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The Oldest Postmaster.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat publishes the following sketch of the oldest postmaster in the United States, who has served continuously since 1828, having been appointed by John Quincy Adams.

The Globe Democrat has recently published pictures and sketches of a number of persons who believed themselves the oldest postmasters in the service of Uncle Sam. They were interesting in themselves, but what is still more interesting, they have served to bring to the front the man who is really the oldest, whose claim to that distinction is backed by the postmaster general, and is, therefore beyond question. This postal patriarch is Dr. Roswell Beardsley, who was appointed postmaster at North Lansing, N. Y., by John Quincy Adams, June 28, 1828, and has served in that capacity at that place ever since, nearly 74 years. This is fifteen years longer than the record of any other postmaster in the service, says the postal authorities at Washington. Mr. Beardsley is now 92 years old. He built the store where the postoffice is located over sixty years ago. Of course Postmaster Beardsley has not depended upon his office salary for support, but has been engaged in the mercantile business and other ventures, whereby he has amassed a fortune aggregating \$150,000. His salary for the first year as postmaster was \$19.53, and at no time has it exceeded \$200. During all these years of active life he has never indulged in a vacation. He never could find the time. Every three months during his long service he has made out the reports of the office and forwarded them to Washington, and it is said to his credit that there never has been an error discovered in one of them. Until a few years ago Mr. Beardsley had always been a democrat, but in 1896 he gave a practical exhibition of his belief in independence in politics by breaking away from Bryan and voting for McKinley. The postoffice department at Washington regards its subordinate with manifest interest. His picture was secured by the private secretary of one of the postmaster generals some years ago, and his long record of service is familiar to the heads of bureaus. Moreover, the postoffice department has given evidence that it would delight to honor the man who has been one of its faithful employes during so great a portion of its existence. At the second inauguration of Mr. McKinley, an invitation was sent to Mr. Beardsley in the name of the department to visit Washington as its guest. This invitation, however he could not accept, much to his regret, for he was sick, and dared not make the journey.

The Panama Canal.

The bill for an isthmian canal by way of the Panama route, has passed the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, and has been sent to the President.

There never was a more scandalous job put up in any country than in France when the Panama route was undertaken through the leadership of Ferdinand De Lessups in 1880. And it begins to look as though the French scandal will be made international by being taken up in the United States. It appears that an American syndicate has purchased what remains of the De Lessups' company, and offers to sell it to the United States for \$32,500,000 the privilege of digging the Panama Canal, when estimates on the total cost of

construction of the canal by that route has been as low as \$50,000,000. However, we need a canal of some kind and we may get it by way of the Panama. Since it is not very prominently before the American people, a little history of the canal projects in general, and the Panama route in particular, will prove interesting.

The accomplishment of a scheme to secure a canal across the isthmus of Panama has been the hope of navigators almost from the discovery of the continent. The earliest known surveys were made under authority of an order issued by Charles V of Spain to Cortez, in 1534. The Nicaraguan route was surveyed as early as 1561. Numerous companies and governmental projects by the countries of Europe were formed from that time up to 1878, when an international congress of commercial geography was held in Paris. Ferdinand De Lessups, president of the French Geographical Society, and of the Suez Canal Company was one of the most active members. An international committee of engineers was chosen and met the next year to choose a route for the construction of the canal. During the intervening time De Lessups had secured a concession from the United States of Columbia for the Panama route, had organized a company and was soliciting stock. His influence prevailed in the selection of routes and on Jan. 1, 1880, the first spadeful of earth was turned at Panama. For several years the French people subscribed for stock liberally, but the American people did not do so well. Before the work was begun De Lessups estimated the cost at \$94,511,363. By 1888, however, the total obligations of the company was \$257,923,000 on which interest and expense of management amounted to twenty millions per year. More new shares were issued and a lottery scheme was concocted by which it was hoped to raise more money. On Dec. 15, 1888 the company defaulted payment of a quarter's interest. De Lessup and his colleagues resigned. The French government refused to aid the continuance of work, and work ceased on May 7, 1889.

