

RAILROAD AND OTHER MATTERS.

TO THE EDITOR ALBANY HERALD:

Permit your humble correspondent to occupy a space in your excellent journal. It is with joy that I hear that the O. P. R. R. Co. have succeeded in procuring through their railroad from Corvallis to Yaquina harbor. From the untiring opposition to that road, from certain quarters, it is indeed marvelous that the company have succeeded in placing their bonds upon the market at living rates and thereby assuring the building of the road. That the bar and harbor at Newport can be deepened and improved so as to admit ships of large tonnage, there is no doubt. Beyond all reasonable doubt, an appropriation by congress of a quarter of a million of dollars would make the entrance to the harbor safer than six millions would make the Columbia and Willamette rivers from the bar at Fort Canby, W. T. to Portland. And yet those obstructions in the river will be cleaned out in less than two years from now. I have all good will towards Portland and Astoria, and hope they may share in all future prosperity of our common country.

Vents must be had for our vast commerce into the Pacific ocean. One of these vents is the Yaquina bay, another is by the mouth of the Columbia, and another is at the mouth of the Siuslaw bay. The idea of turning all of the best commerce, which will center at Portland, into Puget sound waters—out of our state, and thereby so increasing the distance to the world's markets—is preposterous. There need be no rivalry between Portland, Astoria and Newport. Each one is admirably situated to become a great city, teeming with wealth and population. Washington Territory has very great natural resources, and with all my heart I wish it enduring prosperity. A railroad will pierce the Cascade mountains between Wallula and Seattle, and pour into that admirable harbor untold commerce. The God of nature has pierced the Cascade and Coast mountains ready for the passage of a railroad from eastern Oregon and northern Nevada, and from Salt Lake and Reno, direct to the Yaquina bay. The new route discovered up the north side of the South Santiam, and across the Cascade mountains by Black Butte, and thence to Fort Boise, excels any other route ever discovered across that mountain. Beyond all reasonable doubt, a great transcontinental standard gauge road will pass over that mountain at one of the two central routes, and thence by Albany, Corvallis, and to the Yaquina harbor. The Reno feeder from the Central Pacific will doubtless find vent to the Pacific on this route. Albany will be the first city in the Willamette valley that passengers from the east will see on coming to our beautiful country. Let the valley counties look up, for the days of renewed prosperity are at hand to them.

Men of large capital and enterprise perceive the advantage of investing largely in railroads and shipping in this state and Washington Territory. The interests of the producer are the interests of those gentlemen. With out their enterprise and capital, our country would be far behind, and without the labor of all producers here, there would be no commerce. So these interests are mutual. "Live and let live" should be our motto.

DAVID NEWSOME.

TROUT FISHING.

When the cause is well managed, that is to say when the paddle is in practiced hands, and the little bark is held just where you want it, at the edge of a deep, dark pool, or just below a sparkling eddy, and when not a ripple disturbs the water as it slowly glides along, it is the best boat in the world for fly-fishing. Provided that the sifter understands his business too, and does not work hard enough to make it wobble and roll gunwale under, and resists the temptation to stand up to play a heavy fish. We found it just perfection one day last week on the Yaquina River above Elk City. And what a string of silvery and speckled beauties rewarded our three hours pleasant labor. Talk about "snaking them out" with a pole, and a hook big enough for a shark, and half a cray fish for bait, Oregonian fashion: what is that for sport compared with the delight of playing two at once, on delicate gut, and a rod which springs and bends to every lunge the fish makes, and the pleasing anxiety with which you watch them jump right out of the water as they feel the steady pressure, gradually bringing them to the boat. When those two sea trout did come to hand, one weighed two pounds and the other nearly a pound and a half; and they were two out of twenty which were divided equally between the legitimate fly-rod and reel, and the native pole and bait. But our catch does not sound large beside the take of three rods on Beaver creek, eight miles south of the Yaquina Bay, the previous week. They got three hundred trout in three days, ranging from a quarter of a pound to three pounds in weight.

