

CLOSING THE DRAWS County Has the Right to Regulate.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OPINION

Relaying on the Escanaba Case, Mr. Chamberlain Says the Oregon Legislature Has Plenary Power Over the River.

District Attorney Chamberlain is of the opinion that the State of Oregon has plenary powers over the Willamette River, and that the Legislature, by implication, has conferred on Multnomah County the right to regulate the opening and closing of drawbridges in the City of Portland.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your favor asking on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners my opinion as to whether or not the County Court has the authority to regulate the opening and closing of drawbridges over the Willamette River at Portland.

First—As to the police power of the state over navigable waters entirely within its boundaries, and the authority of the Legislature to confer on the County Court with authority to regulate the use of bridges over the same, even though such regulation may to a certain extent place a temporary restriction upon the navigation of such rivers;

Second—If the state has any jurisdiction over such waters, whether or not the Legislature has conferred on the County Court with authority to regulate the use of bridges over the same, even though such regulation may to a certain extent place a temporary restriction upon the navigation of such rivers;

I will answer the questions in the order in which they are stated.

First—The act of February 14, 1853, admitting Oregon into the Union, provides amongst other things that "all navigable waters of said state shall be common highways, and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of said state as to all other citizens of the United States, without any tax, duty, impost or toll therefor."

Objection to the construction of bridges over navigable waters within the state and the placing of obstructions therein or thereon by authority of the Legislature of the state, must be predicated either on that portion of the constitution which vests in the Legislature the power to regulate the commerce of the United States, or on that portion of the constitution which vests in the General Government the exclusive right to regulate interstate commerce, which right involves the control of the waters of the United States which are navigable in fact so far as it may be necessary to regulate their navigation, when by themselves or their connection with other waters they form a continuous channel for commerce among the states or with foreign countries.

Both questions have been before the Supreme Court of the United States, as well as before the courts of last resort of some of the states, and whatever room there may have formerly been for difference of opinion on the subject, the doctrine appears to be well settled against the objections suggested. In 1878 the Legislature of Oregon passed an act authorizing the Portland Bridge Company or its assigns to construct a bridge across the Willamette between Portland and East Portland.

In 1881, Hatch & Lowndes filed a suit in the Circuit Court of the United States against the Willamette Iron Bridge Company to enjoin the construction of the bridge, and to compel the removal of piers already in place in the river. It was claimed amongst other things that the construction of such a bridge interfered with the navigation of the river, as guaranteed by the act of 1853; and, further, that inasmuch as Congress had established a port of entry at Portland, requiring vessels to pass through the Willamette to be enrolled and licensed, and had made appropriations for the improvement of the river, and had in other ways asserted the power of the United States to regulate commerce upon said river, and to prevent obstructions to the navigation of the same, the state had no power to authorize the construction of the bridge in question.

The Bridge Company justified its action under the act of the Legislature referred to. A trial was had, and a perpetual injunction granted against the building of the bridge, and a decree rendered for an abatement of the portion already built. The decision of the court was principally on the ground that the bridge would be, and that the piers were, an obstruction to the navigation of the river, contrary to that portion of the act of 1853, quoted above, admitting Oregon into the Union, and that without the consent of Congress, a state law was not sufficient authority for the erection of such a structure.

It is obvious that if the clause in question does prohibit physical obstruction and impediments in navigable waters, the State Legislature is in a clear case, and its action, if not void, would have the power to cause or authorize such obstructions to be made without the consent of Congress. But it was settled that the Legislature of such states could have the same power to authorize the erection of bridges, dams, etc., and upon the same ground as the clause in question, in reference to which no such clause exists. It was so held in *Pound vs. Turk*, 16 U. S. 458, in reference to a dam in the Chippewa River, in Wisconsin; in *Carroll vs. American Bridge Company*, 111 U. S. 208, in reference to a bridge without a draw, erected on the American River, in California, which prevented steamboats from passing above it; and in *Harrison vs. Vicksburg Railroad Company*, 119 U. S. 286, relating to railroad bridges in Louisiana; in all of which cases the clause in question was in force in the states where they arose, and in none of them was said clause held to restrain in any degree the full power of the state to make, or cause to be made, the erection referred to, which must have been more or less obstructions and impediments to the navigation of the streams on which they were placed.

