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The Chronicle is the Only Paper in The Dalles that Receives the Associated Press Dispatches.

OPENING THE COLUMBIA.

This is one of the greatest issues before the people of Oregon. Next to opening the Willamette, the people of this congressional district feel a deep interest in the work at the upper dalles of the Columbia. The reports of the government engineers on that work, when compared from year to year, show that mere contemplation of the obstructions to be overcome seems to magnify them.

In ten years the estimate for improving the rapids with a canal and locks has increased from half a million to three and a-half millions. Between two and three millions has been spent there with no visible result. Indeed, good authorities say the government contractors in summer repair the ravages of the preceding winter's flood. No doubt most of the money is stolen.

What are the people to do? Is the world to stand still until the government or the war department finishes the work? That would take half a century. Are the people to wait until honest officials or contractors can be found? That would be to wait for the millennium. Obviously the people must act. They must send to congress at the next election two congressmen for open rivers. They must act upon the present congress. They must send down petitions to Washington asking for specific relief. Our proper state officials at Washington must demand for the people of Eastern Washington and Oregon prompt and immediate action by congress to secure temporary relief. If the locks or a boat railway cannot be built within ten or twenty years, a portage railway must be built at once.

The people of Oregon have built one portage railway in the past year at The Dalles and can build another if need be. The state of Oregon is showing congress that a portage railway is the most practical solution of the problem, and that with three men at \$300 a month it can handle all the business at present in sight at The Dalles. A conductor at \$100, an engineer at \$100, and a brakeman at \$60, leaving \$40 a month for oil and fuel. The portage is a mile long and in two trips a day handles the freight.

If an appropriation for a temporary portage railway at the thirteen-mile rapids and falls of the Columbia cannot be procured of the present congress the people should know the reason why, here in Oregon. What will it cost? The government reports show that the sum of \$431,500 is the engineer's estimate for a single-track portage railway. Captain Powell's estimate is \$250,000, and the state could undoubtedly build the portage road and equip it for \$300,000, and operate it for \$1000 a month.

The boat railway is undoubtedly the thing most to be desired in the end for the permanent improvement of the Columbia, but it will always be more expensive than a portage railway. The engineer's estimate for the boat railway is \$2,860,000 to build it and \$80,000 a year to operate on half time. To pass forty boats each way in twenty-four hours, will cost \$275,000 a year to operate it.

If congress will not come to the relief of the producers of the great inland empire, what can be done? To secure speedy results we should say make it a political issue in this state and pass a bill through the legislature at its next session for a portage railway. Open the great waterways to the sea, and in one year the enterprise will have more than justified the expenditure.—Salem Journal.

The Grant county News insists that Eastern Oregon is entitled to name the candidate for congress from this congressional district at the coming election. There can be no doubt of the justice and fairness of this claim. Western Oregon has already two senators and a congress man and will have them for years. Eastern Oregon is surely entitled to one representative in four and will undoubtedly get it, if she makes the demand and sticks to it.

reader can study them and draw his own conclusion. "Very handsome xx Australian combing wool has been bought in London at 11 pence, half penny (or 23 cents American money.) The value of washed Ohio fleeces in London is therefore below 22 cents." Were it not for our tariff laws, wool of the grade referred to would sell in Boston, reckoning freight at about 23½ cents per pound. But the duty on this class of wool is 11 cents per pound and the price of xx Ohio combing wool is quoted by Justice Bateman & Co., at 35 to 36 cents, that is the amount of the tariff duty is the difference in the price on the same class of wool in England and America.

The New York Press has made a poll of the entire congress on the silver question and the result shows that no unlimited coinage bill can pass the fifty-second congress over the president's veto. In the house there are 236 democrats, 87 republicans and 8 farmers' alliance. Of the democrats 162 and of the republicans 9 are in favor of free coinage. Eighty-seven democrats are opposed to it and 70 republicans and 54 members of the house are doubtful. In the senate 36 democrats and 18 republicans are in favor of free coinage and 3 democrats and 30 republicans are against it. The total number of senators who will favor free coinage being 54, there is no danger of such a law being enacted at this session, seeing it takes 59 votes in the senate to pass a bill over the president's veto.

The state board of equalization will do a very foolish, not to say illegal thing if it taxes mortgages at their face value while sheep are taxed \$1.60 a head and other property, real and personal, at a similar rate. When will men learn that the laws of Oregon demand that all kinds of property shall be assessed at a uniform rate? Neither the state board nor any other authority has a right to discriminate in rates. Sheep are to be taxed \$1.60 a head while good mutton sheep are worth over \$4.00, and the commonest stock sheep worth nearly double the amount assessed, yet mortgages are to be taxed at their face to please the demagogue cry for the taxation of capital when every dollar of taxes so levied and assessed has to be paid by the debtor classes in the long run.

