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FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1892.

The way to build up Oregon City is to give Oregon City people your patronage.

The County Road Project.

The disposition made of the Molalla road matter by the board of trade last Tuesday night is not so definite and satisfactory as it was hoped it would be when the project was inaugurated. The differences of opinion both inside and outside the committee having charge of the matter prevented a decisive and fully successful termination of their labors. Much work had been accomplished by the committee, however. It found the matter in a nebulous state, it caused a thorough discussion of the subject from every point of view, it raised money and did considerable field work, and it surrenders its commission leaving practically but two routes for consideration.

The unexpended balance raised for the purpose of locating the road by the committee goes to the county court, into the hands of which the whole matter is given. The question is, What will the court do with it? This will best be answered by ascertaining what the court can do, for the court is heartily in favor of the improvement and it is safe to say that it will do all it can do legally to promote the enterprise.

It has been supposed that the county court was powerless to do preliminary work in the location of roads—that is, that it could not act save upon the formal petition upon which the law says it shall act. It is believed, however, that section 4061 of title one, chapter seventy-six of Hill's code as amended in 1889 does give the court the power to do all that is required in laying out the road to Molalla. It reads as follows:

All county roads shall be under the supervision of the county court of the county wherein said road is located; and no county road shall be hereafter established nor shall any such road be altered or vacated in any county in this state except by the authority of the county court of the proper county, and each county court within this state shall have the authority and it shall be its duty to supervise, control and direct the working, laying out, opening and keeping in repair of all county roads within its county, and to prescribe the manner and method of working the same; to supervise the construction and repairs of all bridges on county roads, and to remove any supervisor for incompetency or disobedience to the orders of said court. The powers herein given may be exercised directly by the court, or through some one of its members designated for that purpose; providing further, that in counties of ten thousand inhabitants or more the county court may appoint a road master to carry out the provisions of this section, and may prescribe his salary.

The language "it shall be its duty to supervise, control and direct the working, laying out, opening and keeping in repair of all county roads," seems to be broad enough fully to cover the case under present consideration. The one objection that might be urged—that the new line is not yet a "county road"—seems to be effectually disposed of by the injunction to "direct" the "laying out" of such thoroughfares. There are other provisions of statute defining what steps may be taken to compel action on the part of the court, but there appears to be no law to confine the court to such compulsory action in road matters. The Enterprise is not authorized to state what the county court will do in the matter, but in view of its well-known disposition to grant all possible relief by the construction of good wagon roads it is reasonable to suppose that it will place a liberal construction on the law and proceed to locate the Molalla road.

It is clear, however, that in the present financial condition of the county no new road will be opened unless the people living in its vicinity who will be directly benefited by it shall contribute liberally to the cost. To build the Molalla road will cost probably \$25,000 to \$25,000. It will not do to build it piecemeal. It is possible to have the new road in condition for the farmers to bring their crops over it this year. But it is out of the question for the county to bear the whole expense this year. For the county court to pay even half the sum mentioned means that other sections of the county must forego most of their road improvements for the year, and they will not be willing to do this unless the people who are being benefited show a disposition to make the most of their advantage by paying a large share of the expense incurred. We think the people can afford to do this, and the more cheerfully and promptly they contribute the sooner will they get the relief sought. Oregon City should stand its share of this expense.

The county court is the responsible body in locating and building this road. No matter which route shall be finally determined on the court will be made the target for all sorts of imprecation. It is not at all strange,

therefore, that the court should be averse to acting against its judgment, no matter what indorsement another proposition might have. But it should not be forgotten that this is the beginning of radical improvement in the wagon road system of the county. This year it will be the Molalla road, next year another, and the succeeding year some other. They cannot all be done at once. But with the right kind of support by the people it will be but a few seasons till all Clackamas county roads will give the service demanded of them.

Aspect of the Chilian Difficulty.

The flurry over the Chilian difficulty has operated to bring out three kinds of sentiment. There is the patriotic sentiment of the country that heartily supports the government in its attitude on the subject—the sentiment of the loyal people who have faith in the integrity of their public servants and who give the government stability. There are those of a political complexion opposed to that of the administration who are too small-souled and narrow-minded to concede honorable motives to any opponent—who condemn the present situation as having been purposely and needlessly brought about by the Harrison government for political capital at home. Then there is the cheap and noisome criticism of the jealous and extremely nasty British press which is incapable of conceiving anything of honorable design in American political life.

