at a suit of clothes. It was marked \$30. The customer tore off the price tag, handed the merchant \$20 and said: "I want the suit. Here is the money."

"But the price is \$30," protested Smith. "It cost me more than \$20." "Never mind," said the customer. "I want the suit and at my price. I have the power to force you to sell it to me at that."

The bulletin points out that the law might easily result in the railroads being obliged to carry the mails at less than cost. This is very true, and it only emphasizes the lack of sense that is displayed in many of the laws which find passage easy. The price that the railroads would get would be a matter of the individual opinion of the postmaster general, and there is no assurance that he would be any better qualified to judge what would be a price fair to both sides than the proverbial hog is to pass on the merits of holy water.

There has been a general impression that the railroads were being paid too much for carrying the mails, and there is no doubt in the mind of the average American citizen, including the editor of The Herald, that this is true. Yet, we do not know it for a positive fact. No one knows it for a positive fact except the railroads themselves, and they won't give it away. Be this as it may, however, it is not good business to place the power of arbitrarily fixing the price of the service in the hands of the postmaster general. The people want the railroads to be paid a fairly profitable rate for carrying the mails, and no more. The people would like to see the rates fixed by someone who knew what kind of a deal he was monkeying with and would be fair to both sides. Congress is not a body that can act as that person, for it really knows no more about railroading than the average citizen. Neither does the postmaster general. The bulletin suggests that the matter of rate fixing should be placed in the hands of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and this is the most sensible suggestion that we have seen on the subject. It is also refreshing to see the railroads themselves turning to the Interstate Commerce Commission as a court before which they can get fair treatment.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce has gone on record as favoring a parity of rates between Astoria and Puget Sound, says the Telegram. That paper goes on to say: "When one considers that lumber export business originating in the vicinity of Astoria has been put on the cars at Astoria, the outlet of the Columbia river, carried through Portland, the great port of the Columbia river, and hauled by rail over to Puget Sound to be shipped by sea to its destination, nothing further need be said of the supreme necessity for the action that was taken by the Chamber of Commerce." It is refreshing to see the Portland Chamber of Commerce forced to take some action for the benefit of Astoria. When Portland makes a move for the real good of a possible rival it is a spectacle that should be well observed. For many years Portland did its best to hold Astoria back, for fear that some vessel might take her load there instead of being obliged to navigate the tortuous channel of the Colum-

bia for a hundred miles to take it at Portland. Now, however, she is willing to favor Astoria in the matter of the lumber shipments to prevent her great and lively rival, Puget Sound from getting them. This is a good experience for the metropolis. Perhaps some day she may even grow to see that the development of other parts of the state, even though she can not get the user's divvy out of that development is not a thing that she should try to block. Some day she may grow to see that a deep sea port at Coos Bay will not take away any business that legitimately belongs to her. Some day, if we live long enough, we may see a dollar of Portland capital invested in an industry in Coos county that will give employment to a man.

## NOTES ON THE PHOTOPLAYS

### Of Interest to Those Who Patronize the Movies

Many of those who saw the Fox feature, "A Fool There Was" at the Scenic last Wednesday pronounced it the greatest picture they ever saw. It was undoubtedly the greatest picture of its class ever shown in Coos county. It was noticeable that the talking and giggling that disturbed the audience during the first part of the picture was changed to a breathless silence during the last two reels. There was nothing "funny" about the merciless logic with which the story drew to its tragic close. The manager of the Scenic is glad to have been able to show such a picture to his patrons, even though the patronage was considerably less than it should have been, owing probably to the beastly weather.

Tomorrow night America's greatest emotional actress, Nance O'Neil, will be seen in "Princess Romanoff," which is another name for the great play of "Fedora." Those who have not seen Nance O'Neil will be given an opportunity to witness some of her best work. Another star taking a minor part in the picture is Dorothy Bernard, who at one time belonged to the Baker Stock Company in Portland and who has heretofore appeared in the pictures with marked success.

Next week we will have William Farnum again, in "The Plunderer," a Roy Norton story of Alaska, and those who have seen Farnum will not want to miss his work in this splendid Fox feature.

