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The Weekly Chronicle.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF WASCO COUNTY.

Entered at the Postoffice at The Dalles, Oregon, as second-class matter.

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A coward, and God hates a coward, writing over the pseudonym of "Justice" in last Sunday's Oregonian takes the relief committee to task because it has not published a statement of what has been done with the money contributed by Portland and other cities to the relief of the sufferers by the great fire. This is well enough and might pass. The committee owe it to themselves to publish such a statement and in all likelihood will in due time, but "Justice" knows he lies—deliberately and with malicious purpose—when he talks of hearing of only two persons obtaining relief. The coward dare not present such a statement for publication to any newspaper in this city. It's gross and malicious falsity would make him ashamed to do so. He has sent it to Portland that under the cover of a non-duplicate he might conceal a name he would not dare to own where the facts are known. But the animus of the communication is perfectly apparent. The writer is some low bound who got all he could out of the committee and then because he could not get all he wanted he takes this revenge. While the committee may not have always acted with the best judgment, and possibly do not make pretensions that they did, they performed a great deal of hard, thankless work and we have no doubt afforded relief in every instance where they thought it was needed.

It is becoming more doubtful every day that any free coinage bill will be passed by the present congress. Democratic opinion is said to be changing very rapidly not simply as to the wisdom of the measure but as to its merits. It is perfectly evident that this change is being effected less from principle than policy. The party that so vigorously denounced republican demonization when in the minority now find themselves in power with an elephant on their hands. A free silver plank in the platform would break the party in two; so it is said. They would have to say good-bye to New England, to the middle states and to such states as Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Michigan. Then, too, leading German papers have served notice that the German vote will leave in a body on a free coinage issue. So principle must be sacrificed to expediency as it is more important to hold office than to be consistent, and easier to bear the charge of a stultified record than to be ousted from power.

The Denver News, a paper that is an earnest advocate of free trade as a national economic policy, with an inconsistency that is delightful to a protectionist thus argues in favor of fostering the industries that lie nearest to us. The same principles applied to the nation which the News applies to the state are all that the most ardent protectionist could ask. It is for the general interest to patronize articles of home manufacture in every line of trade in which a supply can be had, because we thus increase the labor-employing capacity of the state and keep money at home in circulation. When we give preference to goods that must be ordered from distant localities, we turn the cold shoulder to home enterprise and help those who do nothing for the state in return. We equally retard the general prosperity when we lose an opportunity to promote the development of the state's natural resources. Co-relation and interdependence so permeate our modern society that industrial activity of a marked character in any line is far-reaching in its influences and benefits.

Multnomah county has added two mills to its tax levy, which will raise a fund of \$50,000 to be devoted to the improvement of its public roads. The county court has gone still farther and has secured by right of purchase several rock quarries and gravel beds and two stone crushers, and with these equipments and material it is expected that the money spent upon the county roads will not entirely disappear in the winter mud. The two mills added to the tax levy of this county will not do much, it is true, relatively, where so much is needed to be done, but the sum that will accrue, if judiciously expended, as we trust it shall be, will afford immense relief to some sections and the precedent once established of making special provision for county roads in the annual tax levy will not be hastily abandoned by county courts in the future.

When the Reform Journal went out of its way to characterize the grange as "a dead cock in the pit so far as any good in reforming anything is concerned," as a thing that has "gone to seed, over-lived its usefulness and should be gathered to its fathers" it bit off considerably more than it will ever be able to masticate. The grange was never in a healthier or more vigorous condition than it is today. As an educational force among

the tillers of the soil, and as a permanent place for consultation and social intercourse it has exercised a powerful and beneficent influence upon farming communities for more than a score of years, and it is a safe prediction that it will continue to maintain a vigorous and useful existence when some of the crack brain theories advocated by this Reform Journal, shall be remembered only to be laughed at.

