

The Deschutes Echo.

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SATURDAY, JAN. 16, 1904.

There is a deep significance in the impending struggle between Japan and Russia and that it might develop into a quarrel between two great world powers is possible. Several years ago a poorly disciplined army of China-men was unmercifully beaten by the army of the Mikado and thenceforth Japan felt her importance as a nation of the world. The result is that the Jap's hat is just a few sizes too small for his head and with the sic'em, Fido, urging of Old England Japan is apt to become involved in a war that will prove disastrous to her. England has long felt the encroaching tendencies of Russia in the far East. The enterprise of the present dynasty of Russian Czars in internal improvement and the extension of this policy to Asiatic Russia has alarmed England to no small degree. Fearing that Russia might some day attempt to absorb China and possibly extend her conquests to British India, England cunningly watches for an opportunity to block the former's progress by standing sponsor to little Japan while in her fighting mood. A war will mean defeat for the Jap. Should England step in, the evolution in Asiatic politics within the next few years would be startling. Russia is powerful; she has the best equipped army of all nations and a good navy as well. The latter is hardly needed for defense as her few great ports are inaccessible to the best navy that sails the seas. Nicholas could throw his legions into India and repeat the victories of Alexander the Great. England has never yet learned a lesson through defeat. Japan is making a mistake in consulting with her.

In its New Year's edition the Portland Oregonian preaches a very nice sermon on the moral improvement that has come about generally during the past few years. On the same page is found a dissertation on "legs" by the paper's humorist, which is extremely interesting reading but does not conform at all to the moral spirit that the paper has imbued itself with. It do be funny how these "law and order" papers sometimes forget themselves. The Oregonian School of Journalism is unique in that it is the only one that can properly define "character" and "Morals." Our friend, Truthful James, is one of its graduates—post graduates.

Hanna's retirement from the national chairmanship of the republican party will have the effect of making Roosevelt and his ardent admirers feel less secure as regards the president's position. It is hard to tell what Hanna might spring on the republican party. He has been an able manager and it is doubtful whether a successor could be found who would handle a campaign as successfully as he has in the past.

In an editorial some days since the Oregonian makes the following comparison of Roosevelt to Andrew Jackson:

"The anniversary of Jackson's great victory of New Orleans recalls the fact that the salient qualities of President Roosevelt, upon

which rest his popular strength and which inspire the highest confidence in his re-nomination and reelection, are identical with those of Jackson. Jackson's energy and headlong courage in war first designated him for political honors. Roosevelt's dashing leadership at San Juan Hill made him Governor of New York and Vice-President."

Roosevelt became president by a decree of fate that a better man should die. For the position he occupies he is not to be blamed. When elected to the vice-presidency, he had reached by the voice of the people the summit of his political life and his career would soon have been at an end had McKinley lived. Roosevelt's fitness is lacking. The Oregonian man gets off his trolley when he likens the president to Old Hickory. For impulsiveness it is true they are alike but for honesty of purpose and convictions that stand firm there is a vast difference. Roosevelt's shortcomings are recorded in his public utterances and the acts of his official life. To place him in the same category with Andrew Jackson is a mistake.

A MANY-SIDED QUESTION.

The East Oregonian recently used the following as the basis for a diatribe about Senator Fulton's arguments for the present timber and stone law:

"During the past 20 years the Oregon Lumber company has stripped hundreds of thousands of acres of valuable timber land in Eastern Oregon. They sawed out every available tract of timber that was easy of access from the railroads. This land was purchased under the timber and stone act, and the timber cut from it. Today that land is lying idle, unfit for any purpose under the sun, nobody claims it, it has been advertised for sale for taxes, but the taxes are still unpaid on thousands of acres of it."

