The Gantiam News.

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT.

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T. L. DUGGER
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A REMARKABLE COMMUNICATION.

A most remarkable communication appeared in the Albany Daily Democrat of the 5th inst., over the signature "J," in which the author attempts to answer a local that appeared in the News of April 21 under the caption, "Won a second Contest." The article in question is remarkable for several reasons. Nearly two columns of space is consumed to say what could have been expressed in a much more intelligent manner with two sticks of type, and attempts a defense of what its author knows to be unlawful. So earnest does "J" become that one is forced to conclude that he is, in a great measure, defending himself. He must have made homestead entry in the same manner that "hundreds of others" have. This explains why he rushes to the rescue and intimates that the News man is a "brainless idiot."

"J" states that Messrs. Gaines, Moore, Leever, Gaines and Sexton made entry in the same manner that "hundreds of others" have. Admitted. By the same logic, if "hundreds of others" steal horses, "J" would be warranted to steal one as well. The News does not only condemn the unlawful taking of public lands by the parties above mentioned, but also by the "hundreds of others" that have pursued a like course, quite a number of whom, we are told, live in Albany.

"J" further says that, as the claims of these entrymen are situated within the limits of the railroad grant, they were required to pay $2.50 per acre in order to commute, and that the government, therefore, has not been defrauded. The claims contested by Brenner, Jones, Waddel, et al. are located in township 11, range 2, we believe; if so, they are probably not within the limit of the railroad grant. This being true, the commuter would only be required to pay $1.25 per acre. But it makes no difference whether the claims are within the railroad grant or not. It is the non-compliance of law with which we find fault. The entryman swears to actual residence upon the land and that the land is chiefly valuable for agricultural purposes, neither of which requirements have been lived up to in any sense. As to the improvements, clearing of the land and cultivation, one would have to draw upon his imagination largely to establish the least semblance of their existence. True, board shanties have been erected upon each claim, and timber enough has been felled to furnish the necessary clapboards. One of these board shanties, however, is a hunting shack, erected by Wm. May and G. W. Morrow of this city several months prior to the filing on the claims. So at least one of the entrymen never went to the trouble of building a house at all. The many days of weary labor that "J" asserts were expended were limited to not more than a week in either case. All of these facts are plainly exhibited by photographs that were made of the various premises, and from which even a "brainless idiot" can see that the valuable improvements, clearing of land, cultivation, etc., is a farce in every particular.

Now, the News does not think that the entrymen in this instance are any better nor worse than "J's" hundreds of others, nor, perhaps, of even "J" himself. Nor did we compare these with the Puter-McKinley crowd. We simply stated that these contested claims were in the same or near locality. "J" takes us to task because we wrote the matter up as a news item. He has not helped those he would defend in the least. These entrymen, from the News' viewpoint, made $200 each by swearing falsely. Had they changed their homestead entries, which required actual residence, improvement, cultivation, etc., to timber entries, they would have had to pay $400 for each claim, but they would do away with the necessity of making false oaths. Now, "J" states that the government was not defrauded, because each of the entrymen paid the government $400 per claim. He thus takes away the $200 that the News supposed the commuters made by making false oaths, and he thus makes the entrymen swear falsely for $400. These entrymen will probably feel grateful to "J" for the statement.

The law is very plain that governs homestead entries and works no hardship upon the actual settler. It is with the "straw" settler, who seeks the privileges conferred by the homestead law, and who, at the same time, lives elsewhere, on whom the shoe pinches. It is this class of settlers that "J" attempts to defend so valiantly. They are men and women who sell their honor and integrity for the pitiful sum of $200 or $400, as the case may be. Is it any wonder that the rising generation has but slight respect for law when hundreds and thousands are willing to swear falsely for so small a sum of money, thus advertising to the world that they are but bargain counter citizens?

With the actual settler, or he who takes a timber claim and complies with the law, we find no fault. On the contrary, we are willing to aid such in securing titles to their claims whenever and wherever we can, but with men who are attempting to swindle the government by grossly neglecting to comply with the law as required, we have no patience. All who attempt to secure land in this fraudulent manner know that they are committing fraud and are swearing falsely whenever they attempt to do so. Even a man of as small caliber as "J" knows this to be true, or he would have had the manhood to sign his name in full to his effusion.

