

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT.

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They Should Resign.

When we notice the enormous earnings of our great railway systems and note the many instances of extortionate freight charges, we wonder if congressmen will have the temerity to stand up in our national legislative halls and oppose government regulation of freight charges.

Oregon is singularly unfortunate in being left with but one representative for both houses of congress. Senator Mitchell and Representative Williamson being convicted of crime, will not appear on the floor of their respective houses.

A Victory for Good Government.

The third trial of Williamson, Gesner and Biggs was ended last week, and resulted in conviction as charged in the indictments.

Undoubtedly the evidence has shown in all the trials that Mr. Williamson, nevertheless he attempted to prove otherwise, was the brains of the concern.

Another feature that was shown by the evidence, these claims that were filed upon at the instance of either Williamson or Gesner, seemed to have been so located that they controlled the water supply of that section of the country.

ages of the coyotes. The bounty law was, at length, repealed; but not till it had cost the taxpayers a very large sum. Then pasture becoming valuable, in order to control the thousands of acres his flocks required, he procured the aid of his neighbors to file on such claims as should be designated, for the benefit of his company.

Mr. Williamson, if possible, is more guilty than his codefendants. He has been a law maker in the state and nation for the past ten or dozen years, and should be an example as a law abiding citizen.

The conviction of Mr. Williamson is a victory for good government. Public officials whose duty it is to make or execute the law, should furnish an example in the observance of the requirements of law for the ordinary citizen to follow.

Publishing the Laws in Newspapers.

An effort will probably be made at the next session of the legislature, to have a measure enacted into law, that will require all laws enacted by the legislature or by the people, to be published in the newspapers.

If the plan is to have the laws published in all the newspapers, it seems to us that the expense would be too great. If in one or more newspapers in each county, as political patronage is now given out, we do not think such a law would be, at all, satisfactory; for no one newspaper is taken or read by all the people of either political party.

No doubt the people should have every opportunity to be familiar with the laws they are required to obey. They should not be required to pay to dearly for that knowledge. Nor should they be required to subscribe for any particular newspaper because it happened to be the legally designated newspaper to publish the laws.

simple fact that one or more newspapers in a county should be designated as "official," would give such paper or papers an undue advantage over its competitors.

The proposed law has some merit, of course; but the NEWS thinks the objections would outweigh the good accomplished. A better and cheaper plan in our opinion, would be, to have the laws published in pamphlet form and provide every voter with a copy.

Only 130 counts in an indictment that has been found against one of the Philadelphia hoodlums. The Quarrier City hoodlum must be of the wholesale variety.

The government seems to be making some headway in the prosecution of the beef trust. Four of the packers have pleaded guilty to accepting rebates from the railroads and have been fined twenty-five thousand dollars in the aggregate.

Elementary Tariff Doctrine.

The following excellent article taken from the columns of the Oregonian, so exactly expresses the now most generally accepted view of our protective tariff that we give it in full.

In his thoughtful letter Mr. Johnson makes an interesting reference to the tariff in 1831, and remarks that protection was then considered of because it produced an excess of revenue, while the Dingley tariff is now complained of because it causes a deficit.

One point more must be made. The average tariff rate in 1831 was about 41 per cent. The tariff of 1856, favored by Webster, was then for the most part still in force. The rate was high, but every item of that tariff, no matter how high it was, produced a revenue. It excluded no class of foreign goods utterly.

On the other hand, a tariff, like many of the Dingley schedules, so high that it makes the cost of foreign goods exceed the cost of production of the same goods in this country, is not protective, but exclusive.

By from a tariff which, like the Dingley tariff, is exclusive, two results may logically be expected to follow and actually have followed. The first pertains to its revenue-producing effect.

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