

Oregon Historical Society City

OUR EDITOR ABROAD

He Visits Old Haunts in Willamette Valley.

And Tells of His Travels.

Advantages of Eastern Oregon Over the Valley-Railroad Extension.

At this season of the year one is impressed with great amount of green in nature if he takes a trip up the Willamette Valley on any of the many lines of transportation with which the valley is threaded. Leaving Portland we wend our way through a succession of meadows and fields of grain interspersed with patches of clover with here and there a goodly sprinkling of French pinks, which add to the beauty of the landscape, but detract from the value of the crop of either hay or grain. At short distances we cross the ever present Ash "swale" which is at this time a mass of verdure and lends coolness to the summer air.

At the various little stations on the road more or less changes are observed, some for the better others for the worse. The same old moss adorns the fruit trees that did six years ago when we were along this route and in many places there seems to have been added a little to the growth of moss on the houses. These signs of thrift or loss of energy are found in streaks as it were and may be attributable in part to the atmosphere or water of the different communities in which they occur. At Salem we saw a street car full of men and like Huckleberry Finn "every man had a gun." They were returning from a hunt after the escaped convicts but unless two men carrying buckets had them concealed there was no sign of the prey.

At this season of the year every body and his wife have been to some kind of state, district or national convention of lodges and are returning home, consequently the trains are all full as well as some of the travelers. Arriving at Albany we went direct to the old Revere house and found everything much the same as in former years except that the proprietor has added a few improvements which make the house, if anything, better than formerly. Many friends greeted us and extended the glad hand among whom was Jim Finch, the bewhiskered city editor of the Herald. To see Jim devour limburger cheese one would think him an old country "dutchman," but it is an acquired habit and he may get over it in time. Joe Whitney, state printer elect, looks the same as ever and his honors sit lightly on his brow. Albany presents much the same appearance it did six years ago except that the new courthouse is one of the finest in the state. Our old friend James Elkins took us in hand and showed us over the edifice and explained the workings of the town clock, which is located in the tower of the court house and is one of the best of the kind and can be heard all over the town when it strikes.

After some vicissitudes we were able to rent a wheel for a few days and proceeded to visit some of the historic spots we were accustomed

to in our youthful days. Many of the farms that were flourishing in those days have sunk into decay and are fast becoming a prey to moss. In some cases this has been caused by the death of the former owners and in others from neglect. Many of the farmers of former days have become sufficiently wealthy to have a town house and consequently they pass most of their time in town to the neglect of their country property. In other cases the low price of farm products precludes the possibility of the farmer hiring help enough to keep up his farm to the former standard.

Any one contemplating traveling around through this county, (Linn) would do well to get a good steady cow or horse with extra long legs as it is the only safe way to get over the ground and not get hurt. We rode a wheel over some of it and of all the roads we have ever yet tried to ride on these are the worst. This spring was an exceedingly wet one and very little work has as yet been done on the roads and besides they have been sadly neglected of late years from all appearances.

The little town of Sodaville that has gained a state wide reputation was one of the spots visited and we found it about what it was a few years ago except if anything has gone down with the general decline of the country. The last state appropriation has been used to good effect and a new building has been erected over the spring adding comfort to the visitor. The water however is not up to its former standard, or at least we did not find it so. It does not leave a dark brown taste, but more of a pea green one. Our Red rock soda on Beaver creek is far superior in quality and with a few dollars of state aid would have a much better flavor. Crook county is certainly neglecting some of her opportunities when there are numerous health resorts within her borders superior to those in the western part of the state that are widely advertised and largely patronized. We should make more of our natural wealth and get people on the outside to come in and spend some of their good money with us. This can be accomplished as soon as we get rapid and cheap transportation from the outside world.