CAN HE RESTORE HARMONY?

President Roosevelt will return from his hunting tour by way of Chicago. It is said that while he is there he will be interviewed by a committee of the strikers, who will make to him a statement of their cause of grievance. The president's well known predilection of giving every one a "square deal" will cause him to receive a committee of the employers as well, who in turn will state the case from their point of view. President Roosevelt's character of decision and desire to reach results in any disputed question is such that he will most probably state, in his opinion, who is right and who is wrong. Thus the president, whether he desires it or not, will practically become arbitrator of the differences between the contending factions.

The reputation the president has established for fairness and giving all parties a "square deal" makes him an ideal arbitrator. No other man in the nation today could possibly have the influence that the president could bring to bear in the matter. His action in the Pennsylvania coal strike gained for him the boundless confidence of the labor world, and his character of justness must cause the business world to have confidence in his judgment. His position as president, too, would give any opinion that he might render in the matter a weight that would nearly amount to a command.

It is true that deciding a dispute between capital and labor is a duty not hitherto devolving upon the president, but it is the duty of the president to administer governmental affairs, so far as lies within his power, in a way that will give to the people the greatest amount of happiness and prosperity possible. Of course this is but an implied duty, but times and conditions change so rapidly that new duties devolve upon the government of which there is no precedent. The initiative must be made at some time and by some president in all new and untried matters that seem to come within his prerogative. If the labor trouble now existing in Chicago is adjusted peaceably, it would seem that the president could come nearer bringing it to pass than anybody else could.

A crisis in the trouble must and will be reached within a very few days. One side or the other must give way. It will probably be necessary for the military to be called out before peace and quiet is restored. This probably will not be done prior to the president's visit. Should he fail to pacify the contending factions, then the military will undoubtedly take charge of matters and enforce order, for the present lawless state cannot long exist.

Let us hope that the advice the president will surely give will have sufficient influence to restore harmony and reasonable satisfaction to both employer and employe.

The public is awaiting with expectancy the result of the meeting of the hostile fleets in the far east. While the sympathy of the American people is with Japan, there is an element of danger that the unexpected might happen when two such formidable hostile navies meet that a feeling of anxiety is felt by every one who has kept in touch with the press reports of the contending nations. Japan is so secretive and has such a complete censorship of all reports that go out that but little can be ascertained of the movements of her fleets, nor of what her plans may be. There is no doubt but what Admiral Togo has the situation well in hand, and that he is prepared to take every possible advantage in protecting his own fleet, while subjecting his enemy to the greatest possible damage. But the battle must be fought, and which will probably result in the annihilation, practically, of one of the fleets. Let the result be what it may, the end of the war must soon follow. Whichever power retains control of the eastern seas will be the victor. Especially would this be true for Japan. With Russia in control of the eastern coast, it would be utterly impossible for Japan to maintain her armies in Manchuria. With Japan in control, Vladivostock must soon capitulate and Russia's power, for the present, at least, on the Pacific coast lost.

Homer Davenport, the cartoonist who did much to make Mark Hanna famous, will start for the Portland fair next week with the live stock and birds of his New Jersey farm. Homer will occupy space upon the "Trail," where he will produce a miniature representation of his farm. As Homer is an Oregon production himself, he will greatly enjoy himself at the fair, for he will be among his boyhood friends. An effort is being made by the fair management to have Mr. Davenport deliver a series of lectures at the fair auditorium during the summer.

ARE WE GROWING BEITER OR WORSE?

The ease with which men are able to swindle and rob the public is becoming a source of uneasiness, if not alarm; yet the fact that many of these frauds are being ferreted out may be an evidence that the day of grafting and defrauding the public has passed its zenith and is now on the decline. But, again, it is well known that when a person embarks upon a career of crime that, at first, he is exceedingly cautious and difficult to detect. Success after success makes him bold and careless, and his peculations or crimes soon become known. This may be the reason that so many defalcations, evidences of graft, fraudulent land entries, etc., are becoming known of men. If this conclusion be true, there is, indeed, cause for alarm. It shows a wide spread of dishonesty and want of integrity that is bound to reduce the standard of our citizenship in a short time.