In 1892, M. Delhage, a member of the French Chamber of Deputies, (corresponding to our congress) declared that the privileges which the Panama company had obtained had been used to bribe a number of deputies and to defraud the investors. An investigation led to the prosecution of the directors. Baron Remach, a financier charged with a large part of the corruption, died suddenly. It was said he committed suicide. The investigation was pursued amid much clamor, and a gigantic swindle was exposed. Over 83,000,000 francs were spent in advertising; 500,000 francs for political purposes; 150 deputies, it was said, were bribed; the influence of several newspapers was bought and the chief detective bureau had been in the pay of the directors. Ferdinand and Chas. De Lessups, accused of fraud and bribery, were brought to trial in 1898, found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment for 5 years. Among others M. Eiffel was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. The sentence of Ferdinand De Lessups was not executed and he was allowed to die in peace, Dec. 5, 1894. Later evidence was produced and several others were fined and sentenced to imprisonment. In Sept. 1894, 300,000 new shares of stock were issued and in 1895 work on the canal was resumed by about 2000 men, but in 1896 they struck for higher wages, and in a short time work was discontinued. Thus ended one of the rottenest pieces of jobbery ever perpetrated. Now it has been revived and some capitalists in New York expect to make a cleanup. The next thing in order will be an investigation by the people of the United States.

Teamsters Wanted.

To haul lumber 8 miles, \$1.85 per M. Two months job. G. W. Beck, Elgin, Or.

The Next Legislature.

The composition of the next Oregon legislature will be overwhelmingly republican. In all the democrats will have but six members of the senate, as follows: W. H. Wehrum, Washington, holdover; Alex. Sweet, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington holdover, and Justus Wade of Union, holdover. The new senators elected by the democrats are M. A. Miller, Linn, Walter Pierce, Morrow, Umatilla and Union, and C. J. Smith of Umatilla.

The republican members of the senate are: Marion—E. M. Croisan, Squire Farrar; Linn, Marion—W. H. Hobson; Lane—William Kuykendall; Douglas—A. C. Masters; Douglas, Josephine, Lane—R. A. Booth; Coos, Curry—T. M. Dimmick; Jackson—E. V. Carter; Crook, Klamath, Lake, Wasco—J. N. Williamson; Benton—J. D. Daly; Lincoln, Tillamook, Yamhill—Tyler W. Smith; Polk—B. F. Mulkey; Yamhill—W. A. Howe; Clackamas—G. C. Brownell; Multnomah—Herbert Holman; Multnomah—J. E. Hunt, F. P. Mays, Henry E. McGinn, G. T. Myers, Andrew C. Smith; Clatsop—C. W. Fulton; Sherman, Wasco—T. H. Johnson; Gilliam, Grant, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler—W. W. Steiwer; Baker, Harney, Malheur—John L. Rand.

THE HOUSE.

Only 12 democrats will sit in the lower house. They are: W. R. Bilyeu, S. R. Claypool, Linn; Willis Kramer, Douglas; Miles Cantrell, John B. O'well, Jackson; Charles V. Galloway, Yamhill; John Hahn, Clatsop; W. M. Blakely, Umatilla; J. A. Burleigh, Union and Wallowa; T. N. Morphy, Union; J. H. Robbins, Baker; E. H. Test, Harney and Malheur.

Republican members of the lower house follow: Marion—Frank Devey; E. T. Judd, T. B. Kay, Alex. LaFollett, J. D. Simmons; Lane—L. N. Edwards, L. T. Harris, J. M. Shelley; Douglas—Ira B. Riddle; Coos—S. B. Hermann; Coos, Curry—R. D. Hume; Josephine—W. C. Hale; Douglas, Jackson—J. M. Hansbrugh; Benton, M. Hayden; Polk—Geo. L. Hawkins; Lincoln, Polk—B. F. Jones; Yamhill—B. C. Miles; Tillamook, Yamhill—B. L. Eddy; Washington—D. M. C. Gault, Charles Hines, B. F. Purdy; Clackamas—C. G. Huntley, Hans Paulsen, H. A. Webster; Clackamas, Multnomah—C. W. Nottingham; Multnomah—A. A. Bailey, W. W. Banks, S. B. Cobb, H. J. Fisher, John Gill, C. W. Hobson, W. R. Hudson, J. S. Hutchinson, W. N. Jones, Dan J. Malarkey, George M. Orton, Sanderson Reed; Clatsop—C. W. Carnahan; Columbia—Martain Both; Crook, Klamath, Lake, Wasco—J. N. Burgess, R. A. Emmitt, J. N. Whealdon; Morrow, Umatilla—Gilbert W. Phelps; Umatilla—H. C. Adams; Gilliam, Grant, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler—C. A. Denneman, R. J. Ginn, C. B. Johnson.

New Homestead Law.