Commencement exercises at the Agricultural college are over and while on the train we met a large number of students going home to "the green fields of Virginia far away," or some such places as their hearts yearned for. While talking with some of patrons of this school and other state institutions we find that there is a growing sentiment in favor of doing away with so many state supported institutions and doing more for the common schools of the various counties that are so far removed from the centers of learning. This is a question that will bear investigation and we hope that the next legislature will start the ball rolling that will dislodge some of these grafts at the expense of the general tax paying public. No doubt that the localities where these institutions are located will fight the proposition to stop the state aid they have been receiving for so long, but we do not mean to discriminate between any two, or more, points in this matter as it is a matter of general concern

for the whole state and not for any particular part of it. Our public educational institutions must be fostered, but we have too many normal schools and there will be a change made in that line before many years that will add to the common school system and not be detrimental to the efficiency of the teachers of the state.

Albany people are interested in the extension of the Corvallis & Eastern railroad to our county, but from present indications there is nothing to warrant a hope for its early completion. A wagon road from the Crook county side to the end of the line as it is now completed would be a great benefit to our people and a big business benefit to the people of Albany and other valley towns. It would astonish some of our people to turn them loose in the strawberry patches around Lebanon where berries have been selling for some time for from five to ten cents per gallon on the vines and they are fine berries too. Just think what a lot strawberry short cake we could have at the hotels in Prineville if we had a railroad to that place from the valley with berries at present prices. But cheap berries are not the only thing we find cheap here. Money is not so plentiful or prices would be better. It is rare to find the country lad with a twenty or two in his pockets as we have in our country. A great deal of inquiry is being made regarding east of the mountains and we may safely say that there will be a large number of people from here in that part of the state looking over the opportunities for stock raising and other pursuits in the near future. There has been quite a number of the people from this part of the state that have been in Canada this spring looking over the ground with a view of locating, but most of them think it too cold.

The directors of the Willamette Valley Chautauqua Association have just completed the programme in detail for this year's session, which will open at Gladstone Park on July 8 and close July 19. The Chautauqua this year promises to be better than any held in former years. Among the star attractions will be lectures by Henry Watterson, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal; Robert McIntyre, called the "The Great Word-Painter of the West," Professor S. S. Hamill, of Chicago, on elocution John Ivey, of Monterey, Cal., on art; Rev. Thomas McClary and others. The Portland Ministerial Association will hold a session at 11 A. M. each day during the entire Chautauqua, and will be made one of the special features. A baseball game will be played every afternoon between five teams who have entered for the trophy. Field meets will probably be done away with this year, as they have never been a financial success.

The dead body of Louis Bargus, a middle-aged man, employed as a driller by the O. R. & N. Co., was found jammed between some old boxes back of the Willamette Iron Works at the corner of Third and Glisan streets Friday morning. The man had been murdered and robbed or at least the circumstances would seem to bear out this theory. The police think he was either sand-bagged or drugged, and then relieved of watch and money.

TRACY AND MERRILL

How the Outlaws Got Their Weapons.

Wright Procured Guns.

Reward of \$500 Offered for His Capture - Letter Written With Sympathetic Ink.

Strong evidence has been obtained pointing to Harry Wright, an ex-convict, as the man who smuggled into the penitentiary the guns with which Tracy and Merrill killed three guards, wounded convict Ingram, and kept other guards at bay while they effected their escape. Wright was discharged from the penitentiary May 20 last. So thoroughly convinced are the officers that Wright was concerned in the plot to liberate Tracy and Merrill that a reward of \$500 for his arrest has been offered, and telegrams to hold any one answering Wright's description have been sent to the police departments in all the principal cities on the Pacific Coast.

The police are also looking for Charles Monte, another ex-convict whom they say was in Salem a few days before the breaking inquiring of one of the prison attendants if Tracy and Merrill were still working in the foundry.

That the escape was carefully and dexterously planned is apparent from some sensational disclosures that have just been made.

More than a year before the escape Merrill wrote a letter to his half sister. There was nothing unusual in the wording of the epistle so far as the prison officials could see, and they allowed it to go to its destination.

