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W. H. BYARS Editor CLARE B. IRVINE Manager.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.

We rejoice that Senate reconsidered their vote on the homestead exemption act. The men who formerly opposed the homestead exemption act in the older states were mostly merchants who argued that, "even with the little exemption of personal chattels the d-d rascals managed to evade the payment of debts, and to allow them a homestead would be the same as abolishing the law for collection of debts."

But an argument of greater force to Oregon at this time when heavy appropriations are being called for to develop her resources and burdens, of course, laid on her small population is, that the having of no homestead law repels from her borders the thousands of home builders who have by their misfortune been driven from Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota through sales under Trust Deeds of their mortgaged homes, the sales not satisfying the notes given to secure the Trust Deeds.

VAIN LEGISLATION.

The history of the effort made by Congress to prevent frauds being committed through the mails would make a large volume if fully written out. It is a complete proof of the futility of all such legislation which is but a bid for the exercise of human ingenuity to defeat it.

A BEEF TRUST.

The Beef Combine or Trust of Kansas City is one of the most powerful and peculiar in existence. The great cattle buyers and butchers are organized to keep down the price of live stock and to hold up the price of meat. In order to do this more effectually they supply all the country towns with fresh meat daily so cheap that the local butchers cannot compete.

OUR NATIONAL INCREASE.

It is conceded that by 1890 the population of the United States will be seventy millions; an increase of two millions per year. This is an increase of a hundred and sixty-six thousand per month, or fifty-five hundred per diem.

THE present condition of the navy of the United States was highly complimented by several senators of the republican party yesterday morning. Among others, Senator Plumb said that the prospect now is that the U. S. will ere long have the best navy in the world, not the greatest nor strongest navy, but one with by far the best vessels.

CONGRESS votes away millions of dollars with the same fluency that our Senate votes hundreds. But Congress has some seventy million constituents while our legislature has little over two hundred thousand.

THE DAY OF SMALL THINGS.

EDUCATIONAL. It is rapidly as a country advances in population and commercial importance it finds more and more need of small and smaller change. France and China have long had pieces of money of one-tenth of a cent in value. No nation of any pretensions as a commercial state which has at the same time a dense population can get on conveniently without change as small as five mills or a half-cent.

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"The people of this country are above anything less than a nickel." This is the universal reply. Are they indeed? They simply do without riding in your car or buying your five cents worth. That is just what they do. "Why do you walk so far when the street cars go right to your door?" we asked of a wealthy gentleman of Kansas City. "If I ride, my wife must ride; so must my servants and my children."

It would cost a dollar a day at least, and so we resolved to walk as hundreds of others do. I would willingly pay 100 dollars per year to the street cars; but four hundred is too much. Family tickets sold at the rate of three rides for five cents, have filled the street cars of some cities and made a poor half bankrupt corporation become a mighty and powerful concern. In Washington City a line that charged 3 cents for those great, long rides there, was very much crippled by a rival line, on the next street, charging two cents and a half. That half cent less emptied its cars and filled the rivals'. Go to the people, the great masses, the women and children—secure their patronage, if you are wise. Try it, anyhow.

OUR PEN PICTURES.

Short Sketches of Our Law Makers And Prominent Men.

HON. E. L. SMITH.

Hon. E. L. Smith has the honor of being speaker of the present House. The duties of the speaker of the House of Representatives require a ready, correct and quick judgment, and the capacity and disposition for hard work. The work which a speaker must do while other men are asleep more severely tests all his qualities than does the public duty of directing the daily sessions of the House. In the speaker's hands rests the burden of committee organization, and upon his judgment and fairness hangs the controlling force of legislation.

HON. J. N. WILLIAMSON.

This gentleman is a republican representative from Crook county. He resides in Prineville and is engaged in raising sheep. He was born in Lane County, Or. in 1855 and is a solid Oregonian. When he was eight years of age he moved with his parents to Salem. Here he attended the celebrated Willamette University and received a good education.

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For freight and passenger rates apply to the captains and pursers of the respective boats, or to W. M. Darling, agent, 200 and 202 Front street, Portland; Gilbert Bros., agents, Salem; I. M. Adair, agent, Albany; C. A. Miller, agent, Corvallis; or to the general freight and passenger agent, Corvallis, O. & C. trains connect at Albany and Corvallis.

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