

Tillamook Headlight.

—BY—
W. F. D. JONES.

THE COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

—Independent in Politics—

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Correspondence Wanted.

The Headlight is for the people, and they are invited to write for its columns. We believe in free exercise of opinion, and wish to encourage independence of thought and action. Local topics are preferred. Our name stands at the head of this column, and everything not otherwise signed, we stand responsible for. If you write, don't be afraid to father your own opinions, but sign your name for publication, it is cowardly to do otherwise, and articles with fictitious names have little weight. We adhere to this condition, except as to local correspondents who send news items pure and simple. In such cases we do not publish the name of the writer.

But if you wish to express an opinion or criticize somebody, you must sign your name for publication. And, in all cases, we must know the name of the writer. Don't throw out petty personal slurs, or deal in coarse abuse regarding your neighbors. Would you'd abuse the editor of this paper. Such letters would be more apt to be published. In fact, people who hold opinions different from ours are urged to write them for publication. We'll answer you fairly and courteously if your opinions are worth answering. We are anxious to have parties of different faith express their opinion in this paper. We pride ourselves on granting everybody to think and act according to his conscience, regardless of our own beliefs.

The public doesn't care about "somebody going to see his girl," "new fence," "bad cold," "building of hen coops," etc. Write about something interesting or not at all. Write as plainly as possible. If you can't spell correctly, or use good grammar, never mind that. Don't let a good news item spoil on that account. We furnish printed instructions that will be of help to those who wish to write for papers. The space in this paper is yours. Make use of it if you like.

RAILROAD NEWS.

The railroad news published elsewhere in this paper is very encouraging. The company which is building the Astoria railroad is determined to run a branch road at once down the coast to Nehalem and Tillamook to get the coal, timber and dairy products of this region, and they expect the road to pay at the start for the local trade.

This company has purchased the railroad which extends in this district to Seaside, and the bridge across Young's bay will be finished for this season's travel.

At the start this may be only a branch road, but it must be remembered that the same parties have purchased the Oregon Pacific road, and it will be only a short time until the Tillamook branch will connect with the main line at Albany, and then a through trans-continental road will be open from Astoria to the east, and Tillamook will be on that line.

A railroad will cause wonderful progress here, and it cannot hurt the place by excessive freights as we have the Pacific Ocean with its coasting steamers to prevent any grinding monopoly from levying any unjust tribute upon our trade.

From information we have, it is probable that the proposed road will be extended to Tillamook before another year passes.

Nicaragua Canal.

There is a general feeling in all quarters now that the Nicaragua Canal will be built as speedily as possible, and that the next congress will make the necessary provisions. The following is one of the latest dispatches:

President Cleveland has determined that an exhibition of our interest in the Nicaragua canal, which was authorized by the last session of Congress, shall be prompt-made. A Government commission to examine the canal route, for which \$20,000 is immediately available, is to be sent to Greyton as soon as possible on board a U. S. war vessel to emphasize the concern of this Government in the enterprise.

The programme of the Administration's action in the premises was agreed upon at last Friday's cabinet meeting, when Secretaries Lamont and Herbert were directed to select an army engineer and one naval civil engineer, who, with a civilian to be selected in a day or two, will constitute the Board of Engineers to visit Nicaragua. It was decided that the army have the ranking officer of the board and Secretary Lamont selected Colonel Craighill for the chairmanship. As soon as the President has completed the board it will organize in Washington to go to New York, where the plans, specifications and

contracts of the canal company will be closely scrutinized.

The party will then go to Mobile and embark on the Montgomery, which has been detailed for the duty of conveying it to Greytown and which will remain there as long as their stay lasts, furnishing them a marine guard as well as boats and steam launches and giving them the moral support of the United States flag.

When Warner Miller, John R. Bartlett, Smith M. Weed and Hiram Hitchcock were herelast week they agreed to put a force immediately at work along the route of the canal cutting away the dense tropical undergrowth, and gave assurances of much practical assistance to the Government boards. This force has already been organized and will accomplish its work about the time the Montgomery reaches Greytown.

It is expected that the board will be appointed in time to spend next week in New York, and that the Montgomery will leave Mobile in time to reach Greytown on April 15th, which, by a curious coincidence, is one day before Great Britain expects an answer from Nicaragua to the ultimatum regarding Vice-Consul Hatch and other British subjects.

"THE FIFTY-CENT DOLLAR."

The Tribune has been made happy a tissue of half truths from that eccentric old gentleman, ex-Governor George T. Anthony, of Kansas, who has made the discovery, important if true, that gold and silver have never been maintained on a parity and never can be, with much more of the same sort. It is not worth while to winnow error from truth in this particular peck of chaff, but it is in order to clear away some of the misrepresentation, of which it is an average specimen.

