

EDITOR DEMOCRAT:

The subject of good roads is one of great importance. It is one in which I am deeply interested and have been for many years.

When you study this question you find it reaches out in every direction and touches every vital point.

1st. The expenditure of money for permanent improvement of roads can be defended as a matter of justice to the people living in the country.

2nd. As a matter of advantage to those who do not live in the country.

3rd. The expenditure of money can be defended on the ground that the nation demands that the comforts of country life shall, as far as possible, keep pace with the comforts of city life.

The improvements of roads can be justified on the ground that the farmer, the first and the most important producer of wealth ought to be in a position to market his crop at the most favorable opportunity, at present he is compelled to sell it when harvested or share his profits with the middleman.

James J. Hill said in his speech in Seattle that in six years the U. S. will be importing wheat.

118 years ago in England, they raised 14 bushels of wheat per acre. Now they raise 32 bushels per acre. In Holland they raise 84 bushels per acre.

It is important to the welfare of our government, and for the advancement of civilization that we make life on the farm as attractive as possible.

I believe the government is duty bound to guard the interests of the country population in regard to its highways for carrying its products to market, the same as it is to keep open rivers for transporting commodities from one place to another.

M. A. MILLER.

Not An Ace of Press Muzzle

The New York World says it will not be muzzled, that it proposes to speak out regardless of the President. Regardless of the right or wrong of the present case the World has a right to do so.

There is after all quite a suspicion that there has been a good deal of graft in the Panama affairs. If there is not it should be a favor to the government to have an opportunity to disprove it.

We Can Do It Too.

It asserted that since the great apple show at Spokane, land around Wenatchee, which has obtained a striking reputation on account of it, has increased in value 50 per cent. It was for a fact an immense booster to the country.

Frenzied Thoughts.

Mr. Sheldon's list of contributors to the republican campaign fund will do excellent service for years to come as a political register of our leading American millionaires.

President-elect Taft declares that no one except Mr. Hitchcock has been decided upon for any place in his cabinet so far. We fear Mr. Taft has been reading some of the newspapers very carefully.

This week in Turkey a real parliament was convened, the country's first experiment under a constitutional government. Just how much liberty it will give the people is to be seen.

A prominent man back east has undertaken the job of killing Bryansism. He probably doesn't realize that he is fanning a flame that is liable to blaze again, and at this time this kind of business will not help even the cause he espouses.

The interstate commerce commission this week has been investigating the Pullman service, about which there has been so much complaint. Here it is: Besides the regular railway fare travelers pay the Pullman Co. a rate of \$2 to \$4 a day for a room in its moving hotel.

There has been somewhat of college life in the valley this week, a glee club starting out, some cutting up at Willamette, the staid Methodist school, a fine entertainment at Albany, etc.

The trial of Mr. Jim Finch for murder was begun at Portland this week. The sentiment is almost universal that he is guilty and should hang.

Albany's first electric car arrived this week and will soon be running, a decided change in the affairs of the city, and a welcome one.

The city had a blind pig nuisance case this week, with convictions and fines. There are several others in town, it being well known that the near-beer part of different places is only a guise for the real article and more than that, often corn juice itself.

Under the present arrangement every season has its prominent athletic attraction, now basket ball, later base ball and field sports, then foot ball, in the rounds.

The giving season is here, a good thing for the hearts of men, even though some go to extremes in reciprocity. But better yet is the habit of giving good deeds, kindness, fellowship, brotherly love.

Frenzied Thoughts

When Roosevelt goes to Rome the Romans will do as he does. Maybe Uncle Joe is only blowing smoke in the faces of the tariff revisionists.

Mr. Rockefeller is now convinced that the course of Trust Oil never did run smooth.

Count Boni cannot avoid taking as much interest in the Goulds as if he were still one of the family.

Mr. Carnegie speaks with the calm confidence of the man who has something saved up for a rainy day.

Now that the football season is about over, what is the use in keeping the colleges open? The students would appreciate a vacation until baseball time.

The emperor business is not what it once was.