There seems to be several different interpretations of the term "Honesty." There are men who are honest because of fear of the law; others who are honest for policy sake, and others, the only really honest are so because they delight in doing right, whose words are as good as their bonds and who do right for the love of the right. For some reason, however, the number of the later class whom we elect to office and who hold positions of trust are remarkably few in number. These conditions are not complimentary to the Christianity we profess, nor to our boasted free American citizenship. In our effort of maintaining a government of the people, by the people and for the people, we are making a very sad bungle in some instances. In our own state, to have three-fourths of our congressional delegation under indictment for peculation while in office, is a matter of disgrace and regret to our entire citizenship. Again, frauds are being unearthed in the entries of school lands that shows a laxity in administering the state government by previous administrations that smacks of the criminal, far too much to suit the public conscience. At least enough has been unearthed by the grand jury investigation at Salem to show that our state has been robbed of her school lands right and left. Previous administrations were either grossly inefficient, or they had criminal knowledge that these frauds existed. A few years ago it was discovered that the clerk of the school land board was a defaulter to the amount of more than $30,000, but not until the thief was immune because of the statute of limitation. Did a general investigation of the state land office then take place? By no manner of means. The matter was seemingly hushed up as soon as possible, to the lasting disgrace of the party in power. Were it not for a democratic executive, who appointed a democratic land agent, the public would still be as ignorant as a babe about the matter. It is a matter of public rejoicing that we have such men as President Roosevelt and Governors Folk of Missouri, La Follette of Wisconsin and Chamberlain of Oregon, and last, though not least, Judge Bellinger of the federal court. These men have all demonstrated that dishonesty and peculation in office can have no standing in court during their administrations if they can prevent it. All of these men are extremely unpopular with thieves, land grabbers, grafters and every other man who expects or desires to get something for nothing through dishonesty while in office. It is the actions of such men that furnish to the people a ray of hope that a better day is coming in which public office will be a public trust and which will be administered accordingly. The large vote given the president and these governors shows that the hearts of the people are in the right place when fully aroused. And the people are becoming aroused as they never were before. Each recurring election shows a largely increased independent vote. Men have concluded that they have hitherto stuck to party too closely, that they have been too subservient to the part whip and that there are good men and bad men in all parties. In the future, candidates for office must be labeled with something more than the party's mere name in order to win. They must convince the public that they are honest and have special fitness for the office sought.

In the new honest, upright officers that may be elected and the largely increased and increasing independent vote, lies the hope of the nation. The administration of public affairs in the large municipalities especially have been corrupt so long that the limit has been reached in many of them. The same may be truthfully said of many departments of state and nation. However, the efforts that are being made all around to clear out the grafters, fraudulent land grabbers and thieves is encouraging, and lead us to hope for a more honest administration of public affairs.

Everybody should remember the date, May 24. You are cordially invited and expected to be on hand with scythe, grubbing hoe or pitchfork to help clean up Franklin Butte cemetery. Come, bring your dinner and let us clean up the yard and make it tidy for Decoration day. You will never miss the time, and besides, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have donated a day's labor in memory of the loved ones gone before.

The Portland primary election, Saturday, resulted in the renomination of Mayor Williams by the republicans and Dr. Harry Lane by the democrats for the same office. Mayor Williams' selection is looked upon as a victory for the saloon element.

A PECULIAR HOTEL.

"In a little town in the backwoods of Mississippi," remarked a traveling man, "there is a peculiar hotel. It is just like any other hotel, except in the way the rooms are named. They are not numbered, as is generally done, but each room is named for a state of the United States.

"When I stopped at the place I was assigned to a room called 'Delaware.' It was correctly named, too for it was one of the smallest rooms in the house. A man who was occupying 'New Hampshire' made complaint to the landlord that the man in 'Maine' was drunk and boisterous and was thus keeping him awake. This seemed strange, when we recall that Maine is a prohibition state. Two men up in 'Montana' were keeping up the reputation of the wild west by engaging in a noisy poker game. A big, fat capitalist had 'New York,' which was the best room in the house. The room named for Alabama is too ordinary for anything, and a farmer was occupying it the night I was there.

