

The Weekly Chronicle.

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EX-VOLUNTEER ON EXPANSION.

The Dalles, Or., Nov. 7, '99. To the Editor:—

Now while so much is being said and written in regard to expansion or imperialism, as the non-progressive ones have been pleased to term it, I think this an opportune moment in which to say a word in defense of expansion.

Through countless ages there never has been an instance where a nation, that achieved any degree of power, has not bettered itself by grasping everything possible, and whether or not they were the embodiment of good, it has been one of the most potent factors in the spread of civilization.

The United States has often been condemned by many of her own citizens for her actions in regard to Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, particularly the latter, on account of the bloodshed entailed in the subjugation of the Tagal tribe, who comprise one-fifth of the population.

Anyone who gives utterance to unloyal criticisms against our country's policy certainly shows traces of a diseased brain, for were the Islands not thrown into our hands by unforeseen circumstances in legitimate warfare? Were they not in themselves a very rich archipelago and a valuable acquisition to our country's needs in the way of a naval rendezvous, and commercially? Had they not been poorly governed and oppressed, and did not America offer them a better government than they had ever dreamed of? Does any sane person think it possible for the Malay race to offer suggestions to the United States in the way of a democratic form of government?

And now is it better for us to abandon the Philippines after losing 1000 men, and spending a large amount of money, and leave ten millions of people in the clutches of fanaticism? Every American should protest. And more than this, behind it all there is a principle; an example to set. Tradition shows that our own great country has never yet been baffled by circumstances, and our national honor has surely been in more danger than now, when the Tagal tribe, seconded by a few "anties" within our own borders, assail it.

Let us go back to the time when the Spanish controlled the Islands, when the thumb-screw and stocks were in evidence; when everyone had to pay a cedula, personal or head tax for the privilege of living; when the people were taxed for every lamp they burned, for even for the food they ate. This is Aguinaldo's form of extortion. Is the United States able to improve upon it? Surely it is. Treachery has been so thoroughly inculcated in them by the Spanish that it has become a part of their nature, and any kindness done them is considered as a weakness.

When the Americans took possession of the Islands they immediately began their work of reform by abolishing executions. The famous Black Hole on the bank of the Pasig river, where many Filipinos, suspected of being unloyal to the Boy King of Spain, were drowned without a hearing. The prisons were cleaned out, and while waiting for orders from their government to continue their work of reform, their kindness had been construed as a weakness, and on February 4th the

insurgents commenced the trouble that has proved so disastrous to them, and now they await subjugation. Does any one say stop? Those that do are either Democratic politicians or someone equally mistaken.

AN EX-OREGON VOL.

DEWEY IN POLITICS.

Here is a story of Admiral Dewey which it is believed has not before appeared in print. When in the fall of 1897 he was an applicant for the command of the Asiatic squadron his official request was not viewed with any degree of favor by the department, and he was politely (for they always do official things, no matter how disagreeable, in a most sublimely courteous manner) refused the assignment. Finding that he could not make it through official circles he tried political ones, with the result that through influence he received the coveted command. It was not the intention, however, of the department to allow him to depart unrebuked for having forced his orders, and he was summoned one day to the presence of the secretary, who said to him: "Commodore Dewey, your orders to the command of the Asiatic squadron have just been issued, but against the judgment of the department, which does not feel that you hold the proper qualifications for such a position, and which also deprecates the fact that you have employed political influence to secure the assignment."

"THE TIMBER KING."

The people of the Pacific Northwest have none of the narrow spirit which influences and sometimes governs older communities in their treatment of newcomers. Out here the invitation is general to home-seekers and investors, says the Spokesman-Review. There exists a perpetual welcome to all who will come here and take farms, orchards, gardens, ranges and mining claims. Capital which will show a disposition to make permanent investments and engage in new industries is wanted.

But withal this hospitable spirit, the public will not take with gratification the news that Frederick Weyerhaeuser, "the lumber king of America," has paid \$6,000,000 for 1,000,000 acres of timber lands in the Pacific Northwest. Americans do not take enthusiastically to great landed estates of a million acres bought, as the announcement has it in this case, because the buyer "believes that timber is bound to advance in that Western country, and that he will realize a handsome profit." The gigantic deal is speculative, and it does not appear that Mr. Weyerhaeuser contemplates in connection with it the establishment of a single new industry. It is nothing less than a gigantic private forest reserve.

