

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

Entered at the Postoffice at The Dalles, Oregon as second-class matter.

THE DALLES OREGON

THE CONGO RAILROAD.

Native Africans Have at Last Consented to Help Build It.

Maj. Thys, who is in charge of building the Congo railroad, sent a letter home to Brussels, a short time ago, that excited much surprise. He said that the Congo natives themselves had at last begun to show much interest in the iron highway that is building through their villages, and many of them are now employed in the work.

During the two years since the building of the road began the enterprise has not been able until now to command the services of the Congo natives. They were glad to engage in the carrier service, but drew the line at digging on the railroad. The company was compelled to import all its railroad labor from Za-zibar and ports along the Gulf of Guinea, and this was both inconvenient and expensive.



CONGO TRACK LAYERS.

Early this year quite a large party of Chinese laborers were taken to the Congo and put to work on the railroad. Only the Congo natives now working for wages on the road, but Maj. Thys writes, many of them who are not in the service daily visit the scene of track laying and work for hours, apparently for the fun of it.

Our picture is taken from a photograph sent to Europe by Capt. Weyns, showing a number of these natives engaged in laying track. They are in charge of a white superintendent, Maj. Thys says they are as easily taught how to do good work on a railroad as any black men he has ever had in his service. They have not grown weary of their new work, and the prospects are that the Congo railroad labor problem is solved. If this experiment succeeds, the company will have overcome one of its greatest difficulties. The railroad is now approaching the more populous districts of the lower Congo, and the company hopes to draw its working force from these villages instead of importing labor from the Guinea coast. Things have evidently moved on the Congo since Stanley labored, in vain, to induce these same natives to help him carry his first loads of supplies up the river, when he was on his way to the Stanley Pool to found his first station.

NOVELTIES OF THE HOUR.

BRIDGET PENDERGAST, after a sleep of two years' duration, recently shook off her drowsiness, in the Central hospital at Indianapolis.

The jaw of a woman became paralyzed while she was talking through a telephone at Dover, Del., the other day. An attempt to force open her jaw resulted in its fracture.

A HARTFORD barber has a piano in his back room, for the entertainment of his patrons while they await their turns in the operating chairs. Since this innovation his patronage has fallen off. He can't understand it.

A BLIND pugilist in Portsmouth, O., named Adam Eck, is desirous of matching himself in a contest with any other blind pugilist in the state. Every blind man in the country would willingly pay fifty dollars to be able to see the fight.

To INDEBT people of small means to empty their financial stockings, Detroit has issued bonds in as small denominations as twenty-five dollars. These are being taken up rapidly, and thus the hoarded dollars are returning to the usual channels of trade.

WHILE boring a well near Turner, Ore., recently, a fir tree is claimed to have been struck at a distance of thirty-four feet under ground. The tree, it is said, measured two feet through, and the heart was sound. Twenty-four feet further down, it is stated, more vegetable matter was struck.

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T. T. NICHOLAS, Propr.

The Land of The Setting Sun



Is still a mysterious and unexplored country to many a resident of the cyclone-ridden East and the barren Rocky-mountain region, but who, though possessed of a desire to see the great Empire of the Pacific, has up till now failed to muster the necessary energy to make the trip. It seems to them like a great journey, that along the way still linger the pitfalls and dangers of border days. But this Empire has made gigantic strides since 1849. It is not now alone the land of gold and glorious sunsets, but a stretch of country given to-morrow fruitfulness, comprising all products from the luscious fig and orange of the tropics to the mammoth red apples of colder climes

Wasco County, Oregon.

There is still thousands of acres of Government land left in Wasco county, capable of raising apples, peaches, grapes, prunes, and small fruits. Three hundred dollars clear money has been made from an acre of prunes, and \$1,000 an acre from the humble strawberry. It will pay those who imagine that Uncle Sam's domain is exhausted, to make a trip to the "golden west" and see for themselves all that is to be known. There is no excuse for putting off this trip till a later time. An attraction is presented which of itself will pay for the trip. This is the

California Midwinter Fair.

After taking the Sunset City, visit Wasco County. Indian Summer is still in her glory, the thermometer still ranges in the 50's up till this writing, January 2d, and our citizens will endeavor to make you stay pleasant and profitable.

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