

OCHOCO REVIEW.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1890.

THE ROCK POINT ROAD.

The mention in last week's Review regarding the road recently constructed around Rock Point on Crooked river, has caused some comment, and has brought forth a statement from Judge Sumner that the work has been finished according to the contract entered into between the county court and the contractors. We do not pretend to deny what Judge Sumner says never having seen the road, and in fact it is quite probable that the work which has been done very nearly fills the conditions of the contract, though the contract is faulty, as shown by the following specifications set up in the contract:

"Commencing with an approach at a reasonable distance from an iron stake at the west end of the Rock Point on the county road from the mouth of Eagle creek to the mouth of Newsome creek, in Crook county, Oregon, thence running east to an iron stake at the east end of said Rock Point, a distance of about four hundred feet, more or less. Said approach to have a grade of one and one-half feet to ten feet running of the grade, the said road to be nine feet wide at the surface, and from seven to ten feet above low water mark of Crooked river at the point of beginning the entire length of said road. All fills on said grade to be at an average of two inches wide at base for each twelve inches of raise. Said grade to be on an average of five inches higher on the outside the entire length. Said grade to be fit for travel when finished by said parties of the first part."

It was no doubt the intention of the drafter of this contract that a good road be built, though it would be difficult to tell just what it meant from the wording of the specifications, hence Judge Sumner and Commissioner Slayton, who received the work, were at a disadvantage in determining whether the stipulations of the contract had been complied with, and should not be too severely criticised for their action in the matter. But that the work is of little practical value to the county, we infer from conversation with gentlemen whom we have interviewed during the week, all of whom condemn it.

Mr. A. L. Allen, of Mowery, was interviewed and said:

"The road is not constructed so as to be safe for travel. The curves are very acute, grades are steep, and it would be dangerous to try to go over it with a heavy loaded wagon. I examined the work carefully, and do not think it is nine feet wide in some places."

Mr. E. G. Conant, of Upper Crooked river, said:

"I rode over it on horse back; did not inspect it carefully; it is too narrow, but can be made a fair road."

Mr. M. L. Brown, of Mowery, when asked if he had examined the road said:

"Yes; but it is not a road, not even a good pack-trail."

Mr. J. H. Gray, ex-stock inspector, said:

"I have examined the road. It would be impossible to get a team with two wagons over it, owing to the sharp curves."

Mr. S. M. Courtney, of Paulina, when asked if he had gone over this work, said:

"Yes; I rode onto it on horse-back and was compelled to ride into the river and ford it in order to get off the grade. The grade is so crooked that I do not think a four-horse team can get over it with a heavy load."

Further comment upon this subject is unnecessary, unless it is to say, that C. F. Smith, the contractor who has the work in charge, has agreed to blast off some points of rock so as to make some of the curves less angular. But it seems to us that this work should have been done before the road was accepted and paid for by the county court.

The Mississippi constitutional convention have adopted a clause in the new constitution forbidding the sale of lottery tickets in that state and denying the right of the legislature to charter lotteries of any kind.

A recount of certain wards of New York made by the police show a gain of 8 per cent over Porter's count, and Mayor Grant has demanded a recount of the entire city.

The Herald-Dissiminator suggests that Oregon borrow a big red-wood tree from California and present it to Wilkins and Klippel for a shoulder stick to carry Oregon's exhibit to the World's Fair.

CENSUS "DOCTORING."

The N. Y. World makes some accusations against the census bureau, which if correct, is indeed a bad showing, and may bring to light some peculiar disclosures. It states that for a month the World has been investigating to find the true source of the errors which have been proven to exist in all parts of the country, and has in its possession evidence which implicates one congressman from Brooklyn, some political managers in that city, and a half dozen clerks in the census office, in an attempt to defraud many of the states of the Union out of their legitimate congressional representation. Its charges are very direct, the names of four census clerks being given. The article charges that a secret office was fitted up at No. 206 D street, where clerks were detailed to alter the true census returns by scaling down the increasing totals to fit the political ideas of the managers of the scheme. The article makes ten specific charges, among them the following:

"That an order was given an official in the census office (with or without the knowledge and approval of high authorities in this government) to reduce the true census of New York state 300,000 souls.

"That the state of New Hampshire, which has lost population, was scaled up so that its present quota of congressional representatives would not be changed.

"That Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Maine and Minnesota were to be very liberally counted, and that the blunders at Minneapolis and St. Paul arose from a very stupid misinterpretation of instructions.

"That this infamous job has, to a large extent, been carried out, and that, when the researchers of the World frightened the conspirators, they moved the secret office from No. 206 D street, Washington, to Cathedral street, Baltimore, near the monument, where, for the past six weeks, the dastardly work has been in progress."

If there is anything in these accusations, is it not possible that Eastern Oregon has suffered a scaling down from this source? It is well known that the eastern part of this state is democratic, and if it were credited with its actual number of inhabitants, would be entitled to be made into a congressional district, which would result in the election of a democrat to congress. The matter is worthy of investigation.