After a delay of a week, the mercury arc rectifier with which the Scenic operating room is to be equipped, is promised for immediate delivery, and it will be installed as quickly as possible. Patrons will then see a decided improvement in the appearance of the pictures on the screen.

Ed. Campbell, who has had considerable experience in the picture houses of this city, is now operating the Scenic machine and is getting better results than we have seen for some time. He is studying to improve his work, and with the new equipment in operation will soon be showing the pictures as they ought to be shown.

## Good Lumber News.

The best news that has come down the pike for some time is the report which seems to be authentic, that the long-expected revival of the lumber market is at last under way. An actual rise in price, followed at once by a rise in freight rates, together with the receipt of orders by the mills at the advanced prices for more lumber than they can supply, means more than columns of newspaper optimism. Coos county, and the Coquille river especially, should feel the effects of the lumber revival in a short time and in good measure. The resumption of operations by the mills that have been lying idle on the lower river will help us all, and if the report that the mill just below Wton will be started up be true it will be of the greatest benefit to this city.

## To Debate N. D. Aggies.

In debate as well as in athletics the Oregon Agricultural College means the "back east" agricultural colleges this year. Representatives of the Oregon and the North Dakota State Colleges will clash shortly on the subject of government ownership of telegraph and telephone lines. The annual inter-college debates will be on the same subject, and a strong effort will be made to win a brilliant forensic victory over the representatives of N. D. A. C.

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## Lessons for Farmers From the Corn Show

County Agriculturalist J. L. Smith expresses himself as well pleased with the corn shows held in the three districts of Coos county, and especially with the one held here, which was made the occasion of the surprisingly successful corn carnival.

Mr. Smith has been working very energetically all this season to interest the farmers of the county in corn culture, and while he has had many discouragements, arising from the settled belief prevalent here that this is "no country for corn," and that corn would not mature here, he finds an awakening interest that is very encouraging. The farmers are waking up to their opportunities and beginning to realize that while Coos county can never compare with some other sections as a corn country, yet, by selecting the right varieties of seed for this climate the corn can be made to fill out nicely and to mature in an entirely satisfactory manner.

The experience of the season bears out what Mr. Smith told the farmers last spring, as to the varieties best adapted to the conditions here which vary considerably in different parts of the county.

On the bay and on the lower river, where the air is impregnated to a considerable extent with the moisture from the ocean, and where the sea breeze keeps the temperature down, it requires an earlier ripening variety than in the more protected sections of the upper river. On the bay and lower river the best results were obtained from the flint varieties. The King Philip red and early Canada yellow gave the best results, though the Northwestern Smoky dent, being an early maturing kind, does very well. A tramp has more time to do nothing than anybody.

The Rye Straw storekeeper, who has been a bachelor for a long time, told a man the other day that the women folks still dressed up when they come to the store, even if they did not expect to see anybody but him.

The house occupied by the Hog Ford preacher has been too small for him and his family for some time, and on last Friday night the congregation went silently to his home and built a nice shed room and front porch while he and his family slept.

The high cost of extravagance is the cause of some of the high cost of living, according to the Dog Hill preacher.

Some people are graceful while others are disagreeable.

Fletcher Henstep was interviewed by the editor of the Tidings, while

# Hogwallow News



DUNK BOTTS, Regular Correspondent (George Bingham)  
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Sim Flinders is trying to hatch up some plan to get closer to the sun this winter.

Atlas Peck went over to Bounding Billows Sunday to talk over some private business with a deaf man, but the country is getting so thickly settled he couldn't get to say much to him.

The Excelsior Fiddling Band appeared at the trial of Sim Flinders which took place at Rye Straw Thursday. The band was a witness in the case, having seen Sim cross the road with a sack of geese on his shoulder. The band was playing at the time they saw him, but the court ruled that it was not necessary to admit the music as evidence.

Frisby Hancock, after having been puzzled for several weeks to know why he could not sleep at night, has discovered that it is because his bed is stuffed with owl feathers.