No wonder the great civilized nations of the world are slow to adopt the arbitrament of war in settling their disputes. The progress of improvements in inventions for the destruction of life and property is such that they are incentives to peace rather than promoters of strife.

The new German artillery, which will shortly be introduced, is said to be the most terrible war instrument ever produced. Experiments made at the Interlock ranges deeply impressed the experts, the Kaiser being present. The first shot fired at a target placed fifty paces from a wood, missed the target, but ploughed its way through the wood for 1500 feet. The splinters of a shell burst by the new powder over a circle of 900 feet. A shell fired at an enormous target, constructed by the emperor's orders, covered it with tens of thousands of holes. A battery of the new artillery would, it is assured, annihilate an entire division, once the range was found.

Whatever one may think of the general sanity of Emperor William of Germany there can be only one opinion as to the soundness of his views on the liquor question so far at least as they relate to two measures he is seeking to incorporate into the laws of the Empire. One is a provision that no spirituous liquors shall be sold to any lads under sixteen years of age except in the presence of their parents or guardians, the other is that no intoxicating drink shall be sold to any habitual drunkard. The fact that the statistics of German insanity show a direct ratio to those of intemperance (twenty-eight per cent. of insane persons in the Rhine provinces having lost their reason through excessive drinking,) is evidence of the necessity of some legislation on the subject.

The democratic members of both houses of congress will not strengthen their party in Oregon and Washington by opposing Senator Dolph's bill for the refunding to the settlers on even-numbered sections of land within the limits of the grant to the Northern Pacific which was declared forfeited, the difference between the price paid of \$2.50 an acre and \$1.25, which is the difference between lands within and without railroad grants. Every democrat on the senate committee is said to be opposed to the bill and will fight it to the bitter end. If it pass the republican senate it will be killed in the house. This may be a sample of democratic economy, but it is a piece of flagrant injustice to the first settlers, who had to pay \$2.50 an acre while the later ones are allowed to secure the lands lying alongside at half that price.

A classification of the poor of New York City by the secretary of the Society for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor shows that nearly one-half of the large number of cases of poverty are the direct result of excessive dram drinking. Next to this it was found that habitual dependence on charity had sapped the independence of a number estimated at twenty per cent., while of the entire army of the poverty stricken of the great city only twenty per cent. are classified as "meritorious poor."

One of the most powerful implements of war ever invented is the Hotchkiss rifle gun recently tested at Hartford, Conn. It is capable of throwing a destructive conical shell a distance of ten miles and of piercing the armor of the strongest ironclads afloat. In its silent strength it will preach as persuasive a sermon on "peace on earth" if not good will to men as could possibly spring from human effort or as ever fell upon the ears of the unregenerate sons of Adam.

The East Oregonian is crying for taffy from its Portland namesake.—The Dalles Chronicle.

Heretofore you have accused us being in need of soothing syrup. Probably you are envious and in need of a bath.—East Oregonian.

Thanks. Just had one. It is the correct thing, however, to give babies taffy after medicine.

A touching story comes over the wires from San Diego county, California. A Mrs. Mary Gregory, postmistress of Viljas, falsified her returns to procure means to buy food for her children. She was tried for the offence and fined \$50. Friends furnished the money to pay the fine and the woman was liberated.

There are 100,000 paupers in the city of London alone while the Salvation Army people estimate that to provide for the helpless "tenth" throughout Great Britain would, at an estimate of sixteen cents a day, require a charity fund of \$365,000,000 per annum.

The New York Press tells how a woman reformed her husband from the smoking habit. A contract was entered into, the prime condition of which was that she was to buy the cigars. He smoked one and quit.

Portland will strongly resent the action of the Astoria chamber of commerce in sending a set of resolutions to congress urging that instead of appropriating money for deepening the channel of the Columbia from Portland to the sea the money be given to the Cascade locks and the Dalles portage. And yet it is the greatest good to the greatest number is a good economic policy, Astoria is right. The deepening of the channel would benefit Portland the opening of the river would benefit three states.

