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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1897.

Mrs. Mary Lease wants to go to Europe.

The Courier extends to one and all of its many readers a happy New Year.

The United States has 140 naval vessels of all kinds, only nine of which are first-class war vessels.

Dr. Sheldon Jackson has gone to Europe for reindeer for the government's use in the Klondike.

The dismemberment of China by European nations is a thought which is receiving some attention the world over.

Horace G. Burt, third vice-president of the Chicago & Northwestern railway, has been elected president of the Union Pacific.

It is said that Mark Twain pays his debts. There are some people in this country who surely can be no blood relation to Mark.

The Courier is under many obligations this week to Hon. Binger Herman, of the general land office, and to Hon. Thomas H. Tongue of this district, for many favors shown.

Representative Japanese in this country insist that their country has no designs on the Hawaiian islands but Japan does want the protection of her subjects wherever they may be.

Congress will be called upon at this session to make an appropriation of \$464,000 to pay the Bering sea claims. J. T. King, of the supreme court of Canada, and Judge Putnam, of the United States, were the arbitrators.

Some people seem to be fearful that the Courier has been influenced by the lawless to make a mistake. The editorial columns of this paper will be sufficient proof to our readers of what we are. We promised from the first to be fair and impartial and that is our course.

After reading the marshal's oath of office we have about come to the conclusion that he has violated nothing. He says that he will perform his duties to the best of his ability, then we must conclude that he has absolutely a ability,

Eugene Kleen's license to retail liquor will expire January 9, 1898. The city council will please bear in mind that under their own ordinance they will not be justifiable in renewing his license to continue the disorder that has prevailed there.

Upon two officials in particular depend the maintenance of law and order in this city. These officials are the police judge and the marshal. They must work in unison else nothing can be accomplished. Should the marshal do his duty and the police judge not, then the whole work comes to naught and vice versa.

The Spanish are endeavoring to make much of the execution of Col. Ruiz by the insurgents. General Blanco had far warning of how his peace bearers would be treated if they should enter the rebel army. Ruiz was foolish to undertake such a thing, when he could not help knowing the result, unless he knew that the Cubans have so much Spanish blood in them that they never mean what they say, when they say anything good. It was a hard thing, but that lesson will surely teach Blanco that there is nothing in autonomy.

Senator Wolcott of Colorado, it is said, will have something of a sensational nature to say to the United States senate after the holidays. Senator Wolcott, it will be remembered, was a member of the committee which went to Europe to investigate the possibility of bringing about bimetalism by international agreement. This gentleman has come to the conclusion that bimetalism is an impossibility except it may be with the United States alone. He will announce his intention of declaring for free silver and his purpose of uniting with some party other than the republican. It is also believed that Wilson of Washington, Carter of Montana, Shoup of Idaho and Clark and Williams of Wyoming will go out with Mr. Wolcott. If such should be the case the republicans will not have a majority in the senate.

There was a scene in town Saturday night. Two boys, about fourteen years old and small for their age, were found on the street drunk as fools. Two larger boys managed to escort the drunkenurchins to a shed in an alley way until they could devise some plan by which to get the little fellows home. Did they swear? Darkest midnight could reveal no worse oaths than fell from the lips of these street hoodlums. Out of respect for their parents we will refrain from mentioning names. Sad is it not? But who is responsible for this conduct? The boys themselves are old enough and sane enough to be ashamed of themselves, hence they are not to be excused; the man or men who sold them or gave them the liquor with which they made themselves like brutes, have committed a crime morally and statutorily, hence to them belongs the responsibility; the marshal who it seems, is hat-like in nature and who rings the burlesque bell, he it is that allows the boys to roam the streets when they have no business,

hence by right, he has a great responsibility in the matter; and last, but not least, is the home, therein lies a great share of the responsibility. Home and mother and the kindly, we counsel of the father should be so thoroughly infused into the life of the boys that all the iniquity of the dens could not prevail against them. Fathers and mothers should enter into the lives of their children and make home so attractive and their companionship so congenial that their boys will seek home above all things else earthly. What constitutes a home? Not beautiful buildings and fine lawns adorned with flowers; not fine carpets, costly furniture and artistic paintings; no, not these, the humblest place where all these are lacking may be a home in the truest sense. Where the children are trained to obey father and mother through love and not through fear. This is one of the essentials, and there are others akin to it.

