

The Weekly Chronicle.

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THE GOVERNOR'S SOLID FOR THE DALLES PORTAGE.

The CHRONICLE is reliably informed that Governor Penoyer has written to Speaker Crisp asking him as a personal favor to use his utmost endeavor to have congress make an appropriation of \$300,000 for a portage railroad between The Dalles and Celilo, on the Oregon side. The governor urges that whatever money may be appropriated for the work on the locks, Eastern Oregon and Washington demands this appropriation first. The governor will supplement this effort by writing to the chairman of the river and harbor committee urging his cooperation in the same matter. Should these efforts fail the governor will do everything in his power to influence the next legislature to make the needed appropriation. The governor holds that the road ought to be built on the Oregon side, no matter who builds it and he has not a bit of faith in the Paul Mohr Scheme, holding that it would give the people no adequate relief from the control of the great trans-continental lines, even if it is not a scheme wholly in their interest as it is. It is almost needless to add that the governor considers the resolution of the Portland chamber of commerce to raise \$300,000 in Portland for the Paul Mohr road entirely and wholly wind and nothing else. It is also needless to say these efforts of the governor to procure an open river for Eastern Oregon will make him many friends in this quarter. The CHRONICLE entirely approves of the idea of insisting on an appropriation for the portage first. We want that even if we got nothing else. A portage between The Dalles and Celilo will afford immediate relief to the whole Inland Empire, whereas if the locks were finished tomorrow the people east of The Dalles would not be benefited a penny without the portage. But the governor should insist on a government appropriation of not less than half a million unless it be definitely ascertained beforehand just how much will be needed, and the work let by contract. We may add on the same authority that the governor is proud of the portage we already have. Its success has intensified his desire for one at the Dalles.

A telegram from Washington informs us that Senator Allen is preparing a bill to provide for the repayment to settler within the forty-mile limit of forfeited lands of the Northern Pacific road all money over \$1.25 an acre. The price paid for all lands proved up by cash entries was \$2.50 an acre. Now that the lands comprising the odd sections have been forfeited to the government and settlers on these lands allowed to purchase them at \$1.25 an acre, it is only just and right that those who made cash entries within the railroad limits, years ago, and through toil and privation gave value to the surrounding lands, should be put on an equality with those who came later when the lands had become more valuable.

The Spokane Review gives the following sensible bit of advice to farmers who feel that they are entitled to greater representation in the control of the government. Take the primaries of the old parties into your own hands and see that farmers are sent to the conventions. That done, there will be no difficulty in sending more farmers to congress. This would not exactly suit the political farmers who have been running the alliance into the ground and perverting its purpose, but it would be more satisfactory to the agricultural farmers.

"There are three things," said a gentleman of this city yesterday, in the hearing of the writer, "that during the past year have done more for The Dalles and Wasco county and are calculated to do more for them in the future than anything they ever possessed and these three are the Regulator, The Dalles water system and the CHRONICLE.

Governor Penoyer's endorsement of Joe Simon for the federal judgeship won't raise him (Penoyer) any in the estimation of those who have been wont to regard him as a straight-forward incorruptible man. Penoyer is scratching Joe's back in return for some little scratching that Joe did for Penoyer some time ago.

The experience of the farmers of Wasco county during the last two or three years ought to have taught them one lesson which they must practice sooner or later or else give up farming altogether, namely, they must do more summer fallowing. In no other way, under existing circumstances can they be sure of a crop every year. In no other way can they have any measure of control over a dry season. Scratching the stubble in the fall has fouled the fields with weeds and wild oats till a great deal of the crop produced has become unfit for

anything but chicken or hog feed. Plowing in a rainless spring and the consequent sowing in the dust has resulted in thousands of acres which it never paid to harvest. It has long been the boast of Wasco county that she has some of the best wheat lands in Eastern Oregon, and she has, but volunteering and spring sowing have scarcely kept the farmer's heads above water, while those of Sherman county, with an inferior soil but a better system of farming have been forging ahead and becoming wealthy. The Wasco county farmer, whose necessities were so pressing that he thought he could not afford to allow the half of his wheat lands to lie fallow ought to have learned by this time that he cannot afford to do otherwise! He has got to summer fallow or quit farming and the sooner he begins, the better for himself.

