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**THE PUBLIC SENTIMENT**  
What the People Have to Say Concerning State Affairs.  
**WANT AN OPEN COLUMBIA RIVER.**  
A Jute Bag Factory Should be Established at the Penitentiary.  
**OPPOSE DIVISION OF COUNTIES.**  
Fees of County Officers Should go to the County--All Offices Should be Salaried.

Following is a list of questions by THE CHRONICLE representative, asked of several leading citizens of the Dalles and Wasco county, replies to which are given below:  
An open river—Opinion. What per cent will it benefit the people?  
Will the Cello Portage road benefit the people at large? Should the state build it? What is your opinion in relation to the state manufacturing jute bags? Will it be a saving to the producers? How do you feel about a division of the county and on salaries of county officers?

Mr. Ed. M. Williams of the firm of A. M. Williams & Co., says of the open river; that the obstruction at Cello should be overcome by the government building a portage road. The Cascade portage had saved the people twenty-five to forty per cent. in freights on produce, stock and merchandise. The state should not build a road for both states. A jute bag manufactory should be established at the penitentiary and operated by convict labor. Cheaper grain bags was what the farmers need, and that was the only way to get them. I am opposed to any more splitting up of counties. Population is too sparse, and there is no call for any more divisions. As for making county officers salaried, I have not thought anything about it.

Messrs. Seufert, large fruit raisers and shippers, were asked what an open river would do for the people, and he said that freight rates would be reduced thirty-three and one third per cent. and the state must take it in hand at once. In regard to grain bags, I believe that the convicts should be employed in a jute mill so as to give the farmer cheaper bags and the state owes it to the people to see that convict labor is used that way instead of contracting it. I am down on dividing the county, like every sensible man ought to be. None but politicians want office. I am down on all commissions, they do no good. If county officers were paid a salary, it would lessen taxes that much, and offices would hunt the men.

Mr. L. E. Crowe, of Mays & Crowe, wholesale stove and hardware dealers, in reply said an open river would be a great thing for all Eastern Oregon. Freight rates were now, through the cascade portage, twenty-five to thirty-three per cent less than they were before the road was built, and the state ought to give the producers the same advantage east of Cello that it did those of the middle Columbia. They cannot get lower freights any other way, and the state should build the road. I am in favor of the state putting up a jute mill at the penitentiary and the convicts labor in making bags for the farms. In am decidedly opposed to putting it up against honest labor in the interest of monopolies. The principle is wrong, the labor belongs to the people. I am decidedly opposed to a division of the county or counties at present and to the fee business. Every county official ought to be paid a salary and the fees, if any, should go to the general county fund.

Mr. Ed. Pease, of Pease & Mays, wholesale dealers, says of the Cello portage: It would be a great thing for all Eastern Oregon, Washington and Idaho. It would give cheap freights to the producers; would largely increase the acreage of gain and volume of business by increasing the power of the producers. I am opposed to the division of counties; the population is too small, with a limited amount of taxable property. It would increase taxes. If I had the power I would make all county offices salaried and all fees should go to the county for the benefit of the general fund.  
Mr. Rufus Wallace of Sherman county in reply said. I am decidedly in favor of the state putting in a jute bag establishment in the penitentiary and using the convict labor for that purpose alone.

I don't believe in the convict contract business. Neither do I believe that there should be any more divisions of counties, there have been too much cutting up already. Yes sir! Make all county officers salaried, turn over all fees to the county general fund. Or abolish it altogether.

Mr. J. O. Mack, in answer to an inquiry, said: "Give us an open river from its source to the sea. It will benefit the people 25 to 50 per cent. in freights, I believe the state ought to build the Cello portage road right away. The government will never do it. I am not in favor of splitting up the county any more, but I am in favor of paying the county officers a salary instead of fees, if they will make the salary sufficient that good men can afford to occupy them."

Mr. H. M. Beall cashier of the First National bank, in reply says, "I am in favor of making the county officers salaried."

Mr. T. A. Hudson, what do you think of these subjects under discussion? "I think the state ought to build the Cello portage road by all means. It would virtually open the river for cheap transportation. We need not look for the government to do it. The producers demand that provisions be made for its construction, so as to move this years harvest. As to the jute works I am not qualified to give an opinion. If the state can manufacture grain bags so as to compete with the open market, it ought to do so. Convict labor only benefits one firm as it is now. The producers have the first right to it. We don't want any more cutting off from our borders, we will be like the dog was when he had his tail cut off just behind his ears, if we have a new county on the west, one on the south, and one on the southeast. No sir; no more counties! Put all county officials on salaries."

Mr. C. J. Crandall, of Crandall & Burget, says he corroborates the sentiment of all the others on the jute bag proposition. "We are opposed to any more slicing off from old Wasco county. Taxes are high enough now. And one other thing, make all the county officers salaried."

