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The Statesman has been established for nearly fifty years, and it has some subscribers who have received it nearly that long, and many who have read it for a generation. Some of these objects to having the paper discontinued at the time of expiration of their subscriptions. For the benefit of those who for other reasons have concluded to discontinue subscriptions only when notified to do so. All persons paying when receiving, or paying in advance, will have the benefit of the dollar rate. But if they desire to pay for six months, the rate will be \$1.25 a year. Hereafter we will send the paper to all responsible persons who order it, though they may not send the money, with the understanding that they are to pay \$1.25 a year, in case they fail to pay the subscription account run over six months. In order that there may be no misunderstanding, we will keep this notice standing at this place in the paper.

CIRCULATION (SWORN) OVER 4000



And there are those who pretend that John Hall would permit the persecution of Senator Mitchell for "political revenge." What next, in the way of absurdities?

A New York paper speaks of a prominent member of Congress who "is afflicted with a fad for continually increasing naval support." Why not operate upon him for appendicitis?

A flat salary law should have been passed two years ago. There was no justification for its defeat—nor for that of the direct primary law. The defeat of the latter resulted in the enactment of one by the initiative process, and a repetition of the failure to enact a flat salary law will be followed by a similar experience as to it. The politicians may take notice.

The evening paper says the Governor "has instructed the state land agent to go to the bottom of the land business and formulate a report." Well, what of it? All state land agents have had the same instructions and have obeyed them. Nothing whatever having been concealed, there is nothing to report that is new, save what the present agent may have done.

Not content with expressing his disapprobation of his predecessor for making selections of lieu land on base which had been declared valid by the proper United States land officers, according to law, the versatile state land agent, according to the Telegram reporter, is of the opinion that "if a balance were struck it would be found that the school fund has fared very well," under his management, of course, "especially when we take into consideration the loose manner in which the funds have been handled in years gone by." Of course, the school fund has suffered "in the years gone by" through the dilatoriness of young Mr. West in the process of being resurrected and the consequent impossibility of securing his invaluable services, but who is to blame for this but himself? It is not yet known whether he plunges into a discussion of Cleveland's method of selling bonds or not. Probably he does. Certainly he should.

Monday, the day succeeding Christmas, being naturally a dull one and very unproductive of news, a reporter on the Evening Telegram concluded that a "story" narrating how an alliance had been made between Malcolm Moody and Tom Kay, by which the one was to be made Speaker of the House this winter, and the other United States Senator two years hence, would afford interesting reading—so he wrote it. That is all. Of course, there is not and never has been any such agreement, or conference looking toward it, has been no correspondence between them upon the subject and there was no ground upon which to base the very pretty story, but it was read, no doubt, by those who ran across it, a medium of originality as a writer of fiction was manifested by its author and space which might otherwise have been begged was handsomely filled. Monday was really a hard day on which to get news without inventing it. And a paper must have news.

Bronchitis

"I have kept Ayer's Cherry Pectoral in my house for a great many years. It is the best medicine in the world for coughs and colds."
J. C. Williams, Attica, N. Y.

All serious lung troubles begin with a tickling in the throat. You can stop this at first in a single night with Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Use it also for bronchitis, hard colds, consumption.

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Consult your doctor. If he says take it, then do as he says. If he tells you not to take it, then don't take it. He knows.

You should promptly correct any constitutional "biliousness" with Ayer's Pills, small, laxative doses.
J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

STATE'S LIEU-LAND POLICY.

In an editorial of some length the Oregonian considers what it calls the lieu-land policy of the state, in the course of which it makes a few statements going to show that, if it would apply its admissions to the remainder of the article, there would have been little purpose in writing it at all.

The adjudication of supposed mineral sections of school lands was begun by General W. H. Odell, for the reason that for twenty years, or more, there had been a large number of such sections in Eastern Oregon on the market for sale, and though state lands were, especially in latter years, in great demand, these particular lands in the mineral belt of Eastern Oregon were so worthless, and were so generally regarded, that no purchasers for them had ever appeared.

If, in round numbers, there were 100,000 acres of such lands, the school fund was deprived, year by year, of \$125,000 by reason of fact much of the federal grant being unsalable and worthless. Being of no benefit to the state whatever, and lying in a country whose people claim abundance in mineral everywhere, it was deemed a good policy for the state, and therefore the school fund, if the mineral character of these sections should be determined, one way or the other, and if so established, it would not only transfer their nominal value, \$125,000, into the school fund, but since they could be used as base for the selection of lieu-lands which would be worth \$2.50 an acre the result would really be the placing of \$250,000 in the irreducible fund without doing any harm to any interest or to any individual.

