The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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T. L. DUGGER,

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THE NORMALS TO THE FRONT AGAIN.

As predicted some weeks ago by the NEWS, the State treasury will be assaulted right and left at the coming legislative session. Many appropriations that will be asked for or demanded are now taking shape. The Normal Schools have made up their respective budgets. That of Monmouth has been made public, while Drain, Ashland, and Weston are yet to hear from. If the demands of Monmouth are a criterion by which to judge the others, the State treasury, if these demands be granted, will be depleted from a quarter to a half-million dollars.

Monmouth, through her president, will ask the State for the modest sum of $115,000 for the coming two years; $65,000 for a new building, and the remainder for running expenses. Of course the faculty of this Monmouth high school will ask for a raise in salary.

Oregon made a sad blunder, last June, when she refused to veto the big blanket appropriations bill of last session. As we stated soon after the result of the election, these Normals interpreted the vote as an endorsement by the people of the Normals as permanent State institutions, the same as the Oregon Agricultural College, the State University, or any of the other recognized State institutions. In evidence of that fact, they will make up their several budgets of estimated expenses for the next two years and demand that the appropriations be made, rather than to ask for them as a favor.

Indications point out that members from the Normal counties will attempt to form a combine, as in times past, and possibly persuade members from Lane and Benton Counties to unite in the combine, in order to secure such appropriations as they desire.

Every Normal School has secured recognition from the State, so far, by trades and combinations. The members from the Normal counties, aided by those from Lane and Benton, succeeded in the past in forming such a close combine that they were able to hold up legislative work at will. Unless a member who had a meritorious bill before the Legislature, would make a treaty with the College combine and support the combine's appropriations for their schools, he did not have a ghost of a show to get his bill enacted into law. The indications are that the same tactics will be resorted to next month.

Education is a theme that is viewed with favor by all lawmakers. Because of this favorable disposition these so-called Normals have secured their insiduous hold upon the State. At first they simply asked that the diplomas issued by the Normals be recognized as authority for the holder to teach in the public schools. Then small appropriations to support the schools were asked for and granted. Emboldened by the small aid and recognition given the Normal lobby is on hand at every session, asking for larger and larger appropriations.

The large appropriations made for the Normals at the last session of the Legislature was the direct cause of the people invoking the Referendum. The people then resented and will continue to resent the idea of the entire State being taxed to build, equip and maintain high schools for Monmouth, Drain, Ashland, and Weston.

Oregon desires to have her population increase and her manufacturing possibilities developed. By levying an excessively high State tax, population and development are retarded. The Normals are one of the leading causes, perhaps the leading cause of the high State tax levy. By the legislative trades the Normal legislators make under the guise of popular education, numerous other grafts are allowed to be enacted into law. So, if the Normals can be combined or reduced somewhat, so that they will be in keeping with the population of the State, one of the leading sources of legislative extravagance will be removed.

If Governor Chamberlain will take a leaf from Governor Folk's, of Missouri, diary and not allow lobbyists to tarry about the State House, except when they have plainly stated their business, and then to remain not above 24 hours, much of the grafts that are lobbied through at each session would be prevented.

Oregon, probably, should have one good Normal School, which should be liberally supported. As the purpose of Normal Schools is solely for equipping teachers for work in the public schools, nothing but theory and practice of teaching should be taught. General education can be acquired in the public schools, the State University, or the Oregon Agricultural College. A better plan would be to attach a Normal department to each of these last-named colleges.

The Legislature should remember that the Referendum power is yet with the people. If the appropriations are too excessive the Referendum will be again invoked and next time there will be no misunderstanding, as evidently was the case heretofore.

Without doubt next year we will see some railroad work in this immediate vicinity. The Southern Pacific will change the line somewhat in order to get a good crossing of the South Santiam. A site for a bridge, the NEWS learns, has been selected a short distance below the Lebanon wagon bridge. Just where the new line will deflect from the present right-of-way is probably not known to anybody except the constructing engineer. The most natural, and probably least expensive in the end, route for a railway line is through Scio, via Richardson's Gap, then on to Lebanon. This would be the most direct route, and the heavy grade into and out of Crabtree would be avoided. This line would also bring the road several miles nearer the Crabtree timber belt. In addition to the S. P. change, we understand that the C. & E. will build a logging road from some point on the main line near Munkers up into the Crabtree timber belt, where Mr. Hammond has large holdings. Still another possible railway through Scio will be the electric line now located from Salem to Stayton. It is reasonable to suppose that, in time, electric lines will be established wherever they will pay, and a line through Scio on to Lebanon, with a branch leading to the Sodas in the mountains, certainly ought to furnish sufficient inducements for the building of the line.

President Roosevelt, in his message to Congress at its assembling, advocated two measures that will prove to be very unpopular with the general masses of the people. The President favors granting a ship subsidy by Congress. The people, aside from a very few who are directly interested, are opposed to it. The President, through his great influence over Congress, may succeed in having the bill passed. Two years from now the people will be heard from again and we opine that the party that goes before the people with an ignominious ship subsidy graft to its credit, will go down to defeat. The President's position relative to the San Francisco Japanese matter is destined to become the most unpopular. The people will not tolerate interference by the general Government in matters that are clearly within the province of a State to manage. President Roosevelt is, deservedly, a most popular president. Yet his popularity is not sufficient for him to crowd upon the people these two most unpopular measures. He, if he presses these measures upon the people, will have no trouble in avoiding a third term. He will not, even, be mentioned for the place. President Roosevelt in many respects is an ideal chief executive and, therefore, is a great man; but the people are greater than he, and they are supreme.

Senator Fulton may not be endeavoring to protect Oregon land thieves and their ilk, but his official action as U. S. Senator looks suspicious. He endorsed Hall for U. S. District Attorney with the understanding that he (Hall) would not prosecute Brownell and probably others for participating in the land frauds on the wrong side. When Bristol's name was submitted to the Senate for confirmation as District Attorney, Senator Fulton has ever endeavored to prevent the Senate from favorable action. Mr. Bristol has shown that he would prosecute vigorously every man, whether of high or low degree, who was guilty of fraud in any way in public land matters. If Senator Fulton desires to have the guilty punished and to keep his name free from taint, he had better use his influence to have Bristol confirmed.

People are coming to look upon the Oregon Legislature with a feeling of dread. They are wondering just for how much the State will be held up at the coming session. The people are perfectly willing to be taxed for what is necessary to conduct the State government upon a reasonably liberal basis. They pay the taxes to support our public school system with absolute willingness. But they do object most emphatically to have tax moneys appropriated to these side issues that are and can be beneficial to only a portion of the State. Normal schools, portage railways, and many other projects that a few loud-mouthed individuals want State moneys expended for are getting to be burdensome.

Probably no verdict of a jury in case of murder has ever been more generally endorsed by the people than was the verdict that cleared young Murray in Portland last week. Everybody recognizes the rightfulness of a father or a brother to protect the honor of a daughter or a sister. It would be impossible to find an American jury that would convict a man of murder under like circumstances. This young man appealed to officers of the law first. Failing, he executed summary justice himself. Who does not justify him?

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