

HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES HAVE RULED THE PAST WEEK

Churches, Fraternal Orders and Haughty Society Alike Have Commemorated the Coming of the Meek and Lowly Shepherd in Their way

BUT MERRILL EXCELLED THEM ALL

The grandest social event in the history of the town of Merrill took place Monday night on the occasion of the dedication of her new opera house. The event was celebrated by giving a masquerade ball and banquet. To say that the town, situated in one of Klamath's most beautiful and fertile valleys, did herself proudly, in putting it off.

At least 500 persons attended the ball and over 100 sat down at the banquet table, which would have been a credit to the largest city on the Pacific coast. The town of Merrill turned out in full force and Klamath Falls, Bonanza, Bly, Prineville, and every town and every nook and corner of the county was represented.

The occasion, of course, was the part of the people, too, for their new opera house has just been completed, and every citizen in Merrill had an interest in it. They donated the grounds and Mr. J. V. Houston of Klamath Falls, constructed the building. It is large and commodious, and modern in its equipment, being built on the same plan and with the same broad view as the Klamath Falls opera house. It, like the occasion, would be a credit to a city ten times the size of Merrill.

But it is not in advance of Merrill, or it should be, it will not remain so long, for the prospects of that wise little city are as bright, if not brighter, than any other town in Klamath County, where the outlook generally stands out under the most flattering conditions before the eye of the most conservative. Situated in a valley four miles wide and ten to fifteen miles long, whose soil is as fertile as has ever been presented to humanity by nature, inhabited by industrious, intelligent and prosperous people with a good share of irrigation already, and all the different irrigation projects and especially that of the government, bearing down upon her, numerous railroads heading her way, she will certainly keep pace with every advancement in every line.

She produces, and with irrigation will produce, an hundred fold wheat, oats, barley, hay, rye, potatoes, beets, turnips, cabbages, strawberries, and the harder fruits of every description beyond that of any other portion of Oregon. She ships out 10,000 to 15,000 hives annually, 500 to 2000 horses, and supplies a country 100 miles to the north and east, and her schools and churches are keeping pace with her general advancement. She has two large general stores doing an aggregate volume of business of \$75,000 annually. She has two first class hotels, two blacksmith shops and two as orderly saloons as are conducted in the Pacific Northwest. She has a first class live stock also, and a number of smaller business enterprises. Her flouring mills rank among the best and most modern of the country. She has a saw mill close at hand, which at present cuts sufficient lumber, though the demand is growing every day to meet her advancement in improvement.

So wonder the people of Merrill are proud, and the people all over the county joined her in the holidays in the celebration and dedication of her magnificent new building.

To undertake to describe the event, the costumes, and the merriment of the evening would be a task of difficulty. To say that it was grand, beautiful, and ennobling would be putting it mildly. The music, furnished by the Klamath Falls band in full uniform, even surpassed the usual standard of that famous aggregation of musicians. The costumes represented every phase of practical life. From the dazzling raiment of kings and queens throughout the delectable, to hoboes and tramps, including happy hooligans, and Gloomy Guses, were represented. There were three cash prizes offered, and the distribution

MR. EDITOR TAYLOR DR. R. E. LEE STEINER ISSUES ANOTHER CIRCULAR ON HIS WAY TO SALEM.

Attempts Many Things Under Cloak of Irrigation Committee. Will Offer a Bill to Operate Against Killing Stock on Range.

Tries to Place Republican in False Light, Roasts Canal Company and Advances Silly Gosh. Says Canal Company is not in the way but Cries it Down as a Monster.

(The introductory to the following article is misleading so far as it refers to the REPUBLICAN. The casual reader would infer that the article commented upon was an editorial of this paper when in fact it was a news item in the form of an interview. This paper will gladly give all the news on all sides of the irrigation question, but objects to misleading statements being sent out, worded by an opponent and palmed off on the people as the work of a public committee which is supposed to discharge the duties for which it was appointed, and not to engage in petty quarrels with local institutions.—Editor.)

The following was handed to the Republican by J. Scott Taylor, secretary of the Government Irrigation Committee. To it was attached the printed names of all the members of the committee:

"In the REPUBLICAN of December 22, appeared a lengthy article setting forth the terms upon which the land owners of Klamath and Poe valleys may acquire the proposed irrigation of the Klamath Canal Company. The article accuses the friends of Government irrigation, who are working to secure it, of being actuated by personal motives, even to as great an extent as the promoters of the Klamath Canal Company's project. An attempt is made to show up the advantages to the people of acquiring this system rather than the one proposed by the Government.

