

DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

BY HOFER BROS.



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Evening in the Woods.

'Twas a summer's eve, the birds were singing sweetly, Not a cloud marred the heaven's purple hue, Aimlessly I wandered from the roadside, Down where the pretty pansies grew. The perfume from the gentle waving foliage, Seemed to waft its scent upon the air, While the moon of silver-white cast beams so mellow-bright. It was the hand of Nature grand and fair. The pink rose scattered leaves of purplest velvet, The emerald ivy seemed to creep along, The violet, modestly, kissed the pretty bluebell, The lily told of legend and of song. The moss, in strands of green, swayed by the zephyrs, Murmured of the forest kings of old, While the honey-suckle, goldenrod and daisies, Spoke about King Sunshine and his gold. The water-cren was bathing in the streamlet, While primrose sang to daffodil of love, Wild-ovler listened to buttercup's ghost stories, Amid the mournful sound of turtle dove, Spanish moss told of shadowy moon-light murders, That happened, O, so many years ago, And the fir-tree scared the company, my, just awful, When in hoarse voice it muttered, "Time to go." The ferns were kissed by softly falling dew-drops, Mother Nature favors neither high nor low, While squirrels high from tree-top peeping, Scampered merrily to and fro. The night-owl began his evening concert, The nightingales' liquid notes arose, And twinkling stars like diamonds, sparkled, As weary nature sank in sweet repose.

ATTACKING SENATOR MITCHELL

There are still a few politicians left in Oregon who are ambitious to take a fall out of Senator Mitchell. This was shown in the recent Salem city election, and again crops out in the land fraud trials. In the meantime Senator Mitchell has been advanced to a greater position of usefulness to the West. He is even being considered for chairman of the Panama canal committee. He can stand small attacks in the rear with equanimity. He is an old man and has a position of commanding influence attained by few Western senators and beyond the place of detraction. Of course, political opponents will do all they can in the meantime to undermine and pull him down—such is selfish personal politics. But the people know that he is doing more for Oregon than any of his critics or detractors have ever done or will ever be able to do.

THE NEW SALEM HIGH SCHOOL.

There is little room for controversy over a high school site in this city. The district owns a site where the two little central schools are located. Buying one more lot there will give them one of the finest half blocks in the city. Of course, if some wealthy corporation or individual, owning a large amount of land, wished to donate a block to the district for a high school site, it would be worth considering. Otherwise the site owned by the city is well adapted to the purpose. Let the board of education go ahead, adopt plans and build. Let the board get plans from different architects, or hire a competent architect in whom they have confidence, whether he resides at Salem or elsewhere. The erection of a beautiful public building is not a personal matter or to be disposed of on a personal basis. The Capital City is entitled to the best building that can be secured under the circumstances. The school board must

be above favoring friends or neighbors, either in purchasing a site or letting a contract for a building.

A NEW STREET POLICY.

The people of this city are ready for a new deal on street work. The Republican city administration should give it to them. The new street committee should rise above the practices of the past and stop putting unscreened river gravel, sand and mud on the principal streets. The city should ask bids for supplying a thousand cubic yards of broken rock at convenient places for distribution. The city should ask bids for supplying a thousand cubic yards of screened gravel—screened of mud and sand—in two sizes. Having procured material for the streets, the abutting property should do the grading and hauling on the metal to make a surface. Some such system will at least be as intelligent as the best country road districts are doing. Men who cannot advance a little should not be put on the street committee next year. The people are becoming more intelligent on this matter of roads and streets and have a right to demand progress by officials. A man like Judge Scott for chairman of the street committee would see that we had at least one well-constructed street in the city.

THE MARSHALSHIP CONTEST.

The contest to unseat Tom Cornelius is still raging in the breasts of a few local Democratic politicians. "Pap" Walker, the old Citizen's alderman from the First Ward, supported Skipton at the election, but voted with the Republicans to give Cornelius the certificate of election. Cornelius has been several times unseated by a Hillsboro correspondent, who claims he is not a resident of Salem, etc. They still rely on his having voted for state officials over there in 1902, on having been a delegate to a convention from Washington county, and on having stopped some time in a house owned by his wife at Cornelius, as ground for unseating him as marshal. All these are technical accusations for political effect. It will be shown that Tom Cornelius has had a continual legal residence in this city, for nearly seven years, where he has educated his children, paid taxes and earned his living by honest work.

X-RAYS

Oregon needs more laying hens and fewer lying politicians.

Of course it is great fun investigating a successful opponent's record and trying to show that he is not entitled to the office. But it is no fun to have your own record laid bare.

Pap Walker is a thoroughbred politician. He don't believe in keeping up a fight after the people have decided the matter.

The Journal owes its readers an apology for printing its editor's name in several places in this paper. It will not soon occur again if it can be prevented.