AS IT NOW APPEARS.

It is an easy matter for one to condemn his enemies and those whom the world in general knows are wrong, but to criticize a friend takes moral courage. Men are criticized by their friends and by their foes; by their friends to their good, by their foes to their hurt. The Courier is not a foe to any man, but it is an outspoken foe against anything that hurts the community, and it will continue to be.

It has been said of us that we speak against the marshal and the street commissioner because we dislike them, but that is absolutely false, for we have nothing against either of these men personally, it is their abominable do nothing policy as public servants that we dislike, and we will continue to condemn it until they are out of office, or until they do their work as men ought to do it.

Mr. Keenan, as regular marshal, is supposed to be on duty at night, but it is his duty to make arrests anytime he may see violations of law. When the marshal goes about his work, he need not and should not sound an alarm, "I am coming, look out", but he should go about his work in such a manner as to find out the lawlessness. We do not say that the marshal sounds his alarm, but his conduct as an officer and the lawlessness that has become a daily occurrence, are proofs positive that he does not try to discover anything wrong that may be going on in the city.

In any city where gambling and debauchery run riot the police force are invariably in collusion with it. This is true if there are many police or if there are few, for the number of police depend upon the size of the city. The street commissioner has marshal duty to perform and how well he does that duty none can tell so well as the lawless.

There are many ways in which a worthless official can shirk his duty. He can say that he sees nothing to justify an arrest. Of course not when he is so derelict in doing his duty that the lawless can almost parade the streets without fear of being arrested. Officers should watch places where they may

suspicion something going on that is disreputable, but these officials must be particularly constituted for they took the oath of office in which they swore to uphold the constitution of the state and to enforce the city ordinances but to them this oath must have been a mere avowal. The man who takes an oath to do a certain work and then even fails to try to do that work, in the eyes of the law he is a perjurer. The lawless no doubt would call him a gentleman because they can parade the streets in their iniquity. Iniquity germinates in darkness but emanates from costumes because these officials are purposely blind. We are informed that the commissioner who has police duty to perform was found in one of these dens himself and accused a worthy citizen, who by chance found him out, of telling on him. No, no, no collusion there nothing to show it in that case. This same official became a minor offence when the public were looking on but this gambling and rioting he could not see. "There are none so blind as those who will not see."

OUR FINANCIAL CONDITION.

As we said, it is but fair that all branches of industry in the county should pay their proportionate part of the county's taxes. Every man who owns mining claims, either quartz or placer, is required by the government to do \$100 worth of assessment or development work on each claim yearly, or if he owns a number of claims adjoining, he may, as we understand it, do all the work on one of them. But this adds nothing to the county's wealth from which these claims were patented than the \$100 in that case. This same official became a party should see fit, because if he is the absolute owner, when miners wish to hold one or many claims it would be cheaper, with some exceptions, to pay the taxes on them than to do the \$100 worth of work required by the government. In the first place the county would get some revenue, but in the second place, it would get none. The man who buys a farm for \$10,000 pays taxes on it every year, whether he makes anything from the farm or not, while the man who puts \$100,000 into an unproductive mining claim, which to him may be worth a million need pay no tax. The farmer may let his farm grow up in weeds but he must pay his taxes or else have his farm sold; the miner may put his many thousands into a mine, which he is satisfied is well worth the money put into it, but nothing does he pay the county. We know that it is said the farm's value is visible, therefore evident, while the mine's value is invisible, therefore conjectured.

If the increase in the population of this county for the past few years has been in proportion to the increase in the vote for presidential candidates for the same time, we know that the population is almost double what it was six or seven years ago. This growth in population is almost solely attributable to the mining

industry and we hope this industry will bring in more people. In this county the past seven years, there has been a number of very expensive criminal cases in the district court, a majority of which are traceable directly or indirectly to the mines, or on account of the mining industry. These trials have added a heavy burden to the county in court expenses, but the business industry which is responsible for most of it, pays little or none of the burden. It must naturally come from some source and therefore of consequence it comes from the sources which the law can reach, making the burden heavier upon them because of the increase in litigation and criminal trials. We do not wish our readers to entertain the opinion that we are opposed to mines and miners that these states, etc. are made. They are made to show our cause why our taxes are so high and must continue to be high without some radical change. We repeat that it is equitable for all lines to bear proportionate burdens. There are other reasons why Jo-ephine's taxes are high. They will be pointed out one by one and when the Courier is through diagnosing the disease it will present for each and every symptom a prescription which in our judgment will greatly alleviate the suffering if the disease is not absolutely cured. Our readers will please follow us through this discussion until we are done.