Illustration is required to enable the mind to grasp the magnitude of this transaction. A million acres could be subdivided into 10,000 tracts of 100 acres each. It is sufficient to give 100,000 men a 10-acre tract apiece. It is nearly the equivalent of a piece of country forty miles square—a large-sized country. It is nearly as large as Delaware, and larger than Rhode Island.

The West is a land of magnificent distances, but its people will not be enthusiastic over the prospect of the creation of million-acre private forest reserves.

NO DEFEAT.

If the Boers keep up the pace set by them in their late engagements with the English, a very crushing defeat will be the result of the present war. The English appear to have lost their heads. Very little excuse is due commanding officers for the manner in which they allowed their troops to be surrounded and killed by much larger forces, when

it would appear that they were cognizant of the fact.—Brownsville Times.

This is scarcely possible, says the Statesman. The English nation cannot afford it. The British have put their hands to the plow and they cannot turn back. They have the power to utterly crush the contending Boers, and they will use it. This may be done at fearful cost of life and enormous expenditure of treasure. But a proud and rich, and mighty nation cannot afford to count the cost. However much any one may wish it were otherwise, we cannot see upon what hypothesis he can predict a "crushing defeat" for the British, in the end. It cannot be, if no powerful nation interferes.

Gomez says that the "honorable Cuban should place before himself the ideal of the republic, remembering that every day on which the sun sets until the establishment of the republic is an injury to the Cubans." Every reasonable person who has been in Cuba, however, knows that the Cubans are not yet ready for self-government. Gen. Lee, a man who has investigated the matter on the ground, and who was relied on to give great aid to the anti-annexationists, says self-government would be an injury to Cuba at the present time. He wants an American protectorate or annexation. There is a very strong probability that when the Cubans do their voting on the question of their future government the annexation side will have a majority.

Aguinaldo, in his proclamation, is correct in saying that congress will meet in a few weeks, but he is wrong in his intimation that congress will veto what he and his Democratic friends call the "imperialist" policy. Aguinaldo's mistake is natural. Some one of his allies probably has told him the Republican plurality in the House will be only fourteen or fifteen, and this has given him hope that congress will order the withdrawal of the American troops, so as to allow him to massacre all the American civilians which he would find in Manila or other parts of the islands. Before congress is in session many days, however, the rebel chief will learn that his allies are powerless to help him.

Aguinaldo was quickly transformed by the preliminary report of the Philippine commission from the George Washington of the Philippines to an ignorant and mercenary half savage. He will be changed by the military operations now being commenced from a renegade to a rannygade.

Aguinaldo will probably be surprised to see the thousands of United States soldiers proceeding to business, notwithstanding the elections being held and the impending meeting of congress. It will mix up his ideas of our government more than they have been mixed before.

Will Shorten the Time.

It is announced officially that the O. R. & N.'s Wallula-Grange City cut-off is practically finished and trains will soon be in operation. Between Spokane, Palouse and Portland it will save an hour and forty minutes, and as it is a well-ballasted track, with only the heaviest rails, it will be free from dust and sand.

The cut-off will do away with the necessity of the handling of freight and passengers over the Alton hill. However, a special service will be maintained over the Alton hill line for the benefit of Walla Walla, Pendleton and other cities along the old route. It will make no difference in the arrival of the train here, as it will leave Spokane that much later. The only difference will be that all points between Starbuck and Spokane will be reached one hour and forty minutes earlier.

The distance covered by the cut-off is sixty-six miles. Between Grange City and Celilo now are 189 miles of continuous rails of 75 pounds per yard, which with a well-ballasted track, will make the cars ride easily and comfortably, and give passengers the benefit of a route free from dust.

Dr. W. Wixon, Italy Hill, N. Y., says, "I heartily recommend One Minute Cough Cure. It gave my wife immediate relief in suffocating asthma." Pleasant to take. Never fails to quickly cure all coughs, colds, throat and lung troubles. Butler Drug Co.

Fresh cracked Nebraska corn at the Wasco warehouse. Finest kind of chicken feed. Nov. 25-11

THE IMPORTANT QUESTION.

To Be Decided at Once—Shall We Have the Fire Improvements?