In the exercise of its constitutional monopoly of the power to "coin money and regulate the value thereof," Congress in 1792 established the silver dollar, 371 1/4 grains of pure silver, as the monetary unit, and there was no change in this respect until 1873, when the gold dollar of 23.2 grains pure metal was made the unit, which is the present law. In other words, the government has at no time had "two units," nor, from the very nature of things, can it have. But it does not follow that it can have but one kind of full legal tender money. In a sense it has three kinds today, the greenback being as truly money, albeit having no intrinsic value, as coin. But there is no "parity," in the usual acceptance of the term, between greenbacks and specie. We have three kinds of money and might have a dozen, but when it comes to metallism it must be mono or bi. Nature and the consent of man fix that. For convenience alloys of nickel and copper are used for small change, but they are mere "tokens."

During all that period from 1792 to 1873 gold had the freedom of the mints precisely the same as silver, but when they changed places as the unit gold did not reciprocate. At that time the two were so near a parity that it would have been safe and proper to have done so. Since then the market value of 371 1/4 grains of silver has become very much less than the 23.2 grain of gold. In view of the Jones bill, with its acceptance by the most extreme silver men of the Senate, it is no longer fair to say, as formerly, that free silver means the privilege of taking bar silver to the mint and getting it coined into dollars on the same basis as gold bars. In the latter case the charge or deduction is only such seigniorage as will cover the actual expense of coinage, a mere trifle. The Jones bill provides that the charge in the case of silver shall include, besides that expense, the difference in metal value between a gold and silver dollar, very nearly 50 per cent. This, we repeat, is not what has been hitherto been considered to be free coinage, and is a radical departure in the direction of con-

servatism. When the Fifty-Fourth Congress meets it will afford opportunity for determining beyond a doubt and proclaiming beyond a cavil or a chance for misapprehension what is the latest meaning of the phrase "free silver."

The Inter Ocean does not say that the Jones bill is the established policy of the silverites, or even that it is the best solvent of the problem, but we do insist that in view of its acceptance by all the silver Senators it is no longer fair to ring the familiar changes on the "fifty-cent dollar."—Inter Ocean.

CLIPPED OPINIONS.

Astorian: According to the articles of incorporation filed Tuesday for the Astoria and Columbia River Railway, the Seashore line is to be extended to the Nehalem and Tillamook bay. This bears on the statement made by the Astorian a few days ago that Mr. Hammond intended reaching out for that country. He is thorough-familiar with the resources of that country in coal and timber, and calculates that it will be one of the most important feeders to the main line.

Polk Co. Itemizer: Positive and outspoken people always have enemies. The leaders in all kind of reform must drive ahead in the face of opposition.

Rural Northwest: If the Nicaragua canal were in operation our potatoes would be worth twice as much as they now are in Portland. Potatoes are selling at from 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 cents per pound in New York. The freight, by way of the canal, should not exceed 1/2 cent per pound.

Sheridan Sun: The Tillamook Headlight and the Dallas Transcript both free silver papers are floundering on the proposition of "free and unlimited coinage" of silver, yet they both want a silver dollar to have all the privileges of a gold dollar. Then give silver free unlimited coinage, brethren. That is just what gold has, and has ever had. If you want the metals to have equal rights as money, the ratio agreed upon, you must give each unlimited free coinage, or you discriminate in favor of gold and against silver.

A wonderful change is making its appearance among the eastern republican newspapers. Those that were goldbugs are undergoing a change, and their expressions are getting more and more favorable to silver. Some of the loudest free silverites are getting more conservative, and it begins to look as if the party would be harmonious in adopting a money plank that will be more favorable to silver than ever before, something safe and sound in the way of reform, and a plank that will hold the whole party. The prospects are that the free silver advocates are about to see the fulfillment of their desires in a modified form. At any rate it will be a compromise favorable to the Western idea. The increased confidence in this and in the hopes of an international conference has caused the price of silver to advance in the markets, and business will generally grow better as silver advances.

The republicans elected Swift mayor of Chicago by over 40,000 plurality April 1st. A number of elections occurred at the same time, and the republicans have gained everywhere. St. Louis is strongly republican. The republicans are properly in it.

A paper published at Aurora, Barlow and Canby (jointly and severally) in Clackamas county is called "Three Sisters." We understand another paper will soon start there called the "Three Brothers." Consolidation may be looked for.

Just learned that it was "Poetical License" that gave such color to Joaquin Miller's account of affairs in Honolulu. Guess his "Poetical License" has gone to seed.

The city of Tillamook is out of debt, has money in the treasury, and levied no tax this year. Besides this we have good streets, a bridge, and a city hall.



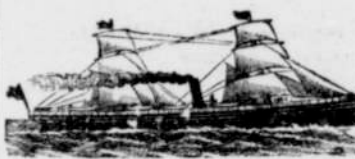
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