Inquiring persons who wonder how Mr. Roosevelt can hurt lions and edit The Outlook at the same time don't know Mr. Roosevelt.

Speaking of signs of the times, look at Mr. Carnegie, tariff reformer.

Born

On Dec. 17, 1908, to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. K. Fronk, a boy, their third son. Weight ten pounds. All doing well.

Ed Fortmiller, of the U. of O., came home last night for the holidays.

C. H. NEWS.

Probate:— In estate of S. R. Claypool inventory filed. Real property \$6000, personal \$2550.50. Personal property ordered sold.

In estate of C. R. Butler, will admitted to probate with Minnie F. Butler appointed executrix. Appraisers A. M. Wilson, C. H. Ralston and Albert Wilson. \$100 is left to each of two children, all the rest to his wife. Value of property \$2000.

In estate of Chas. H. Greer, Anna Greer is appointed administratrix. Appraisers, C. H. Ralston, H. Y. Kirkpatrick and R. E. Wiles.

Marriage license Ira S. Trexler, aged 37, of Scio, and Katie I. Miller, aged 28, of Shelburn.

Deeds recorded:— H. W. Croker to R. J. Prince lot H's 2nd ad. \$ 380 Ed Kellenberger to Ida Mayer lot Lebanon 350 John Wither to N. W. Smith 4 a Lebanon 800 J. W. Stewart to Ole Oaness 30 a H. F. W. Hamilton to Chas. M. Hamilton 30 a 300 Commodore Carey to H. F. W. Hamilton 40 a 1 J. W. Driver to Carrie I. Driver 1 lot H's 2nd ad. 1000 Margaret Carstens to Anna H. Dithner 40 a 12 1/2 W. Est. Sarah Sprague to S. C. Hyde & wf. 325

Plat A. P. Morris, addition to Lebanon, with 10 lots, filed.

Strange as it may seem there is always a rush for No. 13 of the hunters licenses. Tom Cummings is already a prominent candidate for that popular No. for 1909. Next to that is No. 23.

Deeds recorded. Jas. A. McWilliams to D. S. McWilliams, 6 1/2 ac. \$ 1000 Calvin Stewart to W. C. Nicholson, 280 acres. 9800 Carroll Springer to John M. Taylor, 5 acres. 600

Mortgage for \$600.

At the Hotels.

C. D. Thomas, Portland. C. H. Traer, Corvallis. S. B. Byars, Portland. Jack Currie, again from Portland. D. H. Weyant, Salem. George Morrison, Dundee. M. N. Anderson, Toledo. L. Quimby, Portland. J. M. Day, Portland. Geo. Whitesides, Corvallis. R. L. Wells, Portland. Mrs. E. M. Abbott, Jacksonville. H. B. Hall, Portland. Geo. B. Keedy, L. A. Gerhard, after a good ride at the Elk's hall. L. E. and S. W. Rosebrook, Portland.

Finch's Defense.

The Oregonian says the defense of J. A. Finch will now be self-defense, that it is claimed B. J. Walls and C. M. Kissinger while on the street saw a struggle in the office through the window. Several who were intended to be secured as witnesses the Oregonian says were crossed out, as follows: G. B. Milloy, Scappoose; Dr. B. F. and Annie Martin, Creswell, where Finch once resided; Rev. D. H. Leach and M. E. Minter, Corvallis; P. R. Kelley, Geo. Gilchrist and S. H. Cleveenger, Albany; Dr. J. L. Hill and Gale S. Hill, Eugene, meaning Albany.

A Blow Out.

The new commutator at the electric light station, put in to run the new street car, celebrated the event with a blow out, when being tried, and it was almost a miracle the man in charge was not injured. A few pieces flew in a very lively manner. It is being repaired and will be ready for use in a day or two, perhaps so the car can be running by Monday. The wire is up, but the connections have not all been completed at the depot end.

Some Tax Bargains.