It seems clear, therefore, that, according to the construction given by this court to the clause in the act of Congress relied upon by the court below, it does not refer to physical obstructions, but to political regulations

which would hamper the freedom of commerce. It is to be remembered that in its original form the clause embraced carrying places between the rivers, as well as the rivers themselves, and it is supposed that the carrying places were intended to be always kept up as such. No doubt that at the present time some of them are covered by populous towns, and in some other ways incompatible with their original use; and such a diversion of their use, in the progress of society, cannot but have been contemplated. What the people of the old states wished to secure was, the free use of the streams and harbors in the Northwest Territory, and fully as it might be enjoyed by the inhabitants of that territory themselves, without any impediment or discrimination between them. The clause in question cannot be regarded as establishing the police power of the United States over the rivers of Oregon, or as giving to the Federal courts the authority to determine, according to Federal law, every complaint that may be made of an impediment in, or an obstruction upon, navigable waters of the river. We do not doubt that Congress, if it saw fit, could thus assume the care of said waters, and regulate the navigation thereon in commerce; we only say that, in our opinion, it has not done so by the clause in question. And, although, until Congress acts, the state has plenary power over the river, yet, when Congress chooses to act, it is not concluded by anything that the states, or that any of them, have any authority or jurisdiction over the river, or that they have done so, from assuming entire control of the matter, and abating any erections that might be made, except in conformity with such regulations as it may impose. It is not the power of the state, or that of the Federal Government, but the power of Congress, that is in question, and the latter must control, and the former yield. This necessarily follows from the position given by the Constitution to the Federal Government, of it, as the supreme law of the land. But until Congress acts on the subject, the power of the state over the river is plenary. Streams is plenary. This doctrine has been recognized from the earliest period, and appears in repeated cases, the most notable of which are *Wilson vs. The Illinois River & Canal Company*, 2 Pet. 245, decided in 1829, and *Gilman vs. Philadelphia*, 3 Wall. 713, decided in 1858.

The cases cited are approved by the court and it is declared that the doctrine of the decisions is in accordance with the more general doctrine now firmly established, that the power of Congress is exclusive of state authority only when the subjects upon which it is exercised are National in their character, and require uniformity of regulation affecting all the states. Upon such subjects only that authority can act which can speak for the whole country. Non-action is therefore a declaration that the matter is not within the power of the state, and that the subject is National in its character. The cases cited are approved by the court and it is declared that the doctrine of the decisions is in accordance with the more general doctrine now firmly established, that the power of Congress is exclusive of state authority only when the subjects upon which it is exercised are National in their character, and require uniformity of regulation affecting all the states. Upon such subjects only that authority can act which can speak for the whole country. Non-action is therefore a declaration that the matter is not within the power of the state, and that the subject is National in its character.

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In the General Government to regulate interstate and foreign commerce involves the control of waters of the United States which are navigable in fact, so far as it may be necessary to regulate their navigation, when by themselves or their connection with other waters they form a continuous channel for commerce among the states or with foreign countries, yet says the court that they have done so, from assuming entire control of the matter, and abating any erections that might be made, except in conformity with such regulations as it may impose.

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the Willamette River, and that said court has the authority to keep the draws open for the purpose of accommodating travel upon the same.

I desire in conclusion to say that I have not before me the lease in force between the County Court and the other party to the steel bridge, and it may be that the right of the County Court may be restricted as to that bridge by the terms of the contract.

GEORGE E. CHAMBERLAIN, District Attorney.

EASTERN MULTNOMAH. Disappearance of Thomas Wilson Unexplained—Other Items.

