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PORTLAND'S DECLINE IN WHEAT SHIPMENTS.

For the edification of the visiting congressmen, and as an evidence of Portland's greatness as a seaport in contrast with San Francisco and Puget sound, the Oregonian yesterday published a statement of Pacific coast wheat shipments for the year ending June 30, 1901. This statement shows that out of a total of 31,729,158 bushels of wheat exported from the Northwest 17,706,102 bushels, or about 54 per cent, was shipped from Portland, the remaining 46 per cent going from Puget sound.

These figures are conclusive proof of the relative decline of Portland as a seaport although intended to have a contrary effect on the unsophisticated minds of the eastern congressmen. In 1895 Portland's shipments of inland Empire wheat amounted to 90 per cent of the total exported, and the grain at the Sound has thus reduced that splendid showing in six years to the figures above quoted. It requires only a simple mathematical calculation to prove that with the same relative gain on the Sound in the next six years Portland will cease to be a seaport of any consequence. Especially is this true when it is considered that wheat and flour are Portland's only exports, excepting only a little lumber, and that almost the entire inland business of the Pacific coast is carried on from San Francisco and Seattle. Vividly the end is fast approaching for the Columbia river in the world's commerce.

(Astorian, December 22, 1899.) The producers of the Columbian basin may as well understand now as at any other time that there is no hope for a forty-foot entrance at the mouth of the river so long as that moribund proposition is loaded with the attempted graft of an impossible thirty-foot channel to Portland. The government has provided for the production of the Northwest a magnificent freshwater harbor right at the very door of the ocean. This harbor is rendered by a continuous four-grade railway with the length and breadth of the Columbia basin clear back to the foot of the Rocky mountains. The facilities for cheap and expeditious transportation on products of the interior to the actual Pacific port are unexcelled if equalled by those afforded any other agricultural region in America. The question of reaching that harbor with the products of the interior is purely a matter of local concern or private business. It is a question for the producers and transportation companies to settle for themselves. The government has done all there is any public ground or public necessity for doing. Its only remaining obligation is to keep that great harbor abreast of modern commerce and as nearly equal as possible to the harbors of other sections. That duty the government is ready and willing to perform when the project for so doing is divorced from the selfish schemes of one rival community for the undoing of another and the proposed aggrandizement of private transportation corporations. Portland does not want the producers of the interior to have a forty-foot harbor at the mouth of the river except in conjunction with a canal to accommodate the increased tonnage of such harbor leading up the one hundred inland miles to the terminus of the O. R. & N. Co. The Oregon delegation in congress has doubtless been so notified. There are congressmen representing other states who understand the Columbia river situation. They intend to see that the graft proposed by Portland shall not pass congress. If the farmers of the Northwest are to get the benefit of a forty-foot entrance to their harbor it must be independent of any scheme to extend that harbor at public expense to Portland.

(Astorian, December 23, 1899.) Mr. M. J. Kinney is authority for the statement that a combination exists among the wheat buyers of California, Oregon and Washington, and that the purpose of the organization is to fix the price and regulate the volume of shipments made from the various ports. This organization has existed from a date in the latter part of last winter. It is probably owing to the influence of this combination that the charter of grain vessels plying from the ports of Puget sound and Portland are no longer published in the Commercial Journal. It is doubtless due also to the action of the combination that the market quotations on wheat at the Sound, in Portland, and possibly at San Francisco are false and misleading. These wheat buyers' combination makes a larger margin of profit and can more easily manipulate the price.

and destination of export wheat from Portland. Hence every bushel which can be more economically hauled to Portland than to the Sound is sent to the Portland market. That wheat brings more to the producer at Tacoma than at Portland is proved by the unabashed statistics of the government custom house service. The table of March's wheat shipments and values, as published in the Oregonian of April 4, is based upon these customs house records and not upon market quotations—though it was due to the Astorian analysts and comment on the table that the plan of falsifying the Puget sound market quotations was first resorted to. The Oregonian's table, with the Astorian's comment and analysis is as follows:

(Oregonian, April 4, 1899.)

The export of wheat and flour from the Pacific coast for the month of March were 1,501,490 bushels of wheat valued at \$28,150, and 200,446 barrels of flour valued at \$74,622. The business was handled by the different ports as follows:

WHEAT.
Bushels. Value
Portland..... 109,187 \$869,215
Tacoma and Seattle..... 396,287 250,000
San Francisco..... 96,440 255,225

FLOWER.
Barrels. Value
Portland..... 109,025 \$902,467
Tacoma and Seattle..... 16,783 48,541
San Francisco..... 104,612 255,225

San Francisco's flour shipment include nearly 20,000 barrels which was sent from Portland, and which is not included in Portland's total but is included in San Francisco's.

(Astorian, April 5, 1899.)

Analysis of the foregoing table shows the startling facts (1) that wheat in Portland was worth 60 cents a bushel; (2) that wheat in Tacoma was worth 35 cents a bushel or \$1 a ton more than in Portland; and (3) that wheat in San Francisco was worth 7½ cents a bushel, or about \$3.65 a ton more than in Portland. Also, that the Columbia basin farmers lost on their wheat in the month of March nearly \$200,000, because Portland's road—the O. R. & N. Co.—refuses to make Astoria the sea-port instead of Portland.

