

# 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
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### THE LINN COUNTY FAIR.

THE QUESTION OF A Linn County Fair other than that held at Scio, is again being agitated. This time the granges have taken the matter up; but the primary inspiration, doubtless, came from the same source which made the statement two or three months ago that "President Prill was in favor of holding the next Fair at Albany," or words of like effect.

When this question was agitated, last Fall we, who have had the management of the Fair at Scio, traced the agitation to its source. We found that a half dozen race horse men and a brainless editor of the Albany Herald was the source. A canvass of the business men of Albany showed a very large majority against removing the Fair from Scio to Albany. "It's up to Scio to decide whether the Fair should be removed or not," is the language one of Albany's leading business men used, when speaking about the matter. We understand that the Commercial Club, of that city, was about of the same mind. At least President Prill's correspondence with Secretary Dasant gave us reason to conclude that such was the case.

Just what will be the result of the fair agitation among the granges, can not, as yet, be determined. But the NEWS hopes that it will go no further than it has at the present time.

No one will say that Albany, Lebanon, Brownsville, or any other town has not the same right to hold a fair that Scio has. Every other town in the county has the same right to hold a Pioneer Picnic that Brownsville has; or to hold an Apple Fair that Albany has. But would it be good policy? To give a Pioneer Picnic or an Apple Fair at other points than Brownsville or Albany, would simply create a rivalry that could only result in harm. Likewise, if another agricultural fair is undertaken at Albany it will result in exciting a harmful rivalry that would simply break down all efforts to hold a successful agricultural fair in the county for years. Unless there is harmony among the people and a desire to make the fair a success, success is impossible. Another agricultural fair at Albany, necessarily, would be a rival to the Linn County Fair at Scio and, instead of generating a spirit of friendly rivalry among farmers, horticulturalists, gardeners, poultry fanciers and stockmen in the products of their skill and industry, would generate a spirit of unfriendliness which would make failures of fairs and picnics in the county, for years. If we continue to make a success of Pioneer Picnics, Apple and Agricultural Fairs, the people of our county should pull together. Every enterprise which is calculated to create inharmonious should be discouraged. Indeed, anyone who favors an enterprise which is created as a rival to the Brownsville Picnic, the Apple Fair at Albany or the Linn County Fair at Scio, cannot be regarded as a true friend of Linn County's progress.

There has been something over \$5000 invested to make the Linn County Fair at Scio a success. Over \$2000 in membership certificates have been sold, the proceeds together with the gate receipts, and entrance fees have been used in improving the grounds and paid in premiums to exhibitors. President Prill and others have devoted time and energy, almost without limit, to bring about the two successful Fairs that have been held. The citizens of Scio took up the Fair enterprise, which Albany had allowed to lie dormant for years. Now that two successful Fairs have been held while the third promises to surpass those that have been given, Scio has acquired a right to the agricultural fair for Linn County which the rest of the county should respect. And we believe our granger friends will see the justice of the claim, if they will give the matter mature deliberation.

Furthermore we have secured the right to exclusive use of the title "Linn County Fair," by virtue of incorporation papers filed in the office of the secretary of state and so long as our incorporation continues active, no other organization can term itself a Linn County Fair.

It is the purpose of the Linn County Fair management to prevent, so far as possible, unreasonable charges for rooms and meals during Fair week next Fall. It is expected that a restaurant on the Fair grounds will supply meals at reasonable rates and the splendid camping grounds adjoining should solve the lodging problem. The management having had two years of experience, will be able to eliminate some of the unpleasant features of the past and supply others which will contribute to the pleasure and knowledge of visitors. We, also, hope the transportation facilities will be more satisfactory within the near future.

Let us hope that all efforts to organize a rival agricultural fair association in Linn county will be abandoned and that the citizens of all parts of the county will join in with good will and patronage, to make the Linn County Fair at Scio a splendid success. Likewise let the Pioneer Picnic at Brownsville, the Race Meet and Apple Fair at Albany respectively be successful. It can be done if we do not permit interests to clash and the corresponding ill feeling which the clash of interests is sure to generate.