C. M. Giddings, of this city has purchased the delinquency of the Linn county tax roll for 1907, aggregating about \$1700, certificates having been issued him. This will draw interest at the rate of 15 per cent, and any tax may be foreclosed at the proper time. A bargain lot of delinquency is that of the N. P. Co. for \$3,047, said to be a very uncertain quantity.

Case Appealed.

Notice of appeal was filed today in the case of the city against Al. Peacock, found guilty by Recorder Redfield, on the charge of the violation of the liquor nuisance law, and the case will come up in the circuit court for trial before a jury.

areome oil paintings at Chas. Knechts by worth noticing. They were done SIB. R. Altermatt, a young man of this city, and display a good deal of talent. The scenes are good ones.

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CASNOW

SCIO.

A Ten Mill Tax Voted for the School's.

News: The Scio Milk Condensing Co. is making contracts for lumber, cans, labels, wood, etc.

The News learns that there is a tale of scandal in circulation in Scio and vicinity in which the name of a member of one of our most respected families is involved.

Just a bare half-dozen taxpayers attended the special school meeting last Monday afternoon. Voted a 10 mill tax.

Mr. E. T. Judd, of the Hazelwood Creamery, Portland, was in the city on Tuesday. Mr. Judd, during a very pleasant call at our office, informed us that he had disposed of and delivered to John I. Shelton, one of the Hazelwood machines, which is the first machine of this character to be set up in the vicinity of Scio.

Assessor D. B. McKnight should make note of the following fact, when he makes his next year's assessment for purposes of taxation: A sale of five timber claims, of 160 acres each, is in progress and no doubt will be consummated, by a timber syndicate which has large holdings of timber. These claims are located on Thomas and Crabtree Creeks, where this syndicate owns several thousand acres. The offer to purchase made is \$8000 per claim of \$1 per thousand feet stumpage.

AT EUGENE

The Experiences of the High School teams.

The high school debaters and basket ball players returned this morning from Eugene, where they had numerous experiences yesterday.

In the afternoon the debate occurred, Messrs Peery and Bryant and Miss Weaver representing the Albany school in an able manner. The judges Senator Buchanan, of Roseburg, Prof. Strong of the U. of O. and Mr. J. J. Bryan, of Springfield, decided in favor of Eugene.

In the evening a very fast game of basket ball was played on a canvas floor, a poor affair for basket ball. At the end of time each side had scored 14. Eugene then ignorantly protested a decision of the referee, Prof Marquam, made in the early part of the game, and refused to play the game out, when the referee gave it to Albany 2 to 1. A protest can only be made after the game is finished, not during its progress. Besides there was nothing in the contention.

The account of the Register this morning is eminently unfair and besides is incorrect, mixing things up terrifically. The foul which it says was called by Umpire Stine was called by Referee Marquam himself, and those who saw the game declare an official could not have been more fair.

A House Party.

There is an all day house party at Mr. Fred Fortmiller's today in honor of Mrs. Jos. Nixon, of Farmington, Wash., who has been visiting her different relatives in the valley for some time. Besides the Albany people a number are present from other places: H. Y. Kirkpatrick and family and Mrs. C. H. Ralston and family and Miss Fannie Griggs, of Lebanon; E. U. Lee, county clerk, and family, of Eugene, and Mrs. Dr. Lee, of Junction. A live crowd of relatives, with plenty to eat.

Lebanon.

The E. A.: E. C. Alexander, wife and son Leo arrived here yesterday from San Francisco and will make their home in this city. He is a brother of G. L. Alexander, is a newspaper man and will assist in the publication of this paper.

Senator M. A. Miller has purchased the two buildings occupied by the bakery and Fitzwater's confectionery store from G. B. Hansard. He has also purchased the old blacksmith shop next to the city hall from D. H. Curl.

Sports.

Dwyer threw O'Connell at Portland last night once in an hour. The Oregonian says it was a fake, that Dwyer could have thrown him about as often as he pleased.

Willie Hoppe, the boy billiardist is now a man, being 21 yesterday, and challenges the world.

Multnomah and Whitworth are to play at Portland on New Years. Multnomah evidently wants some money in its treasury.

