

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 1909.

CENTRAL OREGON RAILROAD.

After many months of waiting, General Manager O'Brien of the Harriman system in the Pacific Northwest, has received authority to proceed with construction of the road to Central Oregon.

The delay in the construction of this project is second only in importance to the announcement made in this city about three years ago, when James J. Hill declared his intention of building the North Bank road into this city.

In the Central Oregon territory to be invaded by the Harriman system, there is practically a virgin field of immense area, rich in possibilities. It is extremely doubtful if there is anywhere else in the entire Northwest a larger tract of rich land on which there has been such meager development.

In selecting the route up the Deschutes canyon, the Harriman forces have conformed to the Harriman standards always sought by the railroad builders of this territory, whose hobby is elimination of grades.

Now that the Harriman people have decided on the route to be followed and have had money for the work, the only obstacle in the way of immediate construction is the right-of-way matter.

Not only will Mr. Harriman have the support of the people of Portland and of Central Oregon in his efforts speedily to settle right-of-way troubles with rival roads which may enter the Portland and Central Oregon line.

It is gratifying to learn that the appropriation for the entrance of the Columbia River is the largest item in the river and harbor bill, and that the Portland engineering district will receive more than twice the amount carried for any other district in the country.

a necessity that the place made vacant by the retirement of Senator Jones be filled either by an Oregon or a Washington man. The greatest interests of the country, in river and harbor improvements, lie along our coasts, and for that reason such important matters should be in the hands of Coast men, or men who are perfectly familiar with the waters for which appropriations will be asked.

MR. KNOX'S DIFFICULTY.

The provision in the Constitution of the United States which has made it difficult for Mr. Knox to become Secretary of State is one of those laws so excellent in purpose and so efficient in action that people forget all about them.

Charity, like everything else on earth, has its fashions. Twenty-five years ago benevolent people were not content until they had gathered all the helpless and dependent children they could get hold of into institutions of one sort or another.

The supposition that either of them desirably revised the Constitution, or of defying it, is of course absurd. They were guilty of an oversight and nothing more.

It is not surprising that the salary is of much consequence in itself to Mr. Knox. He is not ambitious to be Secretary of State for the sake of the pay he will receive.

Elsewhere in this paper The Oregonian prints a communication from John A. Penton, secretary of the Merchant Marine League.

Mr. Penton is in the best thing in the world for a boy and for his soul, too. But there ought to be some little emphasis upon the "moderation" of the number of farmers' boys with thin arms, crooked backs and narrow chests shows clearly enough that, like other good things, rural toil can be paid too far.

The bodies of 5000 Chinese were shipped from Brooklyn, New York, last week by steamer to their final resting places in "Far Cathay."

Mr. Penton's "guarantee" that foreign ships will be admitted duty free is on a par with his other wild statements.

means whereby such children may be rescued from the evils of irresponsible parentage and become in the course of time responsible citizens. He calls upon Congress to establish a Federal Children's Bureau, and for legislation whereby a systematic plan for caring for children of irresponsible parents may be provided; tells of providing individual homes for the overplus of children of such parents and of helping such parents to provide for their children.

It is necessary, of course, that all needful accommodations be provided for the care of the inmates at Salem, and no citizen will find the slightest fault with the Legislature for any reasonable expenditure for that purpose.

The Ontario gas well, spouting with a force that hurled mud, water and gravel 150 feet into the air is so far ahead of anything that has followed years of effort to find oil and gas in this state that the event may mark an epoch in the industrial history of the state.

The Portland Produce Merchants' Association has taken up the matter of increasing the poultry products of the state and will offer prizes for the best results obtained.

Well-meaning clergymen in a New Jersey town who would open a saloon to sell liquor, with coffee, lemonade and a light luncheon, are wasting time and money.

Mr. Penton brings the news that Mr. H. H. H. will come to try Mr. Hermann when he has done with the Calhoun case.

The Judges of the Second District court have ordered that the supply of the country has long since passed the time when it was willing to be all wrought up over the tariff.

Does President Elliott, of the Northern Pacific, think that the most effective way to keep open the Seattle gateway to the A. Y. P. Exposition is to keep the Portland gateway closed?

Uncle Isaac Stephenson spent \$187,000 at the Wisconsin primary, and Senator, but "no evidence of corruption is to be found," it is said.

A VOICE FROM THE BARRACKS.

Educate the Public on Japan, but Keep Out Scandal! It Says. VANCOUVER BARRACKS, Wash., Feb. 16.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian's editorial article today on "The United States and Japan" is a most excellent statement of the facts of this country's present military unpreparedness for war with Japan; and, as you say, "Japan has a better estimate of the mass of our people here, who think the bigness of a country the measure of its strength against a smaller, but well-prepared country."

Reading as I do daily the editorials of The Oregonian, with the greatest satisfaction, and while convinced that you know a great deal more about how to conduct a newspaper than I do, it seems to me that the "United States and Japan" note how much space is given in your news columns to the doings of Colonel Tucker and other military and naval delinquents, as compared with the doings of the military value occupiers.

The Oregonian has only to say with reference to the Tucker matter, that the indiscretions of that unscrupulous gentleman, as reported in the newspapers, have a local interest, because of his residence here for several years.

WHAT SUBSIDY SEEKERS WANT. Merchant Marine League Furnishes Statements of Its Doctrines. CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 16.—(To the Editor.)—While we are very well aware that nothing we can say, or nothing we can point out in the way of error as to the stand always taken by the American League of Commerce, would have any weight, still, we want to correct two very incorrect statements in The Oregonian of January 30.

USE OF MILITARY AERONAUTICS. Work of Airships in Actual Warfare From a Scientific Standpoint. New York Times. Here is a summary of the uses of airships in warfare, as inserted in the Congressional Record previous to the appropriation for \$500,000 to support adequately an aeronautic branch of the Army.

ERA OF "A BATH WITH EVERY ROOM." "A bath with every room" is the American idea of the "comfortable" hotel. It would be difficult to knock it out of the public mind, now, as it has been in vogue for many years, when grand-grandfather washed in a tin basin no bigger than a finger bowl.

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PUTS BLAME STRAIGHT ON ASSESSOR

Sligler's Colossal Blunder in Boosting Valuations Responsible for Increased Taxes and Fresh Raids—Steps Must Be Taken Immediately to Prevent Increase of the Grievous House Portland is Boasting.

PORTLAND, Feb. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Demand by Assessor H. D. Sligler that the Legislature compel him to assess property at one-half its value is definite admission that he has committed a great blunder in boosting property in the city and county to such a high notch.

Let us see. Our present valuation has stimulated bond issues that nobody would have dreamed of projecting if the assessors had not inflated the values for public expenses here.

Mr. Sligler, with all his popularity and suave and polished manners, cannot escape his responsibility. When he started on his career of boosting property values, he was bound to expect that he would open up avenues of public extravagance, but he did say in an interview in The Oregonian that he would insist that the levy would be kept low.

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