D. M. C. Gault, of this city, is sending some very interesting Salem letters to his former paper—the Hillsboro Independent. For a one-handed man he writes well—better than some men with two.

It is said the Ilihee club contemplates moving to larger quarters and adding an athletic department like the Multnomah club of Portland. The latter would be a good improvement, but where could it find such suitable quarters?

Dream Worth \$10,000.

Andrew Sabel, employed in the Keystone flour mill at Nanticoke, some time ago saw in a dream an invention for separating foreign substances from grain just before it was ground. He told some friends and asked their assistance in making it, but they laughed at him.

Preserving a clear conception of the invention in his mind, he went to work, built a model, got a patent on it last month, and has now received an offer of \$10,000 for the patent rights from a Massachusetts firm.

The principle of the invention is magnetism. It removes foreign substances from the grain and averts accidents to the grinding machinery.

The residents of Parachute, Cal., do not like the name of their town and have asked the postoffice department to change it to Grand Valley.

COMMERCIAL CLUB ELECTION

Officers Are Chosen for the Ensuing Year

Club Has Strong Membership and Is in Fine Financial Condition

The Greater Salem Commercial club held its regular annual meeting Saturday night, December 10, at the city hall. The following resolutions were submitted to the club and unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, The Willamette river is a great public highway in the state of Oregon, and has been navigated by steam vessels ever since the settlement of this country, and

Whereas, For years the government of the United States has assumed jurisdiction over the same and appropriated money for the improvement thereof, and

"Whereas, The locks at the falls of the Willamette at Oregon City are owned by a private corporation and tolls are charged all vessels for the freight and passengers carried by them through the same, which is a great embargo upon the commerce of the Willamette valley, and

"Whereas, It has been the policy of the government to make all navigable river free.

"Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, By the Greater Salem Commercial club that our senators and representatives in congress be requested to use all honorable means in their power to secure an appropriation to either purchase or acquire by condemnation the said locks at Oregon City, and thereafter maintain and operate the same so that no charge shall be made vessels or products passing through said locks; and be it further

"Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to our delegation in congress.

A. W. Prescott, George F. Rodgers and Mayor Waters were appointed a committee of three to prepare resolutions showing the appreciation of the club of the service of the president, Colonel E. Hofer, rendered by writing the article on Oregon which won the gold medal presented by the Portland Commercial club for the best article on Oregon to be published in a newspaper outside of the state. This motion was made by Mr. Prescott, and he was given power to appoint the committee on condition that he make himself a member.

The annual report of the president was then read and placed on file, as follows:

President's Annual Report.

"The work of this organization the past year has been one of organization and preparation for the greatest event in the history of Oregon—the Lewis and Clark centennial, and looking forward to the incoming tides of immigration and tourist travel that will come to the Pacific coast in larger numbers next year than ever before. The officers of this commercial organization have realized that a great responsibility rested upon their shoulders in representing the interests of the community in a multiplicity of matters that seem to devolve upon no public official and are not always given the attention of private citizens, which they surely deserve. A commercial club, acting through its officers and standing special committees, can arouse public interest and awaken public spirit where the newspapers even fail to accomplish results. One of the first tasks that devolved upon this club was the condition hinted at by the report of the retiring president last year, which asked that the club take up the matter of relief for the shippers from ear shortage and proposed advance in lumber rates that would leave many Oregon industries practically without any but the home market. This club received statements from hundreds of shippers, sawmills, produce dealers and others showing the actual losses suffered and the effect the advance in lumber rates would have on the lumber industry in the interior of the state. These communications were sent in confidence to the Commercial club, and were never surrendered to the corporations complained of. The result was a conference of the traffic managers after extended correspondence, and the restoration of the old rates on lumber and a revival of business in western Oregon. The co-operation of the Commercial clubs at Eugene, Portland, Cottage Grove and other places proves the practical value of these modern business guides. Another matter that has been pressed by this club has been the im-

provement of the Upper Willamette river, and especially the Salem harbor. Recently the club has secured the attention of the engineering department of the river opposite this city, and the promise of a recommendation for a revetment of the west bank.

Scores of occasions call for the assistance of a Commercial club, an organization that stands guard of every interest of the community that affects the business and enterprises of the citizen or the aggregate. Not meddling with religious, political or moral controversies, it yet stands ready to help any and all situations in which the progress, prosperity or development of the municipal life are involved. Good roads and a Marion county exhibit are interests especially dear to this club. The promotion of attendance at the state fair has been successfully taken up each year in emphasizing the value of Salem day and Portland day. For two years the club undertook to raise purses of \$1000 each for special stake races. Last year the club confined itself to a guaranty that the races would fill, which they never failed to do. Last year the club appointed a special committee to secure the establishment or purchase of a suitable residence for the governor and his family in this city. The appropriations committee recommended the purchase of the historic E. N. Cooke mansion, and the bill passed both houses, but finally went down under a veto, not on account of the merits or demerits of that proposition, but because the item was sandwiched in with some other charges against the state which the governor did not approve. The club is urged to again press the purchase of an executive mansion. Once accomplished, it will be considered an appropriate achievement for any public-spirited commonwealth.