Governor Penneyer has done a handsome and righteous act in pardoning the Astoria Swede whom Judge Taylor—the same judge who gave Sandy Olds one year for murder—sentenced to three years in the penitentiary for stealing two salmon.

NORTHWEST NEWS.

There is now a fair prospect that all the tin plate which the Columbia river canneries will consume next season may be procured from American works. This country, which has attained such excellence and ingenuity in manufactures of the most varied kind, is fully equal to the task of making its own tin plates.

The Inland Empire must be heard in the congressional halls, says the Long Creek Eagle, and for this reason, both W. R. Ellis and J. H. Raley should be nominated on their respective tickets. Then our interests would be carefully looked after, it matters not which one succeeded in being elected.

A phenomena is observed in an artesian well near Ellensburg. The well spoken of is down about 200 feet, but the water in it is still 160 feet below the surface. The peculiarity consists in the fact that when there is no wind the water is that distance below the curbing; when there is a high wind flowing water pours out of the pipe.

A late explorer in the wonderland of Alaska reports that he found large deposits of ivory near the Yukon river and judges from the immense quantity there that in pre-glacial days ivory-bearing animals fought a great battle at that place when thousands were slain, their tusks and skeletons remaining to this day. The fact that he has about induced a company to send a ship next summer to bring down a cargo of the ivory gives a shadow of truth to an otherwise wild story.

Two nightingales, male and female made a habitation for themselves on the banks of the Willamette river, three miles from Aurora during the summer months. The female nested there, raised her young, and the birds have gone south for the winter months. People in the vicinity say that at night time the songs of the male bird were delightful to listen to. Young men would whistle in answer to the birds and the little creatures would then respond in the most charming vocal strains. It is only a question of a few years when Oregon's forests will ring at night with the nightingale's beautiful music.—Eugene Guard.

The most outrageous swindle that has been perpetrated for some time, was the platting of a piece of land five miles from this place, advertising it as one mile from Hood River, and giving it away to those who were unfortunate enough to purchase a ticket to the theater. The land is worth \$2.50 per acre, but these fellows gave it away, charging only for making the deeds \$2.50. The land would bring at this rate about \$30 per acre. The real estate firm that put it on the market are doubly thieves. One in robbing the public of Portland and the second time in robbing Hood River of its good name. There is an abundance of fine properties here, but Portland people should know that they can only expect to find it by coming here, or writing some reputable person.—Hood River Glacier.

SOCIETIES.


ASSEMBLY NO. 487, K. OF L.—Meets in K. of P. hall the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 P. M.
WASCO LODGE, NO. 15, A. E. & A. M.—Meets first and third Monday of each month at 7 P. M.
DALLES ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER NO. 5.—Meets in Masonic Hall the third Wednesday of each month at 7 P. M.

MODERN WOODMEN OF THE WORLD.—Mt. Hood Camp No. 59, Meets Tuesday evening of each week in the K. of P. Hall, at 7:30 P. M.
COLUMBIA LODGE, NO. 5, I. O. O. F.—Meets every Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock, in K. of P. hall, corner Second and Court streets. Sojourning brothers are welcome.
FRIENDSHIP LODGE, NO. 9, K. of P.—Meets every Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock, in Schoona's building, corner of Court and Second streets. Sojourning members are cordially invited.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION will meet every Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the reading room. All are invited.
TEMPLE LODGE NO. 2, A. O. U. W.—Meets at K. of P. Hall, Corner Second and Court Streets, Thursday evenings at 7:30.
J. A. NESMITH POST, NO. 22, G. A. R.—Meets every Saturday at 7:30 P. M. in the K. of P. Hall.
B. OF L. E.—Meets every Sunday afternoon in the K. of P. Hall.
GEANG VEREIN—Meets every Sunday evening in the K. of P. Hall.
B. OF L. F. DIVISION, No. 157.—Meets in the K. of P. Hall the first and third Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 P. M.

THE CHURCHES.
ST. PETER'S CHURCH—Rev. Father Brons. High Mass every Sunday at 7 A. M. High Mass at 10:30 A. M. Vespers at 7 P. M.
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH—Union Street, opposite Fifth. Rev. E. D. Sutcliffe, Rector. Services every Sunday at 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Sunday School 9:45 A. M. Evening Prayer on Friday at 7:30.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—Rev. O. D. Taylor, Pastor. Morning services every Sabbath at the academy at 11 A. M. Sabbath School immediately after morning services. Prayer meeting Friday evening at Pastor's residence. Union services in the court house at 7 P. M.
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH—Rev. W. C. Curtis, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday School after morning service. Strangers cordially invited. Seats free.
M. E. CHURCH—Rev. A. C. Spencer, pastor. Services every Sunday morning. Sunday School at 12:20 o'clock P. M. A cordial invitation is extended by both pastor and people to all.

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