

"The man who serves the people best, serves his party most."

Senator John Sherman has accepted the state portfolio in McKinley's cabinet.

Some counties have already abolished the state board of equalization, pending the organization of the house.

Clark Dunlap of Wasco, is a candidate for receiver at the U.S. land office in The Dalles. It would not be possible to name a better man for the position.

The refusal of a set to organize the house at Salem completely blocks the business of the session and none can prophesy when or how the tangle will terminate.

Hon. John Mitchell, senator from this district, has introduced a bill for a state postage railway between The Dalles and Celilo. The bill is a meritorious one and carries with it an appropriation of \$195,000.

Timely rains of November and December saved India from the greatest calamity of the century, so widespread and severe was the drought, but it will not restore a great export deficiency for the current crop.

The hold-up at Salem was still there at last accounts. The Dalles Chronicle fears that Jonathan Bourne is over-reaching himself. That he is feeding and winning the cow county members in a manner they are not accustomed to, and that within two weeks the whole lot will be laid up with the gout.

To the fair minded citizen it looks as though the majority of the members of the legislature should be permitted to vote for Mitchell if they want to, says the Dalles Chronicle. The anti-Mitchell crowd refuse to organize, hoping by delay to weaken Mitchell's forces. That's all there is in it, and that is why our great contemporary is so happily quiet.

Do expositions pay? is one of Mr. Rosewater's questions. Certainly they do, if the managers can turn a stream of people in their direction through the medium of dead-head advertising in the "scrub"-press. Big dailies are paid for such work as this which Mr. R. asks us to contribute, parallel with the home-manufacture scheme.

Unless something better than the bill drafted by Bingham can be presented to the assembly, Oregon wants no registry law. His bill might do for Portland, but in sparsely settled districts would work a hardship on the people, requiring them to journey to the county seat for registration, which should be made in the precinct where the voter resides and be open to public inspection at all times.

If people who have so much to say about abolishing the railway commission, game commissioners office, etc., would study the situation carefully they would join with THE OBSERVER for a new state constitution, abolish the assembly and create one commission to do all the business at 25 per cent present cost. Oregon has now too many Kneads, Irwins and too much assembly and not enough commissions.

Sherman county has no member of the Salem Ass-embly. If he had THE OBSERVER would advise him to do his duty there and come home like a man. The members of that biennial disgrace were elected to do the business of Oregon, to pass such legislation as was needed, and incidentally to elect a United States senator. There are plenty of men in the state capable of filling the office and the plain duty of the assembly is to organize and let the majority name the senator. If Mitchell has the majority, well and good. If he has not, then agree on someone else and attend to business.

The senatorial caucus at Salem was an informal one, but 46 members of the assembly answered as their names were called and each and every response was John H. Mitchell. It was harmonious and in that caucus Mr. Mitchell received the largest number of votes ever cast in Oregon for any candidate for United States senator at a caucus and was declared the nominee for United States senator. THE OBSERVER believes, that having received the nomination honestly and fairly Mr. Mitchell is now fully entitled to re-election and to oppose him now would be as dishonorable in action as the opposition to Mr. Dolph two years ago.

DRIFT OF THE NEWS.

The czar of Russia has the costliest crown in Europe. It is understood that he also stands at the head of the royal insomnia list.

The bolters-organ is electing Mitchell to the United States senate this winter by precisely the same tactics used two years ago to defeat Dolph.

The Venezuelan commission being now out of a job, it might be employed in defining the disputed boundary between the senate and the white house.

Young Whitney and his bride are going back to the modest and good old style of love in a cottage. They have just bought one at Newport for 250,000 and will furnish it in an equidivertent way.

Mr. Rosewater of Omaha, addresses THE OBSERVER a very lurid letter asking for dead-head advertising. Such business as that finds no favor here. The newspaper business is about as legitimate as expositions.

J. M. T. Hartington of Pillar Rock, better known as the Laird of Dunmore, is on a visit to his ancestral estates in the south of Scotland, and hobnobbing with his neighbor across the border, the Duke of Northumberland. He received an elegant "moon" a short time since and attended a fox hunt at Chevy Chase and showed the benighted notherners how they ride in America.

West of the Blue mountains, in Eastern Oregon, very wet weather has been experienced, but in Grande Ronde and Powder river valleys, east of the Blue mountains, the winter has been very dry. In speaking of it the La Grande Chronicle says: "During the fall considerable rain fell, but since the fore part of November the weather has been remarkably dry." In Umatilla county there has been a heavy rainfall, more so than usual in fall and winter.

ONCE WAS ENOUGH. He Was Charitably Inclined, But Not Green. A good story is told by a certain western congressman who came to this city the first time officially at the opening of the present session. One night during the rainy weather the representative was walking along the avenue in the vicinity of Sixth street at a very late hour. It was raining hard, the cable cars had stopped for the night, and there were few people on the streets. The congressman was hurrying to his hotel, tightly grasping an umbrella, which was pulled down over his shoulders. As he neared Sixth street he noticed on the corner an elderly little woman bundled up and holding a worn-out parasol over her head. As he approached the woman she said:

"Mister, will you please tell me how to get to Georgetown? I'm a stranger in the city and want to go to my son's house."