With the submission of the president's message to congress last Monday matters appeared to be approaching a crisis that demanded the serious consideration of the country. The message was vigorous, but without a particle of jingoism, and it was patriotic. It showed conclusively that the Chilian affair had been treated in an able and dignified manner, though there are many good citizens who will not fully agree with the president's commendation of Pat Egan. But that crafty agitator is not the issue at this time. It is the insult to the nation as represented by the blue jackets of its sailors and the uncalled-for insolence of the Chilian government subsequent to that event that is the subject of the present unpleasantness.

The situation is reduced to this alternative: Chilian must apologize and disavow her offensive language or war will result. The United States is a strong nation, and can afford to exercise forbearance, which it has done. It is strong enough to compel respectful treatment also, which it now stands ready to do. If, through Chilian's pugnacity, Chilian brings on a war it will not be war for conquest, however much certain elements would desire it. There is no probability that Chilian would become a dependency of the United States by reason of such a war. It is certain, however, that Chilian would learn much from such a conflict and the United States could scarcely be injured by it.

But Chilian will apologize, the matter of indemnity will be left to arbitration, and there will be no war.

LATER—The Chilian apology has been received in Washington and the matter of indemnity for the attack on the Baltimore's sailors is left to the supreme court of the United States. White-winged peace roosts where the eagle has been screaming.

The Mortgage Assessment Question.

The Pendleton East Oregonian argues the justice of assessing mortgages at their full face value in Oregon in the following style:

For example say in 1890 B's land was assessed at \$5,000. He owed nothing. He would pay taxes on \$5,000. In 1891 B put a mortgage of \$3,000 on his land. That year his land would be assessed the same as it was the year before, i. e., \$5,000, and he would be allowed his mortgage indebtedness of \$3,000, making the net assessed indebtedness \$2,000. Now, this mortgage, in order to keep up the assessment of the year before, would have to be assessed at its face, \$3,000, and if the borrower paid the tax he would not pay any more than he paid the year before, when he was not in debt. To assess this mortgage at less than its face value would have the effect of decreasing the assessment on the land as made the previous year without cause.

Very good. Now suppose there were a mortgage of \$10,000 on B's \$5000 farm. If the mortgage is assessed at its face value ought not the difference between the tax on the \$5000 farm and the \$10,000 mortgage to be paid to Mr. B for his extreme skillfulness in running into debt? Instances of this kind are common. There were \$240,938 of "excess indebtedness"—that is, indebtedness legally deductible exceeding the assessed value of the encumbered property—in Clackamas county this year.

The plain fact is that property is not assessed at more than half its value—generally about one-third. In order to make taxation equal the same kind of valuation should be placed upon mortgages, stocks, etc.

Is levying the tax for Clackamas county this year the county court entirely ignored the work of the state board of equalization and used the county equalization, as heretofore, for the basis. This course has been pursued also in Clatsop and Multnomah counties. In Clackamas the tax is twenty-five mills this year, it was twenty-three and twenty-three-fifths mills last year and the preceding year twenty-six mills. The regular school and road taxes are in addition to this levy.

CORRESPONDENTS sending matter to the Enterprise to be printed must give their names or we cannot use it. No matter how many times the correspondent writes the name should be given each time. It is not always necessary to publish the name but we must know who is responsible for the matter we use. This week we have letters from Stafford, Wilsonville and Marmot whose authors are unknown; also some anonymous poetry.

"THE Oregonian and Astorian are having a newspaper controversy over the respective merits of their two cities as shipping points," says The Dalles Times-Mountain-er. When were those papers not squabbling over that subject, especially the Astorian?

It is heartrending to witness the mighty grief of the patriots who were bursting their suspenders to get at Chilian.

NEWS FROM BARLOW

THE OPENING OF A NEW ROAD BEING AGITATED.

A House Warming—The Debating Society—Notes of General Interest.

ON GRIBBLE PRAIRIE—A very pleasant home party was given at the residence of Mr. Polk Gribble, at his home on Gribble prairie last Saturday night, and the merry-makers did not disperse until the breaking of day. Dancing was the order of the evening and a general good time was enjoyed. Quite a crowd went from here.

GATHERING IN THE DIMES—The Italians with their trained bears and baboon are again working the country showing the accomplishments of their trained beasts. Just coming into town, or a thickly settled community they blow a horn and ring a bell which gives the announcement of their coming. They succeed in drawing quite a crowd and then give a performance and pass the hat.

THE AFFIRMATIVE WINS—At the last meeting of the Barlow debating society on Friday night last a very enthusiastic lot of debaters took part and each side was well handled. The debate began with W. B. Marye, in the absence of Wm. Irvin, and was followed by E. Brown. Some ten or twelve followed and the judges decided that the negro was the most cruelly treated. The judges were Mrs. W. S. Tull, Mrs. Wm. Barlow and E. Brackett. The program for next Friday includes a debate on the question "Resolved that nature is more pleasing to the eye than art."

