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SOME SCRAWS OF HISTORY.

Ben Holladay's Railroad Operations in Oregon.

The following which we find in the San Francisco Bulletin of the 3d instant, though not in all main details accurate, is pretty nearly a fair statement of the facts connected with the building of railways in Oregon:

In September last Martin White brought an action in the twelfth district court against S. G. Elliott to obtain an injunction restraining the defendant from conveying certain interests in the Oregon Central Railroad Company. A temporary injunction was granted, but the prayer of White was denied by Judge Sharpstein on the ground that Elliott had previously, when entering into a certain agreement, conveyed all his interest in trust to an assignee to be held for the benefit and security of White, and that therefore there was no necessity for an injunction. Elliott filed a cross bill, claiming damages. These issues have been on trial before the twelfth district court most of the past week. When the case was submitted Judge Sharpstein intimated that he would give judgment against plaintiff and in favor of defendant, by dissolving the injunction, and in favor of plaintiff and against the defendant on his cross bill for damages.

The Oregon Central Railroad Company. The above case is a side issue growing out of the noted Elliott-Holladay suits concerning the Oregon Central Railroad Company and the Oregon and California Railroad Company. The contest has been raging in the Oregon courts for several years. The history of the origin of the Oregon Central Railroad Company is as follows: It was incorporated in 1867 or 1868, for the purpose of constructing a road from Portland to the southern line of Oregon and to connect with the Oregon and California road, extending to Marysville.

The contract for the construction of the Oregon Central road was let out as usual in cases when the road bases its capital on Government subsidies, to A. J. Moore & Co., in 1868. The principal owner of this Construction Company was Elliott. Under this contract surveys were made of the entire route of the proposed road, and a force was placed in the field for its construction. The grant required that the road should be built a distance of twenty miles within a specified time, to secure the subsidies in the way of lands and bonds. The contract was forced with considerable ability, and it attracted the attention of Ben Holladay as a good investment.

Holladay Becomes Interested. In 1868, Ben Holladay visited Oregon and made a proposition of co-partnership to Elliott, and after persistent efforts he succeeded in inducing Elliott to make a new firm. Elliott brought to Holladay & Co. all the bonds, stock and securities which he had received from Moore & Co., aggregating some \$3,000,000. For the first six months of the new copartnership the affairs of the company prospered under the superintendence of Elliott. When the new arrangement was formed, Holladay agreed to furnish all the money necessary for the construction of the road. In the summer of 1869 the first twenty miles of the road being nearly completed, Holladay quarreled with Elliott, having previously got all his securities into his own hands. The difficulty resulted in an order from Holladay discharging Elliott as superintendent of construction. Holladay then brought an action against Elliott in the State circuit court claiming damages on the ground of inability to perform service and misrepresentation of facts at the time the copartnership was formed. At this time Holladay had in his possession and was using over \$500,000 he ob-

tained from the French Saving Bank of this city on the securities placed in his hands by Elliott. This suit has been vigorously carried on the past year. The testimony taken before the referee shows that after exhausting the money procured on the assets of Elliott, Holladay found it necessary to raise more means, and for this purpose he made a pretended conveyance of all the rights, franchises, bonds and lands belonging to the Oregon Central Company to a new corporation, of which he was the figurehead, called the Oregon and California Company, east side.

Germans Let in For a Share.

Bonds to the amount of \$11,000,000 were issued by the new company and ingeniously placed (sold) in Germany, by a banker of this city. The bonds (seven per cent.) are stated in the testimony of the banker to have netted 55 to 60 cents to the railroad company, and they were placed at from 76 to 81 cents in Germany, leaving a handsome margin of some millions for the banking ring. Of the seven or eight millions of dollars realized from the sale of these bonds not more than three millions were expended in the construction of the road, and the difference was divided between the members of the syndicate. The evidence taken on the trial of the case of the case of Holladay et al vs Elliott et al, substantiates these facts. The evidence is all in and the matter has gone before the court for adjudication and an early decision is expected.

In 1870 some of the stockholders of the Oregon Central company commenced suit in the United States circuit court for Oregon against the Oregon and California company to recover possession of the road, franchise, lands, bonds, etc., in the hands of the new company. The pleadings in the case are settled, and the court awaits the introduction of testimony. Counsel for plaintiff are awaiting a decision of the State court before pressing this action to trial.

The Sequel.

The result of these brilliant financial summer suits is a poorly constructed road, kept in bad order, which is not paying interest on the \$11,000,000 invested by the earnings of \$3,000,000. Three semi-annual installments of interest only have been paid, and there is now due over \$1,500,000 interest on the original loan to the German bondholders. Dickens, in *Nickleby*, sums up a stock exchange gamble in London, when he says, "Four hundred nobodies were ruined, four stockholders took villas in Florence." So in this case, a thousand or two nobodies in Germany are ruined; one or two somebody built up colossal fortunes.

