MISSING THE VITAL POINT.

House and senate at Olympia have passed the memorial urging congress to appropriate $20,000 for the improvement of the Snake river between Astoria and the mouth of the Grand Ronde river. This stretch of water is above Lewiston, and the proposed improvement is of local character, having little or no bearing on the problem of securing an outlet to the sea.

The key to an open river is the construction of a portage road around the obstructions in the Columbia at Celilo, and the improvement of the lower Snake river. When these improvements are made, part interest on the Oregon interstate welle Empire will have an open river to the sea. The government has built a bank road and cleaned out the lower Snake, say individual or company will be free to put most of its ships or steamers on these rivers; and these steamers can gather grain, fruit, ore, and other products in the Lewiston, Palouse and Walla Walla counties, transport them to Celilo, load them there over the portage road, steamers waiting below, and send them on down the river to Portland, Vancouver, Salmon or Astoria, where also will be waiting for them.

This is the plan mapped out in 1893 by an original board of United States engineers. "When the lower Snake is made navigable," says this report, "we will add $300 a mile to the annual government revenues for the improvement of Celilo and The Dalles." It is monstrous that congress has gone on ignoring the recommendations of this board, while it has continued the wasteful policy of spending millions of dollars for improving trifling rivers of the east and the south. An example of this folly was brought to our attention in the congressional debate, when Mr. Heilpern of Indiana stood up to protest against the large sums the government was expending $1,000,000 on the Moscow river in Ohio. A third of this sum would have given us an open river to the sea, even the engineer himself estimated the cost of the portage road at only $400,000, and not a great sum would be required to improve the lower Snake.

If the government is not going to improve and open such streams as the Columbia and Snake, two of the great rivers of the continent, it ought to go out of the business of spending money on rivers and harbors. - SPOKANE CHRONICLE.

One of the strong men of the south west in every sense of the word was the late Augustus H. Garfield. He filled many posts of responsibility, and was called to none in which he did not acquit himself well. In the course of a long public career he was governor of Arkansas, senator from the same state, and attorney general in the cabinet of Mr. Lincoln.

Professionally he took advanced rank and was reading a man in the highest court in the land when the end came. Nearly his whole life was passed in Arkansas. He will go into the history of the state as a natural leader and a public man of exceptional ability.

We say to Countrymen.

The woman who is lively in face, form and actions will always have friends, but one who would situate herself where she could not be noticed would keep her friends. If a man walks, sits and all down she will be no better and no worse. If he has companions in literary tastes, her image will have many points, while if she is a woman of refined tastes she will have no companion. Dama's villain is the best satisfied in the world when he can make his friend introduce a new variety to the public and generally the public. It is no labor to bring new ideas to the country in every line. How is this brought up? By the sale of newspapers, cheap publications, such as the small paper. It will make a good looking, charming and easy of a man, woman or child. Only $3 a year at Stroh's & Co. drug store.