

NOTES BY RANLEER

Col. Bob Mitchell, late adjutant-general of Oregon, says he figured up, the other day, and found in twenty years he had spent \$21,000 for cigars. This was not figuring any tobacco, he said. Of course, at compound interest it would have made a handsome fortune. The lesson from this is that any young man who spends much these days for liquor or cigars has no future as a self-respecting citizen. The statement of the late adjutant-general is a good object lesson to any boy who wants to succeed in life. I don't suppose Col. Bob Mitchell knows any more or that any one thinks any more of him for his investment of \$21,000, that he sent up to smoke, although he has probably enjoyed his cigars not a little, and treated a good many friends. There is a good deal of stability about the use of the word that is the only excuse and the reason for its use.

I have good reason to believe Tilman Ford will make a hard fight in the legal controversy over the status of the railroad commission to draw their salaries. Happening into the state library one day, Attorney-General Williams came in when Ford was there. Like most young lawyers when they have a big case, he began to talk about the railroad commission. Ford heard him through and then quietly turned to a number of supreme court decisions just the reverse of the young man's contention. The fact is, this class of cases present such a mixture of politics and legal confusion and conflicting opinions that it depends upon the attitude of a man before which side he will take. Ford is a strict constructionist of the constitution on these matters and agrees with Judge Lord that the legislature had no power to create the office of railroad commissioner and also to elect the men to fill it. But there has been very little construction of constitutions of late years. It has been get all you can in spite of it.

One of the prettiest sights I ever saw in my life was early the other morning in Lincoln park. The sun was shining through a large linden tree, the golden-green half-open leaves of which were trembling in the morning breeze. Under the sunlight they looked like shining new golden coins, and the spray atoms of the linden made the morning air delightfully fragrant.

Hard times has its effect on the public school children. They are not as well dressed as a few years ago. All are dressed plainly and many show signs of actual poverty. Parents out of work, often sickened in the family—and you know full of the sickness come from want of prosperity—and general adverse circumstances are influences that leave their mark on childhood.

God bless the parents who have the courage and devotion to send their children to school though they be ragged and barefoot. They will make men and women who will know what advantage are, who will prize the opportunities of life and make the most of them. It is from these influences and lowly conditions that our Abraham Lincolns and Garfields have come and it is here they must come from in future. But it is shameful the way our school funds have been managed in the past. As Tim Davenport says, half our school lands have been stolen or squandered and the school fund of the state is in bad shape. The school land fund has left but little for the state to raise funds out of. It is probable that rigid investigation of the losses of the irrefragable school fund would disclose vast sums that have virtually disappeared.

There is no use to get any patch-work into the present public school system of Oregon. The laws are a contradictory jumble that it takes a Philistine lawyer to make head or tail in. For twelve years we had a state superintendent who had but one motto on law making, and that was to build up a vast bureaucracy with big appropriations and machinery and himself at the head of it as a kind of political potentate with an army of sycophants in charge of institutions under a state board of education. His other motto was to erect public buildings and edifices and be kept an army of architects and contractors under his control and built at least one state institution that stands idle and empty as a monument of his folly.

This man has controlled and dictated the school legislation and school system of this state. He has been the head and brain of it at one end, while the school land fund has added it at the other end. It is a wonder we have any schools at all, for don't have to strip our children to other states to school them.

It is wonderful how few can be taught, great heavy wagonloads, from Dayton and Astoria to Salem. The roads are also tenches good, smooth and dry. They have a hard bottom and are of good material. I can take \$100 and put the other one tenth that I now dangerous and nearly impossible in good order for heavy hauling or for fast driving from Salem to Metama. It would take five men with shovels and wheelbarrows. Where the water can be let out of puddles on the road it should be done, and some earth put in where it cannot be let run out, and if not over a barrel or two, let it out and fill the hole with dirt. Rake the loose rock out of the track. We now work made one month in the year and runs them the other eleven months. We build roads at great expense of taxes and labor and then do not take care of them. We let a puddle of water stand on top of the road, and gouge it out with narrow tined wagons for three or six months until there is a hole big enough to bury the horses we nearly kill polling through them.