Tais was the motive which prompted the inauguration of the policy and its purpose or wisdom cannot be questioned.

But the state has made no appropriation for such adjudications, though it should have done so. The only way to proceed, therefore, was to authorize private parties to undertake it, if such parties desired to do so, at their own expense, and if successful in establishing the mineral character of the lands, look to purchasers of such base for remuneration, and if unsuccessful, to stand the loss. In either case the state undertook no risk, with the prospect of adding \$125,000 to the school fund above the nominal value of the lands "in place," which, really, was nothing, unless sold.

Gen. Odell, a man of excellent standing and qualifications, who had just completed a term as clerk of the state land board under Governor Lord's administration, expressed a willingness to undertake the work, and was authorized to do so. As the Oregonian says, "there is nothing illegal or morally wrong in the business of adjudication of mineral 'base' and furnishing it to intending purchasers."

Passing over the puerile objection of the Oregonian that the fact of Gen. Odell's occupying a desk in the state land agent's office had anything whatever to do with the decision of the general land office as to the sufficiency of proof of the mineral character of the land (though other "operators" in state lands, some of whom are now in serious trouble, occupied the state's desks and used the state's stationery frequently and as long as they wished—without criticism—because the privilege is granted to any person who desires it), that paper says "the state, therefore, sold 50,000 acres of school land which Odell alleged to be mineral and which he and the state land agent were trying to prove were not the property of the state."

But this statement is manifestly unfair. It is not correct. Gen. Odell did not "allege" this land to be mineral. It had passed the point where facts were any allegation as to its mineral character. It could not be sold under any circumstances until its mineral character had been established by the United States land officers. Tais had been done, and no "allegations" were at all necessary, and none were made.

And neither was the state land agent "trying to prove the land was not the property of the state. The very fact that the United States officers had declared it mineral and authorized the selection of other lands in lieu of it, decided that it was not the property of the state. It was not necessary for anybody to be trying to prove what was already admitted. And this was understood by every purchaser of it.

Indeed, the Oregonian says "the proof offered was accepted as lieu-land selections approved by the United States land officers." Then what more could be expected—than to have the proceedings sanctioned by the United States authorities? Tais the law required, and tais was done. In fact, every acre of land offered as base and upon which selections were made, was precisely as valid as the laws of Oregon required it to be, and more than this, no man could ask.

The Oregonian practically admits the groundlessness of its entire criticism in the following paragraph:

"It is probably true, as Gen. Odell has asserted, that if the General Land Office had accepted the same degree of proof that it required when its proceedings were commenced, the mineral base would have been approved, and

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the state's title to the lieu-land would have been sound."

Then every criticism falls to the ground. How could Gen. Odell force the rule would be changed? The above declaration admits the regularity of the proceedings as to the adjudication of these lands and the probable sufficiency of the proof.

And no trouble would have resulted and the school fund would have been swelled by the sum of \$125,000, as was intended by the administration, but for the unexpected purchase of a large number of these "worthless" sections, which had been on the market, but unsalable, for twenty years, by a bunch of speculators who, by the most mysterious "coincidence," purchased most of them in one day, and, by a still more unfathomable "coincidence," within two days after such purchase the public was informed of the probable establishment of a forest reserve that would include those very lands!

It was this unexpected purchase of these adjudicated lands by speculators who had been led to believe through some revelation from the clouds, perhaps, that the authorities at Washington were contemplating the creation of a forest reserve that would include them and make them available for the selection of valuable lieu-lands, that led the Department at Washington to decide they are not mineral!

At once, these men, through their attorneys at Washington, began to attack the lists of mineral lands waiting for approval, and their efforts have succeeded, evidently, though, as the Oregonian says, "if the General Land Office had accepted the same degree of proof that it required when the proceedings were begun, the mineral base would have been approved."

And that is the only point the General Land Office has to decide in such cases. What fact state does with its lands, or how it does it, is not a question for the General Land Office, nor ever has been.

The Oregonian further remarks that "a very great number of the dealers in lieu-lands were speculators, and having been caught in a bad deal, they should be satisfied to get back their original investment." True, but what is to be said of those who, through some information leaked to them through the clouds (?) purchased an immense tract of mountainous, barren school lands that had been on the market without purchasers for twenty years, singularly enough just in advance of the withdrawal of the same lands for forest reserve purposes? Were they not speculators—or are they martyrs?

And yet, they are the ministers of the situation, have succeeded in annulling the adjudication of 100,000 acres of mineral lands, which was effected according to law and with sufficient proof, as the Oregonian admits, have deprived the common school fund of the state of \$125,000 and have given the present state land agent, as well as some other people, an appreciated opportunity to work off an accumulation of surplus steam.

