Rogue River Courier.

AN INDEPENDENT PAPER, DEVOTED ESPECIALLY TO THE INTERESTS OF SOUTHERN OREGON.

VOL. XV · GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1899. · No. 13

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FLOUR AND FEED.

Miners' Supplies a Specialty.
Cash Paid for Produce.

Local Happenings

Shoes repaired at Hackett's.

Notary Public at the COURIER office.

Bicycle hospital for all repairing at Cramer Bros.

Still on top. Pheby, the artist, at the Carbon Studio.

Take your blacksmithing to Trimble & Bacher for first-class work.

See the Quartz Improved Location notices at the COURIER office.

J. N. Gotcher of Williams was on the streets of the Pass last Saturday.

For a first-class meal, go to the City Hotel; B. A. Williams, proprietor.

W. C. Stites of Williams came to town through the storm last Friday returning home on Saturday.

The commissioners court, after transacting a great deal of business at its late session, adjourned last week.

The "Alabama," which was to put in an appearance at the opera house last Saturday evening, failed to materialize. The company was also thrown out at Ashland on account of the train's being late.

J. C. Harper reports that he had to keep ten or a dozen horses constantly on the road on the mountain this side of Crescent City while the snow was falling last week, in order to keep the road open for the stage.

T. H. Warford made a trip last week over his telephone line to Crescent City to make some improvements. Mr. Warford put a fine new phone at Crescent and expects soon to put a new phone in the Grants Pass office.

Senator C. E. Harmon spent several days in the Pass last week but has returned to his post to attend to his duties as Josephine county's legislator. Mr. Harmon commends Governor Geer's message as being the one thing needful at this time.

These are dangerous times for the health. Croup, colds and throat troubles lead rapidly to consumption. A small bottle of One Minute Cough Cure used at the right time will preserve life, health and a large amount of money.—W. F. Kremer.

Mrs. Susan Norwood of Portland has spent several days in Grants Pass lately with the view of making a purchase of property, if she can find something that suits her. Mr. Norwood is interested in some mining operations out on Williams creek.

J. A. Jenning and his wife returned from Portland where Mr. Jennings had been to have his arm treated. He feels that he now has permanent relief, but if not, will have the arm amputated. The gentleman looks as though he had gone through with a great deal of suffering during his brief stay in Portland.

La Grippe is again epidemic. Every precaution should be taken to avoid it. Its specific cure is One Minute Cough Cure. A. J. Sheperd, publisher of the Agricultural Journal and Advertiser, Elden, Mo., says: "No one will be disappointed in using one Minute Cough Cure for La Grippe." Pleasant to take, quick to act.—W. F. Kremer.

Twenty Additions.

H. A. Smith, Deputy State organizer for the United Artisans, spent several days in town recently in the interest of the order. While Mr. Smith was in the city he succeeded in working up such enthusiasm among the members as to increase Grants Pass Assembly No. 49 twenty members. This lodge is prospering in Grants Pass and from reports it seems that the order is flourishing throughout the state.

County Court Proceedings.

Last week we published a partial list of the doings of the county court, and below we give the balance of the proceedings:

