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Grants Pass is the county seat of Josephine county and is situated in the heart of the Southern Oregon gold mining district.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1898.

The state legislature will be called upon to make some changes in the city charter of Grants Pass.

Some people thought the curfew was ringing at a late hour the other night when the fire broke out.

Any fire company that does not require its members to know where he is the hydrants and what mains or laterals each taps, is not an up-to-date company.

Joseph Simon, the boss, as was anticipated, has been elected president of the Oregon senate. Joe Simon is what some people call a decided success, because he is like Eli.

Criticism of the fire company does not extend to all the members for some of the boys do all they can and are anxious to do more, but they are powerless when circumstances are against them.

The Cuban General, Garcia, says he resigned because he failed to keep promise with him. The old general claims to recognize no government in Cuba except that of Uncle Sam.

There is one good thing commendable in the present Oregon legislature, and that is its ability to meet and organize like men ought to do. There is a possibility that something in the way of legislative enactments may take place.

Spain has no respect for Cervantes, notwithstanding his implicit obedience to orders given. The dispatches say he will be denied even a slight welcome when he returns home. 'Tis Spanish nature to admire bull fights, and brutes like Weyler stand especially high, while their best men such as Cervantes receive no honor or whatever. Who would dare to be a Spaniard and try to be a man.

At last the powers seem to have combined in a round up for the Sultan of Turkey. Great Britain, Russia, France, Italy but not Germany, have ordered the troops withdrawn from the island of Crete. Better late than never in doing a good thing. Probably the interference of the United States in the Cuban question for the benefit of humanity had some influence over the powers causing action on their part.

It would be foolish to question the ability of the insurgent leader, Aguinaldo, for no one is able to control so many semi-civilized people, as he has without much ability. But he may be lacking in one of the great essentials, and that is judgment. His greatest opportunity has now come, and now if he is able to manage himself properly and maintain proper mental equipoise during the final settlement of the difficulties, he must be given credit for really doing what great men have done. The eyes of the world are upon Aguinaldo, and he is aware of this fact and many a man hailing from our own great country, thus observed, would more than likely lose equilibrium.

Every one seemed to be abusing every body else at the fire Tuesday morning because more efficient work was not accomplished toward getting the roaring flames under control. Some said the water company was at fault because of the weak pressure of water; others said that the city fathers were at fault that they did not provide better facilities and more hydrants for the fire company; while still others claimed that the fire company was largely at fault because of the delay in getting the water. There is no particular use in condemning the water company, the city fathers nor the fire company on the occasion of this fire. The water company is not responsible for the mistake of the fire company, and the fire company, while there were but few of them out, made a great blunder, but still they were doing the best they could. The hydrant nearest the fire is the one at Chiles' store on Front street.

All France is in a furor of excitement caused by the alleged wrong done Captain Dreyfus, who was tried in the French court of so-called justice, on the charge of revealing important information concerning French troops to foreign nations. Dreyfus stoutly denied the charge and declared his innocence to be very last. If guilty of the charge, his crime could be no worse than the crime of the French court in the trial. He nor his attorneys were allowed to hear all the evidence against him. The trial was a shame and the court a wicked farce. The president and some of the noblest men of the republic, together with most of the army, are excitedly opposed to revision of the case, not for any reason except that it would, no doubt, bring disgrace upon the high dignitaries of the court and of the army. This Dreyfus case must be an everlasting stigma to the French republic, whether it is revised or not. This is one of the republics in which personal morality is at a low ebb and the nation itself an aggregation of individuals. It must be maintained that virtue is just as essential to the maintenance of a republican form of government as is intelligence. This one case will be the means of an advancement in French jurisprudence or it will cause a step backward.

The fire company needs reorganization. It must be in a deplorable condition when some of our best young men and citizens make application for membership and are rejected. The Courier has always been friendly to the fire boys

and it believes heartily in encouraging them in their efforts to maintain a proper, useful organization, but when any number of them will resort to spite or something, we know not what, to keep out good citizens whose help and influence in the organization would be to the city's profit, then it becomes necessary for us to say that the quicker they disband the better, and then organize on mainly principles and for the good of the city. Would it not be well for the city council to allow from four to six of the firemen to occupy rooms in the city hall free of charge in order that they might be on hand as a non-sect's call in case of fire? Another important thing which has seemed to us very essential and that is, train one horse and have him continually on the spot where he could be almost instantly put to the hose cart and gallop to the scene of conflagration. This would necessitate some expense, but what is a little expense compared to the benefit possibly to be derived from it? When there are but two or three men to pull the cart and that some distance from the city hall, as it was Tuesday morning, how great is the time lost that could be saved in keeping a horse, to do quickly what men must do slowly! There never is a fire but what some one comes in, justly or otherwise, for much condemnation, but that does not mend matters.