The past month has been one of great interest to Oregon in many ways. Nowhere in the United States have the telegrams from Washington, detailing the slow stages of what we fervently trust is the progress of President Garfield to recovery from the fearful wound of the assassin's bullet, been more eagerly read than here in the far West. The first question put to the passer by from the distant town by the sturdy farmer, as he checks his team in the mower for an instant in the field corner nearest to the road, is what is the latest news of the President, and the hearty "thank God," which follows the cheering answer, shows how real and deep seated is the anxiety which prompts the question. And the next topic always is the election at Albany, in which the universal instinct of the people proves far more to be at stake than the mere question of who shall represent New York State at Washington. These two national questions, having been duly debated, that of next importance is what this harvest is going to turn out, and what is to be the price of wheat. The rain which falls as we write is being anxiously listened to, as it patters on the shingles, by many a farmer who knows that half his hay is yet out in the shocks, while the oat and wheat sheaves are rapidly growing in number in his field. The next few days will prove if the bountiful promise of the seasons will be fulfilled, or if an exception is to take its place in the history of long years of easy and regular harvesting in the Willamette valley. We hear from some of the old settlers that once there was a wet harvest here. We trust sincerely that the heavy clouds will pass unbroken away, and that the usual sunshine, tempered with the Oregon cool breeze, will enable the splendid crop now waiting for the reaper to be safely garnered in.

Railroad matters go on apace. We read in the "Oregonian" long accounts of the vast schemes which are to center the transportation of more than this State and the adjoining territory in the hands of one gigantic corporation. The absorption of the Scotch narrow gauge lines, which were to be always independent, and on the faith of which independence subsidies from towns were got and land rights donated, has now become an accomplished fact. A solitary paragraph in the "Oregonian," but long and detailed articles in the valley papers, chronicle the steps by which the Oregon Pacific is moving towards completion. Whilst the engineers are busily at work locating the line between Yaquina bay and Corvallis, where we write, arrangements are being pushed as rapidly forwards as possible for the completion of this section of the road in time to carry this season's crop; and we learn that the original programme for the complete through line to Boise City, Idaho, will be fully and promptly carried out. There is no reason, therefore, so far as our knowledge and belief extends, for withdrawing or qualifying the invitation the "Oregon Colonist" has published from its beginning, to those who have brains, energy, and more or less capital, to come to Oregon, the sun of whose prosperity is only now commencing to shine.

GROUSE.

"The best season for grouse and pheasant I have ever known." And no wonder he said so when he went out last Friday into the foot hills, about three miles from Corvallis, and though he did not go out till five and returned at eight, he brought in 18 grouse. Just now you find them at the edges of the wheat fields next the oak brush, or in the corners of timothy grass in the angles of the snake fences. The young ones are more than three parts grown. It is a week too early to kill them it is true, but alas, the game law is not enforced as it ought to be.

HORTICULTURE.

EDITORS COLONIST:—Having had nearly twenty years of practical experience in horticulture in England, it occurs to me that a few of my observations in this line in Oregon may be of interest to your readers. Anyone taking a walk through the fields in the month of March cannot fail to see how much earlier some varieties of wild flowers are here than in England. A warm spell of sunshine which generally comes in February and lasts two or three weeks brings them quickly forward. There are no spring frosts, as a rule, to retard them and they have warm rains to help their growth. Among the varieties we note the aquilegia, (columbine) with its brilliant scarlet color and its dark green foliage. Here and there the fields are dotted with the beautiful yellow and orange escholtzia; also the delphinium (larkspur) is everywhere conspicuous, its dark blue forming a pleasant contrast to the first named. On the foot hill pastures may be found a very fine variety of the Silenus with its pink flowers over an inch in diameter. Contemporary with this is the cat's ear, in appearance true to its name and of a grayish white color. There is also the mallow with a rose tint rather differing from the English pink, and side by side the lupins with its white and purple spikes. The myosotis, the white forget-me-not, grows very abundantly in marshy places where the water has stood for 3 or 4 months. It springs up in the water and when the water dries up it comes out into bloom forming a beautiful white bed. Along the small streams grows the mimulus, attractive with its yellow flowers dotted with dark spots, also the well known musk plant, (mimulus moschatus) which is so common in every English home for window-decoration. It chooses some spot where it can climb up among some small growing brush. We must not forget the "Oregon lily," as we have some very good ones, equalling I think many of the Japan lilies. I have seen as many as 26 blossoms on one stem. Its delicate perfume and rich color enforce admiration. The iris grows everywhere and in the pastures is well worth seeing. We may also note the wild cyclamen, the dilytra and some very pretty kinds of oalis, the camassia, anemone and dark blue viola.

When down at Yaquina Bay I was surprised to see such a fine display of Rhododendron growing on the cliffs along the sea in natural clumps. For three miles back from the lighthouse, situated at the entrance to the bay, is one immense natural bed of them. Interspersed with the Rhododendron is a shrub bearing a close resemblance to the oazalia and a pure white flower. When all in full bloom the effect is magnificent. The soil is peat for about 3 inches, the subsoil being sand.