The editor of the Herald-Dissiminator has evidently been sleeping for the past two months. In his issue of the 16th he says:

"The refusal of the department at Washington to order a recount of the State of Oregon, is likely to have one effect not heretofore taken cognizance of, and that is if the present enumeration stands as basis, the next apportionment bill for the state will cut down the representation from Linn county giving us but one senator and two representatives in the legislature, and increasing Portland, it is estimated, so that she will have about one-fourth of the membership."

Over half the papers of the state have been complaining of this ever since the recount of Multnomah county was made. But the Linn county editor has waited until it is too late to do any good and now makes a kick.

The sentiment of the men from the eastern part of the county who have been in attendance on circuit court this week is decidedly against county division. They are satisfied to remain in Crook county and do not want to be taxed to erect county buildings for a new county, and will remonstrate against the move which is now on foot to attach them to the Antelope country. This, they say, is the feeling of a majority of those living east of the Ochoco mountains, so if there is to be a new county established the boundaries will have to be changed to conform with the wishes of those who are to compose it.

Sheriffs all over the country have made futile attempts to find John Doe, in fact, he has been sought after more than any other man, and now Mr. Antonelle, of the firm of Antonelle and Doe, railroad contractors, is making a search for his partner, Mr. Doe, whom he claims has taken advantage of his sickness and has got away with considerable money belonging to the firm and fled. If Mr. Antonelle is no more successful than sheriffs have been, it will be a long time before he finds his much sought for partner.

A joint stock company has been formed at The Dalles for the purpose of publishing a daily and weekly paper at that place. Success to the enterprise.

Tillamook county is blessed with a "brilliant" county court, judging from the following item published in the Headlight:

"C. E. Donaldson received an order from the county court for \$14.80, for material and work furnished on the road. Mr. Donaldson sold his order to G. O. Nolan for seventy cents on the dollar, receiving \$10.35. Mr. Nolan, acting in the capacity of attorney for Mr. Donaldson, applied to the county court for reimbursement for what Mr. Donaldson lost by discounting his order. The court issued another order for the sum of \$4.45, the amount of the discount, and Mr. Donaldson allowed Mr. Nolan to keep his second order also, as his fee for securing it. Now the county will pay \$19.25 and interest for work that should have been done for \$14.80. Should Mr. Nolan sell his orders now at the same discount, seventy cents on the dollar, he would receive \$13.47, and we see no reason why he should not receive additional county orders to compensate him for his loss(?). A little of this geometrical progression in financing would soon bankrupt the county. Our county court needs a guardian."

The experience of the Washington state board of equalization ought to induce Oregon's next legislature to create a like body for this state. Washington's board found an average variance of about 45 per cent. in the values placed on similar property by various county assessors, and have equalized the assessment so as to make the values similar in all counties. No doubt a like variance would be found in the values of property in the different counties in this state. What we want to make taxation uniform all over the state is a board of equalization composed of one member from each judicial district.

The special senatorial committee will attempt to amend the tax laws in a session of ten days. This is a big undertaking for so short a time; but the work of the committee will probably receive more consideration at the hands of the legislature if too much is not attempted. That has been the trouble with such committees in the past. They have attempted too much."—Salem Statesman.

This week we were shown the proposed boundary lines of the new county. They are about the same as published in the Review two weeks ago, except that the south line after passing along the south line of township eleven to its intersection with the Ochoco mountains follows the summit of said mountains to the Grant county line, taking in the greater portion of the Mitchell country.

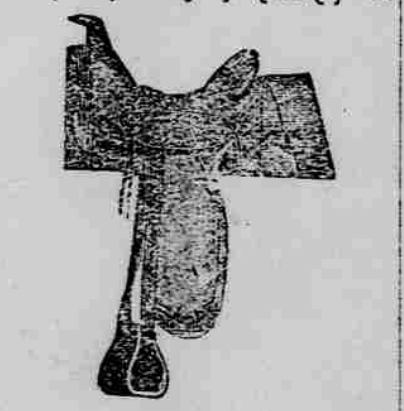
"The resolution of the Oregon State Horticultural Society yesterday endorsing the movement for the appropriation of \$250,000 for the proper display of Oregon's products and resources at the Columbian fair, is very significant. If the farmers of the state are in favor of this appropriation, it is very likely to be made."—Oregonian.

The people of the United States will feel relieved to learn that the president has determined to not call an extra session of congress, and there is nothing to fear from that body until it meets in regular session next December.

We are in receipt of a funeral notice stating that the Lexington Budget died on the 16th. We regret to learn of the Budget's death, as it was a wide awake paper.

The World's Fair committee of Washington have decided to ask the legislature to appropriate \$250,000 to pay for the exhibit of that state's products at the exposition. Oregon cannot afford to be behind her sister state in this matter.

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