

**Albany Register.**

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY  
**COLL. VAN CLEVE,**  
ALBANY..... OREGON.

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**Now is the Time to Agitate.**

A matter of prime interest to the people living in the counties bordering on the Willamette river, is the improving of said river in such manner as to render it navigable all the year round. It is a fact well known to all, that the Willamette is navigable only during the winter or rainy months, and that at the very time it is needed to carry the surplus grain of the valley to market, there is not sufficient water on the bars and rapids to enable steamboats to navigate the river to this point. Generally the market price for grain reaches its highest point immediately after harvest, at which time the Willamette can not be depended upon as a means to ship our grain to market. It is at a time when it has reached its lowest point, and unless steamers are invented that can run upon the "sweat of a water pitcher," we must depend upon some other channel through which to send our produce to market. Yet there is water enough, at all times, flowing in the Willamette to enable steamers to navigate it as far up as this city or Corvallis, provided the water is confined within a proper channel on the several bars that now hinder such navigation during the summer or dry season. A system of wing-dams, properly constructed and "built to stay," can be devised that would confine the water flowing in the river in a narrow channel, and afford an abundance of water to steamers, enabling them to reach this point at any and all times during the year. A number of propositions have been made, and a good deal of figuring been done in this matter, but no decision has been reached, we believe, up to this time, as to when or how the work is to be done. All agree that the work can and must be done—that it is a matter that can not be further procrastinated. This much being settled, the next question to be settled is, what means shall be used to secure the desired end? We have been told that the Willamette River Transportation Company will agree, for the sum of \$200,000, to construct all necessary dams, etc., and guarantee the unobstructed navigation of the Willamette all the year round for the next ten years; and on the strength of this proposition the four counties bordering on the river, most deeply interested, have been called upon to put up \$50,000 each, to secure such improvement by said company. Recently, while in conversation with a gentleman who has had large experience in improvements of this character, and who is thoroughly acquainted with every inch of the Willamette, from Oregon City to the head of navigation, the subject of the improvement of the river came up. We

mentioned the various schemes and offers which had been made looking to the improvement of the river, when he said to us: I have carefully figured up the cost of putting in dams, pulling out snags, and thoroughly cleaning out the river so as to insure its navigation for the entire year to Albany, and all the estimates I have seen are entirely too high. "I am willing to enter into bonds to complete the work necessary to render the river navigable for the next twelve months, putting in permanent improvements—improvements that will stand, and will not wash out the first high water, and will need but a small outlay each year to keep them in good repair—for the sum of thirty thousand dollars." He will give bonds to complete the improvement of the river before next harvest, so that our surplus produce can be shipped to Portland, or any other point reached through the Willamette, immediately after it is harvested. From the estimates shown us by the gentleman, estimates, as we said before, founded on actual knowledge of every impediment to navigate in the river between this city and the falls, we are inclined to believe the work can be done, and well done, too, for \$30,000. If the citizens of counties interested, are determined to have an open, free river by next harvest, it would seem but a small matter to raise this sum. A committee could be appointed to solicit subscriptions in the several counties for this object; and if the people are in earnest, as we are led to believe they are, the money could be raised in a very short time. What say the people?

**THE G. A. R.—**Baker and Canby Post No. 1, Portland, will give a grand ball at Ankeny's Hall in that city, on Wednesday evening, March 4th, 1874. That it will be a grand occasion, those who are familiar with the previous balls given by the same Post will not question. May a pleasant and joyous "spell of fun" be vouchsafed all those who do attend. We shall be with you, boys, in spirit if not in person. Thanks for the complimentary. "On right by file into line!"

**A CHANCE FOR BARGAINS.—**Mr. T. J. Safford, at his wagon shop on Ferry north of First street, has two new wagons, a thorough-brace and a spring hack, all put up with the very best material, light-running, strong and durable, which he will sell at low figures. Call and examine the work and finish of the vehicles, and you will be surprised at the low figure at which they can be obtained.

**PERSONAL.—**Dr. Hill, who has been spending several months in the Eastern States, returned to his home in this city on Monday, in good health. He enjoyed the trip.

A brother of Judge Whitney, of this city, arrived from the East on the last ocean steamer.

Congress at present is engaged in cutting down expenses in every direction, and all appropriations asked for will be very closely scrutinized. It is a matter of grave doubt whether even a small appropriation can be obtained to improve the Willamette river; and if the usual three or four thousand should be appropriated, it would fall far short of meeting the demands of the case.

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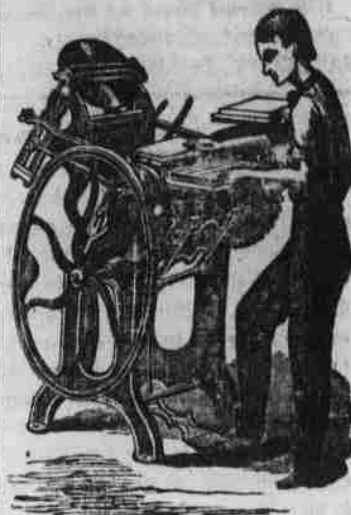
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