We have here a good beginning for a beautiful park, and when once there is railway connection with the interior, Yaquina Bay must and will become one of the most favorite seaside resorts on the Pacific coast.

G. C.

BENTON COUNTY.—ALSEA.

The Alsea river lies in Benton county some twelve miles south of the Yaquina. The lands along this river are divided into two parts, called the upper and the lower Alsea valley. The upper valley is perhaps 25 miles southwest of Corvallis. It was probably a lake in former times; however, it is a most beautiful and fertile valley, some ten miles long and two broad. Some may think this too low an estimate and some too high: I think it a fair one.

The citizens inform me that the average yield of wheat is 30,000 bushels, besides oats, hay and other things ordinarily raised on a farm. The settlers are in general first-class men, and I have found no part of Oregon more desirable in point of soil and climate. Little streams put in from the hills, rendering irrigation easy and perpetual meadows possible. The Alsea river is itself a source of trout and salmon, and the settlers (some at least,) take enough of the latter to supply themselves with dried fish during the year. Passing down the river from upper Alsea, one finds much fertile land on either side the river, even to its mouth. This land is suitable for grain, vegetables, butter, honey, and almost anything produced on the farm.

The people along the Alsea Bay are making strong efforts to build a local trade and Mr. Luttjens has opened a store there and he deserves much success. A neat hotel has been recently erected on the north side of the bay by Mr. Jacob Holgate, and we hope to see him well patronized. Mr. Ruble is striving to build a town on the south side of the bay near its mouth and we hope to see them all succeed in their laudable and sanguine enterprises.

The Alsea valley will be a fine customer of the Yaquina bay city so soon as a trade shall be established there through the enterprise of the Oregon Pacific railroad company. One, indeed, almost envies this company its splendid opportunities.

B. L. ARNOLD.

THE WEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

We stand near the head of the list—third in the list of all western nations. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland heads the list with a capital valuation of \$44,400,000,000; then comes France with \$36,700,000,000; the United States with \$32,000,000,000, Germany with \$22,000,000,000; Russia with \$15,000,000,000, and the Low Countries; with \$11,150,000,000 of capital collectively. These are the valuations made by those countries of their entire resources. What is the annual income per inhabitant of various countries? We come to the front in this comparison. The annual average income in the United Kingdom is \$165; in the United States, also, in the Low Countries, \$130; in France, \$123; in the British colonies, \$90; in Germany and Scandinavia, \$85. In this reckoning Russia, with her 90,000,000 people is out of sight as yet; she will not be very long. On the score of annual accumulation our case is even better, relatively far better. The annual accumulation of wealth in Germany is \$200,000,000; it is \$325,000,000 in the United Kingdom \$375,000,000 in France; in the United States it is \$825,000,000. Our increase in national wealth since 1850, says a good English authority, would be enough to purchase the whole German Empire with its farms, banks, shipping, manufactures, etc. The annual accumulation has been \$825,000,000, and therefore each decade adds more to the wealth of the United States than the capital value of Italy or Spain. Every day the sun rises the American people sees an addition of \$2,300,000 to the Republic.

LAND TITLES—AND CONVEYANCE OF LAND.

The title to land in Oregon comes in the first instance from the United States government by letters patent, either to an individual or corporation that has complied with the laws regulating the acquisition of land, or through the State by virtue of a grant from the government. All subsequent transfers are made by deed. In each county in the State is kept by the county clerk a public record of all deeds and conveyances of land, so that the title to any and all lands in the State is open to the inspection of any intending purchaser. There are no restrictions or prohibitions on the title of lands owned by foreigners taking by purchase. Any person can purchase and hold land in his or her own right. But in order to acquire title from the government under the homestead or pre-emption laws the applicant must be a citizen of the United States, or have declared his intention to become a citizen of the same before making such application. A foreigner purchasing land need not be present, as the conveyance is executed by the vendor, and no signature of the purchaser is required. The deed of conveyance will then be recorded and the purchaser becomes the absolute owner in fee, with all the rights and privileges of an actual resident. The same system of public record is observed in relation to mortgages on real property as relates to deeds, and foreigners have equal rights in this respect also as bona fide residents.

LARGE LAND SALE.

Reed & Willis, real estate agents, report the sale and transfer yesterday of the large river farm of Daniel Durbin, lying eight miles north of Salem, to S. D. Northcott for the sum of \$25,000. Mr. N. commenced farming in Marion county some 12 or 15 years since as a renter, without any means, and is now able to purchase and pay for a \$25,000 farm—all made raising wheat. This is unmistakable evidence, not only of the enterprise, energy and skill of Mr. N. as a farmer, but also of the productive quality of Marion county lands.—Salem Statesman.