We let the water stand in these holes from the spring rains until the sun dries them out, if they happen to be where the sun can strike them, when ten minute's work would repair the hole and make the road good for the whole season. Someone ought to call us Americans a pack of fools. We drive through miles of mudholes for months when we could repair them in a day. We are a smart enough people about getting to heaven and getting into office, but we seem to have no good road sense. I don't know why we are not smarter than we are about roads. I suppose it is because we have never stopped to think about it. We simply find fault and go right on not thinking and doing just what we've been doing—nothing.

A Republican who came from Kansas and has kept track of things there says the Republican legislature unearthed some things not very complimentary to the Populist government that had control the past two years. The Pop spent \$130,000 more than the Republicans ever did in any two years out of thirty. They found a misappropriation of only \$7,000 under the Republicans. After two years of Populism the Republicans changed back to their own party by \$1,000 vote.

It cost the people \$6,000 to replace furniture in the state institutions that had been carried off by the Populists, including carpets, bedding and chamber stoves. They probably figured that they would go out of power with little or nothing and did not want to leave without some appropriate token of their administrative ability. I do not vouch for the exact truth of these statements.

The Populists have been nightmarish in the case of men they have elected as governors in various states. They have proven about as big a set of fools as were ever put in office. Penney was the smartest man among them.

James, who died at Metama recently, really met her death by a blow from a pot-sweep, from which she never recovered. Her funeral was largely attended and her coffin was literally covered with flowers.

About once a month W. W. Elder of Dayton and a man by the name of Cooper, have a peculiar way of catching trout. They take a fishnet and pour it at the foot of a rapid, then they both pull off their boots and wade in above. As the trout can only live in pure mountain water, they are rapidly driven downstream and finally jump into the boat to get some fresh air. I am going fishing with Elder some day.

Mr. Elder's family are noted for hospitality and are very hospitable. Mrs. Elder is one of the best cooks on the seaboard. Now the rancher has been over the world quite a while, from old Virginia to the Pacific and has never eaten with them equal to those made by the woman on the seaboard.

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Chronic Nervousness

Could Not Sleep, Nervous Headaches. Gentlemen—I have been taking your Restorative Nerve for the past three months and I cannot say enough in its praise. It has Saved My Life, for I had almost given up hope of ever being well again. I was a chronic sufferer from nervousness and could not sleep. I was also troubled with nervous headaches, and had tried doctors in vain, until I used your Nerve. Yours truly, Mrs. M. Wood, Ringwood, N. J.

Spring Medicine

is a necessity because the toxic of winter air is gross, and winter weather, increased moisture, accumulated impurities in the blood, and debilitated condition of the body, open the way for the most distressing nervous troubles, and other ills. The skin, mucous membrane and the various organs strive in vain to rid the impure current of life. They all witness

Hood's Sarsaparilla

to assist Nature at this time when she most needs help, to purify the blood, tone and strengthen the ailing organs and build up the nerves. "I was in a run-down condition. I was weak and nervous and could not eat anything. I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and before I had finished the first bottle I could see a change for the better. I kept on taking it and I am now so that I can eat heartily and can do my work." Mrs. John W. Pracey, Alloway, N. J.