And yet there are those who seem to rejoice at their success and the direct

consequent loss to the school fund of probably \$125,000, which will ultimately go into their own pockets.

WEATHER PROGNOSTICATIONS.

From time immemorial it has been a favorite pastime for speculative individuals to prophesy as to the kind of winter there is in store, many old-time signs being used to prove by past experiences what may be reasonably expected. If on the first day of February, for instance, a ground hog should happen to venture forth from his den and get a glimpse of the sun, he is supposed, if he properly understands what is expected of him, to immediately return to his subterranean abode and remain for three months, because he has been notified by some occult power that if the sun shines on that day, the weather will be uniformly bad until the first of May.

But since we have no ground hogs in Oregon, or at least in the western part of it, we are compelled to rely upon other phenomena of similar difficulty of analysis for our guidance as to weather probabilities. It is not so important here, however, as in most other countries in this latitude, since where ripe raspberries are to be gathered in gardens on Christmas day, we are more likely to enjoy, than otherwise, whatever indications of real winter may come our way.

The older citizens have, or had, a notion that when dressing hogs on "butcher day," if the forward end of the "melt" was the larger, it was a certain sign that the first end of winter would be the most severe, but if otherwise, then the reverse would be true. It did not appear to matter much that different hogs hanging on the same pole would exhibit opposite peculiarities as to the larger end of the "melt"—inquisitiveness into unpleasant details was uniformly barred.

But a citizen of Virginia is reported by the Richmond Dispatch to have discovered a new theory by which the nature of coming weather can be definitely ascertained. This man, whose name is Thomas Corkeleor, is 87 years old and has noticed that if a cat's tail at the beginning of winter is covered with an unusually thick coating of hair, it is an unfailing sign that Old Boreas is going to make his presence felt before he gets through with it. Mr. Corkeleor makes a business of counting the hairs on cats' tails, and reports that ordinarily, if the cat has not been unduly mistreated by rude boys or envious fellow-felines, his tail will contain about 11,000 hairs at the beginning of a mild winter, but if the weather is going to be severe, there will be from 13,000 to 14,000 hairs per tail.

This sign is said to be absolutely reliable, and if any curious citizen of Western Oregon desires to ascertain something definite about what kind of weather is in store, the way is pointed out by which it can be done with unquestioned accuracy.

THE OLDEST LIFE ON EARTH.

We refer to the remaining specimens of the celebrated California Redwoods, or Sequoias, of Calaveras county. A bill is now pending before Congress for the purchase of the remaining groves of these magnificent trees and the conversion of the land into a permanent park under the charge of the National Government.

When President Roosevelt was in California last year he visited these mammoth relics of another age and at once became an enthusiast in support of the proposition to take immediate steps toward their preservation from further destruction. The land on which they stand is owned by private parties and the California papers report that forty sawmills are running night and day in that locality.

Before the insatiable maw of current commercialism these monster trees which were larger and older even when Columbus discovered America than any other living thing today, must give way. The mighty dollar is bigger to the eye of the average man than all the cultured sentiment that the imagination can conjure. Right here in Salem, occasionally we see the man with the ax and hoe uprooting some magnificent tree planted by the early fathers of the state, as though it were nothing of value whatever. It is quite common to see a man destroy within an hour a tree which has been fifty years in growing. A beautiful free tree a thousand dollars to a man of capacity to appreciate the beautiful, and with a history worth twice as much, will be ruthlessly destroyed to make room for a three hundred dollar house.

The California Redwoods are thousands of years old—older than any other thing on earth—just a few specimens left of a variety of tree that once flourished in various parts of the globe, and it is to be hoped that Congress will provide for the restraint of the sawmill men who are striving for an additional six bits, that these noble specimens of a bygone age may be preserved for years to come.

There Are Simple Remedies indispensable in any family. Among these, the experience of years assures us, should be recorded Painkiller. For both internal and external applications we have found it of great value; especially for colds, rheumatism, or fresh wounds and bruises. It is a Christian. Avoid quackery, there is but one Painkiller, Perry Davis'. Price 25 cents and 50 cents.

THE DILEMMA IN COLORADO.

The Statesman hopes the Republicans of Colorado will not succeed in their effort, if they are really making such effort, to seat Governor Peabody for a second term. Ex-Governor Adams was elected upon the face of the re-terms, and though fraud was practiced by the Democrats, no doubt the Republicans were not innocent of the same pastime on the same occasion.