The name "A. J. Moore & Co.," mentioned by the San Francisco paper is evidently a mistake. It is the "A. J. Cook & Co." swindle that is referred to.

From all parts of Walls Walla valley there come the most favorable reports with regard to the prospects for abundant crops. The weather has been just the thing for pushing grain ahead, and the harvest will come earlier than usual. But owing to the weather having been quite cool for a good portion of the time, and so much rain having fallen, vegetables and corn have not come on so rapidly as other crops, although they look well and will probably yield better than common even if they should be a little late in maturing.

It never pays to fret and growl When fortune seems our foe; The better bred will push ahead, And strike the braver blow. For luck is work And those who shrink Should not lament their doom, But yield the play, And clear the way. That better men have room. The dues from the State to the National Grange is five cents a year on each member, payable quarterly. Last year the dues were ten cents.

OVER SIX MILES HIGH.

The Highest Mountain in the World—Not in Asia, But an Island Wonder.

[From the New York Jan.

For many years past Mount Everest, in that portion of the great Himalaya range which occupies the western part of the strange kingdom of Nepal immediately north of India, has been regarded as the highest mountain in the world. It is known to the Nepalese as Gaurisankar, but the English named it Everest, in honor of a distinguished officer of the British Indian topographical survey. Its snow-capped summit is 29,002 feet or nearly five miles and a half above the level of the sea. Of course no one has ever ascended it to this height, but its altitude, like that of the other lofty peaks of the Himalaya, was ascertained by triangulation, and until the present time it has not been supposed that any higher land existed on the earth.

If the news be true, however, which has lately come to us from the more distant east, there is a loftier peak than Mount Everest in the great island of Papua of New Guinea. This vast region, extensive enough to form six States as large as New York, is as yet almost wholly unexplored, except along its coasts. Lying close to the equator, where the Indian ocean and the Pacific meet, it is the home of the cassowary and the bird of paradise, a country grand in scenery, rich in its vegetation, and abounding in curious and beautiful forms of animal life—the veritable wonderland of the globe. An attempt to explore the unknown interior of the island was made from Torres Strait, which separates it from Australia, by Capt. J. A. Lawson, in the year 1872, and if we may believe his published narrative of the journey, which has just appeared in London, he advanced several hundred miles inland, and about midway between the north and south coasts discovered a mountain 35,783 feet high, which he named Mount Hercules.

The height of the mountain—over six miles—is not the only remarkable thing about it. Its apparent elevation is but little less than its actual elevation; for, instead of rising from a lofty table land like the plateau of Central Asia, it stands in a comparatively low plain only about two thousand feet above the ocean, and this gives a clear rise of more than 30,000 feet above the surrounding country. The traveler standing at its base could look up and see its snowy peak towering 33,000 feet skyward from where he stood. Under such circumstances the altitude of a mountain is appreciated.

Captain Lawson tells us that he undertook the ascent, formidable as it appeared. He did not reach the top, but we believe the achievement which he relates is unparalleled in the records of mountaineering. Accompanied by one servant, he set out from the foot at four o'clock in the morning. They passed through dense forests in the first two thousand feet of perpendicular progress, found the limit of tree growth at eleven thousand feet, and by nine o'clock had reached a point fourteen thousand feet above the sea level—almost as high as the famous Matterhorn. A thousand feet higher was the snow line, and they began to suffer from the cold. As they pressed on, drowsiness began to overcome them. "Nothing was visible but snow of the most damnable whiteness. Every peak and crag was covered with it, and hung over the edges of the cliffs in long fleecy masses." Their eyes were affected by the glare, and they felt themselves growing more and more lethargic. "At length blood began to flow from our noses and ears," says Captain Lawson, and my head ached in a distracted manner. I saw that our only chance of preserving life was to retreat without delay, for we were in a pitiful plight. Our lips

and gums and the skin of our hands and faces were badly cracked and bleeding, and our eyes were blood-shot and swollen to an alarming extent. The thermometer had sunk to twenty-two degrees below freezing point, and the air was so rarified that we were gasping, rather than breathing. Our staves fell from our grasp, and we could not pick them up again, so benumbed were our arms and hands. It was now one o'clock, and the greatest elevation we had attained was 25,314 feet.

Then they turned back, descended to the limit of the snow in three hours, and arrived at their camp at the base of the mountain about half past seven in the evening. Thus, in fifteen hours and a half, they had ascended an absolute height of 23,000 feet, to an elevation which we believe is greater than any ever before attained by man upon the surface of the earth, although balloonists have occasionally gone higher.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Utah.

SALT LAKE, June 15.—The weather is warm, and the crops throughout the Territory are in splendid condition. The damage done by crickets in the southern part of the Territory is reported as very trifling.

California.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 15.—Advices from Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties, this evening, report heavy rains with strong southerly winds. No definite information yet received as to the effect on the crops, but it is feared it may prove disastrous in many localities.

