

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent

Entered at the postoffice at Scio, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY
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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One year in advance \$1.25
One year, at end of year 1.50
One year, at end of 2 years 1.75
One year, at end of 3 years 2.00
Six months in advance75
Three months in advance50
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A SENSIBLE ACT

THAT WAS a most sensible conclusion the city council arrived at last Monday night when it decided to purchase a new electric light apparatus from the General Electric Co., of Portland. Possibly a light apparatus might have been purchased from some other company for a few dollars less money, and the apparatus might be equally as good as that for which contract was entered into. The absolute knowledge of this fact, if it be a fact, does not now seem possible to obtain, and, as we have no one who possesses expert knowledge to represent the city, there does not seem to be any way in which we can tell whether we are being cheated or not.

Assuming that the city council has done the best it knew, the thing now to do is to develop the new plant to its best paying capacity. As the cost of operating the new plant will be no greater than the cost of the present plant, every additional lamp brought into use, means so much profit to the city. At the price now proposed, if 300 additional 16-candle power lamps can be employed, a profit of \$100 per month would accrue to the city. One year at this rate would practically pay for the new equipment. Or, if half that number, two years would pay for the improved plant. In any event, the increased use of electric lights by our citizens, will soon pay the debt incurred in installing the new plant.

The same argument holds good in regard to improvements desired in the water plant. Extend the water mains so that all portions of the city is covered, and the income from the water plant will be more than doubled. Another feature is: Our citizens, whose homes are now without the reach of the fire hydrants, and who now have no fire protection, would then be fully protected. As these citizens are taxed to maintain our water system, it is only fair and just that they have its protection and privileges as well.

By incurring an indebtedness of from \$3500 to \$4000, our light and water systems can be placed in a condition so they will earn a net profit of \$100 to \$150 per month. At this rate, the profits would pay off the debt in three or four years.

Then think of the comfort of well-lighted and well-sprinkled streets in the dusty summer time. Scio gives promise of making most substantial growth from this time henceforth. If we would attract desirable residents, well-lighted streets and adequate fire protection all over the city, will go far towards inducing them to come. It will cost something to shake off our swaddling clothes, but in the end, it will stand somely.

THE COMING YEAR

IN THIS, the first number of the NEWS to visit its readers, in this new year, 1908, it will be of interest to briefly discuss the events to transpire during the twelve months now before us.

Politically, the year will be one of more than usual interest. In Oregon, we will hold three elections—the Primary, in April; the State, in June, and the National, in November.

The Primary, or nominating, election, in April, should be of greater interest to the people of Oregon, than either of the others. It is manifest that if we do not nominate good men for office in April, we cannot elect them in June. For this reason, every voter should exercise the utmost care in naming candidates. In no case should a man be named for office, who is not in sympathy and accord with the effort now being made to restore the government to the people. A strong effort is to be made by the political bosses and the old-time ring politicians, to destroy the effects of the Statement No. 1, provision of our primary law. They will endeavor to secure the nomination of men for office, who do not stand pledged directly or impliedly to this provision. Let every voter be careful to vote for no man as a candidate for the legislature, who does not publicly pledge himself to conform to the requirements of Statement No. 1. That is the only way in which the cause of the

spirit of the direct primary law. Destroy it by failing to require candidates to so pledge themselves, and the entire law should be repealed. By all means the voter should make Statement No. 1 an issue, regardless as to which or what political party the aspirant for office may belong.

Financially, the new year looks most promising. The richmen's panic has about subsided and normal conditions again exist. All kinds of construction enterprises promise to be carried forward with as much vigor as during the year just closed. Railroad enterprises will be again taken up with the opening of spring. The electric line, now completed between Salem and Portland, and which has been turned over to the operating department, promises to undertake construction from Salem south, and before the end of the year trolley connection between Albany and Portland, will be an established fact. Mr. Harriman will, probably, carry on construction work on new lines in the state, as well. His unfulfilled promises of the past, does not inspire one with very much confidence in his activity in Oregon; yet, he will hardly do less in the year to come, than in the year just passed.

Events to transpire in Scio, promise to be unusually numerous. In the way of manufacturing enterprises, a furniture manufacturing plant and a hosiery are promised, and at this time, these enterprises seem much more than probable. In building enterprises in concrete, a new hotel and a large business building are promised. A number of dwellings will, also, probably be constructed. The electric light plant will be supplied with a more powerful dynamo and the system is to be extended. Our second annual fair, to occur September 2, 3 and 4, is to be much broader in scope than last year, and speed trials much more extensive. It is quite probable that branch railroad lines from the electric system and the S. P. will be built to Scio, and, possibly, before the fair opens.

The labor world may, therefore, expect a season quite as active as last year. Wages will, probably, not rule quite so high, and the price of lumber will be somewhat reduced. For this reason building operations are likely to be increased. Taken altogether, the outlook for Oregon, and especially for Scio, looks most promising. 1908 will probably be the most eventful year of our history. We do not wish to be too optimistic, nor to attempt to manufacture a small-size boom for Scio. The improvements and enterprises are now a matter of serious consideration. If the NEWS seems hopeful, conditions warrant the hopefulness. There is a time in the affairs of men, which, if taken at its flood, leads on to fortune. That time for Scio is now at hand. As citizens, let us be ready. Aid and encourage every enterprise, either public or private, that will develop our town and community.

The time will soon be at hand when the people will again select candidates for office. Linn county will select a complete set of county and legislative officers, save state senator and one county commissioner. Many of our present county officers have made excellent records, and we may do the public a good turn by re-electing them. It really makes but little difference to the average citizen what a county officer's political sentiments may be. If he is capable, honest and economical, we, the people ought not nor do not ask any further qualifications. There would be just as much sense in injecting politics into the election of a school director as into that of the selection of a county officer. It is results we want. Efficiency, economy and good judgment in conducting the public business is of much greater import than whether a man is a Democrat or a Republican.