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Mrs. Wiggles—Yes. (After a pause.) Well, he never says anything worth hearing—Somerville Journal.

Co. owns all the rags and tow boats and controls the entire towage charge of a ship from the time she is taken hold of off the mouth of the river until she is again let loose, loaded, on the open sea. In the interest of making a safe showing in favor of continuing Portland as the seaport, the firms told her on the ship from the mouth of the river until she is again returned to the ocean is carried on the O. R. & N. Co.'s books in two separate accounts. Of every dollar collected seventy cents is charged for the towage between Astoria and the sea—a distance of about 15 miles—and thirty cents charged to the steamer for continuing the towage from Astoria to Portland—a distance of one hundred miles. For this reason it will be noticed from an item quoted in the Oregonian, the cost of the water transportation from Portland is only figured to Astoria. This cost is placed at five cents a ton—thirty per cent of the towage charge from Portland to the sea. In this account it will be noted no account is taken of the delay incurred in getting down the river. Instead of an expense of but five cents a ton, as figured by the Oregonian, the real expense directly chargeable to every cargo of wheat loaded at Portland is perhaps fifty cents a ton and maybe more. This is independent of the general taxes spent by the government in dredging operations necessary to keep the channel open. According to Major Fisk's last report the government contributed a sum to Portland and the railroad combination of fifty cents a ton on every ton of wheat exported from Portland. It thus appears that the farmers and the general government are paying a dollar a ton subsidy to enable Portland to prevent the extension of common point wheat rates to Astoria. Charters are higher at Portland than at Tacoma and San Francisco because of the smaller ships in the Portland trade and because of the danger, delays and inconveniences of Portland's location on deep water and right at the ocean would make her charter rates for wheat much lower than at Tacoma and probably as low as at San Francisco. But no wheat can be loaded on ships at the Columbia's mouth until the power of the rail-road combination is broken. Then we shall have open competition in the buying and shipping of Northwestern wheat and the mouth of the Columbia river will become the highest and best wheat market on the Pacific coast.

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A DEEP MYSTERY.

It is a mystery why women endure Backache. Headache. Neurotic Spasmodic, Melancholy, Fainting and Dizzies. Spells when thousands have noted that Electric Bitters will quickly cure such troubles. "I suffered for years with kidney trouble," writes Mrs. Phoebe Cherley, of Peterson, Ia., "and a lame back pained me so I could not dress myself, but Electric Bitters wholly cured me, and, although 70 years old, I now am able to do all my housework. Apples give perfect health only 5¢ at Hart's Drug Store.

HAD LUNN AWAKE TO SEE.

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WHY HE GROWLED.

The farmer had told the traps to search the shed for some cold biscuit. "But don't strike a light," warned the farmer. "I won't risk having the place burn down."

Then I can't look for de biscuits," said the trap.

"Why not?"

"Well, de last time I searched 'n do dark I ate a lot of dog biscuit and got de hydrocephalus from heart' meself back—Chicago News.

SHE DIDN'T WEAR A MASK.

But her beauty was completely hidden by sores, blisters and pimples till she used Bucklin's Arnica Salve. Then they vanished as will all Eruption, Fever Sores, Boil, Ulcers, Carbuncles and Fomons from its use. Indeed, Dr. Catts, Corra, Burdette and Price guarantee 25¢ at Hart's Drug Store.

GENIUS OF THE ROAD.

"Mister, could you help a poor man dat lost de sight of an eye because he liked realism in literature?"

"That is the strangest tale I ever heard."

"But it's true. I was an admirer of Longfellow, an one day while walkin' de Village—Blacksmith I got a spark in my eye"—Chicago News.

OLD SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCE.

M. M. Austin, a civil war veteran, of Winchester, Ind., writes: "My wife was sick a long time in spite of good doctor's treatment, but was wholly cured by Dr. King's New Life Pill, which worked wonders for her health." They always do. Try them. Only 25¢ at Hart's Drug Store.

Some fellows raise whiskers because they can't raise the price of a shave.

WHEAT TWO CENTS WILL DO.

It will bring relief to sufferers from asthma or consumption, even in the worst cases. This is about what one dose of Foley's Honey and Tar costs. Isn't it worth a trial? Hart's Drug Store.

Native blemishes of Manila freely attend American balls, and the flirtations with army officers are said to be really no to the standard of this country. The trouble is really over.

Mr. John Topic, Colon, Ohio, says:

"Foley's Honey and Tar cured my lit girl of a severe cough and inflamed tonsils." Hart's Drug Store.

The species of Van Buelow failed to please the kaiser, but the same may be said of some of the kaiser's own speeches after he has seen them it type.

Those W. Carter of Ashland, N. C., had kidney trouble and one bottle of Foley's Kidney Cure effected a perfect cure, and he says there is no remedy that will compare with it. Hart's Drug Store.

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