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RELIEF IN SIGHT FOR THE COAST.

HE KEY to regulate transcontinental freight charges is at Panama. So long as the little railroad across the isthmus was controlled by the transcontinental railroads, so long as they were in a position to fix rohibitive rates there, just so long could the high freight rates from seaboard to seaboard be maintained. The key to the whole situation, as we have said, and as the people of the Pacific coast have found to their cost, was at Panama, and so long as control of that road remained in private hands just so long could they expect to suffer.

The road with the exception of a very insignificant proportion of the stock fell into the hands of the federal overnment when this country bought the Panama rightd-way. But there was in existence a contract with the Pacific Mail Steamship company, which had yet some little time to run and could not immediately be abrogated. Hence, notwithstanding the government was in control, it was impossible to do anything to afford imniediate relief. That contract will expire by limitation a w months hence and it is announced with seeming anthority from Washington that the affairs of the isth- afford to have these crimes continue within its borders. ian road will at once be put upon a new basis.

This is precisely what has been expected and the outcome will be of tremendous importance to the Pacific oast. The road being under the control of the govern ent it is taken for granted that it will be run in the interests of the whole people. If this is done then the ites fixed for moving freight across the isthmus will be fixed as to stimulate rather than retard commerce. hen the rates are fixed at figures to cover the cost it vill mean that steamship lines will be put on both sides of the isthmus to take care of the business which comes over the isthmian railroad. The tariffs being so materfally reduced water competition will be inaugurated, which the transcontinental roads will be forced to take to consideration, with a result that the tariffs to the coast cities must be reduced to meet the inevitable cut. We will therefore begin to get benefits from the canal right-of-way purchase long before the canal itself can be

This is no more than might reasonably be expected from the government, but the semi-authoritative anhouncement from Washington will nevertheless be hailed with general satisfaction.

REPRESSION OF THE RANGE WAR.

HE COMPLAINTS made against the governor Oregon because he does not stop the range war in eastern Oregon and punish the offenders ould be entitled to more serious consideration if they the state militia. There are no known, open rioters ell, no threatened movement to destroy property that can thus be met and suppressed, and no ins and district attorneys up there are elective officers, over whom the governor has no control. If they do not perform their duty he cannot remove them and appoint

One method of aiding in the detection and apprehenfor, and the governor did offer a reward in one instance. but payment of these rewards are conditional upon the favorable action of the legislature, and so offers of them are not very effective. It might be wise for the legislature to pass a law empowering the governor to offer and pay rewards in his discretion, but at present there is no law and no fund for such a purpose.

The range war is no new thing, and is not indigenous to eastern Oregon. It is carried on at frequent intervals, if not continuously, in Wyoming, Colorado, and in a less degree in other range states and territories, and while if there is any possible way to do so, it ought to be suppressed and those who carry it on duly punished, yet these are very difficult things to accomplish, even if the officers mentioned are honest and efficient. and impossible if they are not so.

The regions where these barbarous reprisals occur are usually mountainous; the country is rugged and very sparsely settled; only the stockmen inhabiting it are familiar with it; the sheep murderers commit their atrocities at night; and finally, if one knows in any specific case who they are he may consider it as much as his life is worth to tell—and probably he could not prove the truth in a court.

All this is deplorable, shameful, disgraceful; but just what is the governor going to do about it if the sheriffs and district attorneys of the counties where these outrages occur can or will do nothing?

It is not altogether the cattlemen who are to blame. The sheepmen suffer worse, because their flocks are more easily gotten at than are range cattle or horses, and also because sheep are more destructive to the range and more obnoxious to settlers. Not long ago a score or more of horses were found dead in a remote settlement in southeastern Oregon, merely because they were ranging on public lands adjacent to the claims of a few settlers, who had no more right to the range outside the boundaries of their claims than the horse owners. A had example is quickly followed and becomes a custom. One reprisal follows another and they develop into a chronic feud, habitual lawlessness, anarchy.