The throwing out of a sufficient number of votes to seat Governor Peabody will do the party no good in the end, but much harm, even if the ethical side of the performance is left unconsidered. Mr. Shafroth, the Democratic representative in Congress from Colorado, resigned his seat in that body last year upon the discovery that his election had been accomplished by fraudulent votes, and it was a mainly thing to do.

Now let the Republicans show some moderation under similar circumstances. The man who holds a public position under questionable title loses practically whatever honor the position affords.

The fact is, the proceedings in Colorado for the past few years have discredited the state and left neither party any room in which to criticize the other. So far as is known to outsiders who gain their knowledge of the situation from printed reports, local conditions in Colorado are in a much more unsettled state than they are in the Philippines.

The much-abused Igorrotes, although scantily clad, are at least clothed in their right minds, which is more than could be said of the people of Colorado with any degree of confidence at any time during the past few years. The "Imperial" policy which has succeeded in making the Islanders peaceable might be tried with a prospect of success on the turbulent populace of the wild and woolly balliwick of the immortal Waite.

THE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

Now that the school board has secured the remaining lot on the half block where the Central building stands and has decided to construct the High School building there, it becomes an important question as to what kind of a structure it shall be.

The school meeting which voted for such a building authorized the board to use its discretion as to location, cost, material and plans. This, of course, the board will not abuse, and it is an important duty which confronts them. This much should not be lost sight of, however: The building should be made to cost enough to guard against that grade of cheapness which in the long run would result in actual extravagance. It is estimated that a twelve-room building can be constructed of brick, with cheap roof, cheap floors and cheap walls, for about \$35,000. But such a building would be in constant need of repairs and really a costly structure.

In our judgment, since the High School building will be here for the next hundred years, nothing but the best material should be used, and if, in order to get a creditable one it should be necessary to use the revenues for three years instead of two, then by all means use them. No part of the school debt can be paid for six years yet, and the income for three years, if applied in erecting a creditable building that will do honor to the city, will be money well spent.

We had better put \$50,000 into a building that will be here in ten or twenty years from now, than \$35,000 into one constructed of cheap and unsatisfactory material.

The school board is composed of conservative, careful men who will no doubt see the necessity for building with an eye to the future as well as for the present, and will provide a creditable High School building without encroaching upon either extravagance or parsimony.

LEGISLATIVE EXTRAVAGANCES

Complaints against the indulgence of methods far from economical by Legislatures are not at all confined to Oregon. There is not a state in the Union whose newspapers do not habitually criticize what they call extravagances on the part of members as they provide themselves with comforts and conveniences from the public treasury while in session.

It has become the custom to require a member of the average state Legislature as a bona fide to be watched at every turn in his official actions in order to guard against his inordinate desire to plunge into the state's treasury to his arm pits, as he contributes to his greed while the fit of actual madness controls him as he surrenders to the ecstatic influence of "a little brief authority."

And yet, each community every two years, in Oregon, at least, chooses a representative man from among its citizenship, to go up to the capital and

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straighten out affairs as they may seem to require. His neighbors and his party papers will "whoop it up" for him during the campaign and, after his election, give it out cold that he will bear watching as soon as he takes his oath of office.

And, as we said, this spirit prevails in every state in the Union. Appropriation bills are invariably too large. There never has yet been one in any state that was not. If it were smaller it would still be too large. And, to be frank, extravagances do creep into legislative methods and men who go to the capital with the best intentions as to what they will do in the matter of curtailing expenses, will find themselves surrounded by unnecessary clerks, for instance, before they know it, and honestly wonder how it ever happened. From this it is an easy step to becoming liberal as to appropriations.

The only remedy for this is "eternal vigilance" on the part of the legislators themselves.

SANTA CLAUS.

Even in the midst of the Merry Christmas week we occasionally find those matter-of-fact creatures, generally men, of course, who look at everything from a cold, business point of view and who regard the teaching of children the reality of the Santa Claus story as a positive wrong which should not be countenanced for a day.

We are sorry for all such painfully literal bipeds. It is on a par with that other theory some parents cherish, that little children should never hear "baby talk," but always be spoken to as though forty years old and in the most precise manner of straight-laced enunciation. The man who has not taken a 2-year-old on his knee and conversed with it in the very choicest variety of baby talk and enjoyed its effort to respond "in kind," has lived but half a life and that a desultory—blank.

Life becomes real soon enough, attended by its disappointments and discoveries of the necessity for facing genuine difficulties. Let the little children revel in the land of Christmas fancies, where dwells a kindly and real Santa Claus, as long as possible. The fondest recollections of men and women who have proven themselves worthy of the possession of a memory, are clustered around the Christmas stockings and Christmas tree of early childhood. And let us not rob the children of today of the pleasures we enjoyed in the years gone by.