Misall and Knapp's Xmas windows on Main street are attracting considerable attention. The neat display of groceries, arranged in holiday colors would do credit to a much larger city.

Lee & Neely announce that they are in the delivery business to stay, and promise continued and prompt service.

Christmas is coming. Johnny Kruse has his trees around the Stetter corner. George Dooley is up from Columbia University, for a holiday visit at home.

Roy W. Spating went to Eugene this afternoon to spend a few days at Sigma Nu with Budge Stewart.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Bussard and niece, Ruth Bussard, came over from the Bay today to spend the holidays at home.

G. F. Skipworth and H. C. Mahon, of Eugene, returned home this afternoon after a business trip to Albany.

Will Gwynn, a prominent Forest Grove student and athlete, went to the Bay this afternoon to spend the holidays.

Dr. Silverwood, V. S., returned last night from Eastern Oregon, and Idaho, where he had been examining stock for the government.

Get in practice sweating off. Now is a good time.

Ninety-six murders and two hangings. Get a move on.

Amateur theatrical hugs are always a show in themselves.

The newspapers have gone into the cabinet making business.

Albany is a hot number. It snowed all around but not here.

People wonder how other people can give such fine presents.

Love letters written by other people are always silly affairs.

Wonder if any of the blind pigs will swear off. Why not try it.

The tipping system is getting it in the neck in Chicago. Stab it.

Castro of Caracas is beneath a foot ball rush, mashed and battered out of office.

It took just a little dinkey revolution, a south end affair, to put Carracas on the map.

The small paper is a blessing. It saves skimming a lot of unreadable padded matter.

Any way Santa Claus is a reality. Any man's pocket book on Dec. 26 will swear to that.

A few thousand dollars in pension checks will help out the Christmas trade in Albany.

Albany should have a fine high school building, a credit to the railroad center of the valley. Think of it.

A woman has as much right to know where her husband goes as a husband to know where his wife goes.

Never do anything people can have a chance to gossip about. It takes a long time to build up what can be torn down in a day.

First street along the sides has been cleaned up for the holidays. Thanks. Now, please don't throw your trash along the curbs.

Things are lively back at Washington. The President has insulted the Senate, and the New York World has insulted the President.

A Portland firm who wants to help circumvent the local option law sends a circular offering to send a rich mellow whiskey, aged in wood, etc.

Cleveland became rich on his salary and Roosevelt has made a good cleanup, and yet Bourne wants the president's salary doubled. This is about what he really gets now.

The drummer who knocks a town because he doesn't happen to sell goods in it, is in small business. One was doing that this morning, when an Albany man told him he would make a good fertilizer.

According to the Telegram leading physicians of Portland declare the medical department of the U. of O. a fake and a joke. It certainly adds to the number of scholars and helps spend money.

The statement is made that America is in the grip of the opium habit. Also some other mighty mean habits. But there are people who say you are interfering with our royal American liberty if you order any of these habits stopped.

A Pullman official before the interstate commerce commission said porters were tipped because one passenger wanted better service than others. A barefaced falsehood. They are tipped in order to secure any kind of service. But the worst tipping is that of the dining service waiters, which knock the porters silly.

Mrs. Miller, of Junction, while on her way home from Portland, this noon stopped off on a visit with her sister, Mrs. M. Brannan.

H. F. Merrill was in Salem yesterday afternoon looking up the death record of the late Martin Miller, for the A. O. U. W., of which he was an old member.

Mrs. E. R. Huston and daughter, of near Heppner, arrived this noon on a visit with her mother, Mrs. J. R. Stewart, and sisters, Mrs. Davis and Miss Vira Stuart, and many friends. Mr. Huston will be here tonight.

Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Beach, of Palouse Wash., have been in the city today, the guests of Mr. Beach's sister, Mrs. George, while on their way to San Diego, Calif., to spend the winter, leaving on the noon train.

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D. SWIFT & CO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Senator Fulton prodded Chairman Elkins today in an effort to get a report on Fulton's rate bill. Elkins made no reply and evidently will make no report.

