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County Official Paper

The Timber Industry

What the timber industry means to Columbia County can best be estimated from a few figures which we have learned from a reliable source and which show something that few people realize. The amount of money paid in wages through the timber and mill business in this county amounts in round numbers to over \$2,000,000 per year. The St. Helens Mill Company paid during the year ending October 21st 1911 for wages alone to the men in the timber, exclusive of mill operations, \$115,000; The Peninsula Co. is of about the same capacity and no doubt paid as much, also the Clark Wilson Co., of about the same capacity paid practically the same amount; The Chapman Timber Company is considerably larger and an estimate of the amount paid by them for wages is \$200,000 for the same time; The Benson Company at a low estimate paid \$150,000 while the O. K. Company paid at least \$100,000. Then the Jennings-McRae Company and about a dozen other companies operating in this county paid another \$150,000 and the Portland Lumber Co. must have paid in the neighborhood of \$115,000. Taking these amounts, which are considered very conservative too, the amount paid for wages in the timber for the past year in Columbia County will easily reach \$1,125,000.

Then the mills have paid some wages too; the St. Helens mill has paid \$100,000 for wages and the Columbia County mill has paid about \$35,000; the Prescott mill has paid not less than \$100,000; the Rainier Lumber and Shingle Co. have paid about \$75,000 and the Patterson Lumber Co. about \$50,000; the Columbia River Door Co. about \$75,000 and other smaller mills scattered over the county \$125,000, making a total of wages paid in the mills of not less than \$550,000.

Add to this the amount paid out for piling, poles, posts, and wood paid for the lumber and mill business for the past year of over \$2,000,000. This amount of money paid to laboring men for one industry in a county where the population is only about \$11,000 makes a county that can not help but be prosperous.

The Governor's Policy

The policy adopted by Governor West, of abolishing capital punishment, by commutation of sentences, during his term as Governor, seems to be a usurpation of power by the executive of the legislative branch of government. In his message to the Legislature last winter the governor recommended that capital punishment be abolished and there were not less than five or six bills introduced into both houses for this purpose. The legislature by large majorities defeated every bill thus introduced, the principal reason for which was that under the present method and law for granting pardons, the abolishment of the capital punishment would be a great incentive to the commission of capital offenses.

There were many members of the Legislature who, personally were not in favor of capital punishment, but voted against the bills until such time as the law governing the pardon system could be changed and that could only be done by a constitutional amendment. The question of the best method of deterring the commission of capital

offense is one of every wide and varied opinions; Governor West believes that life imprisonment is the better method; other people, no doubt many of whom have made just as thorough a study of the question as the Governor, are of the opinion that capital punishment for capital offenses is the proper thing, being taught by the moral and scriptural law. But the Governor is in a position, in this instance as in a few others, of being bigger than the law and with one stroke of the pen can set aside the will of all the law making bodies, people and legislature, and say to them "I am bigger than thou." This paper doubts the wisdom of the method pursued by the Governor in this instance, without discussing the question of the abolition of capital punishment.

The Bonding Method

The people of Jackson County voted \$1,500,000 bonds for the purpose of making roads in their county and the Circuit Court upheld the issue. If the Supreme sustains the Circuit Court the question of good roads is pretty well settled. All the talk of a highway commissioner and road experts with "advisory control" and drawing salaries ranging in amounts from \$2400 to \$5000 per year and with nothing to do but give advice seems to be useless. If a county can vote bonds in any sum necessary to build roads and build them all at once without having to build a mile one year and another mile the next year, and in such manner as will make the roads permanent, what is the use of all this so-called good road legislation?

Columbia County has many miles of good roads, perhaps as good as any in the State, yet there could be inaugurated a system, if the money was all on hand, whereby the entire county could be connected with roads that would be in good condition at all times of the year for heavy teaming. In round numbers this county spent in 1910 for roads and bridges the sum of \$100,000 and considerably more in 1911. Of course we have some first class roads as well as starters for some more, also a few first class steel and concrete bridges, but the roads are disconnected, by reason of one district voting a special tax and the adjoining one failing to do so, while if the money could all be on hand and under one head to be used for making permanent roads in every district, and every district paying its proportionate share of the bonds and interest, what grand roads we could have and at a cost that would not exceed the present cost. Then we who are living now could also get some benefit of these conditions and not leave it for future generations.

There are two sides to every question and the Single Tax is no exception. This question is coming up in some form for the voters of the State to pass upon and before it is done we urge upon every voter the necessity for a complete understanding of the merits and demerits of the system. No greater calamity could overtake the farmer and land owner than the adoption of this system. Let there are arguments for it which, unexplained, may lead a great many men to vote for in the belief that it will better their condition as to taxes and make the speculator pay as much as the homebuilder.

The object of this article is to induce the voters to take the pains and trouble to inform themselves. As to the system we will have more to say later.

Hon. W. C. Hawley, Congressman for this District, came to town Saturday afternoon, but only stopped a few hours. Mr. Hawley is now serving his third term as congressman and is up for renomination and election next year. He has many friend and admirers in the district, and we find quite a number of such in this neighborhood. Of course he has the advantage over his competitors by reason of his experience and committee assignments and aside from this advantage, he is a good man anyway, and will therefore be a rather hard man to defeat.

St. Helens is very much alive. Everything indicates it. Our streets are being improved; New buildings are being erected; Mills running over time; Business men are doing lots of business, and the Mist is full of Ads.

There are some business houses not represented in our ad columns but we are going to show them that good advertising pays and before many more issues expect to have to increase the size of our paper with new ads.

Congressman Lafferty of Portland is already conducting one of his famous publicity campaigns for renomination and election from the new third district, which is composed of Multnomah County. We are not in his district any more and do not have to pass judgment on his love affairs and statesmanship, but will watch with interest the outcome of his campaign.

Boys may be had and sometimes girls. The older ones at ordinary wages and others to be schooled and cared for in return for slight services rendered.

For particulars address W. T. Gardner, Supt. Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Oregon, Portland, Oregon.

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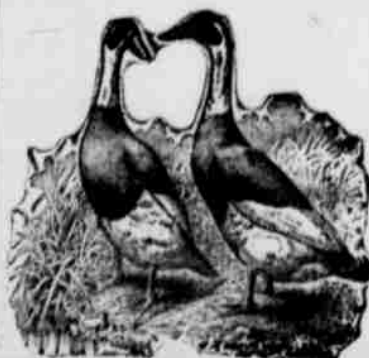
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SALE DATES

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June 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 28, 29, and 30.
July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 26, 27 and 28.
August 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30.
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