### SHOULD GUARD THE TREASURY

LAST MONDAY, at noon the twenty-fifth biennial session of the Oregon legislature assembled at Salem. Organization was effected in short order by electing in the senate Jay Bowerman, president; chief clerk, William H. Barry; assistant, John P. Hunt, calendar clerk, Roy P. Ritner. In the House, speaker, C. N. McArthur; chief clerk, W. F. Drager; asst. George Neuner; calendar clerk, Jack Latsarrette, reading clerk, John Withycombe. The organization is, evidently, a victory for the politicians.

The session is a most important one. An United States senator is to be selected and laws will probably be enacted effecting our public schools, our public road system, and our system of taxation.

There is much room for improvement in our public school system. While our cities and towns, as a rule, have excellent public schools, as much cannot be said for many of our country schools; especially in sparsely settled and remote neighborhoods. In many of these country districts, three months of school taught by young and inexperienced teachers, constitutes the year's schooling. As the boys and girls of these back districts, in a few years, will constitute, at least, a part of our citizenship, it behooves our law makers to remedy this defect in our educational system. The people will willingly submit to any reasonable taxation, when the public school is the beneficiary. Hence any legislation which is calculated to make all of our public schools better will be approved by the people.

We are likely to have some important public road legislation at this session. What is known as the Johnson road bill, was passed by both houses at the session of two years ago; but so late in the session that Governor Chamberlain's veto of the measure could not be acted upon. This veto will be a subject for action at the present session. The Governor's veto will probably stand; for with two years of agitation at Good Roads meetings throughout the state, the Johnson bill is found to be not just the road legislation the people want. Doubtless Senator Johnson will now desire to amend his bill before submitting it to the legislature again. But, as with the public school matter, the people will approve of any law that has for its purpose better roads throughout the state and the resulting taxation therefor.

There are, however, several matters that will effect taxation materially, which will call for legislative action at this time. A scalp bounty bill will be proposed which, should it become a law on the lines now set forth, would call for very large appropriations from the state treasury. Large appropriations for our state colleges will be asked for. So far as we can learn; the appropriations which will be asked for for the next two years for the state colleges, will be not less than a round million of dollars. This amount will increase from year to year, if the ratio of increase of the past is a criterion, until the state colleges will become an unbearable burden. When we consider that the state colleges are now costing the taxpayers from \$200 to \$400 per student (counting the cost of buildings and maintenance,) for each year, it would seem that the present is a most auspicious moment to call a halt. Compare the average cost per college student, say \$300, with what the state pays for the public school pupil, an amount less than \$10? This is a matter that should be seriously considered by our legislators. Our public school is a necessity; the college a luxury. Can we afford to pay double for the luxury what we pay for the necessity? The legislature will, also, be asked to provide for the building of an automobile highway across the state from North to South. Of course the promoters of this across-state highway do not call the proposed road an "automobile highway;" yet the scheme is an emanation from the brain of the auto devote, pure and simple.

These are three features which, if given full swing, would bankrupt the state treasury. In each instance, the benefit to accrue, and each measure is meritorious to some extent, will be enjoyed by but a small fraction of the people. A safe rule for the legislator to adopt is, to vote for no appropriation of public money to purposes which are not general in their character.

The people will willingly tax themselves for purposes that can be enjoyed or is of benefit to the great mass of people. But when their money is appropriated for purposes which benefit but a comparatively few persons, they pay such a tax grudgingly.

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If the report is true that efforts to bribe members of the legislature to violate their pledges to the people, are being made down at Salem, the members approached owe a duty to themselves, the people and moral decency, to disclose the name or names of the party offering the bribe. The people should know who the men are who are so morally degenerate as to attempt bribery in their efforts to defeat the wishes of the people. A political party which would contemplate securing political power or prestige through bribery should be wiped off the face of the earth.

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And everything for wet weather

Yours for business

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