William Jennings Bryan says that the press will not let him alone, for when he was before the public campaigning, he was severely criticised, and since joining the army he has not been without abuse, notwithstanding his particular silence on all political questions. There is a gleam of truth in what William says. We did not believe it was proper to appoint Mr. Bryan to a colonelcy in the army, not that we had any particular objection to Mr. Bryan, but because we believe that all such places should be given to those who have been especially educated for them where it is possible to do so, otherwise appointing untrained men. It cannot be told how many of these experienced officers would have failed because the crucial test did not come, they had no opportunity to show to the world their natural ability in this particular line. But one thing can be truthfully said for Mr. Bryan that since his appointment as colonel of the Nebraska troops, he has tended to his business and said comparatively nothing about politics or the war. In a word, he has dignified himself in army etiquette and that is to maintain silence. There are certain journals that have kept up a constant fusillade at the gentleman during all the time. These papers are bitterly opposed to Bryan, but they will do more to keep him before the people than they will in driving him away. There is such a thing as personal censure which the American people can not well stand. The wisest or best thing to do is to let Bryan alone or commend him for attending to his business while a colonel in the United States army.

Battle of Manila by an Eye Witness.
(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

Now we are in barracks and feeling all right. Our company is detached from the regiment and are all doing inspecting and office work at the custom house; that is something to other army in the world could do—take an entire company and put them at office work.

Now I must tell you how I got shot; that is the reason I have not been able to write before. The next morning after the battle, there was a building in the other part of the city all closed up. The officers had no idea there was anybody in there, but in the morning they opened fire on us and a stray bullet struck me in the wrist of the left hand and grazed along toward my elbow. It was simply a flesh wound and is most all healed, but I was making some coffee for the boys and was just lifting it off the fire when the bullet struck. I dropped the boiling coffee and it went all over my left foot. I have been in the hospital ever since but am all right now. The doctors in our regiment are not worth a hill of beans. The sole of my foot was blistered, and the doctor never came around for four hours, and then not until Colonel Cotton gave them a raking over the head. That made them mad and they just wrapped it up without putting any thing on it, and when the rag was taken off the next morning, the skin all came off with it. However, it is almost well now, though I have to go around on crutches.

I will have to hurry and get this ready as the mail is to be collected in ten minutes.

F. B. Bacon.
1st Reg. Co., L. Neb. Vol.

Has Human Nature Changed?
Human nature is the same in Grants Pass as it is in other places. We, the human family, or some of us at any rate, seem to take a keen delight in riding over our weaker brothers.

A few days ago I walked down to the river for a glimpse of one of the prettiest bits of scenery about Grants Pass.

There is a platform a few feet below the bridge and some distance from the shore, and on this sat two boys, one of them probably 18, the other not more than 12. Another boy of 12 or 13 was rowing about in a boat on hearing the others call to him, he rowed up to them. As soon as they were in the boat and the little oarsman began to pull for the shore, the big bully stood with his feet on the sides of the boat and began rocking it from side to side, making it dip water.

The little fellows both begged him to stop but he kept on until he was tired of the "sport". I'm sorry that I wasn't in that boat. It would have been fun for me to pitch that fellow into the river. I wasn't in the boat, however. You little fellows take the advice of an old boatman and the next time a fellow tries to bully you in a boat, hit him with the butt of an oar. Hit hard, too.

WALLACE DEER.

A Choice Dairy Ranch For Sale.
We have for sale within eight miles of this city one of the best dairy ranches in Oregon, which we offer for sale at a bargain to any one who has money to put into a business of this kind. Write us for particulars; it costs but a little to inquire.

For Sale.
A good saddle or pack horse, weighs about 1000 pounds. Just the horse for prospecting or camping. Inquire of Will Ireland at Cramer Bros.

Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER
Absolutely Pure

A Word From Iowa.
To the Editor of the Courier.
My Dear Sir: You may remember the writer of this note as one who preached for the pastor of the Presbyterian church in Grants Pass on the hot Sunday that he ever saw, last July. Being a guest in your town for a week with a friend of childhood days, Mrs. H. C. Kinney, I had the pleasure of meeting many of your citizens and learning something of your city. Certainly, to use one of Paul's phrases, they are "citizens of no mean city." Grants Pass seemed to me one of the pleasantest and most promising communities that I was in while looking about quite a bit in western Oregon and Washington. Even the terrific heat of a maximum of one hundred and four to one hundred and eight every day for a week I was there with a friend of childhood days, Mrs. H. C. Kinney, I had the pleasure of meeting many of your citizens and learning something of your city. Certainly, to use one of Paul's phrases, they are "citizens of no mean city." 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