"Georgetown?" exclaimed the congressman, "why, my good woman, you are two or three miles from there and the cars have stopped running. You had better take a cab."

"Is it so far as that?" inquired the poor woman. "Then I'll have to walk, for I have no money," and she sighed heavily over her shoulders.

The lawmaker's heart was touched. He probably thought of one of his own family in a similar predicament. Diving into his trousers pocket, he said:

"Let me assist you, madam. Here are two dollars. Now you walk over to the depot and hire a cab to take you to your son's house."

He pressed the money into the woman's wet hand and hurried on his way, while she murmured: "God bless you, kind sir."

Three nights afterwards, about the same hour, the same congressman was again walking along the avenue. It was a clear, cool night, and being engrossed in a deep study he did not know how long he had been there until the figure of a woman stood in his path, and he heard her say:

"Please, sir, can you tell me the way to Georgetown?"

Glancing at the features of the speaker, the congressman at once recognized the woman he had befriended a few nights before, and, as he cast a frowning glance at her, he said:

"Good Lord, woman, haven't you found your son yet? Well, you just wait for some other idiot to come along. I've been there once—Washington Post."

A GLOOMY OUTLOOK.

He Was Out of Everything Including Health. Mr. Higgs, the provision dealer, was never known to take a cheerful view of life under any circumstances. One morning a customer, on his way down town, called at the store to leave an order, and the following conversation ensued:

"Good morning, Higgs! Fine weather we're having."

"Yes," Higgs admitted, with a deep sigh and a glance around his rather dingy shop, "I s'pose it's what we might call fine weather—out o' doors."

STEAM SHIP'S PRANKS.

The steamer "Titanic" on the Oregon coast, has two steel trumpets and two steel boilers as big as those of a locomotive. They utter blasts of five seconds' duration at intervals of one and one-half minutes, when there is a fog, and they consume one hundred and thirty gallons of water per hour. Their agonizing cries can be heard at a distance of thirty miles under favorable conditions. Nevertheless, it sometimes happens that, while in full operation, they can not be heard at all at a distance of two miles. At the same time they will be audible at seven miles, and audible again at a greater distance from the rock. This curious phenomenon is due to the refraction of sound-waves by wind. It has been found that such a signal, when not heard at one end of the deck of a vessel, will sometimes be loud and clear to the ear of a person ascending to the mast-head. Sometimes it is audible with great volume in one spot and completely inaudible at another. On the 20th of August, one siren and other steam signals have been established by the government at a cost of six hundred thousand dollars, and are maintained at a yearly expense of one hundred thousand dollars.

A lighthouse, which it would be most desirable to connect by telegraph with the mainland, is situated on one of the Farallone islands, twenty-two miles out in the Pacific ocean from San Francisco. The situation is the most desolate imaginable. A powerful light, three hundred and sixty feet above the sea, is supplemented by a fog whistle, blown by the rush of air through a cave which forms a passage opening into the ocean. One of the many caves worn by the surf on the rocks extended to have a hole in its top, through which the incoming breakers violently expelled the air carried before them. The mouthpiece of a great trumpet was fixed to the aperture, and now the waves blow mighty blasts through the instrument, which is only silent for an hour and a half each day. In various other parts of the world are signals made by utilizing such natural orifices in wave-beaten cliffs.

About Opals. The prejudice against opals appears to be disappearing. Anyhow they are popular. There are several varieties of opal and therefore several degrees of merit. The precious opal, or noble, or oriental opal is the supreme. This has all the colors, and when these colors are broken into spangles it is then called the harlequin opal. Then comes the fire opal, or Mexican opal, which is red and yellow red, the former comes from Hungary, the latter from Mexico. The common, or semi-opal, are non-precious. The hyaline, or opalus muris, is non-transparent, but becomes so by immersion in water or any transparent fluid. The chalchali is nearly opaque and of a bluish white color. The hyaline is colorless, pellucid and white. The opal Jasper or wood opal is a petrification of wood, opalescent, but without the coloring which makes the "noble" gem so precious.

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FARM FOR SALE.

The undersigned wishes to dispose of his farm and other real estate of 160 acres, 4 1/2 miles from Dalles, in Sherman county.

100 Acres, more or less, in Sherman county, Oregon. Price \$500 cash.

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I.O.O.F.—MORO LODGE, No. 1121.

meets every Saturday night at 7:30 o'clock. All visiting brethren are cordially invited to attend. Address: S. B. HARRIS, G. C.

WOODRIDGE AND EXCURSION TOURS. Any person who wishes to make a profitable excursion on the coast, or to a good 200 miles, should take a Woodridge excursion for sale cheap by advertisement.

REWARD FOR A STEALY HORSE. Strayed from my place sometime in October, a bay horse, branded GS on the right shoulder. A small white dot in the forehead and on the nose. He is a good horse, and if you find him, please deliver him to the office at my farm near Wasco, known as the Stock market, or suitably for information which he may be found. Address: A. R. SIVB, Wasco, Oregon.

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Mrs. TAMMAGE, wife of the celebrated preacher, is said to be the fiancée of the family. It is she who makes all the doctor's engagements and does his banking business.

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