Farmers for Postal Banks.

Much has been heard about the establishment of a postal savings bank system. Organized farmers are no less emphatic in asking the government to provide safe depositories for persons of small means. Farmers are not so well organized as the workmen of the cities and do not count together in conventions and associations so frequently, but when they do postal savings banks is generally one of the subjects discussed.

At the meeting of the Michigan State Association of Farmers' Clubs at Lansing recently a strong demand was made for the establishment of the postal savings bank system, to which all the delegates present gave their approval. On the day previous the state grange had taken similar action.

A demand which the workmen and farmers unite in making is one to which congress should give heed.—Chicago Record.

Get a season ticket at \$1 for the entire Musical Convention.

N. W. Fruit Growers' Meeting.

The N. W. Fruit Growers will hold a meeting in Portland, commencing the 11th of January and continuing through the 13th. Samples of green, dried and canned fruits from various parts of the Northwest are desired as an exhibit. We know that the Rogue River valley has the best of fruit and we are anxious to see samples sent down for exhibition. This office is authorized to receive samples of fruit, and we trust that fruit growers will bring us samples and we will see to it that proper credit is given. Send in your samples.

Merlin Happenings.

Mrs. Will Ott was quite sick the first of the week.

Buy a season ticket for the Musical Convention.

There were several family Christmas trees in our vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Williams went to Grants Pass Monday last.

A shooting match furnished the excitement for Christmas day.

D. W. Mitchell visited Grants Pass just before Christmas.

Miss Hawkins and sister spent Xmas with their sister, Mrs. Misner and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Carr went to Salem to spend Christmas with Mr. Carr's mother.

Miss Cassie Conson came down from Grants Pass to attend the dance Friday evening.

The S. P. Company's carpenter gang all went to Salem to spend Christmas with their families.

Edward Williams returned from California last week, where he has been working for some time.

Mrs. Arthur Everton of Roseburg, came down to spend Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Robertson.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hoyt of Grants Pass, spent Christmas in Merlin, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Burnett.

W. W. Benson went to Grants Pass Friday evening and remained until Sunday evening with his family at that place.

C. D. Williams has been making the run of track-walker Mike Galvin, during the recent sickness of the latter's wife at Grants Pass.

School closed at noon last Friday and Mr. and Mrs. Hayes rode to Grants Pass on their bicycles in the afternoon, school began again Monday.

The dance Christmas night at Williams' hall, given by Robert Crockett and Fred Brockman, was quite well attended and all seemed to enjoy the evening, the supper especially.

Tom and Jerry did not spend Christmas here.

The Klondike fever is abating in this camp, but will probably break out again soon.

Judging from the tone of the Grants Pass press there must have been a hot time in the old town one night recently.

Swearing off time—New Years—is with us once more, and it is to be hoped that anglers in general will take the opportunity to sign ironical articles.

Almanacs for 1898 have made their appearance here and can be found at the Galice revolving library, "free gratis for nothing," as a scholar once remarked.

A number of our residents went out to feast on turkey and other surpluses during Christmas, and they plainly showed the "before and after taking" on their arrival home.

Christmas passed off rather quietly in this burg, as usual. We had no Christ-

mas tree, no wet roads, no turkey, no fights, no presents, no dance, no pin, no wedding, no get-up, no cake, no nightmare or mule.

An attempt will be made here to observe the eclipse of the moon on January 7, 1898, through a section of hydraulic pipe and a giant, by our leading optician. He will endeavor to point out the initiative and referendum of the moon; also the defects of the Dingley bill, and prosperity.

A late arrival from the mouth of the river reports the seven men arrested for the murder of Al. Coolidge as having a picnic. Curry county boards them at a hotel at the rate of \$5.00 each per week and they out in their time at fishing, mining and playing poker. Their trial takes place next fall by which time the county will have a large board bill to pay.

Chas. Kangas, formerly a sailor but now mining near Tyeo bar, was somewhat bruised one night lately by falling about fifteen feet. He started for home from this place, and when rounding Peavine mountain struck a blizzard and put back for Galice and when within a mile of port a heavy fog set in, about 10 p. m., and the channel could not be made out and he fetched up hard on some logs in a deepcut. After necessary repairs he left for home, having favorable weather.