It is now positively asserted that notwithstanding all report to the contrary there never was any question of the postponement of the wedding of Miss Mattie Mitchell, daughter of Senator John H. Mitchell and that that event will take place as announced on the 11th instant. The banns of marriage between Francois Alfred, Duke de La Rochefoucauld and Miss Mattie Elizabeth Mitchell have been already announced in Paris.

The tax levy of Baker county is 32 mills. A man over there who has to pay 3 2-10 per cent. tax on the face value of a mortgage (and the borrower always pays the tax directly or indirectly) will appreciate a law that was intended for the capitalist but which alas! invariably cinches the wrong man.

Clatsop and Jackson counties, like Wasco and Multnomah, have ignored the findings of the state board of equalization, and made their county levies on the basis of the county equalization boards' figures.

Twenty-five lumber manufacturers, mostly from the south, have issued a call for a convention at Washington, D. C., on February 23 to protest against free lumber.

MR. HOLMAN'S ECONOMY.

Liable to Expand When It Comes to an Indian Appropriation.

E. W. Ayres in the Kansas City Times.

Mr. Holman, of Indiana, chairman of the appropriation committee, has won great reputation as an economist. There are few bills he does not want reduced, and many come in for a square fight for their lives. So Holman has gained the sobriquet of "The Watchdog." But it has been noted on some occasions with rage, on others with mirth, that an Indiana appropriation has a much better time with Holman than those of other States. "The Watchdog" is warmly given to his own State, and public moneys meant for her decoration and delight make quite a hit with Holman.

On one occasion, just after the Representative from Indiana had sat upon and crushed the puling life out of some baby appropriation from some other state, along came a bill which sliced off something over a million to Indianapolis. "Now this, gentlemen," said the "Watchdog" with a saucy, ingratiating air, "I take to be a very meritorious measure."

The sharp contrast between Holman's bitter opposition the little alien appropriation and his smooth greeting of the one which was to fill the lap of his own state urged Dockery, of Missouri, to smiling sarcasm. "The chairman's sudden change of tone," said he "when brought from the contemplation of appropriations meant for other states to those aimed at Indiana reminded me strongly of the lines of Byron where one reads: "Tis sweet to hear the watchdog's honest bark Bay deep-mouthed welcome as we draw near home."

The roar of committee delight which followed killed the Indiana appropriation. By such sleights are laws made and public money spent or saved.

A Prosperous Year.

The winter has been a remarkable one in many respects; the rainfall has been unusually heavy and every drop of it penetrated the soil. The lowest temperature has been about 25 degrees above, and this only for a few hours. The snow fall has been light and remained on the ground but a few days. Fall grain is looking splendidly, and the fruit prospects are fine, though the strawberry vines have suffered slightly in places owing to the alternate freezing and thawing of the ground to a depth of an inch or two, which lifted some of them. With no heavy frosts in the spring the peach crop should be the best ever raised here, and the orchards should yield abundantly. It does not seem possible that the ground can dry out before fall, for at present it is thoroughly saturated. Taken all in all, the outlook for our fruit-growers was never better than it is today.—Hood River Glacier.

The following sentiments of a veteran of the civil war have been handed us for publication: "Intemperance is the greatest curse of modern times. It robs us of our abtest and best men. It blights our homes, fills our asylums and almshouses, takes from the lips of thousands the common necessities of life, and annually consigns thousands to a drunkard's grave and a drunkard's hell. It is a blot upon our boasted civilization and gives the lie to our pretensions of being a Christian nation. The temperance question is the gravest question before the American people today. It has come to this—shall law and order, industry and sobriety, or rum, with all its damning, blighting influence rule the country? ED. CALKINS, Hood River.

The winter is quite severe in Malheur county, snow two feet deep, and the ranchmen have been feeding for two months.

It is now thought that Lawyer Gilbert of Portland will be the successful man in the contest for the judgeship of the ninth district.