Jefferson Potlocks is again in our midst, having returned this week from an absence of several days in the Calf Ribs neighborhood. He brought back a good cow whose former ownership is clouded in mystery.

Columbus Allsop, who has been reading the almanac from cover to cover this week, took an umbrella with him on his literary journey, to have handy for the rainy spells.

Elick Hellwanger, who was recently disappointed in love, has bought a package of cigarettes and will try to smoke himself to death.

Slim Pickens, who borrowed fifty cents from Fit Smith several weeks ago, spoke to him yesterday.

The Excelsior Fiddling band is thinking of attending a party en masse next Saturday night. While furnishing the music they will stand in wishing distance of the ice cream and cake.

The bedbug is the lowbrow of the lowly. Yet there is no record of one ever having starved to death.

Elick Hellwanger and Fletcher Henstep raised an argument at the blacksmith shop Thursday when one of them asked what kin a drink of licker is to a dose of patent medicine.

Rez Barlow has put in his application as engineer on the Tickville railroad, to take effect when the present engineer gets killed.

Do not watch the clock. You can't do it justice and keep your eye on the boss at the same time.

## School Notes

What is commonly known as the "posting system" was put into effect in the high school yesterday morning with the result that a considerable number of students are spending an extra hour at school for the week. According to this system, each student who is not up to requirements in any subject for the week is given a little slip of paper on Monday morning notifying him of this fact. Those receiving such slips are required to spend an extra hour at school each day during the week making up their deficiencies. Students posted in more than one subject are debarred from basket ball practice for the week. It is believed that this system will improve the work of those who are inclined to lag behind and will result in fewer failures.

Taking for his subject, "What Is It Worth," Dr. John Straub, of Oregon University, delivered an excellent address before the high school last Tuesday morning. His theme was "The Value of Our Education" and he made out a good case. Dr. Straub is a prime favorite with the students at the university and is well liked by the people over the state who have become acquainted with him during the 37 years he has been at the state university.

The school gave three Thanksgiving programs last week. The High school literary society held forth at 11 o'clock and the grade children entertained a large number of visitors in the afternoon. At the academy, Mrs. Chase's and Miss Allen's pupils gave a delightful little program before quite an assemblage of patrons and friends. Most of these little folks are beginners in school and this was their first appearance before an audience. The sixth and seventh grades at the main building had prepared a Thanksgiving playlet under the direction of Mrs. Wise and Miss Anderson and acquitted themselves very creditably.

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## KNOWLTON'S DRUG STORE

## FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Continued from page 1

The name of Theodore Roosevelt will go upon the ballot at the first presidential state primary, to be held in Minnesota, as a candidate for the Republican nomination for President. There is first class evidence to the effect that such an arrangement will be entirely agreeable to Oyster Bay's most distinguished citizen.

## "Experience."

This song I wail with aching head, it should not fail to be well read. My Ford is sold, I walk the street; if truth be told, I can't compete; my mustache's shorn, I ride a horse; my smile's forlorn, it might be worse. The gas go-cart goes for awhile, it did its part to keep in style; the Ford machine does yet beguile, you buy benzine and wear a smile. You take the dames for joy rides long, and think your name should live in song; you spend your cash and spill your beans, you go to smash and lose your means, I stay at home, I've settled down, no more I'll roam on gas renown; I'm done with speed and rattling Ford my kale I need, my cash I hoard. The moral's short, I've had my say the benzine sport must pay his way. —ANON.

## CURRY COUNTY CULLINGS

(Gold Beach Globe.)

Word comes from Agness that it will soon have a new hotel. The building will be located near the store and postoffice and will be a modern twenty room structure. Mrs. Sadie Lucas will be proprietor of the hotel, which is evidence to those that know her that it will be second to none on the coast.

(Port Orford Tribune.)

Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Prewett and son, Earl, will move to Powers to make their future home as soon as the stormy weather breaks. The Port Orford girls and married women are developing two very good basketball teams, and they meet two or three times during the week in regular games, to which the public is admitted. Some of the young gallants around town do a lot of rooting for the girls, but with all that the married women are getting away with a majority of the games, and the Misses have to do a

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