

RATE DISCRIMINATION IS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR PORT'S DECLINE

Specific Instances Given by
George B. McLeod, Chair-
man of Port Commission.

LUMBER MILLS DIAGNOSED

Certain Instances Cited to Show Why
Columbia River Loses While
Puget Sound Gains.

Railroad discrimination is assigned by George B. McLeod, chairman of the Port of Astoria commission, as the main reason why commerce of the ports of Columbia are not increasing. Meanwhile, Puget sound commerce is growing by leaps and bounds because of the diversion of Columbia river freight, inbound and outbound, to Puget sound.

Mr. McLeod read the following report on the subject Wednesday before the first conference of the joint committees of the Portland and Astoria chambers of commerce:

Rail Transportation Discrimination.

This is the great controlling handicap. There is some reason to believe that there is opposition by the transcontinental lines to the river as a water route, and that there is discrimination against the mouth of the river, none against the mouth of the Puget.

The lumber industry is held back because Grays and Willapa harbors ship this commodity to inland Empire common points at 20c per 100 pounds. The rate from Astoria is 22 1/2 cents. Astoria is 45 miles nearer the coast than is Aberdeen. Sash and door rates from Grays Harbor to Spokane is 30c. Astoria to Spokane is \$7.40. Portland people have asked of Astoria people, "Why allow halibut caught off Newport to go all the way to Seattle for shipment? The answer is, distributing rates to interior points exceed those in effect from Puget sound. Therefore, business tributary to Oregon goes to Washington.

Instances Are Cited.

The large steamers do not call even at the mouth of the Columbia river. They would do so unless they could get at least 1000 tons at a call. This quantity of freight cannot be had unless freight rates to the mouth of the river are on a par with Puget sound rates. In other words, the rate to tidewater points on the river should be the same as to tidewater points on the Puget.

The representative of Dowdell & Co., (agents for the Blue Funnel line) said that the vessels would call at the mouth of the river for a thousand tons of freight.

Mr. Wierdama, of the Holland-American, speaking before the war, but in anticipation of a round-trip world service of his line, stated to the same effect.

The Royal Mail Steamship company's representative said, "It is necessary for Astoria to have rates on a par with Puget sound unless this is done the types of fast express freight and passenger vessels, running between this coast and Europe, will be unable to touch any port in Oregon."

Representative of the Holland-American line, concluded in the foregoing statement.

Result to Oregon of a condition that is building up the foreign commerce of Puget sound. A specific instance is cited:

Tacoma Gets Business.

1. An order for box shooks for the Hawaiian Islands in amount 2,000,000 feet, furnished at a cost of \$100,000 less from a Tacoma factory than could be done from the Columbia river because of vessel call.

2. Astoria Box company has recently shipped 21 cars of lumber to Seattle for export.

3. Multnomah Lumber & Box company has shipped 21 cars of lumber to Seattle for export, and has orders for 1,700,000 feet.

4. The Columbia River Packers' association made shipment of canned salmon via Seattle.

5. Telegram August 17, 1915, reports 920,000 grain bags by steamer Northwestern from Hongkong to Portland, imported via Puget sound. Two on same date from Hamburg, via Philadelphia and New York.

6. How much better for Oregon if Oregon's business could be handled via an Oregon port?

Local Mills Handicapped.

The more freight moved via the sound the more entrenched will become the business. Only in exceptional cases does the lumber agent stand a charge of \$5 per thousand to move it to point of embarkation. Mills at sound points have this handicap over river mills on much export business. How long can our river mills stand it? It is to be regretted that the total movement of foreign freight from or to river points via Puget sound cannot be ascertained. This information is not kept either at Portland or Seattle.

Much more might be submitted for consideration—the Alaska trade, why lost—tonnage and value, nature and number of ships engaged in same. Should knock the volume from northwestern Alaska separate from southeastern Alaska. The mouth of the Columbia river is nearer to northwestern Alaska than is Puget sound and is not further away from southeastern Alaska than is Puget sound, but the latter has some advantage to said point because of being able to take the inside passage.

We have compiled some data showing the makeup of the foreign trade from the sound as well as the river, which is of some interest.

What we must have is the interest of some railroad in the Columbia river route. At present we have none. The railroad that should favor it, namely, the P. & N. is apparently not run for its own benefit, but it would seem to be used to hold a location with one of its owners does all the business it can at Tacoma, and the other at Seattle, and each is opposed to giving anything to the other because it then has to divide with the other.

Remedy Is Suggested.

The Union Pacific system works strongly via San Francisco bay and even through Portland to Puget sound. It certainly is not favoring the Co-

INTERESTING SWIMMING EXHIBITION CLOSSES SEASON



One of the exciting events in Peninsula tank yesterday. Wolf and Weston tilting the canoe of Stevens and Douglas.

With Mrs. Constance Meyer, National women diving champion and Louis J. Balbach, National diving champion, in fancy and difficult diving and several hundred boys and girls in various contests, the swimming season of the municipal playgrounds was brought to a close yesterday afternoon with an exhibition held in Peninsula park.

More than 1000 people viewed the events participated in by representatives from the Sellwood, Peninsula and Multnomah swimming tanks. Owing to the many entries only 11 of the 20 events could be held. The events began at 2 o'clock and continued until 5 o'clock. The exhibition was held under the direction of instructors Howard McKay and Mrs. Grace Kaddery.

Winners in Girls' Events.
The junior girls' diving contest was won by Miss Bessie Wilbur. Miss Helen Martin was second and Miss Alice Joy was third. Miss Ruth won in the senior girls' diving contest, with Miss Helen Hicks, second and Miss Dorothy O'Beirne, third.

In the girls' 100 foot swim, Miss Rose Shannon was adjudged the winner with Miss Clara Gauer picked as second and Miss Ruth Buckley as third. The winner's open diving contest, Miss Blanch Fisher was the winner, with Miss Ruth Buckley, second.

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