Children are the better for these harmless illusions, and we are better men and women, no doubt, because of the gentler surroundings which always accompany the presence of the genial Kris Kringle in the Merry Christmas week of childhood days.

RAILROAD TO CRATER LAKE.

It is reported that an organization of local capitalists of Medford has just completed arrangements for the construction of a railroad from that city to Crater Lake, in Klamath county. This is a project which has been under consideration for several years and it is gratifying to hear that the prospects for its speedy realization are very favorable.

Considering that Crater Lake is several thousand feet above the sea level, the route for a railroad that can be easily selected is remarkably free from difficult grades and a railroad can be built at a minimum cost for a mountainous country. Teams—drawing heavy loads go to within two miles of the edge of the lake with ease, at which point, as the wagon road is constructed, a steep hill is ascended only by lighter vehicles. A few miles before reaching the lake, however, a detour can be made that will enable railway trains to easily proceed to the very edge of the lake by way of the Anna Creek canyon.

With railroad communication Crater Lake will become one of the most famous summer resorts for tourists which this country affords. It is, indeed, the greatest and most magnificent wonder to be seen in the United States, of its kind, and its grandeur can be scarcely realized as one stands on the brink of its walls and gazes down nearly 2000 feet to the water's edge and reflects that the water itself is 2000 feet deep. Medford capitalists could not do bet-

ter, from a financial point of view, than to construct a railroad direct from their city to this indescribable mountain wonder, and the general public will rejoice to learn that they have the project well in hand.

SOME OREGON OPINIONS.

The sacred mistletoe of the ancient British Druids is a parasitic plant that adapts itself to the oak tree and is a native of the British Isles. It can be cultivated upon other trees, as the apple, but has a natural preference for the oak. The plant is also a native of Western Oregon, and there, as in England, it favors the oak. Oregon mistletoe is not quite as large in the leaf as the English variety, and the berry is much smaller and has a pink tinge, while the English berry is white. Otherwise the plants are identical in appearance and in habit of growth. Coming down from Druidic times, the mistletoe has always been made a prominent feature in Yule or Christmas decorations in the old land, and especially in England, and to the people of that country, wherever they may be scattered over the world, the unpretentious plant is associated with good cheer and happy memories.—Dallas Chronicle.

We can see no valid reasons for not holding the Oregon State Fair as usual the coming season. It will not interfere with the Lewis and Clark Exposition. It will simply show all comers that we can produce the more. They will plainly see that those exhibits displayed in Portland are but a reflection of the state and an everyday occurrence. "It's a cold day when a State Fair can knock out a World's Exposition." The only fear lies in the fact that if our State Fair is once postponed, that it will be postponed for all time, so far as Salem is concerned.—Gervais Star.

T. B. Kay, of Marion, will probably be the next Speaker of the House of Representatives. He is a bright, capable and aggressive man, and will make a good Speaker. "Tommy" Kay has worked since he was a boy, in a woolen mill and has made good there. He is respected by all those who know him and he earned the title of the "watch-dog" of the House last session, by his vigilance in detecting grafts.—E. Oregonian.

The State Fair Board did the proper thing in deciding to hold the Fair at Salem next year. Eugene will also be in the fair for the district fair. Both will be beneficial, rather than detrimental, to the Lewis and Clark Exposition. Visitors to the coast will have an additional reason for taking a trip up the valley to see the country. And they will get a good impression of Western Oregon thereby, and learn in a measure at least, what contributes to Portland as the thriving metropolis of the commonwealth.—Eugene Register.

HOME ENDORSEMENT.

Hundreds of Salem Citizens Can Tell You About It.

Home endorsement, the public expression of Salem people should be evidence beyond dispute for every Salem reader. Surely the experience of friends and neighbors, cheerfully given by them will carry more weight than the utterances of strangers residing in far-away places. Read the following:

Mrs. Needham, wife of W. S. Needham, painter, residing at the corner of Fourth St., and Jefferson Ave., North Salem, says: "Like almost all painters, my husband has been troubled with his kidneys for years. The exposure, the reaching and stooping, combined with the turpentine and materials in the paint; all tending to put the kidneys out of order. His back often ached badly at night when he came home from work and when he caught cold it always aggravated the trouble. He read an advertisement about Doan's Kidney Pills and procured a box at J. C. Doan's Drug Store and used them. They did good work by helping him at once, and he continued their use until relief was obtained."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no substitute.

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