Now we believe that the people of Grant, Crook, Lake and any other counties where these outrages have oc-

jority of those people, we have no doubt, are naturally and by inclination—yes, and in practice, too—law-abid-ing, respectable, intelligent and worthy citizens. But manifestly a considerable proportion are not so. And some of the majority may have been quiescent and callous. But they should be so no longer. A repetition of the past year's record should be prevented. If it cannot be agreed upon as to where sheep shall range, the good, responsible people of that region should agree that whatever the consequences to the range, these criminal, cruel slaughterings of stock shall cease, or that those committing these heinous crimes shall be punished. There ought to be enough such citizens as we have indicated in any county in Oregon to bring about this result.

Whether the local officers have done all they could to race these crimes to the perpetrators and to punish hem we do not know. Local newspapers ought to be informed better on that subject, and it is their duty to nsist that if this has not been done it shall be done in uture, and to bestow censure in no mild or mealy-nouthed manner if it be not done.

The situation is such as to call for consideration by the next legislature. A reward fund to be used by the governor at his discretion should be provided, and also, posfibly, a fund for the purpose of employing detectives and assistant prosecutors. For Oregon surely cannot

PRODUCTS OF ONE ACRE.

MAN with an average amount of strength, bition, industry and brains does not need very much land in this wonderful Pacific northwest order to make a good living. In any of many localfive to twenty acres. Hence he does not need a large ught for from \$75 to \$200 an acre-very likely can be und for sale for less-but we are speaking of lands esecially adapted to certain products-fruits, vegetables,

Here is an example of what a man did this year on a ingle acre of land near Clarkston, Ida., with irrigation: He had been a locomotive engineer for 30 years, and concluded to retire, and bought only one acre of land. He had never done any farming or gardening or paid any attention to horticulture in his life, but he inquired, learned, watched, worked, determined to make the most

out of that acre, and this is the result: He has a neat residence, outbuildings, chicken yard, orchard of 65 choice peach trees, and between them he has 2,000 strawberry plants, 100 berry bushes, 80 grapevines, two beds of asparagus and a bed of celery. He has 200 chickens, and during the first nine months of 1904 he sold 375 dozen eggs besides using all he wanted at home. He also raised the following stuff: 340 boxes of peaches; 75 pounds of Lima beans; 30 crates of wax berries; 3 crates blackberries; 3 crates black raspberries; of plums; 5 crates of apricots; 1 crate of quinces; mint, parsley and thyme for table use for himself and wife. Now this man only aimed to raise all he could on his acre, primarily for the use of his family, and see what

a variety and abundance he had, and enough surplus to buy groceries if not clothes-and all fro How much could a man who utilizes the soil to the best advantage get out of 5, 10, 20 acres? Not every-body can find land that will yield all that this acre did,

but there are thousands of patches of land of from 5 to 20 acres in Idaho, in eastern Oregon, in Southern Oregon, in western Oregon, in Washington—that tilled for all they are worth will yield plenty to support a goodsized family and leave a rainy day surplus.

Moral: If you can't get a big tract of land get a good little tract. Perhaps you will be better off.

THE MAYOR'S GRATUITOUS FLING.

ITH ALL DUE RESPECT to the mayor and late city engineer, no matter how persistent and clamorous the "knockers," kickers and faultfinders, if there was opposed to it a consciousness of perfect rectitude in all his public transactions, the city engineer never should have resigned. If a public official is right and either his character or reputation is at stake, his duty to himself, which after all in its best sense is his highest duty, demands vindication, no matter what the lamor raised, and until that comes he should be content with nothing less and no power should force him to retire under fire. So far as the mayor's reference to "knockers" goes it was gratuitous and entirely uncalled for. The report of the original investigators was confirmed by the mayor's own investigators who entered the Tanner creek sewer and found conditions if anything worse than they were originally reported.

