

OCROCO REVIEW.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1890.

LET US BE AWAKE TO OUR INTERESTS.

After an advantage has been lost and the things that might have been turned to good account have passed beyond our power of recalling, it is easy to point out where and how we could have retained them, but it is then too late, the good time, the time when we should have acted and taken advantage of our natural avenues to success, have been recorded with past events. It is indeed a wise and far-seeing community that never allows an opportunity pass that might be utilized for its benefit; but it does not require an extra amount of fore-sight for the people of any place to realize their natural advantages and devise means for retaining them, yet a community is occasionally so blind to its interests, or takes for granted that what it has will always stay with it, that golden opportunities are allowed to pass by unheeded, and the first thing the people know other places with fewer natural advantages, though with more enterprise, have sprung into existence and either divide the trade or take it all from their older and less enterprising neighbors.

The Dalles is one of the towns of Oregon that possesses many natural advantages over any other, yet the people of that city have rested on their oars too long, thinking no doubt that what they had in the way of trade and manufacture was too permanently fixed to be taken from them, and the result is the country that city was once distributing point for is seeking other places which offer greater inducements, the O. R. & N. shops have been closed, and the city that ought to be the best business place in Eastern Oregon is suffering a serious commercial depression. The *Times-Mountaineer*, calling attention to these facts, says: "If intelligent enterprise had been exercised in the improvement of roads to the interior, in utilizing the Columbia river as a highway of commerce, and in centralizing at this point manufacturing industries, there would have been attractions toward The Dalles which do not now exist. If the roads to Canyon City, Prineville and other portions had been improved, these towns would not now be looking elsewhere for a point at which to trade. If reports are true, the railroad shops could have been retained."

Prineville may well read a lesson in the experience of The Dalles in the loss of trade by a lack of enterprise. For twenty years or more this has been the distributing point for a country nearly one hundred miles square, but without some effort on the part of the people of Prineville there is no assurance that we will much longer retain this trade. Some fine morning we will awake to the realization that we have not a life-lease upon the trade of the surrounding country; and unless we offer the people of the surrounding country good facilities for reaching our town, that is, first-class roads leading in every direction, we may expect to see little trading points springing up in localities that are more accessible to the consumers, and Prineville will thus lose a large portion of the trade it now has. This has been demonstrated in the case of Willow Creek. Heretofore Prineville got all the trade of that section, but a store and blacksmith shop were started a few years ago at Hay Creek, and owing to the bad condition of the road across McKay Mountain, Hay Creek is easier for the settlers on Willow Creek to reach than Prineville, hence a large portion of the trade of that section now goes to the former place. To have retained this trade the businessmen of Prineville could have well afforded to have made a good road across McKay Mountain. Another section whose trade in Prineville is considerable is the Beaver Creek country, and unless a road that can be traveled at all seasons of the year is made between here and Beaver, the businessmen of Prineville may expect to see the trade of that section taken from them, for unless those people can have convenient means of travel from their homes to this place, they will encourage the establishing of business houses in their midst, and there is sufficient trade there to maintain a profitable business in several different lines. The county is making considerable

improvement on the road from here to Beaver, but the outlay by the county will by no means make it a first-class road, and it would be no more than a wise business investment for the people of Prineville to advance the balance required to put this road in first-class condition. Other sections might be mentioned whose trade is of considerable importance to Prineville and which may be retained by the establishing of easy and convenient means of reaching the town. Good roads bring the tradesman nearer to his customers, therefore increases his trade, and it is very important to every person engaged in business here that his customers have the best facilities for reaching him. Wherever the county fails to put in good repair any of the roads leading into Prineville, let the people here do it themselves, and they may have some assurance of holding the trade they now have. Otherwise they may within a few years be placed in a similar condition to that which has overtaken The Dalles.

DEATH BY ELECTRICITY.

On the 16th Wm. Kimmeler was legally executed in Auburn prison, N. Y., by the use of electricity. In one respect the experiment of killing by electricity was a success, for Kimmeler was killed, but as to the question of it being a painless death, there is a diversity of opinion. After the current was cut off he showed signs of coming to life, when the current was again turned on and left until there was no doubt that life had departed. The execution was conducted bunglesomely, one of the electrodes, placed at the base of the spine, not having been properly attended to, became too hot and severely burned the flesh.

Kimmeler's execution brought forth a vast amount of useless sympathy for the "victim," as he is called by those who have too much sympathy for a fiend who wilfully takes the life of his fellow man, but these sentimental individuals have not a word of sympathy for the poor woman whom Kimmeler murdered in cold blood. All their tender feelings are devoted to the inhuman brute who forfeited his life by taking that of another.

There seems to be a growing tendency on the part of American people to make a hero of a brute who plans and executes deliberate murder, and whenever one of this class is made to suffer the result of his crime, a plea is raised for his painless taking off. This, in one sense, is probably humane, but it is not in accordance with the dictates of good sense or the vindication of the law. When a man deliberately murders another, he does so knowing that the penalty is death; he shows no sympathy for his victim, often using means of the greatest torture, and he deserves neither sympathy nor a painless death at the hands of the law. Yet the law which takes a life for a life may, and in fact is, a relic of barbarous ages, and many who desire to inflict punishment that will be effectual in preventing crime, favor life imprisonment, without possibility of pardon, as a punishment for murder. Though there is some argument in favor of this mode of punishment, it is questionable if it would prove effectual. To some, solitary confinement for life would be a greater punishment than death, and would be greater to be dreaded when they contemplate committing murder than to know they would be executed themselves, but with the average man who has become so debased that he can deliberately plan to take the life of another, the fear of death is greater and would be a more severe punishment than life imprisonment or any other punishment that could be inflicted.

