The Dalles Daily Chroniele.

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OUR ROAD AND CONVICT LABOR LAWS.

The question is being agitated throughout the state by the press on convict labor laws. The subject of discussion is worthy of a good deal of attention and our people ought to wake up to the importance of the matter at once. We say amen to the scheme of putting the conviet labor on all public works and roads within the state. As far as our present road laws are concerned, they are a farce. We have not a single road in the state that is any credit to it save the Tygh valley hill road. In this county, the present system of road repairing and building, as provided for by the laws is a failure, and works out the probblem by only patching mud holes, and making no decided improvement of the highway, labor is brought into requisition which is neither profitable or wise, as the law is, the supervisor is required to order out the laborer from his farm to do road service within his district whenever he sees fit, and what is the result? The laborer fools away the time spinning yarns and performing but little service for the public, and the road gets a lick and a promise to have the same thing over again next year.

In our opinion, there are but two ways by which a remedy of this evil can be had. The first is to pass a law by which an additional levy of tax be put on the assessed valuation within the several road districts of two or three mills annually, an amount which shall be used to build and keep up the roads, and to Third Street opposite the old Liebe Stand. create the office of road commissioner, make it elective, and place the officer under bonds heavy enough to compel him to do his duty. Wasco county took the initiative step a year and a half ago and built the Tygh valley hill road, on this plan and it was a success. The legislature ought to make a general provision for a law covering these points.

Another proposition is to repeal the convict contract clause, which is a stain on our statute books, and put its labor on all public works of the state, and state and leading county roads. The convict labor is the state labor, and no moral right to be expended on other than state or county works. The convicts are a public charge, kept at public expense, and their services in labor should be contributive to the public good, either to public roads or public works. The Dalles and Celilo Portage road could be built with this labor if Jewelry Made to Order. the states finances were short. That is not in the question. The present need in the western part of the state, is better roads, and the convict labor should be used in making them the same applies to Eastern Oregon.

We have no doubt but some will say that our stove industry will get a black eye if the convict labor is taken away. 4 If American labor cannot produce stoves on this coast at remunerative figures where there is an abundance of material and labor, there is something wrong with the manufacturer, and not with labor. The convict labor clause on our statutes ought to be wiped out.

There has been more or less gossip concerning what President Harrison will do after he retires from office March 4th. It is well known that the president will first take a much-needed rest and recover some of his lost energies and recoperate from the severe strain he has been under for a year past. Mr. Harrison will leave the presidency in rather comfortable circumstances; probably worth \$150,000 or \$175,000. This amount invested in any ordinary way will yield him sufficient income, so he need not be disturbed as to the future.

Sheriff Furnish, of Umatilla county. was in Portland vesterday after taking 134 Second St., next to Dalles National to the penitentiary Charles Wilde, sentenced to a year and a half for stealing an overcoat, and W. Rupert, who gets two years for stealing a horse. His S. L. YOUNG, deputy brought him down another brace of worthies. J. H. Anderson, who stole a buggy and team, and William Bloss, who was satisfied with a horse. They were taken to Salem yesterday.

There is a sort of trader who says "! think it better not to advertise until business picks up." When business picks up the same trader invariably says "1 don't need any advertising now." The man who waits for business to pick up always wears out the seat of his pants first. You can tell him when, the wind is whispering around his coa tails and calling him a daisy.

The Berlin correspondent of the London News has learned that the governments of England, Germany and the United States have agreed to a common ion to restore order in Samoa.

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