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WHERE WE HAVE ERRED.

As will be seen by Mr. Van Dusen's letter, published elsewhere in this issue, the concessions asked by Mr. Gosselin are very much less than has generally been thought. When it was stated repeatedly in the papers of the city—not alone by The Astorian, as an evening publication would have people believe—that the sawmill site asked contained approximately 500 acres, there was a natural sentiment against granting it. It was rightly considered that the site was altogether too large to give for the establishment of one mill.

But the site is not 500 acres in extent; it CONTAINS ONLY ABOUT EIGHTY ACRES. It will not accommodate a dozen mills, as has been stated, but will be taxed to care for the enterprise which Mr. Hammond and his associates propose establishing. Granting of this concession will not tie up the sawmill situation here, but will give to it an impetus that will add greatly to the population of the city and result in bringing many other industries here.

A word about the Tongue Point site. The up-land contained in the tract asked by Mr. Gosselin amounts to about 50 acres. This tract of land lies both on the north and south sides of the railroad right of way. It is presumed that the syndicate claims all the property extending out to the ship's channel both on the easterly and westerly sides of the Tongue, but this "land" does not belong to it. The syndicate owns, besides the 50 acres here mentioned, the tide-land extending to low water mark—about fifteen acres on each side of the Tongue. In all, then, its possessions amount to eighty acres. It should be remembered that this acreage is cut up by the railroad right of way. That portion of land on the south side of the railroad track which has been asked by Mr. Gosselin amounts only to a few acres, being desired merely for storage purposes. The bulk of the 50 acres lies north of the track. As will be observed by Mr. Van Dusen's statement, the syndicate may lay claim to 100 acres—sixty on the east side and eighty on the west side of the Tongue. This acreage is covered by water. But the syndicate has no more right to the "land" lying below low water mark than has any other resident of the state of Oregon. The Tongue Point sawmill site contains eighty acres, and it is large enough only for one mill.

Relying on statements made by gentlemen who should have been familiar with the matter, The Astorian has for some days persisted that the Tongue Point site contained 500 acres. This belief has become general, and it is indeed strange that effort was not previously made to correct it. It created a sentiment against the proposal that threatened to bring about failure of the entire proposition, the people regarding the matter in the light of a hold-up.

With the patience of Job, Mr. Gosselin has decided to remain in Astoria for a time longer, hoping that the people of the city will see the matter in the proper light and lend their assistance. Mr. Gosselin is earnest, because he is very heavily interested here and wants to see Astoria grow. Another opportunity to push the proposal through to a successful issue has been presented.

When the matter is sifted down, it is apparent to everyone that the demand made was most reasonable, and there is no reason in the world why Astoria should not make some effort to secure those two industries. Mr. Gosselin has not made any promises to the people of this city, but The Astorian has the best of reason to believe that the building of the mills will be followed by the establishment of other enterprises that will create a payroll and double the city's population. Indeed, the mills which Mr. Gosselin is endeavoring to secure for Astoria will involve the expenditure of more money than was required to construct the Astoria & Columbia

river railroad. Mr. Gosselin does not provide this, but The Astorian has assurance that one sawmill and one small flouring mill will not constitute Mr. Hammond's business investment here.

We have certainly made a miserable start on this proposal, but an opportunity has been given us to commence the work over again. Let the site owners be reasonable in their demands and the people can be relied upon to do their share. Astoria must secure these enterprises. The city has attained its greatest possible growth through the medium of the fishing industry, and the time has arrived for us to say whether we will build up a great city, or gradually sink into oblivion. The Astorian has too much confidence in the people of Astoria to believe that they will choose the latter course. If we fail to embrace the present opportunity to secure great enterprises for the city, it may be a long time before another such offer is made. We owe it to ourselves to act at once.

THE COLUMBIA UNKNOWN.

Away from home, the Columbia river is practically unknown. Papers published as far west as Butte overlook this port like a white check when discussing coast commercial problems, the fight for business being between San Francisco and the Sound. The Columbia is not seriously regarded as a seaport, and never will be as long as existing conditions continue. The following editorial article from the Butte Inter Mountain is a sample of the expressions now appearing in the large papers of the country:

Residents of the Northwest have more than ordinary interest in the rivalry between San Francisco and the Puget sound country. During the past few years, in fact, since trans-Pacific trade began to be highly valued, predictions have been freely made that the city of Seattle would outstrip its older competitor, and that the pathways of trade which have long made their termini at the Golden Gate would lead to Bellingham bay instead. To these prophecies of the growing importance of cities of the Washington coast, residents of Montana have given close attention. The statement that Seattle and her neighbors on the coast are forging to the front and achieving commercial supremacy is fast obscuring the fame of San Francisco as a seaport to interesting to residents of the Northwest. It means that products of the northern tier of states will find a ready market in the Orient, and the route to the Pacific possessions will be appreciably shortened.

