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WILL PAY FOR ITSELF.

A calculation based upon the shipments of wheat from the Inland Empire the past eight years, tributary to the Columbia river, shows that if the state of Oregon would build the dalles portage railway, the outlay should be returned to the state treasury within that period of time, if not less; at the nominal rate of 25 cents per ton, and the vexed question of an open river would thus be effectually settled without cost forever.

From the best sources obtainable THE CHRONICLE learns that for the period of eight years past, 70,000,000 bushels of wheat alone, in round numbers, have been transported to the seaboard from that portion of the Inland Empire tributary to the Columbia river. This amount, reduced to tons, would furnish annual shipments of this one commodity, aggregating 2,100,000 tons, which would present the sum of over \$525,000 at the price, 25 cents per ton transportation; a sum more than equal to the cost of construction, equipment and operating expenses of the road for the entire eight years.

It is quite probable, however, that the state could be reimbursed for the outlay in much less than eight years, for the simple reason that there would be perhaps double the acreage cultivated, when it was known that shipments were possible. Besides, we have not taken into consideration various other commodities shipped to the seaboard from the Inland Empire, chiefly beef cattle, mutton sheep, fruit, etc.

This is a subject demanding the undivided attention of the press of the whole Inland Empire, irrespective of location or partisan preferences. Heretofore the press of the regions drained by the Columbia above The Dalles, seemingly have regarded the press of this city specially allied to the opening of the cascade locks and canal, but if we could, we would disabuse them of this erroneous idea. THE CHRONICLE has never flagged in its efforts for the full and complete development of an entirely free, open and unrestricted river; from its sources to the sea; and while we may have appeared perhaps more earnest in behalf of the cascade canal, because we considered that the most important feature of all, now that the canal is provided for by contract awarded, we are more deeply concerned with interests farther inland, and would suggest that the press of the upper country look as earnestly to their constituency; that they may guard against any remonstrances to the state appropriation, and see to it that petitions from the people for an appropriation are substituted.

The basis for bidding on the Oregon Pacific railway, steamers, etc., ordered to be resold January 16th, at sheriff's sale are that no bid less than \$1,250,000 for the property will be received by the sheriff. The sum of \$200,000 must be deposited with him before a bid will be received from any party, and if the successful bidder does not pay the entire amount within thirty days, the deposit will be declared forfeited.

The last congress happily passed a law against trusts and combinations which had begun to sap the foundations of the republic, and it remains to be seen if the act will be enforced. Perhaps we may again see a representative of one of the most gigantic trusts in the country in the cabinet of the next president, as there was in Glover Cleveland's administration. Let us hope not.

There is no doubt that Mr. Cleveland intends to institute a system of rigid economy in national expenditures. Of this he has already given proof in his former administration. This will have a salutary influence in a moral way without doubt. What its effect will be on our progress and prosperity we shall see in the fullness of time.

Speaker Crisp has the sympathy of the entire country. Few things are more painful to a public man than to be coaxed and primed for a speech and then not be permitted to unload himself. This is merely a new illustration of the familiar fact that the speaker is a man who is hired to listen to other fellows' speeches.

A peculiar circumstance is reported in the East Oregonian, respecting relationships. Perry Gould remarks that his brother Will may be a distant relative of the great financial monarch, Jay Gould, but he himself claims no relationship.

Jay Gould did not leave a dollar of his stealings to charitable purposes, says a contemporary. Charitable institutions should not "hanker after stealings."

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