Congressmen who have aspirations to return to their seats when the next session convenes have become so restless that it is difficult to hold them to their work in Washington. Their political interests at home are just now of greater importance to them than the nation's welfare. Such servants of the people had as well be retired from public service.

Before the Oklahoma country was thrown open to settlement it was represented to be one of the richest countries in the world. Thousands of families flocked there last year expecting to find homes abounding in "milk and honey," but their hopes have not been realized, and they are now on the point of starvation, asking for government aid.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.

Is a question that is always more or less agitated, especially by the clergy, many of whom insist strongly upon the strictest and most rigid observance of the Sabbath, much more strict than suits the independent idea of thinking of a large majority of the people of this age. Even the running of railroad trains, publishing of newspapers and keeping open barber shops, cigar and confectionary stands on Sunday is strongly denounced by the straight-laced type of clergymen, and a move is on foot to get a national Sunday law passed preventing all these liberties. But while these radical views are entertained by some, there seems to be a growing spirit of liberty and freedom on the part of many of the more enlightened and tolerant clergy. Among these Cardinal Gibbon is foremost; and not only on account of the high standing of the man, but on account of the liberality of his ideas, are his expressions on this subject worthy of notice.

He not only approves the opening of libraries, museums and other places of amusement on Sunday, but declares that, apart from such religious exercises as each man's conscience may impose upon him, the day should be given up to such recreations as contribute to the physical, mental and moral benefit and enjoyment of the people, a great majority of whom have no other day on which it is possible for them to get away from the busy cares of every-day life and indulge in recreation of any sort.

This view of what Sunday observance ought to be, would be worthy the attention of our law makers when asked to enact measures making it unlawful for anyone to engage in any of the ordinary pursuits of life—either of labor or amusement—on the Sabbath day. Any recreation which is both innocent and respectful of rights and feelings of others, is evidently better worship than that which is observed merely for the sake of form. And it is extremely doubtful if any law requiring the observance of Sunday is wholesome. That it shall be a day of rest and enjoyment is well enough, but for the state or any sect to dictate as to how the day shall be observed is carrying authority too far. If a man wants to observe his only day of rest by going to church, in prayer, singing songs, sleeping, reading, attending picnics, or any other innocent and harmless amusement, it is not the province of the state or anybody else to say that he shall not, so long as he does not interfere with the rights and privileges of his neighbors. The manner of Sunday observance should be a question of a man's own conscience, and should not be dictated to by any one else.

It is hardly probable that Oregon will get a recount, though the interior department has signified a willingness to recount Portland and Salem. Supt. Kelly, of the western district of the state, is anxious for a recount, but Supt. Strange opposes it very strongly, no doubt because he is afraid to have his bunglesome work investigated. In his endeavor to screen his inaccurate work by preventing a recount, he has telegraphed the department stating that people generally are satisfied that the count was correct and in the face of this statement by Strange, the boards of trade of every city in his district that has such an organization have telegraphed to the department, denouncing the recent census and demanding a recount. Strange is certainly an awful liar or the business men of all the principal cities of Eastern Oregon are most economical with the truth, and the department at Washington seems to take the latter view.

Census Supt. Kelly has at last unlocked his secretary and made known his guess of the population of the western district of Oregon, placing it at 220,150. The census of 1885 as taken by the assessors in the same district was 186,857, showing an increase of only 33,293 in the past five years. Kelly's guess at the population of his district probably falls short 40,000 of the actual number.

The assessment roll of Walla Walla county shows a total land valuation for 1890, \$4,541,460, against \$3,235,720 for the year 1889. Pursuant to instructions from the prosecuting attorney, railroad property was assessed as real estate, instead of improvements as heretofore, which accounts for the apparent increase.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IT?

In speaking of the census, our contemporary, the *News*, says: "We know the enumerators of this county did their work faithfully and well."

They may have done their work faithfully, but it is indeed doubtful if they did it well. If they did, the results show a peculiar state of affairs, and when the editor of the *News* or anybody else says he knows they made a correct enumeration he makes an assertion that is difficult to prove. In fact, the returns show such a peculiar state of affairs that almost any one who has given the matter any thought is exceeding doubtful if the enumerators came within 500 of the exact population of Crook county.

The returns of the enumerators shows a population of 3310. At the general election last June 1088 of these voted. The reports of the school clerks of the various districts, made last March, showed there were 1162 school children—persons between four and twenty years of age—in the county. That is, the population of this county consists of 1088 voters, 1162 persons over four years and under twenty years, and only 1060 women over twenty, infants under four years, males over twenty and under twenty-one and non-voters all combined. It is said figures won't lie, but those who put them together often make them tell some very mysterious truths. And one of most mysterious things we have ever known figures to do is the showing made above. But if our enumerators "did their work well" these figures are very nearly correct, though it will take something more than mere assertions to make the citizen of ordinary intelligence believe that such things are possible.

These figures are so utterly absurd that they would seem funny were it not for the fact that by the inaccuracy of the census Oregon is likely to lose a representative in congress, which the state would be entitled to, had the census been correctly taken. As it is, it is no laughing matter, and he who assumes to say the bungling enumeration is correct, subjects himself to ridicule.

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