About 27,000 bushels of wheat are exported each year from the Pacific coast. The total will be increased from year to year as the widening markets in the new possessions of the United States demand. The greater portion of this food supply has been sent, from the port of San Francisco in former years, and Montana and the Northwest have not been in the direct pathway of trade. The route from Seattle to the principal markets in the Orient is about 300 miles shorter than the one leading out of San Francisco harbor, and there appears to be considerable foundation in reason for the prediction that the principal current of trade toward the Orient will soon be flowing across Montana and will establish its principal seaport at Seattle.

The growing importance of the coast city means a corresponding advance in the value of every ranch in the state of Montana, and the increasing market in the Pacific will be of great benefit to the agricultural districts of this state. Reliable statistics of the comparative progress of the various coast cities are now in course of preparation. They will disclose the proportions of the commerce in the Pacific and will be read with interest by every resident of the Northwest.

There are those who prophesy that the Pacific cable will be laid along the shorter route between the northern coast and the Orient. The showing made by the naval cities where the statistical tables are made up will have weight in determining this question.

The Oregonian yesterday printed a picture showing the grain fleet in Portland harbor. Mind you, all those lead vessels lying in the middle of the little creek are tied up by the charmers, who are insisting that they remain in Portland's magnificent harbor until their day comes. This expiration period, be it also remembered, will commence on Sunday, when a series of heavy tides will set in. In one grand, harmonious chorus, the charmers will announce that they have sold their cargoes, and instantaneously the procession of grain ships will proceed to sea. Ralst

Mr. Molneux has no complaints to make of the law's delay.

ERRORS COSTLY FOR SHAMROCK
New York Authority's View on Reason
Why Two Races Were Lost.

In the opinion of many yachting authorities in the United States Shamrock II is considered equal to, if not slightly better than Columbia. An article in the New York Sun after the final race takes the ground that it was through mistakes in handling her that Shamrock lost two of the races and that Captain Symonds, who is conceded to be a splendid sailing master, was hampered by a division of authority. The Sun

said: "In the race sailed recently, the first which was sailed to a finish, the Shamrock kept the Columbia under her lee all the way to the weather mark and turned that mark with a fair lead. Then, instead of bearing away on light eads at once and squaring away for home, thus making the most of her lead, she loaded along and waiting for the Columbia, and the latter, taking advantage of this, which proved disastrous. If the Shamrock had been handled as well on the windward leg of the course as she had been in the race in which she turned the weather mark first, instead of being beaten on corrected time, she would have won the race with a good margin to spare."

According to many yachting men the Shamrock was beaten by the Columbia more through errors of judgment made by those who were in charge of the yacht than by the superior sailing qualities of the Columbia, and there are many who are of the opinion that the Shamrock had been sailed properly in the races between that boat and the Columbia for the America's cup, instead of having been beaten three times she should have now had two victories to her credit.

There were many who watched the race and who are familiar with the sport who thought that the trouble with the Shamrock was that she was too much taken on board in the handling, while who is acknowledged to be the best man in his profession in England, has been hampered too much and did not have a free hand.

The Shamrock at the start succeeded in getting into the better position, but at the cost of being handicapped twenty-nine seconds, while the Columbia, in keeping back in order to try and get over the line last, as it was a run before the wind, was handicapped twelve seconds, so that really this cost to the Shamrock was only seventeen seconds and it was more than made up within twenty minutes after the race started. The conditions were favorable to the challenger. The breeze was steady, it was a run before the wind, but it tightened considerably before it became even, and the Columbia was smooth. It was under such conditions as these that the Shamrock in her last trials that were sailed on the Clyde was able to beat the old Shamrock so easily, and it was for this reason that the Columbia was beaten.

Going down the wind in the first race that was sailed to completion the Columbia had beaten the Shamrock by more than a minute in fifteen miles and with this in mind it was fully expected that when they started before the wind the Columbia would have a nice lead before the leeward mark was reached, but instead the Shamrock at once began to close up on the Columbia and twenty minutes after the race had started she was the leading boat and the course had been covered and she was then leading by about quarter of a mile or what was estimated to be about two miles.

Thus, from a soft start the Columbia being the stern boat was bringing up the freshening breeze and this lead was soon lost.

The first error made was in taking the balloon jib top sail when the yacht was more than a mile and a quarter from the turning mark. This sail could have been carried for at least ten minutes longer and then could have been hoisted in plenty of time to have staved away before the men were wanted to lower the spinnaker and trim jib.

The second error was in taking the balloon jib top sail when the

boat was more than a mile and a quarter from the turning mark. This sail could have been carried for at least ten minutes longer and then could have been hoisted in plenty of time to have staved away before the men were wanted to lower the spinnaker and trim jib.

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