Real Estate Agency.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE:

CITY OF CORVALLIS.

Two Lots adjoining Court House with good house, barn and garden.

FARMS.

100 Acres 20 miles from Newport on the Yaquina, steamboat landing, 20 acres in timothy, good house orchard, etc. Price \$1000.

150 Acres in King's Valley. First rate land with large house, barn, close to school and church, post office, creek and saw mill. Price \$8000.

540 Acres in Linn county, 6 miles east of Lebanon, on branch of east side railroad, and Oregon & Pacific, well watered, good timber, near school. Terms easy. \$4455.

354 Acres adjoining above with equal advantage of position, about 100 acres under cultivation, an excellent farm, capable of carrying a good flock of sheep, under fence, well watered, good house, barn and orchard. Price, \$4,500.

422 Acres adjoining above, 100 acres under cultivation, good house, orchard, etc. Excellent stock range with good outlet, 2 miles from school, postoffice, etc. Price, \$4,500.

340 Acres, 90 under cultivation, good house, barn and orchard, four miles north of postoffice Price, \$4,600. Excellent stock farm.

1,557 Acres, 8 miles west of Corvallis, on Mary's River. 1000 under fence, 250 acres under plough, 150 new in grain. Best hill pasture, well grassed, 14 miles from school. The land is well timbered, good house, two barns, etc. Price, \$16,500.

200 Acres of first class land, west side and upper end of King's Valley, 60 acres under cultivation including 22 acres of timothy, good new house 10x24, and barn. School house within 200 yards, and convenient distant from mills, store &c; well watered and timbered. \$27,000.

100 Acres situated on Little Elk next Baber's. Excellent water and good outlet to fine range.

200 Acres east end of Blodgett's Valley, well improved, near school and on proposed line of Yaquina R. R. Price, \$4000.

135 Acres west side of Blodgett's Valley, all fenced; 60 acres under plough. A snug farm with good house, barn and other out-buildings, 1 mile from school and close to proposed Yaquina R. R. Price, \$2,000.

240 Acres on Elk road, 5 miles from junction with Yaquina road. Good house, barn, etc. A good farm with outlet to well grassed ranges. 2,500.

200 Acres, 10 miles west of Summit, extending 3 of a mile along the road and river. A good farm with plenty of bottom land. Small house, etc., and orchard. A bargain. Price, \$1000.

300 Acres of land at the junction of the Yaquina and Elk road and river, 25 miles east of Newport. Good bottom land with outlet to well grassed ranges. Price \$2500.

540 Acres two mill s from Summit on fork of Mary's River. Land very productive, with good range; excellent house, two large barns and other buildings; good fences; improvements valued at \$1800. Price \$2500.

AT NEWPORT.

100 acres 1 mile east of Newport on the road, and with comfortable house, garden, etc. This property commands splendid views of the ocean, the harbor and entrance, and would divide into several building lots. Well watered by numerous springs. Price on application.

A saloon, large warehouse with capital hall above and also wharf opposite. Also other property in Newport and vicinity. Harbor improvements having commenced and there being every prospect for a lively summer renders this a good chance.

100 Acres, twenty-two miles this side of Yaquina bay, on the road between Trapp's and Eddy's, one half bottom land with excellent out-runs for stock. This property will sell at a bargain. Price, \$650.

For price and other particulars apply to the undersigned, who beg to intimate to intending vendors of real estate, that by establishing agencies in England and also in the Eastern States he trusts to be able to effect speedy sales.

J. M. ARNOLD, Summit, Benton Co., Or.
Or at the law office of J. A. A. YARRIS, Corvallis, Or.
R. A. BENNELL, Newport, Or.

WM. COLLINS, & Co 6 East India Avenue, agent, London.

WOODCOCK & BALDWIN

—THE LEADING—

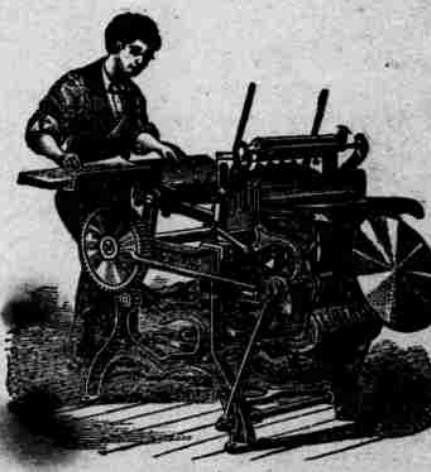
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