In one thing both officials unite—that is in the expression that the subordinates in the engineer's office are incompetent and some of them crooked. Enough has already developed to demonstrate that there is something rotten in the office and that the rottenness is by no means confined to the head of the department. There is very general sentiment that the office should be cleaned out so that it may start anew under another head with a clean bill of health. If the subordinates are not faithful it is impossible for the head to guard the public against imposition; if there is need of raising the standard in one direction there is also need, which should be needed, to

Letters

Let

Small Change

England and Thibet have made reaty. Thibet is the lamb.

The Wall street bears have be emplishing a good deal more an the Russian bear.

If you don't see what you want in this world, you can ask for it, but the chances are that you won't get it.

Maybe Mrs. Chadwick really thought Andrew Carnegie's name was good who-ever signed it. It looked good to her-and to her bankers.

If Mrs. Chadwick can pay up and have a-lot of money left there will be a mul-titude of people who knew all the time that she never did anything wrong.

Mrs. Chadwick says she is going to pay all her debts. But can she find any more Beckwiths and Newtons to accept

Oregon Sidelights

Falls City man has put out 20,000

All the five members of a family on McDowell creek have been helpless with typhoid fever and one of them died.

The Springfield council is opposed to a third saloon in that town, but the \$400 thus to be gained is a temptation. Hon. H. B. Miller, consul to Niu-chwang will meet with a big formal pub-dic reception at Eugene, his home, on his approaching visit.

The Baker City Herald publishes a long article on "How to find an oil well in Kansas." But what would be more to the point is an article telling how to find an oil well in Oregon.

The very fact that Coos county is preparing to make a big fine exhibit at the fair is aiready attracting many people's attention to that exceedingly resourceful but slightly developed region.

Each of several towns up the Willamette valley and in southern Oregon have had a number of cases of diphtheris. This dread disease is caused by fifth or foul air. There is no need of it. Clean up, and don't shut out fresh air.

Oakland, Or., correspondence of Rose-

Market Basket

supplies, and during the coming month the initial shipments will be received in San Francisco, where they will be dis-

strawberry plants.

Grants Pass will probably soon have a new iron foundry and machine shop.

Echo is to use crude petroleum on three blocks of its main streets as an experiment.

Several counties have made no exhibit preparations yet. They'll be sorry if they do nothing.

The Athena Press says hunters from that town brought down only one lone goose and a coyote got that.

All the five members of a family on McDowell creek have been helpless with the sound, and are of the cold storage variety.

Bresh garden gleans as an and prices are practically the same as last week.

Oranges are of better quality than last year at this time, and do not cost as much. Japanese oranges are here, but on account of the war the shipments this year to the United States will be small. The California tangerine is quite plentiful at the same prices. Good bananas are hard to find, but the cheaper grades week, but the supplies are still very small, and it will be some time before they will go into general consumption. Columbia river salmon is coming in very slowly, and prices are high. Most of the supplies now in market are from the sound, and are of the cold storage variety.

The prices on various products at retail are:
Chickens, 13@15c; turkeys, 25c; tame ducks, 75c@\$1 each; tame geese, \$1.25@1.75 pair; mallards, 85c@\$1 pair; teal, 40@50c pair; widgeon, 65c pair.
Oranges, 25@40c dozen; tangerines, 15c; bananss, 25@30c dozen; grapes, Tokays, Verdals, Cornishons, 40@50c per five-pound basket; apples, fancy Spits-enbergs, \$1.50@1.75 per box; Baldwins, \$1.50; Rhode Island Greenings, \$1.50; pears, winter Neilis, \$1.50 per box; grape fruit, 3 for 25c; Jersey cranberries, 15c quart; strawberries, 15@25c pound.
Steaks, \$@18c pound; mutton chops, \$@15c pound; veal cutlets, 10@12%c pound; pork chops, 10@12%c pound; roasting beef, 10, 12%@15c pound; boiling meats, 6@8c pound; pot roast, \$@10c pound; corn beef, \$@10c pound; ham, 15c pound; boiled ham, 30c pound; spareribs, \$@10c pound; pork tenderloin, 20c pound.
Crabs, 2 for 25c; lobsters, 20c pound;