EDITOR CHRONICLE:

The chief of the fire department, the subscription collector, and several members of the board of fire delegates held an informal meeting last evening to consider the matter of the proposed fire improvement for the city. They find that with the \$400 subscribed by the council, the \$300 from the hook and ladder company, and the \$100 from the Columbia hose company, together with all that can be relied upon from the merchants' subscription list, the total is still \$250 short of the necessary cost of the improvements. Unless the additional \$250 is secured before next Tuesday, the board of delegates will officially abandon the plan at their regular meeting that evening.

This communication was a great surprise to the CHRONICLE, for we had supposed the question of the improvements in the fire department's apparatus, was settled and that there would be no further difficulty regarding it. And now comes the announcement that there is a possibility of the whole thing being thrown up because there is a shortage of ten per cent in the amount necessary to secure the new alarm system and chemical engine.

This must not be and we feel positive our citizens will not permit it. But remember it is not a question to be shilled to your neighbors, but one which must receive individual attention. The board of fire delegates have done all in their power, and more than could have been expected of them. Have you done the same? Have you contributed the ten per cent reduction which will be received when the new system is inaugurated, or in any way assisted in procuring this much-needed improvement? If not, see to it before Tuesday that your part has been done, or you may wake up to find that even that which we have been removed, for the fire boys are becoming discouraged, and surely they cannot be blamed, when some of our most prominent business men, who will benefit most thereby, have refused their support. Our fire boys receive no recompense, and in the hour of need may withhold their assistance.

But surely before Sunday, much less Tuesday, the small amount of \$250 will be forthcoming. What is everybody's business, however, is nobody's business, and someone outside of the fire department should make it a personal matter and not let this important question drop after it has been carried so far.

Shall we have an improved fire system or not? That is the question to be decided at once.

THE TRUE BOUNDARIE

Thirty Townships Added to The Dalles District From Lakeview.

Some time ago Register Jay P. Lucas discovered what appeared to be a misconception of the true boundaries of The Dalles and Lakeview land districts, and some correspondence ensued with the Hon. Commissioner of the general land office which resulted in the following letter being sent to the register and receiver at The Dalles.

The change mentioned in the letter transfers thirty townships from the Lakeview district to The Dalles district, lying in townships 19 and 20 south, between ranges 8 and 24 in Crook county.

Commissioner Hermann's letter is as follows: GENERAL LAND OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 31, 1899. Register and Receiver, The Dalles, Oregon.—Gentlemen: It has been recently decided by this office, that the boundary line between your office and the Lakeview office, as fixed by the act of April 24, 1872 (17 Stat., 55), is the fourth standard parallel south of the base line, between township twenty and twenty-one south, instead of township eighteen and nineteen south, as has heretofore been considered, thus transferring to your office townships nineteen and twenty south, ranges nine to twenty-three east.

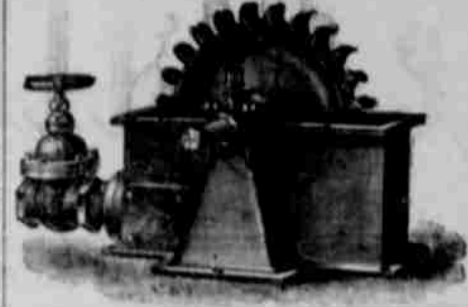
The tract books prepared in this office covering said townships and ranges will be furnished you.

The Lakeview office under even date herewith has been instructed as to the change in the boundary line and directed to transfer to your office the plats and all the papers relating to the land in question.

I herewith inclose a map of the state of Oregon, upon which the new boundary lines are shown.

Very respectfully, BINGER HERMANN, Commissioner.

Yesterday the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society, through their superintendent, W. T. Gardner, made application for the care of Jessie Brooks, aged 11, and Elsie Brooks, aged 9, complaining that their father had abandoned them, and that their mother, Mrs. Fannie Brooks, was not a proper person to have charge of them. While not cruel or neglectful of them, her character is not such as to warrant her bringing up children. The matter came up before the county judge yesterday afternoon, the mother and children appearing in court. While not denying the charges made against her, she was loath to give up her children and produced a letter from her husband saying that he had procured work and asking her to come to him. She made promise that she would in case her children were left with her, and the court therefore decided to give her a trial; but in case her promise is not fulfilled she must forfeit the children. Such a move has long been considered advisable by residents who knew the state of affairs and feared for the children's future, although they seem to be well cared for otherwise.



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