

Crook County Journal.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1903

EASTERN OREGON DEMANDS THE PORTAGE ROAD.

It is gratifying indeed to the whole of that vast territory of Eastern Oregon, commonly known as the Inland Empire, that a small portion of Portland has aroused itself long enough from an innate lethargy, heretofore completely obliterating this section's cry for more and better transportation facilities, to step forward and support the portage road project. The Chamber of Commerce in adopting the resolutions last Friday in which is clearly set forth a pledge to the people that the Chamber's "untiring efforts toward retaining the Cello portage road measure" are assured, and that it will "employ all honorable and practical means toward the speedy construction of the road," has given birth to a new ray in the Eastern Oregon's star of hope.

The action of this commercial body is commendable, and at the same time unexpected. It was not supposed that Portland, magnanimous only in its own eyes, and a city that has constantly put off till the morrow what it could do today in the matter of providing transportation for the immense traffic of this adjoining territory, would take the time or forethought to urge this measure, the completion of which means an incalculable profit to this long neglected community. But it has. The people in this district will, therefore, watch the outcome of the promised struggle in the extra session of the legislature with a zealous eye.

Eastern Oregon, bulwarked with its richness of resources and immense overland traffic, demands the completion of this road to lighten its burden. From a sense of justice its requests, springing as they do from years of rough shodden struggle with exorbitant freight rates and primitive transportation facilities, should be given a place for consideration. The expenditure of \$165,000 to construct the road is not much when the fact is apparent that in the space of one year that amount will be saved in freight charges. On the face of things, therefore, the plea of economy is materially lacking in foundation. As a subterfuge, however, in designing other motives, it seems to have found a lodging place in the minds of some of the legislators.

But it is not extraordinary that the monopolistic forces of the spider web road, skirting the state on the north, should at this time play a strong hand in defeating a com-

petitive measure. It is fitting that this lone star railroad should use every energy to annihilate a dividend reducing project. To use the superficial argument that the government canal will afford the relief prayed for, is also in keeping with the exigencies of fear aroused in the probabilities of a cheaper route for inland traffic and lower rates.

The government surveyors have stated that five years will see the completion of the Cello canal, but with other government works as examples, notably the Cascade locks, it is safe to add another five or ten years to the estimate. In the meantime the farmers, merchants and business industries in the Columbia and Central Oregon basin demand the fulfillment of the portage road law as passed at the last session of the legislature. It is demanded from a sense of justice and oppression; from a sense of fair play and equal rights to all, and a measure which will relieve this vast scope of territory from the tender mercies of the Harriman syndicate cannot be otherwise than a measure in keeping with the pressing needs of the time.

It is to be hoped that the legislature will see fit to view the matter in an unbiased light, and that the inconsistency of the framers of the present law, who now advocates its repeal, will be given a severe and lasting set back, even by his constituents in Grant county.

THE WEATHER.

It is entirely fitting at this time that a word should be dropped concerning the weather, because the scapegrace who has charge of the atmospheric humidity, the storms, the winds, the sudden changes, the chilling blasts, the Chinooks, and the thousand and one antics which climatic conditions are wont to indulge in, has been very kind and thoughtful in his delivery of goods to Crook county during the past week.

And besides, the word weather encircles a subject which oftentimes is a very handy matter to have at one's tongue's end. A sort of "filler," as it were, which sometimes saves us from embarrassing situations and supplies a thought or two when thinklets otherwise would be doing time in the "want" column. Why, stop and recollect the score of times you have said "pretty weather, isn't it?" or "a fine day" or "nice weather we're having" and the women—"what a perfectly enchanting day." How often, oh, how often have you used the poor old weather beaten weather to weather yourself through the ice immediately after the formality of an introduction to a stranger. And the bashful young man, who finds himself bathed in perspiration whenever a bewitching bunch of callies draped around the being that belongs inside of it has formed his acquaintance, will invariably pounce upon the harmless and innocent weather. "Nice day," "fine weather," "pleasant afternoon"—or whatever happens to pop into his head first. He can't help it. To all appearances the weather is second nature to him, and an immediate comment

upon it relieves him to such an extent that his enticement, which he has treated to an impromptu show-off, gives evidence of experiencing a prolonged drought.

The weather! The dear old weather! What would we do without it? Surely we wouldn't amount to much because the world hinges upon it—either one kind of weather or another. And through all this digression, let the fact be appreciated that during the past week the unscrupulous forecaster has touched with a kindly hand the interior part of the state. We are thankful even in December for that.

