

OREGON MIST

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NOVEMBER 15.

JUDGE HATTAN'S LETTER

Hon. R. S. Hattan publishes the following letter in the last issue of our esteemed contemporary, the Clatskanie Chief:

EDITOR CHIEF:—Would you kindly furnish us space in your paper to make a few statements, to correct the erroneous impressions made by the "Oregon Mist."

1st, the statement made by the Mist "That the Nease cruise is a gold brick, that is comparatively worthless," is greatly exaggerated. With the exception of Tp. 4 N. R. 4 W., the Nease cruise is fast gaining favor. We have talked with most of the large timber owners in the county and are fast becoming convinced that the cruise is plenty high enough, taking as a whole. We have adopted the Cheldelin cruise in part only, as in many cases the Cheldelin cruise and the Nease are nearly the same; for instance; Mr. Blodgett filed a petition charging the Nease cruise as being excessive, we had Mr. Cheldelin recruise five quarters of this timber, he got 75 million to Nease's \$1 million, and had Cheldelin cruised the down timber on four of these quarters, there would not have been a million difference in their cruise. We found that the Cheldelin cruise on the Chapman timber invariably run under 20 per cent, and as high as a whole section run as close as 2 per cent. Jennings & McKhae have filed a petition charging an excessive cruise, we have sent Cheldelin to recruise eight quarters which are in dispute, let us see how this comes out.

The timber has added ten million to our tax roll, and to our surprise there is very little kicking among the timber men. For example, the S. E. 1/4 of Sec. 17, Tp. 7, N. R. 5 W. was assessed at \$14 per acre last year, \$2,240. This year it is assessed with 17,500,000 feet, valued at \$2 per thousand or \$35,000. As to the Northern Pacific's assessment, they will pay no more taxes this year than last, E. H. Flagg to the contrary notwithstanding.

R. S. HATTAN.

We are pleased to be informed that Judge Hattan is becoming satisfied with the Nease cruise. At the time the article appeared in the Mist finding fault with the cruise, Judge Hattan was very far from being satisfied. In fact, he freely expressed his opinion that the county would have to take the matter into the courts to compel Nease to consent to the appointment of an arbitrator, and there was considerable talk about prosecuting Mr. Nease's bondsmen. We believe it was Judge Hattan who expressed the opinion, in the presence of witnesses that Nease had taken money from the timber owners as well as from the county, and that this was the reason why no great kick would be made by the timber owners. It is rather remarkable, if it was an honest remark, that Mr. Cheldelin is still out, at the request of timber owners. Who is to pay Mr. Cheldelin? If the county got what it paid for, why didn't it stand pat on the Nease cruise, and, if the contract was worth the paper it was written on, why did not the county compel Mr. Nease to comply with its conditions or compel his bondsmen to reimburse the county? If the county's interests had been properly protected there would have been no necessity for the work Mr. Cheldelin is now doing, for Mr. Nease would have seen to it that the work was properly done in the first instance. That there is so little to dispute about the cruise may be due, as Judge Hattan once surmised, to Mr. Nease having been on excellent terms with the timbermen. Standing by itself, without correction, we repeat that the Nease cruise is not only comparatively but absolutely worthless as a basis for assessment. Since the trouble arose Judge Hattan has discovered that Mr. Nease was one of the proprietors of the famous or infamous Milwaukee Club. Had he been in possession of that information prior to the closing of the deal, we have no doubt he would have drawn a much stricter contract.

As to the amount of taxes that will be paid this year by the Northern Pacific railroad, Judge Hattan assures us that they will be no greater than they paid last year, and he may be correct. If they pay upon their present assessment, their taxes will certainly be increased, notwithstanding their assessment is no higher in proportion to that of the rest of the county than it was one year ago, because of the special assessment for roads and schools. The Judge, however, was instrumental in reducing the company's assessment by about one one third two years ago, and he may be equally successful this year. The Mist



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SLINGING LANGUAGE.

does not ask that corporations should be persecuted, but only that they should pay their just share of the taxes, and not have the burden bear too heavily upon the residents and home builders.

HARRIMAN'S OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Harriman will pay dear for his brief sortie into the realm of competition in steel rails, by which he hoped to secure a rail that would not break and send so many of his trains into the ditch. Since Mr. Morgan has made his peace with the administration and received permission to perfect his monopoly, the order recently placed by Mr. Harriman with the Tennessee Coal & Iron Company has been turned back to the steel trust, and will be filled by the Carnegie works, which turned out the imperfect rails that caused so many accidents on the railroad. Now if Mr. Harriman will only join forces with the reformers who are seeking to break the hold of the steel trust, it may be possible to bring in foreign steel rails which will not snap like cast iron as soon as a heavy strain is placed on them. Sooner or later, however, the time will come when the American people will not submit to this kind of injustice, and tariff reform will prevent the steel trust, or any other trust from, from killing people with poor rails or exacting higher prices than are paid by other countries—Oregonians.

