

**The Dalles Daily Chronicle.**

The only Republican Daily Newspaper on Wasco County.

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MONDAY - - FEBRUARY 7, 1898

NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME.

Every city in the state, of any importance, is making preparations for growth and advancement during the year 1898. Some are making a greater endeavor than others, and it is but fair to presume that the results obtained will be in proportion. La Grande is glorying in its coming beet sugar mill; Pendleton looks for a still larger business for its already prosperous woolen and scouring mill; Baker City is providing for greater development of the mining interests adjacent, while Astoria expects the completion of the railroad to bring grain elevators and all the appurtenances connected with a large shipping port.

Compared to these places what is The Dalles doing? True we have one of the finest set of club rooms to be found in the state, and are building a public school which would be envied by any of the cities named. Improvements are continually going on in our business and residence districts; but, however gratifying they are, their influence is but local. The time has come when The Dalles must reach out to increase her trade in certain directions and to hold what she already has in others. For thirty years this city has enjoyed the exclusive business of a large section of country, now threatened by the building of railroads, which will divert the golden treasure which has heretofore been ours.

A few years may make a great difference in the commercial importance of The Dalles. We have made many mistakes in the past, but cannot afford to make one now. It is, we believe, a necessity that some steps be taken in the direction of building a railroad which will counteract the influence of the Columbia Southern and Oregon Pacific, should the latter be extended.

Six or seven years ago the people of this section were suffering from the exorbitant charges of the railroad company. All prayers for relief were unheeded, till, forced at last to help themselves, the business men of this city reached into their pockets and raised the money for the establishment of the D. P. & A. N. Co., running boats from here to Portland. At that time the venture was considered a hazardous one, but by the working together of common interests the D. P. & A. N. Co. was made to bring about the desired relief; and not only that, but it has proven a success for the stockholders, till now it is one of the most prosperous transportation companies on the coast. What was done on water can be repeated on land, and there is little doubt that a railroad reaching from here to Sherman county and connecting with the Columbia Southern, would be a paying venture, as well as the means for making the future of The Dalles secure.

At least the subject is one which will bear investigation, and we trust our public-spirited business men will not allow the opportunity to pass.

The Panama canal is again before the public, notwithstanding the repeated assertion of its absolute failure. Of the fifty-four miles from Colon to the Atlantic to Panama on the Pacific, only fourteen miles have been finished. The work has been going on now since 1882, and up to 1889 there were continually at work no less than 10,000 laborers. Then the work was mostly discontinued, and today about \$100,000,000 worth

of machinery lies rusting in sheds, canals and ditches. It is now asserted that with the machinery on hand the remaining work can be accomplished in eight or nine years for \$150,000,000. An American party of thirteen contractors and engineers, representing some American capitalists, is inspecting this canal. The Panama officials are offering them every facility to see the works, and the newspapers are telling them the superiority of the Panama route to the Nicaraguan one.

The relief expedition to Dawson City may be unnecessary, but if it calls to the government's attention the need of stationing troops in Alaska, it will have served its purpose. With the coming together of such lawless elements as are to be found in Skagway, as in all towns of quick growth, the civil authorities will be unable to preserve order, and until the conditions of the country are brought to a more stable basis, the presence of government troops are necessary.

**Your Last Chance.**

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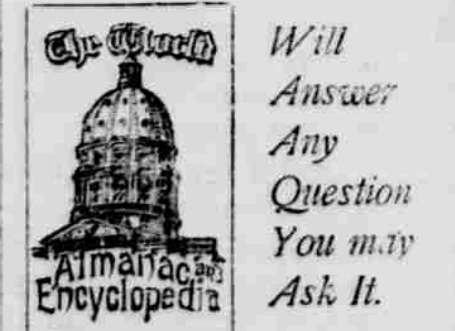
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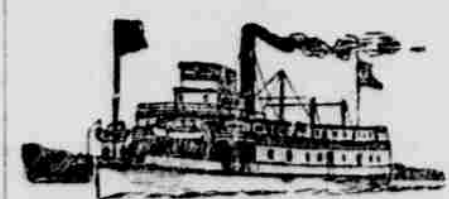


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