Crabs, 2 for 25c; lobsters, 20c pound;

Crabs, 2 for 25c; lobsters, 26c pound; eastern frog legs, 50c dozen; shrimps, 29c pound; eastern prawns, 30c pint; salmon, 2 pounds 25c; flounders, 10c pound; rock cod, 12½c pound; California soles, 15c pound; perch, 10c pound; California striped bass, 15c pound; Sacramento shad, 2 for 25c; smelt, Columbia river, 15c pound; Puget sound, 10c pound; catflish, 19c pound; black cod, 2 pounds 25c; halibut, 2 pounds 25c; sturegon, 12½c pound.

New potatoes, 3 pounds for 25c; radishes, turnips and green onlons, 2 bunches 5c; water crees, 5c bunch; lettuce, fancy heads, 2 for 5c; egg plant, 5@19c each; mushrooms, 25@25c pound; tomatoes, 10c pound; huckleberries, 3 pounds 25c; rhubarb, 4 pounds 25c; sweet potatoes, 10 pounds 25c; walnuts, 2 pounds 25c; others, 20c pound; beans, string, 2 pounds 25c; limas, green, 2 pounds 25c; artichokes, 75c@51 dozen; celery, 5@10c head; peppers, 12½c pound; cabbags, 10 G15c head; cauliflower, 10@15c head; Oregon garden peas, 3 pounds 25c.

The Play

Miss Roberts loves Ursula, and it is a part that any woman of real temperament would love. She throws her whole heart into it, and while she is on the stage the comedy never lags.

ment would love. She throws her whole stage the comedy nover lags.

Briefly stated, the plot of the play is this: Lady Ursula dons masculine attree and thus gains admission to Sir George Sylvester's house, but not without trouble. She is forced to smoke a pipe, to accept a challenge for a duel, to drink to her own health and compete with other, phases of mascenline life as it was in England in the days of powdered wigs and patches. And then, ainst marked than the hieroglyphics of our modern laundry men, and Sir George discovers, to his astonishment, from her timidity and shapely limbs, that the supposed earl is a woman—a sister of his enemy. The romance ends with a prospect for wedding bells for Sir George and Ursula.

There is very little for the company, aside from Miss Roberts and Lucius Henderson, to do. The star acquitted herself admirably. In her second act dress she was a picture of loveliness, and she went on and on so easily exists a role which Florence-Roberts is not capable of playing.

Mr. Henderson as Sir George has much to do, and as a rule does it well, but he would improve his performance mightily if he would be induced to forget the distressing habit of gesticulating during every speech, which is a serious during every speech, which is a serious and on the ability he possesses.

and the Railroads

for any railroad employe, whether offi-cer or man, who, by issuance of wrong orders or by disobedience of orders, causes disaster." Lastly, the rule free-ing the employer from damages for acci-

west.

The press had maligned him, he said.
It was his one and only aim in life to live down and prove to the world the gross injustice that had been done him by the flaring "yellow-backs," magazines and other sensational publications

mightly if he would be induced to forget the distressing habit of gesticulating during every speech, which is a serious cloud on the ability he possesses.

William Yerance deserves commendation for a clean-cut performance of two characters, Mr. Blimboe and Mr. Dent. The Mr. Castleton of G. Gregory Rodgers was crude and amateurish and lacked the first essential of acting-pronunciation.

The production, scenically, was fully up to the Roberts standard, the exception being the faulty manner of lighting the stage.

Tonight Miss Roberts will appear as Nora in Ibsen's "A Doll's House," for the first time in Portland. The same bill tomorrow afternoon and "Marta of the Lowlands" will close the engagement Saturday night.