If Mr. Harriman wants to manufacture his own steel rails he should come to Columbia County and start a plant. The iron is here in unlimited quantity. It is within four miles of deep water on the Columbia river. It is the best iron in the world and the easiest to mine. Let Mr. Harriman send responsible men to investigate Columbia County's iron resources and he will be satisfied that all that is claimed for them is true.

Soothing syrup of some sort is to be administered to Wall Street which Congress meets. At least that is the hope of the lending financiers. The Street has been crying for the remedy and apparently will not be happy until it gets it. The Treasury Department has done all that it properly could in the past fortnight to relieve the situation. It has put out large deposits of government money in National banks and has pointed out to the banks how they can increase their note circulation and thus add to the total supply of money available. All this is well enough, but the Stock Exchange wants some concrete assurance from the White House that the government is not "agin it." With this end in view two of the most prominent financiers of New York, H. C. Frick and President Gary of the Steel Trust called at the White House this week and begged the President to insert something reassuring in his message when it came to the financial paragraph. The President is engaged in writing his message now and it is well known of course that he will touch on the general financial situation. It is understood without being definitely known that he will recommend currency legislation. This is one of the most pressing needs of the nation from a business standpoint. It is well known that his wants to recommend the best line of action possible and to this end he has taken the advice of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State and the Comptroller of the Currency. It is quite possible that he absorbed the views of Messrs. Frick and Gary as representing the large business interests, and it is understood from men with whom these gentlemen talked after their call at the White House that there should be "nothing alarming to the business interests" in the message. Now what the President considers alarming and what the business interests consider alarming may not quite coincide. Probably they will look for something actively pleasant. Probably the President's idea will be to refrain from saying much that is actively unpleasant. But whatever form the soothing syrup takes, the financial world will have to make the best of it.

Senator Fulton announces that he will favor a postal savings bank system. We trust that he will not only favor it, but will secure its adoption. There should be some place where the savings of the people would be absolutely protected.

Heating stove for sale cheap. Inquire at this office.

THANKSGIVING APPEAL

From the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Oregon.

To those who are acquainted with the methods and the good work accomplished by the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society in rescuing and caring for dependent and delinquent children of the State, it is unnecessary to say anything but that the Society needs the assistance of the public at Thanksgiving, but as there may be many who have not studied the work or had occasion to know of some of the good accomplished, it would be well to say that this Society is located in the City of Portland but cares for all children throughout the State of Oregon who are in need. The Society has never been known to refuse admission to any child provided it is healthy and one that can be placed out in a private home. Neither has it refused to accept any boy or girl who through incorrigibility has rendered himself beyond the control of his parents and for whom, at an early date, the Reform School, or worse, the Penitentiary would open its doors. But in order to defend this class and keep them from a penal institution, the Boys and Girls' Aid Society's agent comes along and takes the boy or girl in charge and retains his custody until they have ascertained if there is any chance for reformation, and if so the child is directed in the right path and so saved from having the disgrace of being committed to a penal institution. But if it is found, on the other hand, that the child is a degenerate and its association with other children is harmful, it is placed in some institution organized for the purpose of caring for that class of children.

The Society has on its files at Portland Oregon 3253 cases that it has handled and cared for during the period of its existence. It is supported by State and County aid and charitable contributions, and at this time of the year it is reaching out and asking every person who is a friend to the institution or to destitute children to put their put their hands in their pocket and make a small donation of money or to send to the Home in Portland, Oregon, some article of provisions—canned fruit, vegetables, or anything that would be useful in the household.

At every county seat there is an Advisory Board whose business it is to look after the interests of the Society and its wards who are placed out in family homes. In this county Mrs. M. C. Gray, St. Helens, Oregon, is the Secretary, and any person who has anything to donate can find out where to deliver the same by phoning to this address. The railroad companies and steamboats throughout the State have cooperated with the Society so far as to say that they will deadhead all supplies sent to them from any source during Thanksgiving. Therefore, it is hoped that this city and county will at least do their share for the good of the little ones who are dependent upon charity for support.

It is well to consider this fact: that the Hill lines have not suspended improvements. That seems to be the difference between a railroad builder and a stock manipulator. Harriman, as soon as the government came to the assistance on the money question immediately ordered all improvements stopped and as much repair work ended as could be done without suspending traffic. Why did he do this? Was the panic which he wishes to come headed off by the actions of Mr. Cortelyou in aiding New York banks? And is he determined to make a panic, and if necessary to do so is he willing to ruin the property he represents to do it? There are many things which make the situation look like he and his like are on the side of the market where a panic will aid them in picking up a few millions. The evidence is so strong that these men would willingly ruin the whole country to make a few millions for themselves. All honor to Mr. Hill and to men of his stripe. The people of this country should make it a point in going East and returning to use any railway but the Harriman lines until such time as that individual will be good. And a concerted action of that nature on the part of the people of Oregon would soon bring Mr. Harriman to time.