Purifies The Blood

"I have found Hood's Sarsaparilla a good spring medicine and it relieves that tired feeling." BURNETT TOWN, West Ontario, New York. Get only HOOD'S Hood's Pills

TODAY'S MARKETS

Prices Current by Telegraph—Local and Portland Quotations. SALEM PRODUCE MARKET. BUTCHER STOCK. Veals—dressed 5 cts. Hogs—dressed 4 cts. Live cattle—50 cts. Sheep—live 2.50. MILLS. Flour in wholesale lots \$2.50. Retail \$2.80. Bran \$11 bulk \$1.10 sacked. Shorts, \$12 @ 13. Chop feed \$14 and \$15. WHEAT. 37 cents per bushel. RYE AND GRAIN. Oats—20 @ 25. Hay—Baler, about \$5.50; timothy \$7.50. FARM PRODUCTS. Wool—Best, 10 cts. Hops—Best, 1 to 2. Eggs—In trade, 10 cts. Butter—Best dairy, 16 @ 18. Creamery, 20 cts. Cheese—20 to 25 cts. Farm smoked meats—Bacon 10 cts; hams, 11; shoulders, 7. Potatoes—20 cts. Onions—2 cts. LIVE POULTRY. Turkey—Hens, 50 cts; roosters not wanted; 4 cts. Turkeys—50 cts. FRESH EGGS. Flour—Portland, \$2.50; Walla Walla, \$2.50; Graham, \$2.50; superfine, \$2.50 per barrel. Oats—Walla, 20 @ 25; milling 10 @ 12. Rye, 20 @ 25. Corn, 10 @ 12. Barley, 10 @ 12. Potatoes—40 @ 45 per sack; sweet, 10 cts per lb. Hay—Good, 10 @ 12 per ton. Wool—valley, 10 @ 12. Milk—Best, \$1.50 @ \$1.75 per 100 lbs. Sheep—20 to 25 cts. Hops—Green, 10 @ 12. Hides—green, 10 @ 12. Under 10 lbs., 10 @ 12; sheep, 10 @ 12. DAIRY PRODUCTS. Butter—Oregon fancy creamery, 20 @ 25; fancy dairy, 16 @ 18; fair to good, 10 @ 12; common, 10 @ 12. Cheese—Oregon 10 @ 12 per pound; Young American, 10 @ 12; Swiss Imp., 10 @ 12; Dan., 10 @ 12. Eggs—Oregon, 10 cts per dozen. Poultry—Chicken, \$1.00 @ 1.50 per dozen; ducks, \$4.50 @ 5.50; geese, \$6 @ 8; turkeys, dressed, 10 @ 12. Beef—Topsteers, 10 @ 12 per lb; fair to good steers, 10 @ 12; cows, 10 @ 12. Mutton—Best sheep, 10 @ 12; 10 @ 12. Hogs—Choice, heavy, 10 @ 12; light and feeders, 10 @ 12; dressed, 4 cts per lb. Veal—Small, choice, 10 @ 12; large, 10 @ 12 per pound. SAN FRANCISCO MARKET. Wool: Oregon Eastern choice, 10 @ 12; do inferior, 10 @ 12; do valley, 10 @ 12. Hops—Quotable at 40 @ 50. Potatoes—Early Rose, 10 @ 12; in sacks; Burbank, 10 @ 12 per sack. Oats—Milling, 10 @ 12.

To the Ladies of Salem: The Leader Military Store, 255 Commercial street, Salem, formerly conducted by Mr. and

and Mrs. Reed, is in possession of T. B. Fisk & Co., and Miss Rodman, an experienced milliner from our store, is in charge as sole manager. Miss Rodman will be pleased to meet all the former patrons of the store and many new ones. D. B. FISKE & CO., Chicago.

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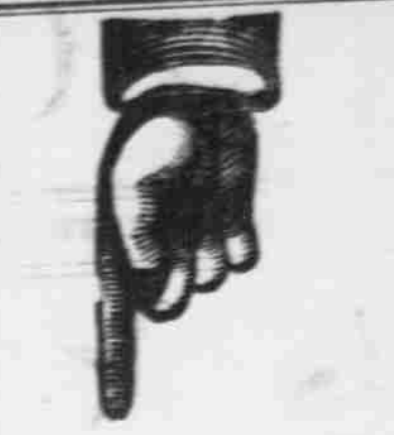
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