J R Hale coffin pauper	15
James A Pool board pauper	10 50
G W Colvig ex insane	5
A A Porter viewing road	12
M W Espey " "	4
John D Fry " "	8
Eclus Pollock, Assessors fees	105
S P D & L Co mdse	5 33
T J Mackin "	9 52
R L Bartlett stationery	10
R H Dean care pauper	42
C B Watson dist atty fees	20
John Hartman, drayage	5
Joseph Meyers med at	32 50
H A Dunbar typewriting	2
Alonzo Jones, wood	55 00
Theo Mott work on cem	3 60
Irwin Hodson Co sta	1 50
J P Galeener work on cemetery	3
Cramer Bros mds	2 50
Geo E Burgess mds pauper	26 20
E A Wade " "	24
Frank L Smith bridge work	17
Irwin Hodson Co mdse	2
W W Woolfolk wood pauper	2
Meade M B work court house	2
J T Taylor treas stationary stmps	4 55
Dr Kremer med service pauper	74 60
Dr Moore exam insane	5
J R Hale mdse pauper	21
Robt Johnson diging grave pauper	2 50
Geo H Briggs jury list Kerby	3
Wm M Bunch assistant	2
Geo H Bunch "	2
Dr VanDyke med service pauper	57 50
F W Chausse printing tax list	121 45
Calhoun Grocery Co mds pauper	6
R L Bartlett stamps	15
" " expressage	4 10
J D Hayes, teachers ex	9
Mrs " " "	9
" " "	2 25
Jerome Benson keeping paupers	24 50 82
J H Colby work on cemetery	1
John Tiger burial pauper	22 50
Henry Huck wood court house	13
Dr Whipp med att pauper	20
G P L Co mdse	7 50
John Smith bld granite sidewalk	40
Mrs B A Piatt work co jail	4 50
Ed Lister swamps etc	16 10
Logan and Hopkins mdse	28 90
Ed Lister board prisoners	38 28
Witness fees Sept. term court	156 20
Jurrors fee " " "	532 50
Mitchell board pauper	34 85
ROGUE RIVER COURIER printing	27 50
Orr Brown drawing jury	3
Wilson assistant	2
F L Cousino "	2
L V Stewart atty fees	9
W R Nipper justice fees	12 30
Hamlin constable fees	12 50
James Coffee witnes fees	2
J H Miller " "	1 60
Nancy Coffee " "	2
E Christian " "	2 10
Amanda Coffee witness fees	2
J Larimore jury fee	1 40
J Davidson " "	1 30
James Turvey " "	1 50
Rial Cougle " "	1 30
Sam Tetherow " "	1 10
Jesse Gotcher " "	1 10
John Howell " "	1 10
M W Espey booths June election	2 50
W M Hefling services to pauper	8
W S Wood board pauper	19
R P George com salary	32
Nick Thoss " "	26 40
Smith & Holman coffin for Allen	15
W E Dean & Co pauper act	22 40
N B Meade guard state v Gentner	2
Lister & Calvert livery " "	3
Joseph Wolke mds court house	12 95
A P Harth extrac teeth for pauper	5
Geo Carpy pat tp 37	1
Oregon Observer, printing	20 25
M Clemens, mdse	12 95
D D Clemens & Co pauper acct	13
A K Russ " "	16
Jas Holman fees state vs Hartman	4 30
J H Colby " " " "	2
L V Stewart " " " "	5
Jas Holman justice " " Booth	4 90
J H Colby constable " " "	1 50
JosHolman justice state v Triplett	6 40
J H Colby constable " " "	6 40
Ruby Jackson, witness " " "	1 50
Dr Flannagan " " "	1 50
Annie Chapin " " "	5 90
L V Stewart dist atty " "	5
Jas Holman justice stat v Robinson	11 60
J H Colby constable " " "	6 40
L V Stewart dist atty " " "	2 50
J H Keenan witness " "	1 50
F W Huggarth " " "	1 50
E O Barden " " "	1 50
M Clemens " " "	1 50
H L Truax " " "	1 50
Jos Moss " " "	1 50
P H Harth juror " "	1
J A Jennings " " "	1
J G Schmidt " " "	1
John Patrick " " "	1
M Johnson " " "	1
T P Judson " " "	1
J G Hiatt exp to Grants Pass	4
G P N W L & P Co water and lit	24
Jas Holman justice, state v Booth	7 20
J H Colby constable " " "	14 40
H L Robinson witness " " "	3 90
Dave Robinson " " " "	3 90
Dan Robinson " " " "	3 90
Wm Tubly " " " "	2 10
A Avery " " " "	4 50
Isaac Van Dorn " " " "	4 50
Chas Van Dorn " " " "	4 50
M Clemens " " " "	1 50
Jas Holman justice state v Gentner	20 45
J H Colby constable " " "	35 10
L V Stewart dist atty " " "	10
J W York witness fe " " "	4 10
Geo Wiley " " " "	3 50
Ward Jeter " " " "	3 50
A H Carson " " " "	3 50
Clyde Jeter " " " "	3 50
W P Jeter " " " "	3 50
L W Carson " " " "	3 50
Jeff Lindsey " " " "	6 70
John Hall " " " "	1 50
J S Purdom " " " "	1 50
Wm Soverns " " " "	2 50
Wm Byrne " " " "	2 30
Chas Burkhalter " " " "	4 70
Wilbur Williams " " " "	3 50
Hank Reid " " " "	3 30
Wm Swinden " " " "	3 70
Frank Hayes " " " "	3 10
Geo Finn " " " "	3 50
J S McFadden " " " "	3 90
Isaac Custer " " " "	3 50
B O McCulloch plat Mt Rubn rd	35
G W Porter chairman " " "	6
A Virtue " " " "	6
R M Lucas " " " "	4
Sam Alderson " " " "	4
J J Pelton " " " "	4
M Morgan " " " "	6
T H Warford, telephone messages	12 40
J H Colby constable fe stat v Truax	6
L V Stewart dist atty " " "	10
J P Galeener juror " " "	1
J R Gunning " " " "	1
J C Taylor " " " "	1
W F Yantis " " " "	1
E Coburn " " " "	1
A Morris " " " "	1 20
Earl Belding witness " " "	2 30
Roy Belding " " " "	2 30
Richard Patrick " " " "	1 50
Claud Barden " " " "	1 50
Abe Axtell Co judge stamps	5
F W VanDyke ins ex	5
Mining Journal printing	6
R P George road work	6 25
J W Howard pauper act	2

In regard to payment of road supervisors the following amounts were ordered paid.