July 12 this club held the first state Development league mass meeting in the city hall, which was addressed by Tom Richardson and other Portland men. Large delegations were sent to the state convention held in Portland in August, and as a result a correspondence committee has been organized in harmony with the plan being pursued by about 50 similar clubs in the state. Letters have been written by members of this club to eastern papers to advertise Oregon, and some of them are being given wide circulation, one letter winning the first prize offered by the Portland Commercial Club. By the joint efforts of the club and the city council a census board was organized last April, and the first official census of Greater Salem was taken under its direction, showing the seven wards of the city to have a population of 13,287. But for this work the city would have no official census until 1910.

The Salem Commercial Club has at present 203 members and subscribers to its correspondence, and a net revenue of about \$1000 per annum. It closes the work of the present year with all outstanding bills provided for, and a cash surplus in the treasury. Dues are payable monthly, and business men in this community prefer to pay them monthly. The officials for the ensuing year should make provision for prompt collection of monthly dues, as the club loses both members and dues by failure to collect. By sacrifices of time on the part of the executive committee the work of the club has been brought into perfect business order. A first-class executive committee is indispensable to the success of the organization. It is the soul and life of the club. It plans work, supplies defects in the officials themselves, inspires confidence among the rank and file and overcomes selfishness and apathy in the citizenship of the community. The executive committee are the generals without whom no victory for the development of any city can be won. A successful commercial club should have a permanent headquarters, at a central and accessible location, with opportunity for the display of a local exhibit, such as will interest visitors, and a supply of literature and advertising matter. Public meetings should be held several times each year, at which the whole business community should be present. These rallies bring new blood into the organization, and develop better methods of work and new sources of revenue. The executive committee of the club has held several sessions with special classes of citizens, and very recently met the real estate dealers of this city in a friendly conference, explaining its methods of work and asking their co-operation in sending abroad advertising matter through their wide correspondence. The committee is planning to meet other classes of business men, and will endeavor to secure co-operation with them along the line of their special interest. The club has a number of the ministers of the city among its members, and will attempt to enlist their co-operation in promoting immigration and the general development of the community. Many of these ministers will make useful workers by sending letters about our country to their church papers in the East, and thus swelling their organization with new people from the East, instead of depending upon slow-

er processes of accretion in population. If all professions would unite with the newspapers through a commercial club in uniformly sounding the praises of the community great good would result to themselves and the city in which they reside.

The educational institutions of a city can be made one of the greatest means of advertising. Our University, our business college and normal schools, law schools and colleges of medicine, our academy and the public schools themselves should become enlisted in the fight to make this a greater city. Their teacher and even the scholars can become an organized factor for spreading the reputation of this city as the most desirable and popular home and residence city in the west. After the harmonious co-operation of all the professions, churches, fraternal and schools has been secured, under the lead of a good commercial organization then no limit can be placed upon the development of the community. The correspondence committee of 1000 should include all the brainy and thinking citizenship that has the good of the community at heart, and can look beyond the selfishness of mere individual success at the expense of public spirit and the absence of public enterprise. The commercial club properly understood and well-managed must include every other live and helpful organization that hopes to see industries multiplied and population increased. This organization seeks to overcome that indifference and inertia which seems satisfied with the slower processes of growth exemplified by the annual ring of fibre added to the slow-growing oak. We look forward to the time when the fair metropolis of the agricultural belt of Western Oregon will be a city of 20,000 people. This can be accomplished in five years, if we work for it with true Western grit and courage. The spirit of expansion is upon our people as never before. This is the sole object of the existence of the commercial club.

In conclusion let this report review the past achievements of the Commercial Club. One of its first labors, and in fact the incentive to the birth of the organization, was the creation of a charter board composed of five members of this club and five members of the city council. That charter was enacted to equalize the burdens of taxation, and give better sanitary and police protection to the city and suburbs, and especially to include all territory properly belonging to the city within its legal boundaries. That charter was recently sustained in the courts, and bids fair to stand the severest tests of legal scrutiny, proving that a commercial body can be trusted with important public duties. Another great achievement of the

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The Salem Steam Laundry. Commercial Club was the establishment at this city of the flax fibre industry. Hundreds of acres of flax are now being grown, and a number of washing plants have been established, while a linen mill is still counted among the possibilities of the not far distant future.

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