GRESHAM, Or., Sept. 8.—Thomas Wilson, a middle-aged man who came here from Montana last Spring, has disappeared for several days, and his whereabouts is still unknown. He was working on the farm of George Sletet during the month of July, and up to about the 10th of August, a few days before the latter date he received \$100 from Montana, and one morning he put on his coat and left without saying anything about the wages due him or anything that would tend to show where he was going or when he would come back. He left his vest and several other articles of clothing and has not been heard from since. His coat was found on the Base Line, near the nine-mile post, a few days after he went away, and that is all that is known of him since he left. He was sober and industrious, and fully able to take care of himself, but his late employer thinks it strange that he has not returned or sent for his effects and the balance due him.

Flag Station Wanted. A petition has been sent to the O. R. & N. Co. by a number of persons interested, asking that Fairview be made a flag station, and that a 10-cent rate be made for children who wish to attend school in Portland. The train now stops, and the Portland-Chicago special never stops. People who wish to travel frequently have to go to Troutdale to get aboard the Chicago train, and it is thought that the concession of low fares would be necessary to have some of the trains stop when needed. It is understood that a declaration will make arrangements to give the place better service.

Moving the Track. The O. R. & N. track at Bridal Veil is being moved to a new roadbed near the river than formerly. The change will do away with the old roadbed, and give the lumbering company more room for handling the large number of cars being loaded there every day. The mills are now running at full capacity, employing 150 men, and have over a million and a half million feet of logs in the lake on the mountain ready to be sawed up. More room was required, hence the removal of the main track of the railroad company.

Brief Notes. Picking was begun in W. W. Cotton's hopyards this morning. The yield promises to be heavy. The pickers will be nearly all women and children who live in the neighborhood, and the country is full of 100 women being the scale. Owing to the Troutdale yards being full of ties the teamsters from the sawmills now in operation are hauling through this place and cutting through Fairview. But one trip a day can be made, but the roads are good and heavy loads are hauled. The public school at Fairview has opened with an enrollment of 25, with Professor W. W. Round in charge. The attendance will increase to 50 before the end of October. The new telephone line has been completed to Orient and is going to be the Sandy Bay rapid road. Over a dozen 'phones will be put in and connected with the central station at this place.

Professor H. E. ... upon, the new principal of Gresham's public school, has arrived here with his family from Salem. Owing to the new building being not quite ready the date for opening of the school is postponed to the 15th of September. Today has been set for the hearing by the District Board of the petition for a new school district at Rockwood. Indications are favorable for the establishment of the district. All the roadhouses doing business without a county license have closed their doors and the proprietors of a few of these are circulating petitions for licenses. It is decidedly probable that the 'phone will be put in and connected with the central station at this place.

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Sweet Briar postoffice has been discontinued. The patron will receive their mail from Teasdale being served three times a week by the driver of the Hurlbert stage, who delivers along the road on written orders to the postmasters at those offices. A freight train of 32 cars broke into three sections at Fairview yesterday morning, but no damage was done except to the engine. The train was held up for an hour. It was necessary to leave about 30 cars on the switch for lack of couplings to replace the broken ones. Chester Smith, 18 years old, was thrown from a horse at Montaville Friday, striking the porch of a store. He was in a serious condition. He vomits blood, which indicates internal injuries.

DIDN'T SERVE HIS SENTENCE William Hamilton Missed Six Months of Jail Life.

When William Hamilton charged Acting Judge McDevitt, yesterday, faced with the evidence of a jury, Deputy City Attorney Drew asked the defendant, "How do you serve out your other sentence for larceny?" The defendant stated that he had been sentenced last March to nine months imprisonment in the County Jail for larceny, and that he had been released July 18. "This must be seen to," insisted Mr. Davis, "this man has not served out his sentence. I do not believe in the Jailor exercising the pardoning powers of this county." Acting Judge McDevitt continued the case, Vol. 1, page 50.

In an interview with an Oregonian man, Hamilton said that he understood that a petition had been presented in his behalf, and that he had been released from jail, but that no money had been paid. District Attorney Chamberlain was told about the matter, and he stated that he had no recollection of the case. He said that Hamilton had been released on parole, or had stated that he had had a position offered him and wished to leave town.