No. 1	F W Sawyer	$8
" 2	G W Lewis	42
" "	Wm Goodman deputy	12
" 3	A Every	36
" 4	J W York	20
" 5	H H Sparlin no report	
" 6	J R White	52
" 7	A Munson	36
" 8, 9, 10, 11, no report		
" 12	J T Prince	26
" 13	Antone Hanseth	26
" 14	W F Hogue	28
" 15	R A N Reymer	40 50
" 16	Thos Rowley	6 50
" 17	W Adams	18
" 18	P E M Burrows	18
" 19	A M Jess	13
" 20	J McCoolin	56
" 21	No bill	
" 22	T J Mackin	28
" 23	H M Morgan	42

A suitable dictionary was ordered for the county clerks office, county judge instructed to purchase same.

It was ordered that a warrant for $8 95 be drawn in favor of S. F. Cass to make good amount paid by him for delinquent tax sale of property of F. W. Baltes as the same was a mistake.

In the matter of the county making an appropriation for the building of the Leland and Mt. Ruben wagon road the court makes the following memorandum of expression as follows: This court at this time expresses itself by saying that for the completion of said road and to be used as such and not otherwise, is willing to make an appropriation at the April term of said court if neccessary on part of the county in the sum not exceeding $750 which includes the building of all necessary bridges on said road.

In the matter of a new road in district No 11, by petition of H. O. McIntosh, John Mackin, Sam Anderson of Leland, and Will Smith of Wolf Greek were appointed as viewers to meet with the county surveyor at Wolf Creek on Feb. 7, 1899, to make view and survey of said proposed road.

In the matter of the petition and proposition of Thos. G. Reames made and filed in this court, representing as agent and attorney in fact, for the present owner and holder of certain Josephine county warrants, viz warrants Nos 180, 181, 182, 183, 184 and 185 aggregating $3175 in amount issued Sept. 17, 1890, to the San Francisco Bridge Co. said warrants stands against the county as the same is as yet wholly unpaid by reason of an injunction against the payment of the same issued by a court of jurisdiction restraining the payment of the same. The court hereby defers action on said petition and propositon filed herein by T G Reames agent and attorney in fact until the April term next following this. This court at this time looking favorable upon said petition and proposition, but defers further action thereon for want of certain affidavits to be filed herein for record pertaining to this matter which said T. G. Reames has promised to procure and file herein at the earliest possible moment.

Court adjourned to meet next April.

Geer's Message.

Governor Geer speaks to the legislative assembly in tones that mean something, if that body will act upon his suggestions. For the benefit of our readers we publish some of the most important parts of the message.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OREGON:

Elected by my fellow citizens to serve them during the next four years as their chief magistrate, I come before you to assume the official obligation which requires me to support the constitution of the United States, the constitution of the state of Oregon and to see that the laws shall be faithfully executed. Deeply conscious of the great responsibility attaching to the position which has been assigned me and profoundly grateful for the expression of confidence in me, which has been so generously shown, I approach the performance of my new duties with a clearly defined ambition and intention to serve all the people of Oregon with fairness and with fidelity.

In compliance with the constitutional provision which requires the legislature to meet every two years, you are now assembled for the purpose of considering the wants of the people and of improving their condition wherever it is possible by legislative enactment. By virtue of another requirement of the same instrument it is made the duty of the executive to give an outline of the measures which, in his judgment, should engage the attention of the legislature. In obedience to this mandate, I will ask your consideration of a few suggestions, the heeding of which it is thought will subserve the best intersts of the people. Your biennial assemblage is not to be regarded as a period of recreation, but rather as one of work and application. Your coming together is simply a plain business proposition. You are ninety men bearing the great distinction of having been chosen to transact important business for 500,000 people, and the same adherence to the principles of economy that governs you in your private matters should guide you with double force in the care and expenditure of public money. While ours is believed to be one of the most economically administered state governments in the Union, the fact furnishes no reason why still further reductions should not be made wherever possible.