"It was funny to stand in the office and hear a bell boy tell the clerk that towels were wanted in 'Iowa' and that the fellow in 'North Dakota' was kicking like a steer because he had no fire! 'Send two Manhattan cocktails up to Mississippi' was one of the orders the clerk gave. 'Be sure to call the man in Florida at 5 o'clock in the morning,' said one of the employes. And thus it went. This hotel is a curiosity to the traveling public. It is conducted by an eccentric old fellow, but where he conceived the idea of naming rooms after states I do not know."—Birmingham Age-Aerald.

ROBBING THE PEOPLE OF LAND.

The public lands are one of the most precious possessions of the American people, and it is hard to estimate their value in future opportunity. It is the policy of the government to make their acquirement easy to the homesteader who wants to apply his industry to opening a farm of medium size. But a current statement of some of the vast holdings is a surprise. One man owns 22,717 square miles, and he came to the country a penniless immigrant in 1850. Another person has deeds to 5,000,000 acres said to have been obtained fraudulently. Though indicted many times, he has not been convicted. A resident of California has fenced in half of one county as his property. An owner of wagons has picked up several townships by locating his vehicles frequently on the corners of four sections and hiring men to swear that they are settlers.

Proofs of widespread frauds in land entries have been legally obtained of late and indictments have followed. Secretary Hitchcock has been energetic in this work, and the course of the pending trials will be watched with general interest. Many of the fraudulent owners insist that they are proof against prosecution for various reasons, but this is a matter on which congress and the state legislatures can take vigorous action. Where fraud is proved the land holdings can not stand, and other branches of the subject can be reached by the power of taxation. The rights of over 80,000,000 Americans and their descendants are at stake in this highly important question.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Scio was well represented at the circus on Tuesday. If there is anything in the world that will cause a great many people to hustle and rake up all the loose cash there is about the house, it is the circus. People who can illy afford to spare the money, who cannot afford to take their home paper (so they say), can always raise the necessary cash to take themselves and families to the circus. But they enjoy the whole business, from the elephant to the monkey, the clown in the big tent, the dazzling acrobat, the daring bareback rider, all conspire to make circus day THE day of the year to a great many people.

From reports gathered from newspapers from all parts of the United States, the number of people who will visit Oregon this year is simply enormous. Perhaps from one to two millions of people from other states will visit the fair and, incidentally, look over at least the main portion of the Willamette valley. Many of these visitors will come in the capacity of home seekers rather than to see the fair. Railroad people expect to be taxed to their utmost limit to accommodate the traveling public. Well, there is plenty of room in Oregon for double the population we now have and then not be crowded.

In a few years a vast improvement in the class of horses used in the vicinity of Scio will be noticeable. This will be attributable to the Franklin Butte Stock Co., for importing such magnificent parent stock as can be seen any day at the old livery barn in this city. One or perhaps both of these horses will be entered in their respective classes in the live stock department of the Lewis and Clark fair, and it is safe to say they will be among the winners.

President Goode of the Lewis and Clark fair announces that everything will be completed and exhibits in place on June 1, the opening day. This state of readiness on opening day is something that can be said of no previous or many world's fairs.

Twenty-four Oregon counties will participate in the county exhibits at the Lewis and Clark fair. Each one, of course, expects to take in that $1000 premium out of the wet.

A MATTER OF HEALTH

ROYAL

BAKING POWDER

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HAS NO SUBSTITUTE

The Portland baseball team is about to secure the position in the per centage column that it has been gradually approaching since the opening of the baseball season—the tail end. There is one satisfaction, any way. When Seattle leaves Portland behind, she (Portland) can not be passed by any other team. The Giants will be able to hold their position.

Don't forget that your aid is requested in making Linn county's exhibit at the fair the winner. If you can produce anything that will add to the collection, don't fail to prepare and report it to the committee. We want that $1000 premium, and we can win it if all will assist by producing something worthy of exhibition.

