

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

Hon. George S. Downing Appointed Superintendent of the Pen.

TERRIBLE SELF-MURDER.

A Young Man Ties a Halter Around his Neck and is Dragged to Death.

W. W. Murphy and A. H. Buxton came in from Howell Prairie about 11 o'clock last night for the purpose of notifying the authorities of a startling and horrible occurrence in their neighborhood, it being no less than the suicide, in a shocking manner, of Ney Simmons, a young man of nineteen, who had been working for Wm. Sappingfield about ten miles northeast of Salem. The facts, as near as could be gleaned by a reporter last night, are as follows: Simmons was plowing during the afternoon with three horses in a large field east of Sappingfield's house. Just after turning around at the east end of the field to return across it, he unhitched two of the horses from the plow tied a halter strap by one end to the doubletrees and the other in a slip noose around his neck, started up the team, walked a few steps and deliberately lay down to be dragged to death. Nobody witnessed the act and the discovery of the terrible result was first made by Preston Wood and John Jefferson, who were searching for cattle in an adjoining pasture and were attracted by the separation of the horses, two in the middle of the field, the other one and the plow 600 yards away, near the fence. Simmons was dead when found, so the startling report was spread, the body was removed to Sappingfield's and the sad tidings carried to the relatives of the unfortunate, who live three miles north. He had been working for Sappingfield about a year and the cause which led to the rash act seemed to be known to Mr. Buxton, but he would say nothing until all the inquest.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

Justice of the Peace J. O'Donald, of this city, acting as coroner, went out to the scene of the tragedy today and after summoning a coroner's jury held an inquest which brought out facts substantially as stated above. It was testified that Simmons had always been of a melancholy temperament and that during the past two or three weeks he had been unusually moody. The jury found that he came to his death by strangling while temporarily insane. Simmons' great grandfather committed suicide on Howell Prairie some three or four years ago by shooting himself through the head, when over 80 years of age, and it is rumored that the boys grandfather also ended his own life in a violent manner.

CLOW'S PLACE FILLED.

Hon. Geo. S. Downing Will Superintend one "Pen" as long as he Pleases another "Pen."

It was unannounced late last evening that Gov. Penneyer had appointed Hon. Geo. S. Downing superintendent of the penitentiary, to succeed Mr. Clow, removed. Mr. Downing is very well known in Marion county, having lived upon his farm near Sublimity for some thirty years. He moved into this city not long ago and entered into a law partnership with S. T. Richardson. He has been a member of the legislature and held various minor offices, and has been recognized as an honest, faithful man. He has been, from its beginning, a strong pillar of the State Agricultural society. He is a democrat of the old type, bitter and uncompromising, and while there will be general confidence in the honesty of his management, his appointment will create no enthusiasm, nor act as a balm to heal the wound inflicted by Robert Clow's removal. It will doubtless make Mr. Downing feel good, though, as his democratic brethren say that is the plum he moved to the city to secure, and as he has been very assiduous in his pursuit of it, his success is flattering to his perseverance.

Sick In The Country.

County Superintendent George C. Peebles returned to-day from his father-in-law's, Mr. L. C. Griffith, in the Wak'o Hills, where he went last Saturday to spend Sunday with his wife and children, who are visiting there. He found his children seriously ill and was detained there until to-day waiting on them. Mr. Peebles will probably go back again to-morrow and if they are sufficiently recovered will bring them back to town.

Death of an Infant.

A seven months old infant named Willie Westfall, died at the residence of Mr. Chase, on Cheunokete street, yesterday and was buried to-day. The little fellow was an inmate of the Orphans Home up to the time of his illness when Mrs. Chase took charge of it.

Heading to Portland.

Miss Alice M. Aiken, who is studying dentistry in Portland, is moving her household goods there with the intention of making that her permanent home.

COUNTY SCHOOL NOTES.

List of Teachers Who Passed the Examination—Reports of District Clerks.

