

**NEW YEAR ISSUE**  
 Contents of the January Edition  
 Page 1—Big Trees—Beach Resorts—Give us  
 a look of the \$200,000—Warning, Reliable  
 and Safe Mrs.—Population—Etc.—Etc.  
 Page 2—Gross and Fir Trees—Uninventing at  
 present—Tannery prospects—Who Should come  
 from—Saw Mill—Buildings—Schools—Cream  
 Cans—Taxes—Roads—Towns and Localities—  
 Harbors—Harbor Improvements—Climate—  
 Fisheries, Etc.  
 Page 3—Dairying—Commissioner Luce's Re-  
 port—Oregonian's Comment—Cost of Dairy  
 Farms—General Description of Tillamook's  
 Resources—After the Fire—Railroad Prospects,  
 Etc.  
 Page 4—Official, social and Church directory—  
 FLASHLIGHT FLASHES—Local Jottings—Available  
 Investment Lands, Etc.  
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**Tillamook**



**Headlight.**

Vol. VII, No. 34. TILLAMOOK, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1895. \$1.50 Per Year

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**TOLL ROADS**

**THEIR RIGHTS ON GRAND  
 RONDE RESERVATION.**

A. W. Fletcher of Oretown has handed us the following letter for publication. It seems that Judge Burnett, in his decision, in the controversy between Messrs Baxters and the Little Nestucca people, assumed that Baxter had a right to charge toll to Agency Creek, or nearly the whole distance across the Indian Reservation, and considered that Baxters had a legal right to the road on the lands of the agency. It has been surmised however that Judge Burnett did not fully understand the exact location of Agency creek, and that his decision was based on an erroneous idea of its location. At any rate the following letter from the Interior Department seems to show that no toll road legally exists on the reservation:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
 Office of Indian Affairs,  
 Washington, Nov. 2, 1894.

Mr. J. H. Mitchell,  
 Oretown, Oregon.  
 Dated October 20, 1894.  
 Therewith from Hon. H. G. Guild, Sheridan, Oregon, with which there was enclosed one to him from Mr. A. W. Fletcher, Oretown, Tillamook Co., Oregon, all pertaining to a proposed toll road through the Grande Ronde Indian reservation, and referring to a petition which was forwarded some time ago by Mr. Guild through Senator Dolph to this office.

Mr. Fletcher states in his letter that he had understood Mr. Guild had written to the proper authorities here respecting the dispute over the proposed road and with a view of trying to prevent the establishment of a toll road through the said reservation by Mr. Baxter or the road company represented by him. It appears from Mr. Fletcher's letter that a road dispute has been carried into Circuit Court of Oregon; that the Judge thereof decided that Mr. Baxter, or his company, owned a road from Agency Creek to a point known as Mrs. Dunn's; that Baxter, or the company, had the right to charge one dollar as toll, against which protest is made; that he desires to ascertain whether this Department has granted Mr. Baxter, or his company the right to charge toll across the reservation, and if so, when such authority was obtained; that he (Fletcher) had been advised by the U. S. Indian Agent of the Grand Ronde Agency that Mr. Baxter has no such authorities; and that he is not satisfied with the information received, but desires a direct answer from the authorities here.

You asked in your letter to be advised as to the statute of this matter and as to whether the party named is entitled to collect toll on the road in the Indian reservation, and if so by that right.

In reply I have to state that on August 29, 1894, this office addressed the letter to you, at your request, and stated that several applications had been directly or indirectly made for rights of way for wagon roads through the Grande Ronde and Siletz Indian reservation, Oregon; that the matter of establishing wagon roads across these reservations was in an unsettled condition as a result of indirectness on the part of the projectors; that their identity was not made known to this office, nor did they make specific applications for the desired rights of way. A copy of a letter, dated June 27, 1894, to Hon. Binger Hermann, giving all the information in the matter possessed by this office at that time was then furnished you.

Since addressing you the letter last referred to, I have received a letter dated Sept. 23, 1894, from Senator Dolph enclosing therewith a petition from citizens of Tillamook County and a letter from Mr. Guild protesting against the granting to private parties right to build roads and bridges on the Grande Ronde Indian reservation and collect toll for travel upon the same. Senator Dolph added his protest to the above mentioned and expressed the hope that no such privilege calculated to tax travel and transportation would be granted.

On August 29th last, I received a letter from the U. S. Indian Agent of the Grande Ronde Agency, stating that the Messrs. Baxter of the Grande Ronde and Salmon River Toll Road Company came to see him recently and offered upon certain terms and condition to construct a road across the Grande Ronde and Siletz Indian reservations in Oregon if the Secretary of the Interior

would grant them authority for right of way, but according to the Agent's statements, they had then neither organized under the law of the state of Oregon nor filed with him a map of definite location of the proposed road with field notes of the survey which should accompany the same.

The Agent adds that he wrote the office in regard to this matter at the request of the application; that he would not make any remarks as to the advisability of the proposed road or any other road until the parties should file a map of definite location of the same and field notes also.

It appears from an examination of the files and records of this office that neither the Baxters nor the Grande Ronde and Salmon River Toll Road has been granted authority to locate across the Grande Ronde Indian reservation, and if the said parties, or Company, is charging, as alleged, toll for travel across that reservation, it is done without authority of this Department. Very respectfully,  
 FRANK C. ARMSTRONG,  
 Acting Commissioner.