The Skagway, Alaska, correspondent of the Courier writes interesting letters, giving a person many pointers regarding the country and prices of various articles, but omits the price of a hair cut and slave, he being a tenorial artist. A number of the Courier readers here who contemplate going to Alaska have been trying to guess the prices of the above in the far north and it remains for the correspondent to enlighten them as to the tax levied, as they will no doubt have many close shaves or hairbreadth escapes.

FOR SALE—A SMALL BUT CHOICE farm 32 acres, mostly rich river bottom land. A part of it is better than any especially adapted to raising vegetables. There is on the place a fine peach and prune orchard. This place is offered at a low price because the owner cannot attend to it. For terms enquire at this office.

STRAYED OR STOLEN—A 2-YEAR old gray horse, white right hind foot. Disappeared from Briggs road, July 1st. Send information to this office.

EDUCATE YOUR BOYS WITH CASSELL'S CANDY CATHARTIC, pure, pleasant, non-damaging. If C. C. C. fail, guarantee returned money.

FOR SALE WE OFFER FOR SALE this week a place of five acres of very rich soil near Grants Pass, sidewalk leading into town. This place has on it a fine dwelling, some good fruit trees of different kinds. This place is a bargain for just cash and balance on time. Call on or write to Price & Voorhies.

HELLO! CRESCENT CITY! You can talk between Grants Pass and Crescent City and all intermediate points over the G. P. & C. C. Telephone line. Charges reasonable. Grants Pass office at the Courier office.

J. H. Boon, Secretary, Grants Pass, Or., Dec. 17, 1897.

Notice to Shareholders. The annual meeting of the shareholders of the First National Bank of Grants Pass, Oregon will be held at the office of said bank on Tuesday, January 11, 1898, at 1 o'clock p. m. R. A. Boon, Cashier.

For constipation take Karl's Cherry Root Tea, the great blood-purifier. Cures headache, nervousness, eruptions on the face, and makes the head cool as a bell. Sold at Kremer's Drug Store.

Salt Rheum

Suffered for Years With Terrible Humor on the Hands—Flesh would Crack Open—Stinging, Burning and Itching.

"I suffered for three years with salt rheum and was unsuccessfully treated by a local physician. The humor was in my hands and I was obliged to keep a covering on them most of the time, changing the covering several times a day. Nothing seemed to do me any good. The stinging, burning and itching were very severe and it seemed at times as though I should become insane. If I bent my fingers the flesh would crack open and bleed. I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and after I had used six bottles I was entirely cured."

Mrs. C. E. Wood, Delamar, Idaho.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

is the One True Blood Purifier. Aldridge's \$1.50 for \$2. Get Hood's Sarsaparilla. Hood's Pills with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

For constipation take Karl's Cherry Root Tea, the great blood-purifier. Cures headache, nervousness, eruptions on the face, and makes the head cool as a bell. Sold at Kremer's Drug Store.

R. L. COE, THOMAS & CO. THE CASH STORE WITH SMALL PRICES.

NOW FOR BARGAIN SHOES

This is our house cleaning time, and as it will be just one month--30 days--until we take our annual Inventory, we have arranged to inaugurate some

GRAND CLEARING SALES - - DONT MISS THEM

THIS WEEK'S OFFERINGS:

200 Pairs of Ladies' and Men's Fine Shoes

Regular Price \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, \$2.75 and \$3.00.

SLAUGHTERED AT \$1.59.

CALL AND SEE OUR BIG HOLIDAY DISPLAY.

R. L. COE, THOMAS & CO.

Thirty Years Ago (Items taken from Rogue River Courier of Thursday, Dec. 30, 1897) - 1897 - Hello, Crescent City! You can talk between Grants Pass and Crescent City and all intermediate points over the G. P. and C. C. telephone line. Charges reasonable. Grants Pass office at the Courier office. - 1897 - Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Williams went to Grants Pass Monday last. (Merlin item.) - 1897 - George Calhoun returned on Monday evening's train from Ashland. Mrs. Calhoun will remain in Ashland for a few weeks. - 1897 - David O. Hayes has finished his term of school in the Thoss district. - 1897 - Leave orders for the New Year's edition of the Oregonian at M. Clemens, (Adv.)