Fortunately, as it seems to me, there is no demand and, therefore, no necessity for any great amount of general legislation. The condition of the state does not require it. No radical changes are needed anywhere, and during the pending session I advise every legislator to be careful as to what public or private interest he undertakes to affect by his proposed legislation. The most searching investigation would find it difficult to recall a period during the past 25 years when there was so little adverse criticism of existing conditions by the people or the press, or when there was so little demand for any kind of new legislation. The general trend of our law-making efforts during the last few years seems to have been in the interest of the people, and since the world is governed too much anyway, you can, perhaps, pursue no safer policy than to accomplish what little legislation seems necessary within the next 30 days and adjourn without further expense to the state or yourselves.

This consummation is not only desirable, but feasible, in view of the work already done by your honorable bodies during the special session in October last. The same industry shown during the next thirty days would easily meet all the demands of the people, and it is, therefore, earnestly hoped that you will give them a shorter session than the constitutional limit of forty days. Each day you are at the capital, whether in session or not, costs the state more than $1,000, and since your own compensation is too small to offer any inducement to remain longer than the public interest actually requires, it is hoped that the general wish for an early adjournment will be granted. During the special session in October you appropriated $28,000 for your own expenses besides $40,000 for a legislative abortion two years before for which the people did not receive so much as one cent in return. In view of this, it is hoped that we are not now confronted by another appropriation of $40,000 for a full forty day's session. The various committees appointed to persue certain lines of investigation during your vacation have worked diligently and their reports, being now ready, will materially advance your work on the outset. As a rule, the best legislative results are secured during the first few weeks of a session, and if any scheme, job or ill-advised measure succeeds, it is always the product of the leisure time which the longer session affords. I am extremely anxious that this legislature shall make a record that will meet the approbation of the people, and there is not a tax-payer in the state who would not speak approvingly of an adjournment at the end of a 30 day's session.

It will not be possible to do so, however, if the usual custom of introducing a flood of bills on all conceivable subjects is to be perpetuated. The number of bills introduced at the average regular session almost, if not quite, equals the whole number of laws on our statute books; and since few of them are of an original nature it follows that, as a rule, they are simply attacks, in one form or another, on existing laws. No sooner does the common citizen become acquainted with what the law is, than a subsequent legislature changes it, and he finds himself in trouble before he knows it. Even the practicing lawyer, with the aid of a large library and the help of the courts, finds it difficult to fathom the meaning of the average legislature, and when this is so, what is to become of the working man in the foothills of a distant country who has no assistance in the matter but his weekly newspaper?

Thomas' Cash Store

OPPOSITE DEPOT.

Its no joke when our patrons say, "We have the greatest assortment in town at prices that clean out their pocket books." We make no allowance for bad debts or loss of interest on slow payments, if we did we could not afford to sell at our popular low prices.

To make room for new goods we close out a line of winter Underwear, heavy 17 oz. goods, wool fleece lined, were cheap at $1.40 per suit but they must go at the unmatched price of 55c per garment.

Boys winter Caps, 25c.
Sweaters, 22 oz. goods, 48c up.
Corset Clasps, 8c pair.
Four yards bias Velveteen Skirt Binding for 10c.
Red Embroidery Cotton, 3 for 5c.
Agate Buttons, 144 for 10c.
Safety Leather Watch Chains, 5c.
Tinware, Dishpans, 15c up, 6 qt. Milkpans, 6c.
Stewpans with Cover, 10c, 1 Gal. Oil Cans, 15c.
Klondyke Coffee Mills, 15c.
Granite Iron Rice Boilers, large size, complete, 95c.
Slop Pails with cover, 45c.
Saw Clamps, 75c; Gate Hooks cattle can't open, 10c.
Nickle Sad Irons, 38c. up.
Orange-wood Tooth Picks, 15c.
Pruning Shears, 40c.; Braces, 20c. up.
10 yards lace edge Shelf Paper, 5c.
Furniture, Matting, Carpets, Linoleum—popular prices.

The interminable multiplicity of conflicting laws is the curse of our legislation, both state and national, and burdens our judiciary whose principal business is to interpret obscure or ambiguous legislative enactments. No law should by passed the intent and effect of which cannot be easily understood by the plain citizen who is patiently building himself and family a home in a remote part of the state and thus upholding and strengthening the outposts of civilization. The laws passed here are for his government; he represents a class of people to which nine-tenths of our fellow citizens belong and to whom we are indebted largely for that subjection of seemingly insurmountable difficulties which gave us originally this magnificent inheritance. This citizen and his class should be in your minds at all times during your deliberations, and especially during the third reading of bills. He is engaged today in that struggle which, if successful, will bring our state to that degree of industrial development which we are all hoping to realize in the near future, but his interests are not represented here, save as they find expression in your votes in these two chambers. He is never represented by the lobbyist and any kind of crooked legislation always result in his injury.

