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Address all communication to "THE CHRONICLE," The Dalles, Oregon.

TUESDAY, - - JANUARY 28, 1896

#### A STATEMENT OF FACT.

At a recent meeting of the county court a lease was entered into between the county and the Hood River Lumber Co., declaring Hood river a public highway and providing that should the company build a dam and boom at the mouth of the river, it should have the privilege of floating timber, cordwood, etc., down the stream, subject to certain restrictions contained in the lease. This action of the court has caused some comment in Hood River, as the following from the Glacier of January 24th shows:

We are informed by Captain Blowers, one of the commissioners, that no franchise was given to this company while he was present and acting with the commissioners' court; that nothing further was done in the matter except declaring the river a public highway. But since his return home the county judge has communicated with him over the telephone in regard to granting this company the privileges asked for. Captain Blowers advised against granting the lease. It has since been learned by some of our citizens who have visited The Dalles that the company secured the lease of the river and have five years in which to make the improvements. Among the items of toll it was learned that the company will be allowed to charge thirty-five cents a cord for cordwood. The lease was granted, it is said, by the county judge and county clerk. These reports have created great excitement among our citizens, and the alleged action of the county court is universally condemned.

It is not the wish of THE CHRONICLE to enter into any controversy with the Glacier, or with any people of Hood River, but the article quoted does the county court such injustice that in the interests of fairness the facts in the case are given to the public.

The request of the Hood River Lumber Co. was made in open court, and by that body carefully considered before any action was taken. It was shown that about twelve miles from the mouth of Hood river lay a body of fine timber, wholly inaccessible unless the river could be improved to such an extent that the timber could be floated. The company offered, if the court would grant them the exclusive privilege of transporting the timber, to build a dam and boom and make it possible for the timber to be brought to market. A lease was drawn up, legal representatives of both sides being present, which provided that the company should complete one-fifth of the work the first year, one-fifth the second, and so on till the entire twelve miles were done. Until the twelve miles were completed the company could not charge any toll for the floating of shingle bolts, cordwood and posts. Furthermore, the company is compelled to receive shipments at any time or accessible place. Besides these provisions the lease fixes the rates at which compensation shall be charged for the bringing of timber to market.

It is probable that the Glacier has incorrectly quoted Mr. Blowers, since that worthy gentleman would hardly declare that he had advised against the granting of the lease, when the fact is that his opinion was freely asked and the giving of his approval of the matter was conclusive to the remaining members of the court that the proposal would be

satisfactory to the people of Hood River. Mr. Blowers was present when the granting of the franchise was decided upon, as the entry in the commissioners journal will show, and that his consent and approval of the proposal was obtained is evidenced by the following affidavit:

STATE OF OREGON, ss.

I, A. Winans and I, L. Winans, being each duly sworn, say that these affiants presented the application for the lease of certain portions of Hood River as a public highway; that the said affiants representing in said matter the Hood River Lumbering Company, a corporation; that said court was composed of Hon. Geo. C. Blakeley, judge, and Hons. A. S. Blowers and James Darnielle, commissioners, and all the members of the court were present at the time said application was made, and the matter was fully discussed by the members of said court, as well as by these affiants; that Judge Blakeley and Commissioner Darnielle particularly consulted Capt. Blowers with reference to the wishes of the people living along Hood river and the vicinity, and particularly referred to him for their information before acting; that Capt. Blowers in our presence at said time, and in the presence of the other members of said court, expressed himself personally as in favor of the proposition and stated that it was something greatly needed by the people of that section and would meet with the universal approval of the people there; that a draft was made and presented to the court of the lease desired by said company and an order made directing that the county judge and clerk execute the lease on the part of the court, and Capt. Blowers acted in all such matters with the other members of said court; that the draft presented by these affiants of the lease proposed to be taken by them for said company, was inspected by Capt. Blowers fully and approved by him in all respects, with one exception only; that exception being with respect to the price for driving and booming cordwood, and the price was changed according to Capt. Blowers' suggestions. And I further swear that during all the time said matter was being considered by said county court that said Capt. Blowers appeared to be the most enthusiastic member of the court and greatly in favor of entering into said lease with said company.

A. WINANS,  
L. WINANS,  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of January, 1896.

B. S. HUNTINGTON,  
Notary Public for Oregon.

The Glacier probably knows, or if it doesn't it should know, that the county judge and clerk can give no valid lease of this kind without being ordered so to do by the court, and if they did sign what purported to be such an instrument, its invalidity would be so apparent as to cause no one any inconvenience. THE CHRONICLE has no interest whatever in the matter. The issue is purely local and the people of Hood River would rather settle their local matters without outside suggestion, and we are willing they should. Whether or not the rates allowed the company to charge are excessive we do not know; but if they are they can be regulated by future action of the court. All this paper wishes to do is to show the facts in the case and to make plain that whatever was done in the matter, was done with the full concurrence of all the members of the county court. The county judge has no more to do with it than the commissioners, and the county clerk, instead of being a party to the making of the lease, acted only as an attesting officer, setting his seal, as it is necessary for him to do upon all documents of this sort.

#### Lost.

A Gordon Setter pup. A reward is offered by C. E. Dawson, at Pease & Mays, for its return. daw-j28-3t

#### Wanted.

A girl to do kitchen work. Must be one living in town. Apply to Mrs. A. J. Tolmie.

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