THE GOVERNMENTS ARE CLEANING HOUSE.

From reports being published, it is clearly evident that various municipal governments throughout the Union, and even the government at Washington itself, have not waited until the calm and tranquil springtime to do their cleaning. A renovation of the city governments has become general, and the house cleaning epidemic evinced by the latter has spread even to department circles at the national capital.

It was thought more than a year ago, when Folk opened up his campaign in St. Louis, that the most debased form of municipal corruption in existence had been exposed; but later events in other eastern cities turned the search light upon civic conditions equal to those in the Mississippi river town.

And now Uncle Sam has used his legal crow-bar in prying up some shady transactions in the postal department in Washington. The reports are just now finding their way in full to the press, and the public, which has long been eager for the details, stands appalled at the amazing and riotous iniquity which has been in vogue in post office affairs for years past. There seems to be no limit to the number which will eventually be implicated in the scandals, but it is to be hoped that the carpet sweeper of justice in the hands of president Roosevelt will take up all the old dust. Corruption in municipal governments is bad enough, but when it becomes so general that national governments are infected with its undermining influence, it is time that strong hands are employed to wipe out the blotch. Anarchy and the more radical forms of socialism find tempting feeding grounds in such conditions, recognized the world over as the instigating causes for the propagation of those sects that would annihilate all forms of civil government.

Among the post mortems resulting from the ludicrous attempt to cast a shadow upon Mr. Moody's character is that of the instigator, H. S. Wilson. The latter's next effort will doubtless be by a different method than that of politics. Judge Bellinger's rebuke readily proved that justice could not be thwarted by politics, even if Mr. Wilson was at one end of the line and Mr. Mays at the other.

It is to be expected, now that the rabbit canning factory has started up, there will soon be reported some hare breath escapes.

The new style of hats next summer won't cost half as much as the new Panama Uncle Sam has purchased down in the Isthmus.

Additional Locals.

J. L. Kever was a business visitor from Deschutes the fore part of the week.

Geo. Rodman was a business visitor from Haystack the first of the week.

E. E. Hollis was down from Crook Wednesday attending to business matters.

J. A. Rayl and wife were in the city Wednesday of this week from their ranch on Crooked river.

Low Allingham is confined to his bed in the Poindexter hotel with a severe attack of grippe.

A number of teamsters left the latter part of the week for Shaniko where they will load the steel for the Crooked river bridge.

J. F. Houston and brother, J. T. Houston, and T. J. Ferguson were in the city from their ranches at Crook Tuesday and Wednesday attending to business matters.

Wm. Johnson came over from Silver Lake Tuesday to take back a load of liquor from O'Neil Bros. wholesale house. He purchased a new trail wagon while here to secure a greater carrying capacity for the immense load of freight he will take over.

A marriage license was issued by County Clerk Smith Tuesday forenoon to Seth S. Crawford and Miss Grace Goodwin of Madras. It is expected that the young couple will be wedded there in the near future where both are well known and have a large circle of friends.

The Portland Journal apparently is treading pretty close on the heels of the Oregonian. The former's Thanksgiving edition was a credit, not only to the paper itself, but to the city and state, as well and was read with much interest by the local subscribers in this vicinity.

R. C. Reece, superintendent of the Dixie Meadows Gold Mining Co.'s property, was in town Sunday, after six weeks constant attention at the mine. He came to

make arrangement for the work of the installation of a cyanide plant at their mine during this coming winter. Mr. Reece said the concentrating plant will be started up on December 1st.—Prineville City Miner.

C. C. Hutchinson of the Oregon Irrigation company, accompanied by H. D. Turney and W. E. Gurren, of New York, arrived in the city Sunday and left Monday forenoon to inspect the company's work on the Deschutes river. Mr. Hutchinson said the gentlemen were much impressed with the country and would probably take hold of his irrigation scheme after looking it over.

O. I. Davison and J. A. McFall, in company with L. S. Logan were in the city the first of the week from their ranches near Hampton Buttes. The former cattlemen have purchased from Mr. Logan a two-thirds interest in his ranch and stock which includes 700 head of cattle. The tract included in the transactions covers a large scope of territory lying east and west of the Davison-McFall stock farm, which is destined to become one of the largest in Crook county in the near future.

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