The E. O. seems to want a law framed whereby the government could sell the timber to the highest bidder and then when he removes one tree he must plant two in its stead, so that in two or three hundred years hence the government will have another crop of ripe timber to dispose of. It must be admitted that in the complexity of the situation at present the latter idea might be regarded as a good one, so far as a reforestation process is concerned; but the idea of selling timber to the highest bidder, though all right in theory, does not work out in practice any better than the present law—wherein the government is "skun" in a delightful way by timber grabbers, according to the so-called timber protection papers, which appear to think when a poor man purchases a claim, whether with his own money or someone else's, he is absolutely robbing and defrauding the government. Secretary Hitchcock and the president seem to share this view, whether from personal observation or inspectors' reports we are unable to say.

There are many sides to this question. Admitting that a reforestation process is needful, it cannot be denied also that when trees are ripe they should be removed and put to some use before decay sets in and their usefulness is impaired or gone altogether. A reforestation clause to the present timber law could be added with little trouble, though such an amendment would require an additional forest ranger or two to see the provisions were carried out. So far as changing

the timber law so that Uncle Sam would be enabled to get full value for his timber, it cannot be done. Any timber man can tell you, if he wants to, that under any and all laws, the government gets "skinned," that is, it doesn't and never will receive full value for its lands, of whatever description they may be. It is not necessary to go into detail; but we will do so should any one desire to read a lengthy article explaining how it can be done and is being done all over the country, more especially in the timbered areas.

Congress very wisely is avoiding any land legislation. Senators don't want to bother with anything so trivial, and congressmen don't dare to open their mouths about it lest a foot find a comfortable resting place. The reason is obvious. The present laws cannot be improved upon.—Review.

Why not let Truthful James act as an arbitration board in the settlement of the big damage suit? Truthful had ought to be an expert on character. A number of prominent citizens of this place once swore that they would not believe him under oath. He is a great character essayist and, when it comes to expatiating on morals, a puzzle.

Jackson Day was the occasion for a gathering of Oregon's Democracy in Portland. The feeling that a more thorough organization of the party was necessary has long existed and now that the state has a democratic executive whose administration will go on record as a model one, Democracy should no longer lie dormant.

CONTEST NOTICE.

U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Ore., Nov. 25, 1903.
A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Loren E. Allingham, contestant, against homestead entry No. 8965, made Oct. 11, 1900 for sw 1/4 sec 36, se 1/4 sec 27, ne 1/4 sec 34 and nw 1/4 sec 34, Township 35, Range 11 e, by Samuel T. Prosser Contestee, in which it is alleged that said Samuel T. Prosser has wholly abandoned said tract; that he has changed his residence therefrom for more than six months since making said entry; that said tract is not settled upon and cultivated by said party as required by law, and that such failure still exists, and that the same is not due to Military or Naval service in the U. S. army or navy; said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on January 15, 1904 before W. A. Beil U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Prineville, Ore., and that final hearing will be held at 10 o'clock a. m. on January 25, 1904 before the Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office in The Dalles, Oregon.
The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit, filed Nov. 16, 1903, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice can not be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN, Register.

Columbia Southern RAILWAY CO.

TIME TABLE NO. 8.
Effective February 15, 1903.

| SOUTH | | NORTH | |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Daily Pass. | Leav. P. M. | Daily Pass. | Arrv. A. M. |
| 1:30 | - - BIGGS - - | 11:25 | |
| 1:50 | - - GIBSONS - - | 11:00 | |
| 1:54 | - - Sink's - - | 10:52 | |
| 2:14 | - - Wasco - - | 10:45 | |
| 2:27 | - - Klondyke - - | 10:30 | |
| 2:33 | - - Summit - - | 10:25 | |
| 2:43 | - - Hay Canyon Junc - - | 10:15 | |
| 2:46 | - - McDonald - - | 10:12 | |
| 2:48 | - - DeMoss - - | 10:10 | |
| 3:09 | - - Moro - - | 9:50 | |
| 3:13 | - - Erskinville - - | 9:32 | |
| 3:44 | - - Grass Valley - - | 9:15 | |
| 4:00 | - - Bourbon - - | 8:55 | |
| 4:16 | - - Kent - - | 8:40 | |
| 4:26 | - - Wilcox - - | 8:30 | |
| 5:00 | - - SHANICO - - | 8:00 | |
| Arrv. P. M. | | Leav. A. M. | |

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