Portland is considerably excited over a rumor that the state board of equalization is going to double the assessment of Multnomah county. The Oregonian is out with an earnest protest that is just about as weak in the line of argument as anything can well be. The fact that Multnomah pays one-third of all the state tax has nothing to do with the case. It is simply a question of what that county ought to pay as its just and equitable proportion. The Oregonian threatens to bring the matter into the courts, in case the assessment is doubled. We hope such threats will not deter the board from doing its duty. It has long been notorious that property in Portland has been assessed out of all proportion to its true value and no one has exposed the injustice more vigorously than the Oregonian itself. A prominent member of the state board is reported to have said that "the reports of all other counties show that they have been assessed at 50 to 75 per cent. of the full cash value, and all counties will be raised up to full cash value." The board is of the opinion that Multnomah is assessed lower than any property of the same nature in the state." If this is true the board will not be doing its duty if it does not raise the assessment of Multnomah to an equality with the other counties.

The CHRONICLE gladly publishes the following clipping from the *American Wool and Cotton Reporter* kindly sent to us by A. M. Kelsay, a prominent and well-known wool grower of this county. Besides the testimony it contains to the growing excellence of Oregon wools and Eastern Oregon in particular it contains some valuable advice that our wool growers can copy with profit to themselves:

We have now received the sample bag of Oregon wool from Geo. Pope & Co., of Portland, Ore., which we very much regret had not been forwarded in time to enter the competition for our prizes to wool growers. It would unquestionably have taken the first prize. It was beautiful wool, and the finest that we have ever seen from Oregon. It was in splendid condition, absolutely free from earth and vegetable matter, was well bred and of good staple. If it had been packed in Australian bales, it would have readily passed for an average lot of Australian wool. The manufacturer who should secure it at 30 cents would get a good trade.

It is refreshing and encouraging to see wool come forward in such condition, and if our growers could only become sufficiently impressed with the necessity of paying more attention to the preparing and putting up of their wools for market to act in that direction, they would benefit all concerned and do more towards enhancing their own interests than all the tariff laws that were ever framed.

Oregon wools, owing to their improved quality and the strength of the staple, have, during the past few years, become more and more popular with worsted manufacturers, though they have been less profitable the past season on account of the great amount of grease and dirt which they have retained. The wools of Eastern Oregon, particularly are well bred and yield a less profit of tender and short wools than some of the other territories. They compete with Montana wools, which, however, are usually in lighter condition. It would be to the advantage of the growers in Oregon to retain the good qualities of their wools and keep dirt out, which adds to the freight expense, and which buyers must deduct from the price which they pay per pound for it.

Since the above was written this bag of Oregon wool, at 30 cents per pound, and the last remaining bag of Wyoming at 22 cents per pound, have been taken by the well-known manufacturers, Moses T. Stevens & Son's of North Andover, Mass. This closes the prize contest for the present season.

The first number of the *Dufur Dispatch* has come to hand and it fully confirms the reputation we have had of Mr. Brooks, that he knows how to make a good, newsy, readable paper. The new enterprise may not have a very large field to work in but what it lacks in extent can easily be made up in enthusiasm. The Dufurites have always been proud of their town as they have a right to be. There are few handsomer town-sites in Eastern Oregon and few communities blessed with a better class of citizens. That they will support their local paper liberally goes without saying, and if this support shall prove sufficient to meet the modest ambition of the editor so that he can remain among them, the town will reap a hundred fold for every dollar it invests. We cannot say anything better than that we wish the *Dispatch* the success it may deserve.

