

JACKSONVILLE SENTINEL

ISSUED ON

FRIDAY OF EACH WEEK.

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Friday, January 8, 1904

The prosperous little town of Oakland, in Douglas County, now has a bank with a capital stock of \$25,000 nearly all taken by local business men.

Douglas county being slow on building good roads two road districts of that county have availed themselves of the new law that permits road districts to levy special road taxes and have each made a levy of 10 mills and propose to put their roads in shape so that they will be passable during all times of the year.

The article in the Sentinel of last week commenting on two citizens of Jacksonville was not by a local resident as has been intimated. The party who wrote the article resides in another town of the county and he is a man of standing and influence in the county and knew what he was writing about.

There is a town election to be held in Jacksonville on the first Tuesday in March and a convention to nominate candidates for that election will be held in February. The kind of a city government that Jacksonville has for the next year will in a great measure make for the prosperity or stagnation of the town. Which shall it be?

The Biblical description of the home life of the provident man who was able to sit under his own vine and fig tree can be fulfilled here in Jacksonville for grape vines grow in the greatest luxuriance and fig trees grow with all the vigor of a maple or an oak. And what is futher to the credit of Jacksonville it is not a rented vine and fig tree that the man sits under but it is his own for this is a town of home owners, the proportion of home owners being larger in Jacksonville than in any other town in Southern Oregon.

The New Years edition of the Oregonian was a splendid exposition of the resources and advantages that Oregon has to offer to the home-seeker and the investor and what is more none of the statements were overdrawn and misleading. The edition also contained a comprehensive resume of the growth of Oregon during the past year in its agricultural, mineral, manufacturing and commercial activities giving reliable figures as to the business that has been done in each line. Altogether the New Years Oregonian is of much interest and value to both residents of this state as well as to Eastern people.

Owing to the rigorous quarantine measures that were enforced by the town board of health, the chickenpox epidemic has entirely abated and not a new case has appeared in the town for the past 10 days. As no futher danger from the disease is apprehended the quarantine has been raised from the houses in which there were persons sick with the disease. All sick with the disease have rapidly re-

covered with no bad results, in fact most of those having the disease felt no serious inconvenience other than a slight fever, some not breaking out. School will begin next Monday and Jacksonville will resume its normal condition and continue to maintain its reputation as one of the healthiest towns in the United States.

Old historic Vincennes, the French trading post around which hallows the romantic memories of the day of "Alice of Old Vincennes," has in recent years become a hustling manufacturing center with all the restless energy of a modern American town and in its efforts to secure additional industrial enterprises the old town is quite up-to-date in its methods. Recently the city donated 230 acres of land adjoining the town, at a cost of \$99,000 to a car building company. The company is to employ 1000 hands, and will build 25 cars a day. Of its land 40 acres will be used for factory location, while the remaining 190 acres will be occupied by residences for the company's employes.

The \$300 household exemption will not be allowed on assessment for this year as the new law will not go into effect in time, by reason of the fact that no emergency clause was attached to the bill. The result of this oversight will be that the assessor will have to hunt up every homesteader and miners cabin in all the hills of this county spending two dollars worth of time to secure one dollar in taxes, thus making it a losing undertaking for the county. Then there is the philanthropic side of the question for this forcing assessments to the last dollar will work a hardship on poor widows and others whose only cow and little household effects will be taxed to the limit, for they can not bluff their property in for a fifth of its value, or spirit away notes and cash as do so many rich property holders.

The electric light and water franchises for even small cities are very profitable investments to capilatists as evidenced by the fancy prices that these franchises and their plants bring when sold. An instance of a profitable franchise is at Roseburg where the local water company and the light company have sold their properties to the Oregon Boom & Timber Company the price paid for the two properties being \$175,000. And with all the experience of other towns that have been burdened with ownership of their public utilities by private companies Medford is now trying to dispose of the city's light and water station. It was but a few years ago that the town paid two prices in order to get control of this light and water systems and now there is an effort being made to sell out to a private company and ofcourse at a big loss, for the taxpayers always get left whether the town buys or sells.

The thanks of all good citizens of Jacksonville who value their lives and the peace of the town are due to Councilman Neuber for his timely assistance in laying out the town marshal when that conservator of the peace started in to "shoot-up" the town Monday night. Had not the Councilman got the Marshal helplessly drunk early in the evening, it is more than likely that instead of one person having to seek safety from the Marshal's revolver in hiding behind a bar, half the town would have been dodging behind boxes and barrels, houses and trees to allow ample air space for the circulation of the flying bullets. This new scheme of laying-out a bad man having proved so effective in Marshal Kenney's case, it would be well for the town authorities to have it applied on all the toughs who start to run amuck in Jacksonville, for it would save all expenses of arrest and there would be no need of keeping up a calaboose, thus relieving the taxpayers from that burden.