"The principal points of the discussion are that the Canal Company is making a better offer to the people than the government; that it can construct a system cheaper and in a shorter time than it is possible for the government to do. The land-owners are urged to accept the offer of the Canal Co. because it has a definite proposition to make, the acceptance of which cannot possibly do any harm. It is urged that the people should stand by the Canal Co. because it was the first in the field. Finally, it is argued that the purchase of the system would be an advantage to the land-owners, as the property could at the proper time be turned over to the Government and become a part of its system.

"It is not the intention of any of the members of the committee which favors government irrigation and is working to secure it, to enter into personalities or compare past records with any of the members of the Canal Company. Neither is it necessary to denude the motives which are actuating the Committee, and other citizens of the valley, in working for government irrigation, for it is a public benefit and will bring the greatest good to the people of this country that could possibly be conceived. Aside from this, the land-owners, and those to be benefited by irrigation, have the right to judge of the work done by the committee whom they have chosen to represent them.

"The statement that the offer of the Canal Company is better than the Government can give will hardly be taken seriously by any one.

"The Canal Company says it will construct the system and turn it over to the people for a fixed price of \$15 per acre, on a basis of 50,000 acres, for the land irrigated. If this is a business proposition the price paid for the system must include a profit to the promoters of the enterprise, and interest upon the capital to do the work. If it is not a business proposition the work cannot be carried on, for private capital is not available for enterprises which do not offer a fair margin of profit; especially in this time of private irrigation ventures the reason being that practically all of them have been financial failures.

"The Government offers, through the reclamation service, to construct for the people an adequate system for irrigation and drainage—to turn it over to them at actual cost of construction, and to allow them ten years in which to pay for it without interest. This system, when completed, will include all the land in the Klamath basin susceptible of irrigation and the reclamation of large areas which at the present time are useless. The work done by the Government will be of a most substantial character, and not of a nature to require a perpetual high maintenance charge, as is usually the case with systems built for revenue and profits to the promoters.

"The question which confronts the people of the valley is not one that should be answered, or in any way affected by sentiment. It matters not whether the Government or Klamath Canal Company was first in the field; what the people want is to get the best

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DELINQUENT TAXES

Clerk issued His Warrant for Collection Tuesday.

Sheriff Silas Owen-chain completed the delinquent tax list Tuesday and the County Clerk issued his warrant for the collection of the same, the same day.

The total delinquency of real and personal property is \$3305 56. Of this the major portion is due by non-residents, many of whom are timber land owners. It has been a prosperous year and the collections have been good.

The total collections to December 17, 1905, amounted to \$62,168.58.

This sale is set for February 4, 1905.

Club Meeting Postponed.

Owing to the busy times during the holidays the meeting of prominent citizens to form a business, social and athletic club in Klamath Falls was postponed Monday evening until a future date. The promoters are in earnest over the matter and expect to perfect the organization at once and construct a handsome home for the club early in the Spring.

MANY LAND PATENTS.

The Lakeview land office is in receipt of a large number of land patents which are now ready for distribution. Following are ready for Klamath County citizens: Marie Thompson, Jas. E. Sullivan, Myrtle J. L. Vaden, Klamath Falls.

ANOTHER HUNG JURY

Famous Tin Can Case Drags on With the Years.

The trial of the case of the Danielson boys against Dee Roberts at Jacksonville last week resulted in another mistrial by the disagreement of the jury.

It will be remembered that the Danielson boys found a tin can in Roberts' hen-house, while cleaning it out containing \$7,000 in coin. He paid the boys five cents each at the time and told them to say nothing about it. This was back in 1894. The boys afterwards were persuaded that the money by right belonged to them and brought suit.

At a former trial the defendant won, but the supreme court reversed the case and the second trial resulted in a disagreement of the jury, nine holding out for the boys and three standing for the defendant.

COUNCIL TUESDAY NIGHT.

The city council meeting which should take place next Monday night will be postponed until Tuesday night, owing to the fact that where a legal holiday falls on Sunday the following day is set apart as a holiday. Sunday being New Year's the council will only meet Monday night and adjourn until Tuesday night.

WILL FIX TAX LEVY

County Court to Convene January 4, 1905.

The County Court will convene for the new year January 4. Among the most important matters to come before the court will be the fixing of the tax levy for the ensuing year.

When seen about the matter Judge Baldwin was unable to make an approximate estimate as to the amount of the levy next year. The amount of the state levy had not been received and until this arrives it will be impossible to arrive at the amount of the levy in this county.

At the same meeting the advisability of constructing a high school building will be considered. The road supervisors for the various road districts will also be appointed at the January term of Court.

ASHLAND IN BAD STRAITS.

The city of Ashland is in a bad plight financially. The city tax levy has been placed at 15 mills and the Tribune states that owing to a falling off in values of assessable property the tax collections will run far short of running expenses. The city has started down the lane of bankruptcy by authorizing the Mayor and Recorder to borrow \$4,200 to meet the present deficit.

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