The latest news from Washington is not very encouraging to those who are looking for liberal appropriations for the Columbia river. It said that "Objector"

Holman has offered to reduce the expenditures \$100,000,000 in return for being made chairman of the committee on appropriations. Among the items he proposes to cut off is the river and harbor bill. If this program is carried out Oregon will suffer more than any other state. It may be true, as Senator Frye says, that there are too many public works in progress and too much damage to follow such a course, for congress to refuse to appropriate for these measures, but it will not be at all surprising if the partisan clamor against the last congress for its "extravagance" in making such appropriations as Oregon needs and which all the states that shared in them deemed as necessary as we did, should have its effect, and no river and harbor bill be passed this session.

We clip the following from an eastern paper, and it is as true in Oregon as in Ohio: "Farmers sometimes envy men who live in cities and manage vast enterprises which yield them great wealth. But the farmer often gets out of his farm what the rich man cannot buy. Mr. J. D. Rockefeller is said to have the largest income of any man in America, but during the last summer he has worked diligently on an Ohio farm, plowing, planting, sawing wood, shoveling earth for roadways and gathering in the harvest. After four months of this life he has changed from what threatened to be a physical wreck to a healthy man. After all, there is no more independent, and in many respects, no more attractive life, than that of a prosperous farmer."

Twenty-five thousand ladies of Boston have determined to close all stores and places of business employing female help, after 5 o'clock p. m. They have entered into an agreement to do no shopping after that hour and hope by this means to relieve their working sisters from excessive hours. This is an entirely practical way of meeting this unnecessary evil. When customers cease buying goods at unreasonably late hours merchants will have no inducements to keep open and clerks will reap the benefit of shorter hours.

When Peter the poet, of the Klamath Star goes after a man's scalp he can lift it as neatly as anyone we wot of. Referring to a fellowtownsman who had called him by an approbrious name Peter says "He looks like an overloaded stomach trying to tear itself away from the nightmare."

A Reply to an Inquiry.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—No acknowledgment has been made of the receipt of the letter sent the Chilean government on November 9, asking for copies of the testimony of witnesses in the investigation into the Baltimore affair. Six days ago a reply was sent to the letter of Secretary Blaine to Minister Pedro Montt, at Washington, in which the American secretary of state says that safe conducts were granted refugees who were in the German and French legations, while the privilege was denied those who sought an asylum in the American legation. The reply sent to Secretary Blaine declares that no such permits had been granted: that no safe conducts had been issued to any refugees in any foreign legations, and that Mr. Blaine can keep himself well informed through the Chilean legation at Washington.

The Strike Spreading.
EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 12.—The Southern Pacific company yesterday requested the Western Union office here to handle the train dispatches for them, their operators having been on a strike for several days. The Western Union operator refused to take or send the dispatches. They were threatened with discharge and black-listing. It is said, and last night most of the operators in the Western Union office here walked out. The railroad strike threatens to spread.

Illicit Whisky Still Destroyed.
TULLAHOMA, Tenn., Dec. 10.—Federal officers returned last night from a raid in northern Alabama. They report the capture of two large illicit distilleries, which they destroyed, together with several thousand gallons of the product. The stills were about ten miles from Stevenson, Alabama. No arrests were made.

A Demand From China.
LONDON, Dec. 10.—A dispatch from Rangoon says China has demanded the withdrawal of the British posts at Nampouen. The government replied, declining to withdraw the posts, but instructed the commander to do his utmost to avoid a collision.

Newfoundland Getting Even.
St. JOHN, N. F., Dec. 10.—In retaliation for the duties imposed by Canada on Newfoundland fish, that government has put in force a section of an act against Canada, which increases the duties on articles from Canada.

Killed in a Train Wreck.
CAIRO, Ill., Dec. 11.—A collision occurred last night at Mountain Glenn near Murphysboro, Ill., on the Mobile & Ohio railroad, between a freight and construction train. Four or five persons are reported killed.