If the Scio branch railroad is to be repaired and placed in commission, it is high time that something should be doing. We are told that the Hall Lumber Co. have put a large number of ties in the creek preparatory to running them down to Scio, and now that the Landon mill is to start, there would soon be plenty of work for the road to do.

COREA AND ELECTRICITY.

The Deadly "Live Wire" Known in That Country as a "Thunder and Lightning String."

Near the center of the city of Seoul there is a beautiful marble pagoda that was brought from Peking about 1300 by one of the Mongol queens who came as a bride to Corea. Her people at that time were shaking the whole known world, and, under leaders like Genghis, Kublai and Tamerlane, were upsetting all the thrones of Asia, so that Corea still speaks of them with bated breath, and the smallest children know them by name, says a writer in Outlook. The marble pagoda still stands, a silent witness before the world of the great Mongol conquerors, but past its stony ear whizzes an American electric car every ten minutes at ten miles an hour, regardless of all the Mongol shades. Along this main street of Seoul, one of the oldest streets in the world, stretch western wires charged with something that defies all the curiosity of the east to pronounce upon. A few days ago a broken strand hung temptingly from one of the poles, and the far east determined to get hold of it to investigate, with the result—one live wire, one dead man. A government notice was posted up: "If anyone is caught fooling with these thunder and lightning strings let him be padded."

Selling the Wind.

It seems incredible, but is nevertheless a fact, that as late as the year 1814 an old woman named Flessie Millie, of Pomona, in the Orkney islands, sold favorable winds to seamen at the small price of six pence a vessel. For many years witches were supposed to sell the wind. The Finlanders and Lapanders made quite a trade by selling winds. The old women, after being well paid by the credulous sailors, used to knit three magical knots; the buyer was told he would have a good gale when he untied the first knot, the second knot would bring a strong wind, and the third a severe tempest. At one time winds were sold at Mont St. Michael in Normandy, and arrows were sold at the same time to charm away bad storms.

A Distressed Community.

According to the official report of the Ottawa, Kan., druggists, for March, it took 82 gallons of whisky, 58 gallons of alcohol, 38 gallons of wine, 14 gallons of gin, 23 gallons of brandy, 4 gallons of beer, 3 gallons of ale and 4 gallons of malt to cure the ills of that distressed community. The liquor was wanted for a multitude of diseases, ranging from ingrowing toenails to appendicitis. One honest fellow signed up under the "mechanical" clause of the constitution. He said he needed four gallons mechanically—he was going to have a "barn raisin'."

LAND FOR SALE.

740 acres, 5 miles southeast of Scio; 130 acres in cultivation, 200 acres or more can be cultivated; 350 acres in pasture, balance timber and brush, some hill side, 4 springs, 2 wells, house, barn, out houses and orchard; this is a No. 1 rock or dairy farm. Price, $12,000.

244 acres, 3½ miles west of Scio, about one-half in cultivation, balance pasture, some brush and timber; all level land, house, barn and good young orchard. Price, per acre, $30.

216 acres, 1 mile southeast of Scio; 80 acres in cultivation, balance pasture, brush and timber; old house, barn, orchard, good stering water; will make good dairy farm. Price $4000.

86 acres, 2½ miles south of Scio; 35 acres in cultivation, balance pasture, brush and timber, house, orchard. Price, $2,500.

100 acres, 3½ miles south of Scio; 50 acres in cultivation, balance open pasture, brush and timber—can all be cultivated. This will make a good home. Price, $4,000.

82 acres, 3½ miles south of Scio; 30 acres in cultivation, balance open pasture, brush and some timber—all level and can be cultivated. Price, per acre, $25.

82 acres, 3½ miles southwest of Scio; 20 acres in cultivation, balance pasture brush and timber; house, barn, orchard, good water, 1 cow, 1 horse, 1 wagon, set of harness, plough, harrow and many other articles, all for $1,200.

20 acres, 2 miles east of Scio; 10 acres in cultivation, balance pasture, brush and timber, 2 box houses, barn, 2 wells, small orchard, some good sandy bottom land—would make a good chicken ranch. Price, $650.

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