Spokane Industrial Fair. The O. R. & N. round-trip rate to Spokane on September 13 is only \$2.50, which includes breakfast, dinner and supper for return trip, September 17. Ticket of the Third and Washington.

NEW TODAY. 5 acres, quite all in cultivation, 5-room house, stable, chicken yard, etc. in cement walks, Crawford, 635 box. 2500 per acre, sold elsewhere at 3000. B. California Cash Market, 153 Third St. Phone R-1291.

MONEY TO LOAN. On farm, city or suburban property; low rate of interest; no commission; guaranteed abstracts of title of real estate in Multnomah and Clatsop counties. Chamber of Commerce and SECURITY ABSTRACT & TRUST CO., 7 Chamber of Commerce.

MORTGAGE LOANS. On Portland real estate at lowest rates. Titles insured. Abstracts furnished. 7 Chamber of Commerce.

MORTGAGE LOANS. On improved city and farm property, at lowest current rates. Building loans. Installment loans. MacMaster & Hurrell, 111 Worcester bldg.

BANKRUPT SALE. Sealed bids for the stock of pictures, art goods, merchandise, etc., will be received by the undersigned at the office of Bauer & Queens, attorneys-at-law, Chamber of Commerce, on or before Monday, September 13, 1901. All bids must be accompanied by a check for the amount in cash or certified check, which shall be forfeited in case the bidder fails to comply with the terms of the bid. Right to reject any or all bids reserved. For inspection of stock and inventory, apply at store, No. 807 Washington street. T. L. WHITE, Trustee.

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A. P. ARMSTRONG, LL. B., PRINCIPAL Board of Directors

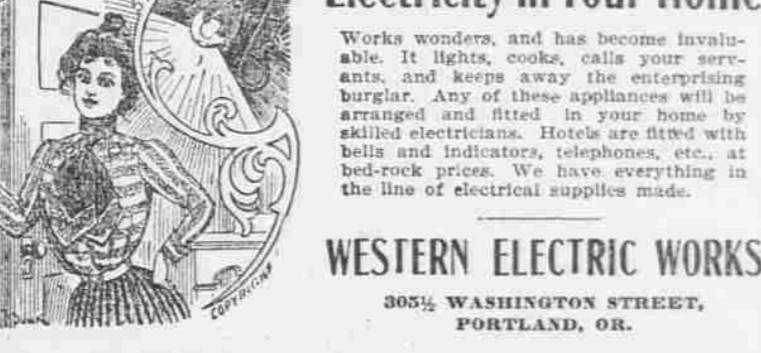
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THOROUGHNESS is the keynote of the Holmes method. Each student is the object of special attention. To take earnest boys and girls and make of them self-reliant business men and women is the work the Holmes School has been doing, with gratifying success, for fourteen years.

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WESTERN ELECTRIC WORKS

305 1/2 WASHINGTON STREET, PORTLAND, OR.

DAILY METEOROLOGICAL REPORT. NEW TODAY.

SPECIAL FOR TODAY—BARTLETT PEARS. 100 bushel apple-box size, only 90c box; peaches Crawford, 635 box. 2500 per acre, sold elsewhere at 3000. B. California Cash Market, 153 Third St. Phone R-1291.

Forecast made at Portland for the 25 hours ending at midnight Tuesday, Sept. 10: Portland and vicinity—Fair; northwesterly winds.

Western Oregon and Western Washington—Fair; northwesterly winds.

Eastern Oregon and Southern Idaho—Fair; winds mostly northerly.

Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho—Fairly cloudy; an occasional drizzling shower; southerly winds.

EDWARD A. BEALS, Forecaster Official.

