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Portland, Sunday, January 27, 1907.

Nothing startling developed in the Interstate Commerce Commission hearing.

The attorney for the prosecution seemed surprised at the ease with which he proved the charges.

The Harriman management and all the money paid by Oregon to any and all of the roads was parcelled out in dividends or for investment by Mr. Harriman alone.

Mr. Miller, of the railroad forces, made a very clever witness, and by his testimony presented the case in the best possible light for the railroads.

Mr. Miller, general freight agent of the Southern Pacific, and performance obliged to make a satisfactory financial returns for that road.

He was also expected by competitive tactics to take business away from his Southern Pacific rivals.

We have witnessed in the attempt of the Southern Pacific to force business by the water route, no effort being made to secure new and up-to-date steamers for the run.

The business was ruined for Portland, it failed to go to San Francisco, but instead drifted into the hands of Mr. Harriman's general agency.

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who, had there been an adequate train service to Portland, would have taken the short route, and at least have had an opportunity of seeing Portland and Oregon.

These serious shortcomings have, of course, been highly expatiating to the people of Oregon, but all might have been borne with that mild submission which is characteristic of Oregonians, had not the amalgamation of these lines stifled competition in railroad extension as well as in the operation of the lines already built.

road extension as well as in the operation of the lines already built. No one who has witnessed the aggressive manner in which Mr. Harriman "got busy" as soon as Mr. Hill began building a line down the north bank of the Columbia River, will believe that, if the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific had remained in competition with each other, one or the other would not long ere this have entered Central Oregon.

With these great transcendent road connections, with such possibilities for business, the building of a railroad into such an enormously rich trade field as the Tillamook and Nehalem country would never have been left to a private individual like Mr. Lytle, who during the past ten years has displayed infinitely more enterprise than Harriman.

It is not at all clear what punishment can be meted out to Mr. Harriman, even should he be found guilty of this combination in restraint of trade, but it is clear that, no matter what the result may be, or what changes may come, it is possible for a dissolution of the merger, Portland and Oregon can get nothing worse in the way of railroad-building, or train and steamship service than we have been forced to accept for several years, since all competition ceased between the two great branches of the Harriman system, which have held Oregon in a vice-like grip.

Persons who can remember back some forty years often find it instructive to contrast the methods of the modern "evangelist" with those of the "revivalist" who was then the active agent of religious change.

That there is a contrast cannot be denied. The church of the "evangelist" is a more elegant appellation than "revivalist." It is less startling to the sensibilities. It implies less of storm and fury, and more of those genial breezes which insensibly melt the ice of salvation, while it enjoys all the delights of sin.

The "revivalist" went also many of those disturbing and vulgar beliefs which would look out of place in a modern congregation of taste and refinement.

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COMMENT ON CURRENT OREGON TOPICS

How the Normal Schools Are Working for Appropriations—Committee Chairman and Their Influence—Need of Committee Rooms at the Capitol—Tree-Spraying Not General—How to Establish New Counties.

Judging by the manner in which some of the Normal schools are working for appropriations...

Some of the institutions learned this the hard way when appropriations look small several years ago, but others are just waking to its advantages.

CUSTOM seems to have caused some embarrassing situations at Salem at the time of the organization of the Legislature...

It has been quite generally believed that the eagerness of the members of the Legislature to have their names on investigating committees...

IN some measure accounted for the promptness with which the resolutions are introduced for appointment of investigating committees, there is another advantage...

IN matters of legislation in general the chairman of a committee possesses more power than all the other members of the committee combined...

THE Omaha Judge who finds the works of Rubens, Van Dyke and other masters of the present, a curious subject for speculation...

THE Mockery. Alfred Russel Wallace, who was a moderate user of liquor in his younger days, became a teetotaler in his old age...