Explosion in a Coal Pit.
BERLIN, Dec. 10.—A terrible explosion occurred this morning in Friklaus Hoffnung pit, at Heusdorf, in Silesia, killing twenty miners, and severely wounding a number of others.

New Commercial Treaties Signed.
VIENNA, Dec. 10.—The new commercial treaties between Austria-Hungary and Germany and Austria-Hungary and Switzerland were signed today.

Another Helress Story Exploded.
ELMIRA, N. Y., Dec. 10.—Cone Dunham, until Saturday connected with "La Cigale" opera company in New York, arrived here today. According to an interview published in New York, she came here to secure an inheritance of \$125,000. She drove to the Elmira reformatory and had an interview with her husband, W. H. Dunham, who was sent here from New York three years ago for forgery. Dunham's father died recently in Plattsburg and left a small amount of property to his son. This is all the foundation there is for her story. She left for New York tonight.

Chinese Rebels Again Defeated.
LONDON, Dec. 10.—Dispatches from Peking state that, owing to the delay in getting the Mongolian tribes together, the plan of the viceroy to surround the rebels has not proved a success. Another battle was fought between the imperial troops and the rebels, and the latter were routed and dispersed. This battle is believed to be the one concerning which the Chinese legation here received advices yesterday.

Today's dispatches state that the emperor of China has taken up the study of the English language.

He was Scared to Death.
CINCINNATI, Dec. 10.—James Morgan, who has had charge of the east elevator of the custom-house, has been literally scared to death. One day last week the elevator became erratic and shot up toward the roof like a rocket. Morgan thought his last day had come and fell in a faint. The elevator stopped itself and Morgan revived sufficiently to escape, but has gradually failed constantly since, and is now completely paralyzed. The physicians say he can live only a few hours, and that it is clearly a case of scared to death.

More Trouble in Brazil.
RIO JANEIRO, Dec. 10.—The situation here continues critical. The government here is taking measures to prevent an emente in the city. Advices from Comos state there has been open rebellion against the Peixoto government. A conflict occurred Tuesday last between government troops and the insurgents. Advices are not clear as to which side won a victory, but it is reported ten men were killed.

A Colored Preacher Deposed.
ELMIRA, N. Y., Dec. 11.—The Rev. Dr. Ashley, pastor of the A. M. E. Zion church, the oldest colored church here, was deposed today. Charges of immorality implicating Mary Hogencam, a white girl 17 years old, were made against him. Dr. Ashley was also charged with frequenting the police court and hawking jewelry for prisoners in order that they might pay their fines.

Strike of the Telegraph Operators.
EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 11.—The strike of telegraph operators between this city and Yuua, on the Pacific system of the Southern Pacific railroad, promises to spread over the whole system of the Santa Fe road if the superintendent of that road persists in demanding of the dispatchers that they handle Southern Pacific trains between this city and Deming.

Fatal Quarrel Over Land.
VENTURA, Cal., Dec. 10.—Billy McDermott, an old-time citizen of this county, shot and killed John Schell, petter known as Dutch John, last night. The tragedy occurred at the Cassitas, about eight miles from this place, and had its origin in a dispute over land boundaries. McDermott claims to have acted in self-defense.

Servian Rebels Burning Villages.
BELGRADE, Dec. 10.—The Malissorri tribe from Albani raided and burned Poschani and Vranogeece, villages in Servia a short distance from Tetowo, and killed four of the inhabitants. They afterwards attacked five hamlets, plundered the houses and killed seven people.

A Verdict of Not Guilty.
NYACK, N. Y., Dec. 10.—The jury in the forgery case against Assemblyman Frank P. Demarest returned a verdict this morning of not guilty.

An English Vessel Wrecked.
LIVERPOOL, Dec. 10.—The four-masted iron ship Drumblair, Captain Beall, 1800 tons was wrecked near Cardiff. The crew were saved.

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