Senator Bourne introduced bills making the salary of the president and vice president \$100,000 and \$25,000 respectively. He also amended his bill restricting the Oregon customs districts.

PORTLAND, Dec. 18.—Two men were arrested today on suspicion of being implicated in last night's train robbery. Both are said to answer the description. The only money secured was \$3.30 taken from the messenger and \$600 worth of diamonds.

C. H. NEWS

Articles incorporating the Albany Condensed Milk Co. filed. Incorporators H. G. Fisher, Henry Lyons, H. M. Palmer. Capital stock \$50,000 in shares of \$100.

Marriage license: E. M. Arehart, aged 22, and Pearl M. Aldrich, aged 19, of Lebanon.

Probate:— Will of Mary J. Aunspaugh admitted to probate. Value of property, real \$500, personal \$565. It leaves \$10 to Thos. Aunspaugh, and all the rest to Eli Aunspaugh, a son, and Merritt Aunspaugh, a grandson.

Deeds Recorded:— Araminta Phillips to K. of P's Scio, part of lot..... \$ 600 M. Burnap to Luzetta Hardman 51.17 acres..... 10 Paul Streitler to Anna M. Sharp 2 lots bl 4 H's 3rd ad..... 10 C. O. Gentry to E. D. Guernsey & wf 2 blocks Lebanon..... 2000

Releases of mortgages for \$9400 and \$50.

News From Albany's Six Early Trains.

It was a busy place around the depot. On the south some men were tearing down the old baggage room, over which A. D. Barker officiated for about 35 years. On the north a gang of men were trying to get the new street car, sent up from Eugene, because not enough business there for it, on the main track ready for business, and further north Pete Ruattner was sweating in the cool morning breeze, moving half the depot hotel through the fields to its new foundation.

Mrs. Wilson, wife of the Pacific Telephone Co's manager, and daughter, returned from an extended visit in San Jose and Oakland.

Dr. D. M. Jones came down from Lebanon and went to Salem for a Sunday visit.

Miss Buena Bicknell went to Marion to spend the holidays with her folks. Lawyer E. E. Wilson, of Corvallis, went northward.

M. Winter returned from southern points. J. R. Wyatt left on a legal trip to Portland.

Miss Martha Montague, an Albany student, went to Portland to spend the holidays with her folks.

Mr. Rogaway went to Portland on a business trip. Prof. Kent returned to Corvallis.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Simpson went to Portland. Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Colpitts went to Portland.

R. F. Shier returned to the Gold Creek mines. Bert Veal left on a Portland trip.

No 16 was three hours late, and there were two sections to No. 18, making seven or eight trains in the yard about the same time, a regular metropolitan business.

A Party.

Last evening at her home in the third ward Mrs. Ambrose Bowers was tendered a very pleasant surprise party by her neighbors.

The evening was pleasantly spent in games, and contests, after which a delicious lunch was served. A novel feature of the evening was the sketching of each others photo and writing the names with puzzles. Miss Carma Knox winning first prize, with Mrs. W. E. Gilbert capturing the booty. Those present being:

Madam's G. M. Knox, C. A. Peacock, W. E. Gilbert, O. B. Neptune, H. E. Ellsworth, Misses Emma and Clara Buckner, Carma and Cecil Knox, Edna Gilbert and Winnie Knox, Masters Freddie Ellsworth and Jennings Bowers.

During the evening Miss Carma Knox was voted the prettiest girl in the third ward and Mrs. C. A. Peacock the most popular lady.

College Board Met.

A session of the college board was held last night, when several important matters were considered.

The report of the alumni committee showed good work being done.

A committee was appointed to consult with a landscape gardener in the matter of the general improvement of the college grounds, making a gradual development into a pretty place.

Several improvements in the work of the college are in contemplation.

A Timber Deal.

Yesterday afternoon Fish & Holges of this city completed the sale of about nine hundred acres of timber land in Benton county towards the west end to the Noon Lumber Co. of Portland. It is said the company will establish a large saw mill four or five miles west of Blomhall, and begin sawing the coming year.