THE BEND BULLETIN

"For every man a square deal, no less and no more."

CHARLES D. ROWE.....EDITOR

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One year.....$1.50
Six months.....50
Three months.....25
(Invariably in advance.)

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 1908.

An Announcement.

Beginning with this number, The Bulletin will be issued hereafter on Wednesday afternoon instead of Friday as heretofore. There are many reasons that induce us to make the change. We have always liked Wednesday as a publication day; and furthermore, as mail schedules now exist, it will enable The Bulletin to reach its subscribers in much better time than under a Friday publication. It will also give our advertisers better results, as it will allow our readers more time to get the paper and read the store bargains offered before doing their Saturday's shopping. Hence, Bulletin readers may look hereafter for their paper on Wednesday afternoon.

The Quintessence of Foolishness.

The Bulletin is well aware that it is a dangerous policy to discuss religious topics, but it has had something working in its inner brain cells for so long that it needs must give utterance to what is bothering it. And it is about the question of so many church organizations in Bend.

How foolish it is to attempt to maintain three separate church organizations in Bend. How much more reasonable would it be for the Protestant denominations to unite on some one man, good and able, and let him devote his entire time to the one field. As it is now we have three—the Methodist, the Presbyterian and the Baptist. At stated intervals Rev. Lowther, from his home somewhere about Trail Crossing, drives a distance of 25 or 30 miles in order to preach at Bend on the Sunday alloted to him; on another Sunday of each month Rev. Moore likewise drives some 30 or 40 miles from his homestead near Prineville to hold services at Bend; and Rev. Mitchell oscillates between Bend and Rosland in his endeavor to preach the gospel at different points.

And what is the result? Bend is given a church service that amounts almost to nothing as far as direct results are concerned. With three men preaching from the same pulpit, with three separate organizations endeavoring to keep up the work, and with three preachers directing this work, how can there be anything but mighty poor returns for the effort expended? To accomplish results there must of necessity be one mind at the head of the work to control and direct it. Bend has a mixture of three.

And that is not the only trouble. These men must live. They are engaged in an essential and noble work. They and their families must be supported. Not large enough to contribute even what one man ought to have in the way of salary, Bend is called upon to give a little dab to each of the three. Zealous and good women, in their praiseworthy endeavor to support the three organizations where there should be but one, solicit subscriptions here and there and tire, with their importunities, some men who have no interest in or liking for churches. Thus these men are disgusted with the church as an institution and a good cause is done far more harm than good.

This condition of affairs would be bad enough if there were much good resulting, but how much worse must it be when the actual good accomplished is very small indeed. The Bulletin does not mean to state that the church in Bend is not accomplishing good. It would never do to stop all church work. But much more good could be accomplished than is now being done. With the three organizations and with the work going in a sort of "hit and miss" style, there is not much interest manifested in the services by the public. The attendance is woefully small. Where there should be a church full every Sunday listening to able and helpful sermons, there are now, on an average, from half a dozen to two dozen persons present. Fifty people in attendance would be considered a very large congregation. There is no man stationed at Bend to keep the work going during the week, and the sum and substance of it all is that we have three men driving long and tiresome distances on starvation wages to preach to a handful of indifferent people.

How utterly silly it all is. And with what disgust must the good Lord look upon such misguided efforts to serve Him and His cause. How much better would it be for the people of Bend to unite on some able man, pay him a living salary, and let him devote all his energies to this one town and vicinity. We would then have energetic church work and well attended services; the interest would be kept aroused and vigorous under one man's constant direction; and people would not be tired and disgusted by an attempt to support three organizations in a town so small that one would be a great plenty.

Yes, that would be much better. But The Bulletin does not expect to see such a state of affairs come to pass. As long as human nature is constituted as it is, the denominations will continue to struggle for a starvation existence, and Bend will continue to be given three or more sickly church organizations; at least, until the town becomes large enough to give them a proper support.

A Pleasing Innovation.

Madras Pioneer.

For the first time in a good many years a county judge has paid an official visit to this end of the county, and the interest displayed cannot but be pleasing to the residents of a district so long neglected. This section has a right to expect to be treated as a part of Crook county, although long neglect had almost weaned it from that idea. None the less pleasing, however, is the innovation inaugurated by the new county board in making a trip through this section for the purpose of getting better acquainted. Much benefit will result from a closer acquaintance of county officials with all sections of the county.

LOCAL OVERFLOW.

There are many new settlers moving onto land in this vicinity, and almost every day you can see new faces on the streets of Bend. These people invariably begin at once to build houses and barns on their land, put up fences, and start the work of clearing off the sagebrush. A drive east of town for a few miles will surprise one at the development that is taking place, if you have not been out there for some time. New houses are dot tine the land here and there, and a rapid development is taking place

E. O. Check and J. J. Murray of Silver Lake spent Monday night in Bend. Mr. Check was on his way East for a visit and stopped here to consult his attorney, C. S. Benson, concerning a contest for his homestead, which he is fighting. These gentlemen from Silver Lake report that wild ducks are unusually numerous on the marshes and lake near their home, this season. One evening shortly before they left two hunters came into town with an express wagon loaded down with ducks, most of them mallard drakes, the result of one day's hunting.

Dr. P. H. Dencer has a peculiar horse on his ranch. This animal has taken upon itself the care of a cow, and regularly each morning drives it to pasture, and brings it back to the barnyard each evening. As regular as noon comes the horse also drives the cow up to the watering place, whether bossy wants to drink or not. And sometimes she doesn't want to go, and then is when the fun begins. The cow rebels, the horse insists, and after more or less of a skirmish the cow is always forced to surrender, and is driven to the watering trough. It is quite a convenience to the doctor as he is relieved of all attention to the cow except at milking time.