

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Official Paper of the City of Medford.

GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Manager.

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THE OREGONIAN A CAUSE

RECOGNITION of the Portland Oregonian's baneful influence upon the state of Oregon comes from New York. Indeed, knowledge of its blighting characteristics has permeated the effete east, and has led the editor of the New York Times to inquire pertinently if it has not been the Oregonian which "makes the Medford editor mad" and thus led to the move for secession.

It was.

One of the greatest, if not the greatest, of the causes which led to the launching of the move to carve a new state out of Southern Oregon and Northern California has been the editorial policy of the Portland Oregonian, in opposing every move for a greater Oregon. The Oregonian has long been the brake which has retarded progress of Oregon's car of destiny. Had its influence been great enough the state's populace today would be housed in huts, perusing its columns by the aid of grandfather's candle. The Oregonian has no one but itself to blame when it rises in its wrath to heap its infamous calumnies upon those who advocate a new state—one free from the blight of this monarch of mossbacks.

The editorial of the New York Times follows:

We have heard of late with distress and anguish the word "secession." Our distress is made not less acute, nor is our anguish less excruciating, because the word is used of a state that meditates seceding into, not out of, the Union. For it is no miracle of peaceable secession. Already we hear war cries and breathings of slaughter. Fathered by California, mothered by Oregon, unfillal Siskiyou emerges with threatenings and violence from its parental confines. A vast empire endowed with ocean harbors, with mineral wealth, with scenic attractions and tall timber, is in rebellion. So much was rumored and we call for information. The Portland Oregonian vouchsafes some:

The clamor for a new star in the gorgeous constellation of the Union gathers its thunderous boom mainly from one's throat—to wit, that of the literary prodigy whose inspired pen writes the editorials in a Medford paper. This great man wants to secede from Oregon and California because he is mad.

His madness is geographical:

The portentous circumstance is that he has made up his alleged mind to withdraw and take portions of the Rogue River valley and Northern California along with him.

He has an arsenal:

He is backed up by the Jackson County Press association, a powerful body, composed of the Medford editor, a printer's devil in Jacksonville and an outdated railroad pass—the latter framed and hung on the wall as a perpetual reminder of other and more glorious times. It is said a supply of arms and ammunition has been laid in to be used if the base legislative caudills at Salem and Sacramento resist the secession movement.

Can nothing be done to avert the impending conflict at two capitals? What makes the Medford editor mad, anxious to break off his piece of Oregon and California, too? Is it the Oregonian?

BETTER BUILDINGS NEW SLOGAN

THE time has arrived when there should be a local adaptation of the Biblical injunction against building houses on sand foundations. Not that this is a region of seismic disturbances or that a kindly providence has not tempered the winds to the cracks of pioneer construction, but property values and civic growth are demanding a more modern class of business buildings, all of which is evidenced by the character of the structures now in contemplation and soon to be erected.

The builder in Medford who fails to appreciate the city's future will soon find his structure in the lodging-house class, a fact which will undoubtedly be demonstrated by the advancement of 1910.

He who would keep abreast of the times in Medford must indeed look into the future.

THE CURRENT TAX ASSESSMENT

IN another column we publish a communication from a vigilant and indignant taxpayer, who suggests that the Medford public keep a watchful eye on the Jackson county assessor's local appointees for the current year. In the light of last year's farcical assessment, the suggestion of the taxpayer is timely, but in all fairness to the assessor, that official has promised a more capable and efficient assessment this year, and by co-operation with the city council will endeavor to arrive at more equitable appraisal of Medford's assessable property.

STRAINS PROBLEM GROWING MORE ACUTE

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 15.—The Pacific Mail steamship problem became more acute today when Secretary Dickinson announced that a new traffic arrangement had been made. He confirmed a report that under the new agreement the Pacific Mail company is to receive 70 per cent of all freight traffic handled by way of the government's Panama railroad. A 50 per cent rate had been in effect formerly.

The government also abolishes the charges for wharfage, lighterage, cranes, and grants the use of the government's basin and agrees to furnish the com-

pany's steamers with coal at cost. The Pacific Mail will furthermore receive 70 per cent of all passenger traffic north of San Jose, Guatemala.

In return, the company promises certain improvements in service. The war department stipulates that the same agreement is open to acceptance by any transportation company, and that it may be terminated on 90 days' notice.

Secretary Dickinson stated it was only of a temporary nature and that congress must settle the matter finally.

Judge F. M. Stewart is making some permanent and attractive improvements on his pretty residence property on North Central avenue.

CITY ASSESSING.

To the Editor: As the time for the assessment of property approaches taxpayers of Medford will watch with interest the appointment by Assessor Grieves of his assistants in Medford, and it is to be hoped that after the ridiculous farce of last year that the assessor will find some more competent and qualified assistant than the well-digger who undertook the job last year. The Mail Tribune has sufficiently exposed the rotten incompetency of last year's appraisal, but the taxpayers should see to it that some one capable of seeing more than four out of the hundred or more automobiles in the city will receive the appointment.

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Platt left Saturday evening for Portland, where Mr. Platt will attend the annual meeting of the Oregon Hardware and Implement Dealers' association.



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FREDK C. PAGE

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We find we have too many SHOES FOR CHILDREN IN SIZES 8 1-2 to 2. To be sure of cutting this part of our stock down we will offer these at prices that will make them go, but if YOU secure a pair you'll have to decide quickly.

Edmeades Bros

IF YOU are thinking of investing in the Rogue River valley—if you want an orchard or orchard lands—Go to the man who has lived 35 years in the valley, who has grown a fruit for 20 years, who has bought fruit from practically every bearing orchard in the valley and who has shipped hundreds of cars of fruit to the markets of the world during the past few years. REFERENCE—All the large orchardists in the valley since nearly all of them have located through me. **JOHN D. OLWELL, Exhibit Bldg, Medford.**