NEW COTTAGE—Mr. Walter Evans has commenced the erection of a very pretty modern cottage adjoining his business house on Main and Railroad avenue, and will have it completed in a couple of weeks.

HOUSE WARMING—At the new and handsome residence of Mr. W. W. Jesse on last Saturday night a few of his friends were delightfully entertained until midnight. Five card tables were placed in the parlor and at the tap of the bell the play began. After cards instrumental music and songs were introduced, followed by refreshments. The evening passed away very pleasantly. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. B. Bond, of East Portland, Mr. and Mrs. Mr. Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. Jessie, Mrs. Geo. A. Sheppard, Misses Bessie Sheppard, M. S. Barlow, Gussie Hand, May Roach, Fay Irvin, Jessie Parrott, Messrs. Wm. Irvin, J. Mollett, Frank Jessie and C. U. Barlow.

NEW ROAD TALK.—There is talk now of a road being opened from the Good place, via Reek Bros., to where it strikes Molalla river and following the river down to the intersection of Walnut avenue. This would be a valuable road for this place as it would shorten the distance from here to the Molalla and Mackburg country at least one and a half miles and could be opened at small expense.

NOTES.

Miss Viva Tull is just recovering from a long sick spell of the grip.

Mr. Geo. Ziglar is planting out another hop yard on Oakley Heights.

Mr. Lane Shanks was to Portland this week on a flying business trip.

Mr. James Truena, of Kalomazoo, Mich., was among the registered at The Koehler last week.

Ex-Judge White spent a few days in town last week and was the guest of William Barlow.

Miss Bessie Sheppard spent a few days last week visiting her cousin, Lura Miller, at Oregon City.

Mr. T. C. Andrus is building a new picket fence in front of his property and will lay down sidewalks as soon as convenient.

Messrs. Will Bros are now busily hauling lumber for a new hop house and will commence the building as soon as all the material is on the ground.

Mr. Wm. Irvin came down last Monday with a large drove of cattle he purchased in and around Marquam and will commence to slaughter in a few days for his wholesale trade in Portland.

A Bad Break.

During the three months ending with December, forty-five deep water ships entered the port of Salem, Oregon. Forty of these sailed under the British flag, while only one few the stars and stripes.—San Francisco Examiner.

Guess they must have climbed over the Willamette falls by way of the fish ladder. That is about as bad a break as that made by a brilliant young "journalist" brought here by Nat Cole, of the defunct News, who wrote an item stating that "the coasting schooner Kate and Anne had just arrived at Portland from Walla Walla."—Portland World.

Every Woman Her Own Dressmaker.

Ladies attend the Kellogg school of cutting and learn the art of dress cutting without altering seams. Each scholar after a course of instruction in use of system can bring in a dress and is taught how to cut and baste without re-fitting. Patterns cut to order warranted. School opens Feb. 1st, Livermore's Hotel, room 10. B. E. HYDE, gen'l. agt. 147 Morrison St. Portland.

THE CONVALESCENT.

The gods let slip that fendish grip
Upon me last week Sunday—
No fiercer storm than racked my form
E'er swept the Bay of Fundy
But, now, good-by
To drugs, say I—
Good-by to gnawing sorrow:
I'm up today,
And, whoop, hooray!
I'm going out tomorrow!

What aches and pain in bones and brain
I had, I need not mention;
It seemed to me such pangs must be
Old Satan's own invention;
Albeit I
Was sure I'd die,
The doctor reassured me—
And, true enough,
With his vile stuff
He ultimately cured me.

As there I lay in bed all day,
How fair outside looked to me!
A smile so mild old Nature smiled—
It seemed to warm clean through me!
In chastened mood,
The scene I viewed,
Inventing, sadly so,
Fantastic rhymes
Between the times
I had to take a bolus.

Of quinine slugs and other drugs
I guess I took a million—
Such drugs as serve to set each nerve
To dancing a colition,
The doctors say
The only way
To route the grip instantar,
Is to pour in
All kinds of sin—
Similibus euntur!

'T was hard; and yet I'll soon forget
Those ills and cures distressing;
One's future lies 'neath gorgeous skies
When one is convalescing
So now, good-by
To drugs, say I—
Good-by, thou phantom Sorrow!
I'm up today,
And, whoop, hooray!
I'm going out tomorrow!

—Eugene Field.

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