At the late teachers' examination the following applicants were granted certificates to teach in the public schools of Marion county:

Misses Helen Anderson, Silverton; Emma Hoskins, Champoeg; Lovella L. Culver, Salem; Laura Glover, Macleay; Mattie McNary, Salem; Minnie Magers, Salem; Laura Shaw, Salem; Josie Van Valkenburgh, Silverton; Eva Bruce, Turner; Mary E. Shafer, Turner; Lucy L. Barzee, Jefferson; Alice L. Davis, Mehama; Massrs. J. B. Leatherman, Woodburn; G. H. Beebe, Hubbard; George H. Bruce, Turner; George M. Whipple, Silverton; J. B. Early, Macleay; Otto J. Wilson, Salem; Louis Barzee, Jefferson; John S. Graham, Hubbard; W. A. Shaver, Salem; C. W. Barr, Aumsville; O. H. Byland, St. Paul; D. D. Coffey, Turner; D. R. Myers, Salem; Grant Brown, Jefferson.

Miss Lillie Bennett passed an examination entitling her to a third grade certificate so far as the literary qualifications were concerned. The board could not grant her a certificate owing to the construction of the law, which provides that a teacher can obtain a third grade certificate but once. To obtain a second grade a teacher must have had a three months experience as a teacher in addition to the literary qualifications required by law. Miss Bennett passed an examination last August receiving a third grade certificate, but failed to obtain a school during the term for which her certificate was granted, and consequently could not obtain any certificate for the reason that she had not taught the requisite three months. The matter was referred to the State Superintendent for examination. In this case the law works a hardship and as the State Board has the power to arrange rules and regulations governing examinations it would be well to make a rule covering such cases.

There were thirty-three applicants attending the examination and six of this number failed to pass, several of them being teachers who held certificates under the old law. The fact of the matter is that it is not any easy matter to obtain a certificate under the present law and it will stand young people in hand who contemplate applying for teachers' certificates to brush up on their studies, and even old experienced teachers will find that unless they keep up with the procession their examinations will result in their receiving lower grade certificates than they now hold.

School clerks, reports are already coming in to the superintendent's office. Clerks have until the 15th of the month to file a duplicate copy of their annual report as submitted to and corrected by the annual meeting. The newly elected clerks must qualify immediately after election and file their official bond, approved by the board of directors, with the county superintendent within thirty days after election. These points are in compliance with the new school law and their strict observance will save much trouble and annoyance.

AN EASTERN TRIP.

Returns of A. Bush and Daughter from their Extended Eastern and Southern Trip.

Mr. A. Bush, the well known banker of this city, and daughter, Sally, returned on this morning's California express from their extended Eastern and Southern trip.

They report a very pleasant trip, but appear to be glad to get back home again. They left here about the 15th of last October, going to Canada, stopping at the principal points of interest on the way. After visiting Montreal, Quebec and other principal points of interest they went to Westfield, Mass., Mr. Bush's childhood home, where they spent several pleasant days, including Thanksgiving, with relatives. New York, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Charleston and other large cities on the Atlantic seaboard were each well viewed in turn before they left for the glades of Florida. From thence they went through the gulf states to New Orleans. They then took in Texas, and wound up their trip south in the city of the Montezumas.

In January they came up to Southern California, where they remained until two weeks ago, when they changed to San Francisco, remaining there until they were ready to come home. The above only gives a partial idea of the magnitude of the trip and our space is altogether too limited to print the graphic accounts which Mr. Bush can give of it.

A Ramble.

As we go to press we hear a rumor that the O. P. steamer, N. S. Bentley, has been snagged and seriously damaged at some point down the river.

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING.

Reports of Clerk, Auditing Committee and Directors.

INTERESTING REPRESENTATIVE MEETING.

The District in Good Financial and Educational Condition—Two Mills Tax Levied.

The annual meeting of school district No. 24, Marion county, was held at the opera house last evening and was called to order by Director Litchfield.

The first business considered was the

CLERK'S REPORT.