For \$300,000 in cash it is said that J. P. Morgan has secured control of the Consolidated Steamship Company, a corporation that started business with a stock of the par value of \$60,000,000. Mr. Morgan has also, during the financial panic, purchased the properties of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railway Company, with a capital stock of \$32,000,000. And yet the people wonder at the growth of socialism.

A Year of Blood
The year 1903 will long be remembered in the home of F. N. Tackett, of Alliance, Ky., as a year of blood, which flowed so copiously from Mr. Tackett's lungs that death seemed very near. He writes: "Severe bleeding at the lungs and a frightful cough had brought me at death's door, when I began taking Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, with the astonishing result that after taking four bottles I was completely restored and as time has proven permanent cure." Guaranteed for sore lungs, coughs and colds. For sale at Houlton, Warren, Scappoose and Deer Island.

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COLUMBIA'S RESOURCES

Impartial View of A Well Known Writer.

Fred Lockley representing the Pacific Monthly of Portland spent Monday and Tuesday in St. Helens in the interest of that excellent publication. When asked what effect he thought the financial flurry would have upon the development of the West he responded "I think the effect will be beneficial to the West. In the first place it will eliminate the wild cat propositions and in the second place hard times in the East will cause the Eastern and Middle Westerner who feels the money stringency to look toward the west as a land of promise. Take this county for example, where will you find a section richer in natural resources and where will you find a section where so little has been done in developing the wealth of natural advantages as here. St. Helens is only 28 miles from Portland, a city that is destined to be the commercial metropolis of the Pacific Coast. It is the natural distributing point for the whole Inland Empire and the products of that vast region will inevitably flow along the lines of least resistance—in other words, along the water grade down hill to Portland. As our shipments to the oriental countries increase Portland will cover more and more territory to accommodate the warehouses of the exporting houses. Population will grow as trade and commerce increases. More and more supplies will be needed to supply the increased population and in a few years Columbia County's logged off lands will be set out to small gardens to supply the growing demand of Portland. I have eaten as finely flavored apples here in St. Helens as I have tasted in Hood River and at Medford, two of the most famous of Oregon's apple districts, where fruit land sells for from \$200 to \$400 an acre. Logged-off land can be bought here from \$5 to \$15 an acre and this land can be cleared for \$50 an acre. Much of this land will make the finest kind of fruit land. An orchard of Northern Spy or Spitzenburg apples would produce an income of from \$200 to \$400 an acre within 6 to ten years.

Take dairying. Harry West of Scappoose has shown what can be done in this line. Harry West's blue ribbon cows have done as much to attract attention to this district as any other one thing in the county. The wonderful prosperity of Tillamook county is due almost entirely to her dairying industry. Columbia county has neglected her opportunity along this line. There is no good reason why there should not be several prosperous creameries here. If my memory serves me rightly, it was Columbia county that took the gold medal on her butter at the Lewis & Clark Exposition, which is pretty good proof that this is a high class dairy country. The county judge tells me that you have timber here which runs from 14 to 17 million feet to the quarter section. With your timber, your stone, your fruit lands, your mineral wealth, your lands adapted to dairying and truck gardening it seems incredible that there are less than ten thousand people in the whole county.

Now to come back to your question. If the Easterners, who are land hungry and tired of working for wages or farming on rented lands knew of the wealth of natural resources you possess your population would soon double, and with increased population would come increased trade and increased prosperity. One of the things which I believe has held the county back has been the holding of large bodies of timber and other land by outside capitalists who have enjoyed extremely low taxes and have had little incentive for developing or disposing of their holdings. If a fair tax is assessed to these speculative holdings the owners will either develop the property or dispose of it to some one who will. There was a day when there was bitter rivalry between St. Helens, Portland and Milwaukee as to which of the three was to be the leading city. That day has gone by, that question has been settled, but the present question is how best to encourage the building of electric lines so that the county may be cut up into small farms which with your fertile soil and abundant moisture will prove wonderfully productive. With your rich tributary territory St. Helens can well grow into a city of ten times her present population. Few cities are more famed from a scenic standpoint and few have so many undeveloped resources at her very door as has St. Helens.

Evidence is very strong that minions of the Standard Oil Company have bribed United States Court officials at Chicago to provide them with inside information as to what is going on in cases against them. Isn't it about time that the people rose up and did something to the Standard that will cause its officials to halt? The Standard is committing all sorts of crime, yet the people are asked to sit idly by while officials are debauched, its records stolen and justice thwarted. It might not be morally correct to confiscate a few millions of Standard property and destroy or divide it, but if the Standard was given a taste of its own medicine it would soon cry out for quarter.

The English are discussing the proposition to abolish the House of Lords. There is no excuse that we know of for its further existence. There is, too, little excuse that we know of for the existence of the United States Senate, outside of the giving of a few fat positions to politicians in their dotage. The old idea that the Senate would prove a restraint on wildcat legislation has proven groundless, for of all wild-catters the Senators have been the wildest. The evil that those old fossils have done in the past has in no wise been equalled by the good; and they are an expensive brake, and a brake generally out of repair when most needed. Abolish

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