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TRANSPORTATION has not kept pace with the rapid settlement of the region lying on both sides of Snake River in Garfield, Asotin and Whitman counties, Washington Territory, and Nez Percé County, Idaho. It is estimated that at the close of navigation on the river the present season there were 60,000 tons of wheat yet unshipped. The annual increase of acreage and consequent output of that region is enormous, and yet there is no increase of transportation facilities. If the much-needed railroad from Riparia to Lewiston is not soon constructed, it is hard to tell how the farmers of that region will ever be able to market their crops.

THE people of Oregon, through their officials and those mercantile organizations which are supposed to represent them, have made a sad mistake in permitting such a small and totally insufficient exhibit to be made at New Orleans, one which fails to show many of our most important resources and industries; and they are also making the greater mistake—one which is not yet irreparable, but soon will be—of not supplying the Oregon Commissioners there with an abundance of suitable, exhaustive and attractive printed matter describing the State and its resources and advantages.

THE Oregon & California road, having defaulted in the interest on first mortgage bonds, has been placed in the hands of receivers, at the instance of interested bondholders. R. Koehler, Vice-President and Manager, and A. G. Cunningham have been designated receivers by the court. This is the first step of a number necessary to place title to the road in the bondholders, who have for several years had actual control. When all legal complications are terminated, Oregon will receive far greater benefit from this most necessary road than has yet been derived.

THE operations of timber land speculators have been heretofore limited by the clause of the Timber Act which provides that only such land may be purchased which is valuable only for its timber, and which, when cleared, shall not be valuable for agriculture. The object of this was to save all valuable agricultural land for the occupation of actual homestead and pre-emption settlers. A bill has been introduced by Senator Dolph in the United States Senate modifying this section, so that even agriculturally valuable timber land may be purchased under the Timber Act. This, should it pass, will open the door wide for the speculators to acquire possession, by easy and familiar means, of the best land in our forest regions. The bill is supported by the specious argument that it costs more to clear such land than it is worth, and that actual settlers cannot afford to undertake it. This, in a measure, is true, but the remedy lies not in facilitating the operations of speculators, but in modifying the homestead and pre-emption laws so that settlers will be able to clear these lands at a much less expense, even, possibly, at a profit. At present the settler is not permitted to cut any timber, except such as is done for actual and bona fide improvement in the pursuit of occupation and cultivation of the claim, until after he acquires complete title. Why not permit him to cut timber for market, not to exceed a certain limit annually, and thus aid him to improve his claim. Is it not better to thus assist the actual settler than to permit speculators to seize upon these same lands and exclude the homesteader from them entirely? Every step which makes it more difficult for the home-seeker to acquire land is a step in the interest of moneyed speculators, and should receive the disapproval of the people of the country.

STATISTICS of population based upon the number of votes cast at a general election are but approximately correct at the best. No fixed ratio can be relied upon, so varied are the conditions existing in different localities and in different years, owing chiefly to the uncertainty as to what proportion the vote cast bears to the full voting strength of the community. The ratio of five persons to one voter has generally been adopted in the West; but if this is correct in the older and agricultural sections, it is obviously too high in the mining regions and newly settled areas. In Washington Territory 15,765 votes were cast in 1880, the United States census the same year giving a population of 75,120. This is a shade under a ratio of five to one. Allowing that among the immigrants who have flocked to the Territory during the past four years there is a greater proportion of single men than there was among the residents in 1880, it will be sufficiently conservative to estimate the present ratio at four to one, which is certainly lower than appearances indicate. The vote in November, exclusive of women, was