To the Board of Directors, Patrons and Taxpayers of District No. 24, Marion County, Oregon:—I respectfully submit the following annual report as clerk of said district for the year ending March 5th, 1888.

STATISTICS:

Number of voters in dist., 1217; number of persons between the age of 4 and 20 years in district, male, 953; female, 1053; total population in district, 8139; taxable property in district as per assessment roll of 1887, \$1,618,431; levy of 54 mills on same, producing tax of \$8,901.37; net delinquent list returned to county clerk, \$804.10; amount collected by me, \$8,097.27; delinquent taxes collected, \$492.17; total amount taxes collected, \$9,271.51.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance of cash on hand from last annual account as per amended reports approved by the directors on 22d of March, 1887.	\$1,215 40
County school fund	4,607 80
Tuition rates	158 75
Delinquent taxes, 1886	682 07
Sale of old desks, etc	17 50
State and county fund	2,308 90
Rent central school house	29 00
Sale of wood	2 00
Sale of East Salem property	300 00
Taxes collected by me	8,097 27
Delinquent taxes collected	492 17
Total	\$17,970 87
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Teachers' salaries	\$7,099 68
Janitor's and for cleaning	688 83
Completing and furnishing East Salem school house	7,042 65
Water	85 00
Clerk's commission, etc.	714 42
For wood	329 02
Insurance	551 50
Election expenses	11 00
Repairs	75 44
Printing	138 75
Incidentals	354 22
Total disbursements	\$17,735 35
Balance on hand	235 52
	\$17,970 87

The auditing committee, composed of Squire Farrar, A. N. Gilbert and W. T. Gray, appointed at last annual meeting, submitted a report in which they set forth that they had examined the books and found them correct; that they had looked into the matter of the sale of the East Salem school property, and questioned the wisdom thereof; that there had been too much haste in the matter, and intimated that the sale had not been properly advertised. They also find that in their opinion the directors had transcended their legal authority in paying to Clerk Simpson the following items of salary:

For making census under new law,	\$100 00
Five per centum on delinquent taxes, \$1174.24	58 71
Clerical assistance	14 00
Total	\$172 71

They quoted Hill's code, sec. 2921, and claimed that under it, the clerk was not entitled to interest commission on the delinquent taxes collected by the sheriff, nor to other compensation than the five per cent upon taxes collected by himself directly.

T. McF. Patton moved the adoption of the committee's report as far as it relates to the clerk having received more for his services than was allowed by law. A lengthy discussion was the result in which Messrs. Patton, Farrar, Gilbert, Armstrong and Moores took the ground that the report should be adopted, and Messrs. Dearborn, Willis, Murphy, Wright and Gregg, thought the report took too much the form of a censure of a deserving board. Counter motions were made, argued and withdrawn and finally a vote was reached on the motion to adopt which was carried.

Mr. Parmenter moved the adoption of the balance of the report of the committee and another lengthy discussion was the result, made lively and interesting by Messrs. Patton, Willis, Wright, Friedman, Murphy and others, during which the matter of selling the East Salem school property was thoroughly canvassed, and finally a substitute, offered by Murphy to the effect that the meeting approve the action of the board of directors was adopted by a large majority.

J. T. Gregg offered a resolution that the directors be authorized to allow the clerk as compensation for extra services the sum of \$100 for taking the school census, \$58.28 as percentage on delinquent taxes, and \$14 for clerk hire. Armstrong offered as a substitute that the action of the board of directors in paying the

clerk for extra services be approved, and the same was unanimously adopted.

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The directors congratulated the people upon the general satisfactory results of the school year; recommended that the large Central school property be retained and the small property be sold; that the schools have been making a good record in attendance and advancement. The following estimates were submitted for approval:

EXPENDITURES.	
Teachers' salaries	\$10,300 00
Janitors and cleaning	750 00
Interest on bonds	1,280 00
Repairs of building	270 00
Water	100 00
Wood	350 00
Clerk's salary	600 00
Printing and advertising	150 00
Incidentals	350 00
Total	\$14,050 00

RECEIPTS.