It is to be hoped that you will give the people minimum quantity of legislation at this session. I am disposed to speak with some plainness on this subject for the reason that I have had a somewhat extended service in your ranks and have seen and felt and even been controlled by the tendency to be over-industrious in the matter of new legislation. It is a mistaken idea to suppose that to meet the approbation of your constituents, you must necessarily be conspicuously active; sometimes a man's activity results in his own undoing. One of the greatest dangers that confronts you, gentlemen, is the fact that you have forty days at your disposal in which to do less than thirty days' work. The state's prison is not the only place where an abundance of idle time is a sure progenitor of mischief; it is seen in all walks of life.

Assuming, as I believe I have a right to do, that scores of measures are introduced in every session more from the desire to appear industrious than from a sincere wish that they should become laws, the conclusion that it is all wrong is justified by the fact that it goes to swell the expenses of the state printing, —a source of public expenditure that already amounts to vastly more than it should. Not only so, but it needlessly occupies the otherwise valuable time of the various committees. This thought naturally leads to the further consideration that this buncomb introduction of bills adds greatly to the grievous burden which already bears heavily on the army of committees clerks who are dragged here during every session from their homes in the various parts of the state.

THE COMMITTEE CLERKS.

Allow me say a word here about this matter of clerk hire. My legislative experience reaches back to the regular session 18 years ago and in the meantime I have seen the most meager employment of clerk hire grow into an absolute public evil whose tenacity of life seems to successfully defy the opposition of campaign pledges, platform denunciation and even the public wrath itself. The abuse of this privilege has developed into a public wrong the continuance of which is absolutely without justification, and its abatement, not at some future session, but at this one, involves your reputation and mine for sincerity in the matter of public promises to the people of Oregon. I can go no further, however, than to call your attention to the necessity for its discontinuance in the interests of public economy and the fair treatment of the taxpayers all over the state who can only support their families by constant toil and exposure. These people should never be forgotten when voting money out of the treasury for any purpose, and when you employ, if you do, an army of clerks for whom there is nothing to do, you do an act for which there is no extenuation whatever.

The people are not niggardly and do not require a niggardly policy at your hands. I believe they are perfectly willing to pay a fair and even a liberal compensation to officers who perform duties for which there is a public necessity, but it has been shown time and again that more than one-half the standing committees of either house have no more use for a permanent clerk than they have for a Chinese interpreter.

As a probable means of securing relief to the people in this matter I have investigated the records sufficiently to discover that in 1880 there were employed in the senate 14 clerks and 10 in the house. There were 268 bills introduced in both houses, giving an average of 11 bills to each clerk. In 1882 there were 28 clerks, all told, with 292 bills, giving an average of 10 bills to each clerk. In the session of 1893 there were 153 clerks employed to consider 607 bills, or one clerk to consider every four bills. In 1895 there were 155 clerks employed to properly handle 630 bills, or an average of one clerk to every four bills. Of course, it is not difficult to comprehend the mental and physical exhaustion that must be the portion of a clerk who has been compelled to follow the career of four bills through a session and only 40 days to do it in.

In the session of 1895 the number of senate and house clerks proper was only 138, or 15 fewer than the session previous, but, unfortunately, there appeared at the same session a new species called "joint clerks", 17 in number, who drew nearly $3,000 for "services" and swelled the total number, after all, beyond that of the previous session. To press this question a little nearer home, gentlemen, it becomes necessary to say that while the character and quantity of your work in the special session was very commendable, you employed in both houses 110 clerks to take care of 162 bills, or only one bill and a half to each clerk. The cost of this service was $7,457 or $61 for each clerk and $46 for each bill.

Now, admitting that a number of these clerks are employed on investigating committees, the fact will still remain that the average task of each clerk was to look after not more than two bills, and most of these failed to become laws. We would be compelled to go a long way before finding a taxpayer who would go enthusiastic in support of this sort of business.

The entire reformation of this abuse can be accomplished by a con-current resolution providing for the appointment of a chief clerk, under whose direction a force of committee clerks could be detailed for service from committee to committee, as application might be made to him by the chairman of the different committees. There can be no doubt that 50 clerks employed steadily for eight hours each day could easily do all the clerical work required at any session of the legislature.

RAILROAD LEGISLATION.

In obedience to what seemed to be a popular demand of several years' standing, you repealed at your special session the act creating a state board of railroad commissioners. This leaves the state

(Continued on last page.)

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