Senator Fulton is in Oregon this week. His visit is made for the purpose of registration, and, incidentally to look after his senatorial fences. The Senator's term of office will expire in a little more than one year hence. He is a candidate to succeed himself. Senator Fulton is an enemy of Statement No. 1 of our primary law, and will urge all Republicans for the legislature to refuse to subscribe to it. Senator Fulton has good reason for taking this position. He is fearful he cannot win out before the people if matched in a race with Governor Chamberlain and, expecting a Republican legislature to be selected, he does not want its hands tied up by Statement No. 1, and perchance be obligated to help elect the Governor to the U. S. Senate. Senator Fulton need not worry about the matter. In the first place, the people are not going to give up the direct primary, at least not for a spell yet. They would do this if they elect a legislature which will ignore Statement No. 1. Also, the senator is too intimately and closely connected with men indicted for complicity in the land frauds. As land fraud investigations are to be commenced again this month, the senator is liable to be connected, too intimately, to be a successful candidate to succeed himself. There is another excellent reason why Oregon should send a Democrat to succeed Senator Fulton. There are too many Republicans in the United States senate now, even for the good of the Republican party. There are too many standpatters on the tariff question. The people want the tariff revised, and they are becoming well satisfied that the only way to have it done is to kill off a lot of the standpatters of the Senator Fulton class, who are blocks in the way of revision.

SAW MR. BRYAN AT HIS HOME.

Mr. N. Young, of this city, who returned a short time ago from a visit to the E. St. tells of a visit to Lincoln, Nebraska, Mr. Bryan's home city and of meeting Mr. Bryan, as follows:

"When I was in Lincoln and having a few hours to spare, in order to see as much of the city, Mr. Bryan's home, and other points of interest as possible, I got aboard a trolley car which, I was informed, would carry me several miles out in the country and would pass Mr. Bryan's home. After getting aboard I informed the conductor of my wishes, and that I would like to have him point out objects of interest, etc. This he seemed very willing to do and I found him most affable. Mr. Bryan's city home seemed to be in a general state of repair and the family was at his country home, a few miles farther out. I noticed many handsome residences and homes but none of them were objects of more than passing interest, until the Bryan country home was reached.

"There is Mr. Bryan's home" said the conductor and "there is Mr. Bryan standing in the yard." As I was the only passenger aboard, I asked that the car be stopped long enough for me to step into the yard and shake hands with the illustrious commoner. The car stopped as I requested. Entering the yard and approaching Mr. Bryan, I informed him who I was and where I was from. Cordially grasping my hand he asked, at once, if I lived at or near Lebanon. I informed him that I did and that I had had the pleasure of listening to his address, delivered there a few years ago, and that I was well acquainted with his friend, State Senator Miller. The waiting car admonished me that time was passing. I accordingly, much against my desire, cut the call short. Mr. Bryan appeared to be in the best of health and looked but little older than when he was in Lebanon.

"When the car was again in motion, I asked the conductor if, in his opinion, Mr. Bryan had lost or gained in popularity since the campaigns of 1896 and 1900? "He is more popular than ever" was the reply. "The common people look upon him as their friend and they trust him implicitly." Will their friendship extend far enough to cause them to vote for Mr. Bryan, I asked. "Yes, indeed," replied the conductor and he then related the following story, to show that Mr. Bryan's friendship and good will towards the working man was more than mere words.

"When Mr. Bryan started on his tour around the world," said the conductor, "I asked him when he reached England to take the time to visit my aged parents. When in England, Mr. Bryan remembered his promise and called to see my parents. When he came away he brought a jam pudding, which my mother had asked, all the way to Lincoln, and placed it in my hands with my parents blessing. I am a Republican, but I will vote for Mr. Bryan gladly; and there are thousands of other Republicans who voted against him before, who will vote for him this time."

If you want notarial work done, deed, mortgage or lease written, or a position voucher filled out, you can get it done at The NEWS office upon short notice.

If a farm is worth occupying permanently it is worth adorning; and if it is worth adorning it is worth preserving.

OUR CLUBBING OFFER

For the convenience of the readers and patrons of THE NEWS, we have arranged clubbing terms with a number of other newspapers and periodicals. In each of the quoted prices a year's subscription to THE SANTIAM NEWS is included.

Weekly Oregonian \$2.00
Oregon Semi-Weekly Journal 2.50
St. Louis Globe-Democrat 1.85
New York Tribune Farmer (weekly) 1.75
Pacific Monthly Magazine 1.75
American Farmer (monthly) 1.50

In addition to the above, we can get any publication at a reduced rate if taken in connection with THE SANTIAM NEWS.

As the long winter evenings are at hand, a small amount of money will help you to pass them pleasantly and profitably. Let us order your reading matter for you. We can save you money.

ROUND TRIP RATES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS ON S. P. R. R.

POINTS IN OREGON ONLY.
Rates: One and one-third first-class fare for the round trip.
To children of half fare age will be sold at half the excursion rate.
Sale dates: For Christmas—Dec. 23, 24, and 25, 1907.
For New Years—Dec. 30, 31, 1907, and Jan. 1, 1908.
Final return limit, Jan. 1908.

LAND WANTED

FOR SALE, LARGE OR SMALL TRACTS: Write me full description of your property which you desire to sell, lowest price and terms. Will want contract to sell for six months time or more, then can advertise same for sale and inform the purchaser just what conditions to the delivery of the farm. Write or call on R. SHELTON, 191 Fourth St., Portland, Or.

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