Mr. N. Harris, what have you to say? "We should have an open river, and the state should build the Cello road in time to move this year's crop. There is no use in waiting for the government; it would take a century. We want some of the good things as they go along. Yes sir! Another thing that would be next to the portage relief is a jute mill at the penitentiary. This is one of the important things that is necessary for the farming population. It ought to be done, and would put a stop to a curse of convict contracts. No one wants the county divided, but some politicians. I think there would be but few aspirants. I am in favor of the salaries of county officials."

Mr. Hugh Chrisman in reply says: "I think the state should take the manufacturing of jute bags into its own hands, and supply the farmers with grain bags through convict labor, instead of putting it out on contracts. No sir, we don't want any more divisions of the county."

Hon. Geo. A. Liebe, ex-county judge, says: "The portage at the cascades has been worth to the people double what it cost already, and the state should appropriate sufficient funds to build the Cello portage at once, and not raise a question about it. It is of great importance to Eastern Oregon. I believe that the convict labor should be utilized in the manufacture of jute bags in the penitentiary instead of putting it out on contract for the benefit of a monopoly. We do not want any more division of the county and I am fully persuaded that all county officers should be salaried."

Mr. Thos. Joles, of Joles Bros., "The portage at the cascades has been of great benefit to our people, and I see no reason why the Cello portage railroad would not be of just as great advantage to those east of us. Certainly the state should build it this season, so as to move this year's harvest. Yes, a jute mill ought to be put in the penitentiary, and the prison labor be put to making sacks for the farmer. We do not want any more cutting off from this county. It has been cut enough already. I think every one is of the same opinion on salaries."

Mr. Emil Schanno says: "The state should help the people east of us, as it did in the cascade portage on the west. I do not think the state can put \$200,000 in a jute mill. We do not want any more counties, but I think that county officials should be paid a salary, and if any fees accrue, they should go to the county fund."

Mr. A. A. Brown says: "I am in favor of the state building the Cello portage railroad; and am also in favor of a jute mill in the penitentiary operated with prison labor. I am against any division of the county and endorse the salary proposition for county officials."

Mr. Smith French. What have you to say on the Cello portage road? "The portage at Cello will be of incalculable benefit to the people. If the government will not build it, then the state should do it by all means. The state is in duty bound to look out for the interest of its inhabitants. Eastern Oregon's agriculturists demand that the river should be open for cheaper transportation of their products. I think the counties are divided enough already. There is no use in putting other burdens on the people to benefit a few politicians. I believe in paying the county officials a salary. There is no use in making exceptions in their cases. Put the fees into the general county fund."

Mr. Geo. Farley, of the firm of Farley & Frank, in reply said: "That the only thing that would increase the population and wealth of Eastern Oregon, is to give it an open river. Freight rates would be reduced fully forty per cent, just what the farmers need. The state should have built the Cello portage road two years ago. It would pay for itself in two years. I think the jute bag scheme a good thing, if the state can afford to use the money at this particular time. The farmers should have cheaper sacks. We don't want any more division of counties, I don't believe it is for the best interest of the majority of the people to divide the county again. And further, the county officers ought to be paid a salary, and stop the fee business as compensation. It should have been done long ago."

Mr. H. Glenn, contractor. "I endorse everything said on the jute bag question. The farmers want cheap grain bags. I am in favor of the state putting machinery into the penitentiary, and putting the convicts at work making sacks. The people will get some good out of the prison then. I am opposed to dividing the county any more. I do not think county officials should ever had anything but salaries. The fee system is wrong."

Mr. Henry Maier, of Maier & Benton says: "A portage railroad at Cello is necessary in order that the people of the eastern sections can have cheap freights. They will get them no other way. County division should be withheld for the present. The country is too sparsely populated, and assessable property is too limited to warrant division. My opinion is that all offices should be salaried."

Col. N. B. Sinnott: Don't believe in the new county coming within seven miles of this city. They are now only twenty miles from The Dalles. They can leave Hood River for here after taking dinner at Hood River and return for supper.

O. Kinslerly, of Snipes & Kinslerly, says: "If the portage at the cascades has helped fifty to seventy-five miles of country 30 to 50 per cent. in reduction of freights, certainly a portage at Cello would help all Eastern Oregon. The state ought to use the convict labor in the manufacture of jute bags for the farmers. Those who want division of the county will be the sufferers. We don't want any of it. County officers should be salaried."

Mr. Max Vogt, capitalist: "I have but one opinion, and that is the state, to do its duty, should build the portage railway around the dalles and Cello obstruction in time to move this season's harvest. It would be an important factor in the increase of population and wealth in the eastern part of Oregon. I think the state will lose sight of one very important help to the producers if it does not convert the convict labor to the manufacture of jute bags, that they can have cheaper sacks for their grain. I do not think it advisable to create one or two new counties out of Wasco county. It will increase taxation and give

Continued on Second Page.

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