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THOMAS H. TONGUE.

Occasionally there rises up from among the great mass of people some man whose capabilities, endearing personal characteristics and unusual energy mark him for public service. As the years roll by his popularity grows, and when, like other men, he passes from this life, a great sorrow comes to his constituents.

Such a man was Thomas H. Tongue, congressman from the First Oregon district, who expired suddenly at Washington city on Sunday, and whose unexpected death shocked the entire state. He had made his own way in the world, advancing himself from an humble station in life to that of a leader in national affairs—an attainment that comes to but few, and one that is rarely filled with as much satisfaction as our lamented congressman had given. Indomitable courage and a desire to do right made him what he was. It is cruelly said of him that he "erred" in his views on the money question; but the stand taken by him at that time served only to demonstrate that he had sought to subserve the best interests of his people. The crisis then existing called for heroic legislation, and Congressman Tongue was found advocating those policies which he believed would operate to the betterment of the nation.

No more tireless worker ever represented a state than Congressman Tongue, and his death was a sacrifice to Oregon. Day and night he toiled, hastening the early death that he was fated to meet, and it will be a long time before another such man is found to fill his place. Tom Tongue belonged to Oregon, and the bereavement of his family is not greater than that of the commonwealth whose affairs he had so judiciously handled.

THE NORTH SHORE TRADE.

The suggestion recently made in The Astorian that an independent boat be placed on the Astoria-Illwaco route finds favor on the north shore, and ample support can be relied upon. The first merchants' steamer has already brought many thousands of dollars to this city, and an independent boat to Ilwaco would not double the business that comes from points further up the river. The Ilwaco Journal, in discussing the matter, says:

The proposition for a double steamer service on the Astoria-Illwaco route is again being agitated by the merchants of Astoria and was formally presented to the Astoria Push club at its regular meeting on last Wednesday evening. Astoria merchants have finally come to the conclusion that the trade of the peninsula on the Washington side is well worth going after, and it is proposed to put on a seaworthy boat between points named and way stations, the steamer leaving Ilwaco in the morning and departing from Astoria in the afternoon, reaching Ilwaco in the evening.

The success of the Cathlamet steamer traffic, says The Daily Astorian, practically insures the success of the proposed new line to Ilwaco, and the suggestion is being very favorably received by Astoria and Ilwaco merchants in common. The statement is also made that a moderate fare will be charged and everything done for the convenience and accommodation of shoppers. This latter statement probably implies that a moderate charge will also be made for carrying freight.

In the event of the installation of this new service it is certain Astoria will receive the bulk, if not all, the trade that otherwise goes to Portland and other upriver points. If this project cannot be accomplished now it will look very much like a scheme inaugurated by Astoria parties to bring the O. R. & N. company to time in making freight and passenger rates between Astoria and the peninsula. The trade of the Washington side is worth striving for.

The army has been suffering from a dearth of surgeons. There are a large number of vacancies in the staff and while several examinations have been held, the number of qualified applicants for the positions who have presented themselves has been so very small that there is no prospect of immediate relief from this condition. Of those who do present themselves, the number who pass the very stiff examination is small. A plan to remedy this con-

dition of affairs has been evolved by Surgeon-General O'Reilly of the army, according to the Army and Navy Register. It is his idea to take graduates and, after examining them as to their general qualifications, admit them to the army medical school in Washington and give them a training in special branches for a year or more, subjecting them to examinations as they progress and at the end of the term select from among them those who are deemed competent to fill the vacancies in the medical corps. Such as do not find a place in the regular establishment would be of use in the national guard organizations, which later will be benefited by having available young men who are specially trained in military medicine and surgery, hygiene and sanitation. In this way the state troops would have at their bidding surgeons who have a practical knowledge of their military as well as professional duties.

Senator Brownell has been elected president of the senate and Representative Harris speaker of the lower house. This is a great victory for Senator Fulton and gives him control of the organization.

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LEAVE	ASTORIA	ARRIVE
7:45 a.m.	For Portland and Way Points	11:30 a.m.
6:10 p.m.	For Portland and Way Points	10:30 p.m.

SEASIDE DIVISION

8:15 a.m.	Astoria for Warrenton	7:40 a.m.
11:35 a.m.	Flavel, Fort Stevens, Hammond and Astoria	4:00 p.m.
6:50 p.m.	Hammond and Astoria	10:45 a.m.
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RAILWAYS IN ENGLAND NOT PAYING BUSINESS.

Cabinet Member Longs for Business and Not Ornamental Members as Are in Vogue at Present.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—The agitation in favor of the railway reform has received great impetus from a speech made by Mr. Hanbury, president of the board of agriculture and a member of the British cabinet, at a conference of farmers at Lelwester, in which he said it was a matter of regret that the British railway companies were not composed more of business and less of ornamental directors, so that the railways might be managed in a more business-like way. British railway dividends for the half year ended December 31 are expected to show up well in comparison with the previous distribution, but taking a wider view of the finance of the railways of this country, every year for the last decade has seen capital increase and dividends decrease. The proportion of working expenses to total gross receipts has systematically increased in the same period, while on the other hand the proportion of net receipts to capital decreased.

Passenger traffic is steadily becoming less profitable and the companies may have to face an enormous capital expenditure in the near future, as the reforms which must accompany any reorganizations of the goods traffic will involve a heavy outlay.

RAZORS AND HATPINS USED AT A DANCE.

Big Soldier Who Wanted to Fight Got Just Exactly What He Was Looking for.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—While a cake walk was going on here Sunday night, says a Herald East Chester, N. Y., dispatch, Thomas Evans, a big artilleryman from Fort Slocum, appeared on the floor flourishing a knife declaring that he could whip any man in the house. Half a dozen dancers made for the soldier; other artillerymen went to his rescue.

The row that followed lasted about 10 minutes and several women became mixed up in it. Evans received a thrust in the stomach with a long hatpin, William Smith, another artilleryman, had his ear nearly cut off and an unidentified man had his hand cut by a razor.

HOWARD GOULD IN EGYPT.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—The arrival of the steam yacht Niagara, owned by Howard Gould, is announced by an Alexandria, Egypt, dispatch to the Herald. The dispatch also states that Mr. and Mrs. Gould have gone to Cairo, whence they will go up the Nile in a private dahabiah.

Dr. T. L. Ball

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