The friends of the irrigation law, now before congress are jubilant. The bill has passed the house by a large majority. Its provisions, as is well known, meet the warm approbation of the president, who has long been outspoken in advocacy of systematic, intelligent reclamation of country's arid areas. This measure is held to embody these ideas, and is regarded by many as only second in importance to the homestead law—as, in fact, "a new homestead law," made applicable to arid lands. Simply stated, it provides that the government shall create new rivers through the building of reservoirs and main line canals and so regulate the flow of streams already in existence that their waters will be available for irrigation during seasons of drought. Only bona fide settlers will be entitled to secure lands contiguous to or dependent upon this newly created water supply; settlers who are in truth, as well as in declaration of intent, homesteaders and home builders. These are not only to reside upon and cultivate the land thus secured, but are to return to the government in due process of time, by a system of deferred payments the entire cost of creating the water supply which rendered the lands arable.—Oregonian.

Hood River Berries.

The total area in strawberries in Hood River valley is estimated to be about 550 acres. More land is being prepared this summer, and by next season the strawberry acreage will probably reach 600 or 700 acres. The patches are generally small, running five to seven acres in size. The Butter farm of 30 acres is the largest berry ranch in the valley, and this year produced 3500 crates of berries. The D. E. Miller tract of 10 acres turned off over 2000 crates. The smaller patches bring in the larger returns per acre and produce the best berries. This is because the work of cultivating is usually more thorough, and the supervision of picking and packing is more easily done.

The principal markets for Hood River strawberries are the Montana towns, the Dakotas, Minnesota and Manitoba, while many berries are sold in Ogden, Denver, Salt Lake and Seattle. Some few are sold in Portland, and this year shipments were made to Dawson City. Twenty crates were placed on board an ocean steamer bound for Hong Kong, but their condition on arrival has not yet been learned.—Glaeser.

Family Poisoned by Strychnine.

About eight o'clock this morning the startling news was received that W. S. Ragain and several members of his family, who reside some four miles south of the city, had been poisoned and were in a very precarious condition. Dr. Richardson was at once summoned, who upon his arrival at the house did all in his power to save the life of the sufferers. When he reached the house which was about 8:40 a. m. Ota Ragain, who was 19 years of age, was past assistance and died a few minutes after the doctor's arrival. He then turned his attention to Mr. Ragain and one of his daughters who had received a slight dose of the poison, and soon had them in a fair way of recovery, the daughter being entirely out of danger.

From what could be learned up to the present time, it is a clear case of deliberate poisoning, as the drachm of sulphate of strychnine had been put in the sugar bowl for that purpose. A coroner's inquest is now being held and a thorough investigation of the case will be made when all the particulars of the case will be given.

Official Vote of Oregon.

SALEM, June 25.—Secretary of State F. I. Dunbar this afternoon made public the official abstract of the vote for state and Congressional officers at the recent election. The total vote was 92,920, and the Republican candidates were elected by an average plurality of 25,936 votes. As the vote for Governor is canvassed by the Legislature, the vote for that office is not shown. The returns heretofore published show Chamberlain's election by a plurality of 256 votes. The highest plurality is that of Judge Bean, who led by 17,146. The highest plurality where there were four candidates for the office, was that of Dunbar, who led by 17,056. The initiative and referendum carried by a vote of 5 to 1, and by a two-thirds majority of all the votes cast at the election.

The total vote for the leading candidates was as follows:

Supreme Judge	
Bean, rep	49,876
Bonham, dem	32,730
Secretary of State	
Dunbar rep	47,623
Sears, dem	30,557
State Treasurer	
Moore rep	45,118
Blackman dem	30,506
State Superintendent	
Ackerman rep	47,045
Wann dem	31,840
Attorney-General	
Crawford rep	45,423
Raley dem	32,311
State Printer	
Whitney, rep	42,649
Godfrey dem	31,010
Congressman 1st District	
Tongue rep	23,585
Weatherford dem	16,213
Congress 2nd District	
Williamson rep	23,397
Butcher dem	15,598

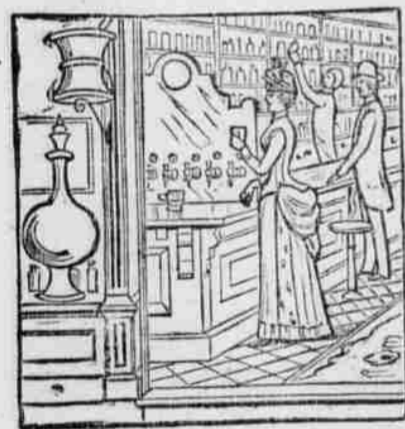
Everything

For

Spring

At the

Busy Big Store



A Car load of wag-

ons and farm machinery.

Respectfully yours,

E. M. & M. CO.