We see that Representative Guild will present a bill to repeal the present assessment laws, and tax mortgages to the holders, and also allow exemptions for the holders of mortgages on farms in the city. We believe there is an injustice in allowing many large property owners to shirk taxes altogether by taking advantage of the indebtedness exemption. This works a greater injustice to the farmer than the taxing of property regardless of indebtedness. If the law is to be changed, it should be amended so that when a man pays taxes on a piece of land that is mortgaged that whatever taxes he pays on the amount of the indebtedness as shown by the mortgage, be credited to him as part payment of the mortgage. The mortgage holders have often evaded paying taxes, and this absence of indebtedness exemptions, will make all pay taxes equally according to property. It is argued by some that mortgages should not be taxed, as those who loan money would only raise the rate of interest, and that the borrower pays the tax after all. But this is a rotten argument. Just as well say let the poor man pay all the taxes, because the rich man will make it up in charging him interest if you don't. We hope that Mr. Guild will change his bill, so that the borrower's taxes may be credited as part payment of the mortgage. This is not a new idea, but an old one, and has been found good where tried.

That was a terrible fire at Silver Lake where 50 persons, half the town, was burned up by upsetting a lamp in a public hall, but a hall in Tillamook in the third story has a large lamp hanging over the only stairway, and there are no fire escapes. There should be an ordinance regulating such matters, or some day a worse calamity than that of Silver Lake will befall Tillamook. We do not wish to criticise Mr. Larsen in particular, but would suggest that the council require all the three story buildings to be supplied with substantial fire escape ladders.

Senator Turpie, that long haired hard shell, anti-deluvian moss-back from some small tributary of the Wabash, made a three days speech against the Nicaragua canal in the senate not long since. Every time the matter came up Turpie gives one of his ante-bellum roars, and an idea couldn't be put through his rhinoceros hide with anything short of a blacksmith's drill. Turpie should have been buried before the war.

No religious creed should be considered, favored or discriminated against, when a man's qualifications for office are being considered. The A. P. A. is out of place when it meddles with politics. If we are convinced that a certain man is the right man for a place, it would cut no figure whether he were a Methodist, Romanist or an Infidel.

The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, the goldbug organ of that city, says of Coin's Financial School that, "while its principle stock in trade is burlesque, humor and sarcasm, the golden rule will have to construct better arguments than they yet have if they are to successfully combat the influence of this book."

The Book Trust completely captured the state, and got every thing it asked for. The gold agents did their work thoroughly, and is demonstrated that the trust is more powerful than the people of the state of Oregon. The next thing in order is the election of Dolph.

**PROSPECTUS**  
 General Character of this Paper.  
 THE HEADLIGHT is the oldest paper, having been here seven years. Other papers have come and gone, but the HEADLIGHT never weakens. The present proprietor has been with it most of the time since it started.  
 It is the county official paper; publishes the tax list, financial statements and court proceedings. Besides it gives all the county news, and works to build up the country.  
 The HEADLIGHT is absolutely independent, and speaks fearlessly on all local questions. It gives all persons a chance to air their opinions, and encourages independence and freedom of thought and action.  
 A finely equipped commercial printing plant is in connection, and the office does practically all the job printing done for this country.  
 W. F. D. JONES, Editor.

**LEGISLATIVE**

**THE SENATORIAL FIGHT  
 UNSETTLED**

Special Correspondence.  
 Salem, Ore. Jan. 14.—Senate organized with Joe Simon as president. House with C. B. Mores as speaker. Both regarded as victories for Dolph men. Senatorial fight still unsettled. A. W. Severance, of Tillamook, secured position as assistant clerk of senate. Other Tillamookers got left, but may get clerkships later.

Salem, Jan. 15.—Senatorial fight remains about the same. Dolph men confident. Dolph's forces are using promises for political patronage for the future with effect.

There was the usual rush to introduce bills in both houses.

**Who are Republicans?**  
 [Extract from the platform unanimously adopted by the Oregon state republican convention in 1890.]  
 "Sixth—That recognizing the fact that the United States is the greatest and most powerful country in the world, and that it is the duty of every citizen to support the government equally from the beginning of the republic, the hostile legislation against silver, which unduly contracted the circulating medium of the country; and recognizing that the great interests of the people demand more money for use in the channels of trade and commerce; therefore we declare ourselves in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver, and denounce any attempt to discriminate against silver as unjust."

[Extract from a speech of Hon. J. N. Dolph, delivered at a public dinner in Boston, on the 19th, of April, 1892.]  
 "It is true, I had the tenacity at the last congress to oppose my voice and vote in the United States senate against free coinage of silver, when the correction of my party in the state had declared in favor of it. I do not subscribe to the doctrine that resolutions of state conventions shall control my judgement or vote on the question."

[Extract from editorial in Morning Oregonian of December 21, 1894.]  
 "Every drop of republican blood that tolerates such a notion is guilty of a several bastardy."

[The Oregon republican platform of 1894 dodges the financial question entirely by calling for "Honest Money" not specifying what is honest money. As most people believe silver is honest money, it was evident the state convention would vote down a gold standard platform, and the convention was led to believe that the financial plank meant free silver. Harvey Scott of the Oregonian controlled the committee and prepared the financial plank. Now, after practicing this deception, it is attempted to ram it down the people of Oregon.]

The Oregonian has lucid moments at times, and occasionally takes the right side of a question, as will be seen by the following:

The American Book Company has got everything. This was expected. The result has cost a lot of labor and money, for which the trust will recoup grandly during the next six years. In a short time R. D. Edwards will let it be known who is to be elected school director in Portland for the ensuing year. The information may be expected to leak out through Brother Roby.

Senator Vest is undoubtedly right when he says a majority of the senate would vote to repeal the Haysenyer duties if they had the chance. The Haysenyer senators make the greatest mistake to a change in the rules which would permit a majority of the senate to legislate. Under the present rules, half a dozen corrupt scoundrels, whom no senator would listen to or follow, have absolute power to prevent legislation.

The legislature at the coming session must smash the school ring. It is the big ring and the corrupt ring of the state.

Ripans Tablets purify the blood.