There should be justice and fairness even in the administration of a marshal's duties. The Jacksonville marshal gets on a big drunk, flourishes a gun, neglects his duties and abuses his aged mother and he is not called to account for it. Had an Applegate or a Medford man come to Jacksonville and got on a big drunk and made a general disturbance he would have been thrown into the cooler in short order and he would have been in luck if he got off with a \$10 fine. There seems to be a difference with a distinction in Jacksonville justice. A stranger rides a bicycle on a cow path by courtesy called a sidewalk and is promptly fined while a resident and an official of the town can get drunk, roll in the mud of the streets and disgrace himself and the town and not an arrest is made. Even if Mr. Kenney has in some respects made a good marshal that does not extenuate him from blame for conduct that he would not allow others to indulge in. If he is unable to control his temper and his appetite he should resign for he can not expect to enforce laws on others that he will not observe himself.

With the multitude of road supervisors that most Oregon counties maintain their salaries take up such a large proportion of the road fund that road improvement is seriously hampered. Multnomah county proposes to do away with this needless expense and has consolidated all the road districts of the county into five. It would be greatly to the advantage of Jackson county if there were but a dozen or less road districts in the county. In addition to the saving on salaries it would enable the county to always secure competent supervisors. With the present small districts there is not work enough to justify a man devoting his time to the roads even for a month, the result is that there is great difficulty in securing men who are practical road builders and competent foremen to handle men. Were the districts large enough so that a supervisor would be certain of at least three months steady work, men could be secured who would make firstclass foremen and who would accomplish far more with a given amount of money than is had by the present method. A number of Oregon counties have reduced the number of their road districts, Gillman county even going so far as to have but one district. In that county the road foreman starts out early in the spring with his crew of men, teams, grader, tools and with a mess wagon and bunk wagon, carries on the road work until the road fund is exhausted and then the crew is laid off until the next year. One district would hardly be practical in Jackson county owing to the size of the county, but a less number of road districts than is now had would certainly be to the advantage of the taxpayers and a gain in the betterment of the roads.

An innovation in Jackson county that would have many advantages would be the naming of the school houses. The present system of numbering is alright for the official purposes but as a means of designating a certain school with the public it is of no value whatever. It is one of the undefinable attributes of the human mind that enables a person to readily remember the location of a place by a name, but not by a number. It is no difficulty for the average person to learn the location of Maplegrove or Oakland school, but to know where No 12 or No. 25 is situated is a memory feat that few accomplish. In many of the Eastern states every school house has a name. These names are frequently given in honor some worthy pioneer, a prominent citizen, a person celebrated in the Nation's history, or in literature art or science, or the name may be a descriptive or a geographic designation. It would be an honor and a credit to Jackson county were all the school houses named. Named districts show a pride on the part

of patrons in their schools as is proven by the fact that the numbered schools never have the attractive surroundings nor are so well furnished as are those that have a name and an identity in the community. A number of the schools of this county are now named, and the teachers and scholars of the nameless schools should show a public spirit by christening their schools. A plan often employed is to have the children vote on the selection of names and in connection with balloting have suitable exercises for the event and invite the patrons and friends of the school to attend and to take part in the program. That gives all an interest and a pride in the school and creates a sentiment that is a large factor in giving success to the school.

The regular meeting for January for the Jacksonville board of trade will be held Monday evening at the town hall. It is to the personal interest of every citizen in Jacksonville to assist in carrying on the work of the board in the up-building of Jacksonville. Not a discriminating stranger comes to Jacksonville but what comments on the fine possibilities the town has and of its certainty of becoming a live, prosperous town were its advantages properly utilized by its people. But these strangers are repelled from the town by the lack of confidence the Jacksonville people have in their own town and by the little effort that is made to clean up, brighten up and beautify the town. Appearances are half to the success of a town as to an individual. The chief aim of the board of trade is to secure a unison of action on the part of the people of Jacksonville to work for any measure that will advance the interests of their town. Lone efforts of individual citizens accomplish little for a town, but where the entire body of citizens work together little effort accomplishes big results for the betterment of the town. To make Jacksonville the handsomest and best residence town in Southern Oregon is an end that the board of trade is working for. That gained and the town will be on a basis for a steady, substantial growth. This is proven by the fact that not a week goes by but what strangers are here looking over the town with a view to locating. Most of these men are persons of means and are not looking so much for business opportunities as they are for a bright, prosperous looking town, where an investment would be safe, and where a mild, salubrious climate can be had and the social advantages enjoyed that they were accustomed to in their Eastern or Northern home. Jacksonville has the climatic advantages that excel all other Southern Oregon towns and when it can present tidy streets, neat houses and handsome yards then will it become a popular residence town with people who have gained wealth, retired from business and wish to live in a place where all environments are conducive to their comfort and their happiness. Jacksonville can be made such a town and it is up to its citizens to accomplish this or to sit listlessly and let their town retrograde.

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