UNIVERSITY PARK

The seat of the Columbia University is situated on the high tableland between the Willamette and Columbia rivers and inside the city boundaries of Portland. It has city water, city schools, city telephone service, electric street lights, graded streets, sidewalks, boulevards, cycle paths, and street-car service to any part of the city for a five-cent fare. It is high, healthy and healthful. The owners of this property have decided to sell one-half of the lots for the purpose of inducing homebuilders to locate there. Improvements and population bring values. The reserve blocks will not be sold till 1905 when we shall expect to get \$500 each for our cheap lots. While our reserve lots are advancing, your lots must also advance. The Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition will surely be held at University Park. Factories that will give employment to thousands of people will soon be built within easy walking distance of University Park. The better class of these people will seek homes at University Park. You can double your money in a short time by investing it in University Park lots. Buy now before the advance. Prices are from \$100 to \$225 per lot, one-tenth cash, balance \$5 per month. No interest on deferred payments. No taxes. Abstract free with every deed. Encourage your sons to invest in this property. It will teach them good habits and they will learn to save what they would otherwise squander.

Call on or address UNIVERSITY LAND CO., Francis I. McKenna, Mgr. Room 403, Marquam Bldg., PORTLAND, OREGON.

CLASSIFIED AD. RATES

"Rooms," "Rooms and Board," "Housekeeping Rooms," "Situations Wanted," 15 words or less, 10 cents; 16 to 20 words, 20 cents; 21 to 25 words, 25 cents, etc. No discount for additional lines inserted. Each additional insertion, one-half; no further discount under one month. "NEW TODAY" (single measure) 10 cents per line; first insertion 15 cents per line for each additional insertion.

AMUSEMENTS.

COLEMAN'S THEATRE—THREE NIGHTS ONLY. COMMENCING TUESDAY, SEPT. 8. RICHARD & FRINGER'S FAMOUS GEORGIA MINSTRELS.

50 Minutist Stars, Two Superb Bands. The best and most up-to-date organization of the kind in the West. First insertion 15 cents per line; subsequent insertions 10 cents per line.

FREDERICKSBURG MUSIC HALL—SEVENTH AND ALDER STREETS. Musical entertainments every Tuesday evening. CALIBERRY and STANTON. Operatic Duets. "FAIRY WARRIORS."

ROSEBELL AND HOWARD. Famous Harpist and Pianist. RUTH LA CROIX. "FAIRY WARRIORS."

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MEETING NOTICES.

A. & A. S. RITE, OREGON LODGE OF PERFECTION. NO. 1—Special meeting 8:15 evening at 8 o'clock. Work in 9th, 5th and 6th degrees. By order VEN. MASTER.

MULTNOMAH COUNCIL, NO. 1481, ROYAL ARCHES—Meeting every Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. All members cordially invited. J. H. BROWN, Secy.

ILLINOIS ENCAMPMENT, NO. 1, E. O. P.—Regular meeting this (Tuesday) evening at 8 o'clock. Business of importance. S. GRUTZKE, Secy.

AUCTION SALES TODAY.

At Central Auction Rooms, cor. Alder and Park sts. Sale at 10 A. M. Geo. Baker & Co., auctioneers.

At Gilman's saleroom, 415 Washington St. 10 A. M. S. L. N. Gilman, auctioneer.

At 10 A. M., at 303 1/2 Stark St. J. T. Wilson, auctioneer.

At 10 A. M., at 1319 1/2 1st, cor. Burnside, J. T. Wilson, auctioneer.

FUNERAL NOTICES.

DITMARR—September 8. Henry William Dittmarr, born in Neenah, Wis., died at 71 years of age, at his home, 222 1/2 1st St., on September 8, at 2 o'clock P. M. Burial at 10 A. M. at the Central Cemetery. Friends are invited to attend. J. T. Wilson, Undertaker.

EDWARD HOLMAN, Undertaker, 415 and Yamhill sts. Rem. Salsano, lady assistant. Both phones No. 507.

Finley, Kimball & Co., Undertakers, Lady assistant. 275 Third St. Tel. No. 1.

F. S. Dunning, Undertaker, 141 1/2 1st St. Alder. Lady assistant. Both phones.

FOR SALE—REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE—TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.—Take notice that the following property known as Haight's Orchard, on Union street, is now being sold by the owner, J. H. Brown, at 10 o'clock P. M. on September 1