State and county funds	\$10,850 00
Two mill tax on property of district	3,200 00
Total	\$14,050 00

On motion of R. H. Dearborn a tax of two mills was voted as asked for in the report.

On motion the report was then adopted. A suggestion was then made that the meeting should declare its preference as to who should be its candidate for director at the coming election, and the name of G. P. Litchfield was offered. Upon a vote being taken the house was about evenly divided, and during preparation for division, T. McF. Patton and J. Q. Wilson were nominated, both of whom declined.

A motion to continue the auditing committee for another year met the loud declination of its members, after which a motion to adjourn stamped the good-natured crowd for home. It was the intention of the CAPITAL JOURNAL to give full reports of the speeches of this most lively meeting, but space and the fertility of the speech making minds forbid it. It was a very fine gathering of intelligent representative tax-payers of the school district, and any observer present could see that the financial and educational interests of the district were in no danger of waste or decay as long as such men take sufficient interest in them to come out to an annual meeting and sit until 11 o'clock discussing them. Hurrah for the annual meeting.

A Creamer Needed.

The man or men who will build and operate a creamery here will not only be public benefactors but will make money hand over fist for themselves. That Salem needs a creamery is made patent by the fact that fully one-third of the butter sold in our market is imported from California and brings a fancy price. In fact good butter is an article that never goes below 25 cents a pound and is always in demand at that figure. A creamery would pay big right here in Marion county, and if someone will start one they will become bloated bond-holders inside of a year.

Will Not Offer Rewards.

To-day Gov. Penneyer informed District Attorney Belt that he would not offer the rewards for the murderers of Schuyler Ford, at Harrisburg, and the Chinamen at Monmouth, as asked for in petitions of citizens of Linn and Polk counties. The reason given for his refusal is that the law does not give him the express authority to offer rewards and that his action is subject to the approval of the legislature which may refuse to allow the bill. He says that he will only offer rewards in the most urgent cases.

"B" Company Election.

Last evening First Sergeant Sanford Watson was promoted by being elected First Lieutenant of "B" company, vice Lieut. Isaac Scott resigned. Mr. Watson was the senior first sergeant of the second regiment, having held that office in the old militia as well as in the National Guard for several years and his promotion was well deserved.

BOARD OF TRADE.

The regular meeting of the Salem Board of Trade will occur at the council chamber to-night, at 8 o'clock. A full attendance is requested. By order of the president, I. A. MANNING, Secretary.

LOCAL NOTES.

Ben Critchlow, carrier of the Oregonian, is down with the measles.

Mrs. Florence Richmond, of California, is here the guest of her cousin Mr. Richard Tarpley.

J. W. Harriet, the well known farmer who lives across the river in Polk county, is reported as seriously ill.

Mrs. John Winters, of Jefferson, who has been visiting friends in town several days, returned home to-day.

John Beck has sold his interest in the Capital saloon on Commercial street, and left to-day for his former home; Strasbourg, Alsace Lorraine.

About 40,000 pounds of wool is said to be stored at Lebanon, which is being held for higher prices. Willamette Valley wool is quoted in Portland now at 18 to 20 cents.

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Roberts' Rules of Order.

SCRIBNER LOG BOOK. GILLCHRIST'S MANUAL FOR INFANTRY OFFICERS, (PRICE \$1.00). UPTON'S TACTICS AND REED'S REVISED EDITION, (50 CENTS).

For Fruit Growers:

PEAR CULTURE FOR PROFIT, (\$1.00). DOWNING'S REVISED NEW EDITION FRUITS AND FRUIT TREES OF AMERICA, (\$5.00). INSECTS INJURIOUS TO FRUITS, (\$3). THOMAS' AMERICAN FRUIT CULTURIST, PRICE \$2. HOP CULTURE—NEW AND REVISED EDITION, 40 CENTS.

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