Mexican Raiders Come to Grief.

GALVESTON, June 15.—A Brownsville special says the Mexican raiders have come to grief in a recent fight. Their casualties sum up twelve killed and wounded. They lost besides twelve horses and saddles, repeating rifles, pistols, etc. Mexican papers say the raiders were assassinated while asleep. Cortina swears he will have revenge, is arming, and has been for more than a week. He received a peremptory order to report at Mexico, and in the event of disobedience of the order, to be arrested. General Fuero left Monterey this morning on a march to Matamoras. He has 300 men. It is understood he comes to attend Cortina. It is not known what the brigand chief will do. He will fight Fuero if he thinks he can whip him. He may cross to this side and place himself at the head of the Mexican squatters and desolate the country and cross back to the Mexican side and get pardoned by the Supreme Government. Troops are on the alert. The citizens of Brownsville are adopting defensive measures.

Ignorant Voters.

Woman suffrage has sustained a severe set-back, and calm consideration is bringing many facts to light not calculated to help it with thinkers. For example, examination of the census reports show that the percentage of illiterate women is much greater than the percentage of illiterate men. In New York, for instance, the latter figure at 77,160, while if the women voted there they would add 121,667 to the list of ignorant voters. Of course ignorant female voters would be as potent a source of mischief as ignorant male voters. And beyond this lies the fact that even among the women who are not ignorant the most dense lack of information exists in regard to political matters. But since at the present time the ignorant male voter promises to find occupation for all the statesmanship in the country, it would be mere midsummer madness to supplement it with several millions of equally stupid and intractable electors. Education must be the word for some time to come. We have had altogether too much of unintelligent suffrage. —*Soc. Record.*

FAT'S CRITICISM.

There's a story that's old, But good if twice told, Of a doctor of limited skill, Who cured beast and man On the "cold-water plan," Without the small help of a pill! On his portal of pine Hung an elegant sign Depicting a beautiful rill, And a lake, where a spruce, With apparent delight, Was sporting in sweet deshabille. F it McCarty one day, As he sauntered that way, Stood and gazed at the portal of pine, When the doctor with pride Stepped up to his side, Saying, "Fat, how is that for a sign?" "There's one thing," says Pat, "Ye've lift out o' that, Which, be jabbers, is quite a mistake! It's trim and its mate, But to make it complete Ye shud have a foinse burd on the lake." "Ah! Indeed! Pray, then, tell, To make it look well, What bird do you think it may lack?" Says Pat, "Of the same I've forgotten the name, But the song that he sings is 'quack! quack!'"

HUMOROUS.

"Dear me, how fluently he talks," said Mrs. Partington recently, at a temperance meeting. "I am always rejoiced when he mounts the nostrils, for his eloquence warns every cart-ridge in my body." A little girl and boy, three or four years old, were playing on the ice when she fell down and commenced to cry. Bub ran up and soothingly lisped: "Don't cry! Thwear! Thwear! They damn!"—*Darhmouth.* An old lady, hearing some one reading about a Congressman at large, rushed into the kitchen door shouting, "Sarah Jane! Sarah Jane! don't you leave the clothes out all night, mind I tell you, for there's a Congressman at large."—*Ex.*

An aristocratic New Yorker, on being requested by a rich and vulgar young fellow for permission to marry "one of his girls," gave this rather crushing reply: "Certainly; which would you prefer, the housemaid or the cook?" "Well, doctor, its no use, I'm going to die!" "Nonsense," said the doctor, "you're not going to die at all. No man ever died with feet as warm as yours!" "Ah, yes they did, doctor." "I should like to know who, then?" said the doctor. "John Rogers did," said the patient.

A rustic youngster, being asked out to take tea with a friend, was admonished to praise the establish. Presently the butter was passed to him, when he remarked, "Very nice butter—what there is of it," and observing a smile, he added, "and plenty of it—such as it is."

"My son," said a father to his little boy at the breakfast table, "if you had the choice to be burned at the stake, like John John Rogers, or to have your head chopped off like King Charles the First, which would you choose?" "John Rogers," said the boy. "And why?" "Because," replied the boy, "I should prefer a hot steak to a cold chop."

Two colored men took refuge under a tree in a violent thunder storm. "Julius, can you pray?" said one. "No Sam," was the reply; "nebber prayed in my life." "Well can't you sing a hymn?" Just then the lightning struck a tree near by, shivering it, when the first speaker exclaimed: "See health, honey, ammin'igious has got to be done, an' dat mighty suddin' too. S'pose you pray around de hat!" A compositor on a New York daily in setting up a French word inserted a w. When the proof-reader sent out his proof the compositor remonstrated, saying he followed copy. The proof-reader informed the gentlemen that w was not used in the French language; whereupon the compositor inquired of the learned artist "how he would spell another row without a w." The roar of laughter from his fellow compositors can be imagined.