However, it turns out that what was to the naked eye a blank half page of paper was in reality a sheet fully written with sympathetic ink. Merrill had used an invisible chemical which only required a little heating to bring out the words sharp and clear. The letter requested Miss Mary Robinson, Merrill's half sister, to be prepared to receive on Harry Wright, then an inmate of the prison, who was to be discharged on or about May 20, 1902.

The young woman was directed to furnish Wright with sufficient money to enable him to purchase rifles and ammunition, which Wright would see were delivered where they would be most useful to the writer (Merrill) and his pal, Tracey. In case she did not have the funds she was asked to get Wright a gun somewhere.

At the time of Merrill's conviction his half brother appeared against him, and his evidence is said to have carried considerable weight in bringing about Merrill's incarceration. At any rate the prisoner is said to have made the threat that if he ever got free, the first thing he would do would be to find the brother and kill him.

Fearful lest he should carry out this threat, Miss Robinson turned the letter over to the brother, who, in turn, gave it to Attorney G. R. Giltner, of this city, who still has the letter in his possession. Mr. Giltner made a copy of the epistle and sent it to the superintendent of the state prison, but whether the

letter was received before or after the escape of the prisoners is not known here.

Wright is the man who stole a team of horses near Salem about a week before the escape. The team was brought to Portland and sold to a livery man, and it is thought that with the money thus obtained the guns and ammunition were bought, and that Wright then carried them to Salem and deposited them in the penitentiary foundry. Wright is known to have been on good terms with Tracey and Merrill, and the fact that he was seen in this city with Monte, who later acted suspiciously in Salem, is looked upon as extremely incriminating points against the two ex-convicts.

Harry Wright was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary in this City June 11, 1900, on conviction of burglary. He is a native of Michigan. His height, is given at 5 feet 8 1/2 inches; weight, 170 pounds; complexion, light; hair, brown. He has a dim cut scar and a pit scar on the left side of the forehead; two small brown moles on the right neck, and three pit scars on the back of the right hand. He is a painter by trade.

The fact that Merrill's brother is said to be living at Silver Lake, Wash., toward which place the convicts are now rapidly approaching, is taken by some to indicate that Merrill intends to make good his threat to kill him. The brother is said to be living with relatives.

Merrill also has a half brother, James Robinson, brother of Miss Mary Robinson, and it was first reported that it was young Robinson to whom Merrill's letter was given. The youth, however, denied this yesterday afternoon, when seen by a Telegram representative. He says Merrill has no grudge against him, so far as he knows. The father said he had not heard of the letter, but as he had not seen his daughter for more than a year he, of course, could not state whether or not she had received the document.—Telegram.

Columbia Southern Railway.

4th of July Excursion.
Local Excursion Tickets will be on sale from all stations to all local points on July 3rd, and 4th, good to return until July 6th, inclusive, at ONE and ONE-THIRD FARES for the round trip.

SPECIAL EXCURSION TICKETS will be on sale from all stations to WASCO on July 4th and 6th, good to return until July 5th inclusive, at rates as follows for the round trip:

	Adults	5 and 12 years.
Biggs.	\$0.50	\$0.25
Gilberts.	.25	.25
Klondyke.	.25	.25
Hay-Canyon, etc.	.50	.50
McDonalds.	.49	.49
De Moss.	.75	.50
More.	.80	.67
Erskinville.	1.00	.75
Grass Valley.	1.35	1.00
Bourbon.	1.55	1.19
Kent.	1.60	1.20
Willcox.	1.75	1.30
Shaniko.	2.00	1.50

ON JULY 4TH. A SPECIAL TRAIN WILL LEAVE WASCO at 8.00 P. M., arrive at More at 8.45 P. M., Grass Valley at 9.15 P. M.

C. E. LYTLE, G. P. A.

Notice.

On and after July 1, 1902, the following rates will be charged:
Single meals, 35 cents.
Three meals \$1.00.

FOOD EXETER BOARD,
HOTEL PRINEVILLE.