

# WILLAMETTE FARMER.

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**NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.**  
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**Farmers' State Convention.**

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.

[We resume the publication of proceedings at the point where they ended last week.]

Mr. Smith of Linn offered the following:

*Resolved,* That, whenever practicable, it is the imperative duty of the farmers of the Willamette valley to patronize, and in every way to encourage the Willamette Transportation Company.

Mr. Minto moved an amendment to strike out, and make the resolution apply to all competing companies. This amendment was lost.

Mr. Smith showed that since the opening of the locks and the placing of competing boats on the river, freights from his point were reduced from 18 cents per bushel, to 9 cents per bushel, while inland from the river in Linn county, the freights by railroad remained at 16 cents per bushel.

Mr. Minto offered the following as a substitute for the resolution:

*Resolved,* That this convention congratulate the people of Oregon upon the opening of the upper Willamette river to free competition in the transportation business of the Willamette and Lower Columbia rivers by construction of the locks at the falls of the Willamette.

The motion to adopt the substitute was lost by a clear vote, the original resolution was adopted by similar vote, and then Mr. Minto renewed his resolution as an independent one and it was unanimously adopted.

By request, Mr. Curry explained the objects of the League in Yamhill county, to which he belongs.

Resolutions were offered by C. E. Moor and A. J. Pitman, thanking the river transportation companies for accommodations shown to the members of the convention. The resolutions were adopted.

A resolution offered by J. H. Smith of Linn county, expressing the gratitude of the convention to those newspapers who have published communications and notices in aid of the farmers movement, was adopted.

A resolution was adopted warmly thanking the Hon. S. F. Chadwick, Secretary of State, for the use of the Representative Hall, and the many other courtesies extended to the convention.

On motion, Mr. J. H. Burkhart was appointed Assistant Secretary for the Convention.

Mr. T. P. Powers of Astoria, on motion of Mr. Minto, proceeded to address the convention on the inducements that will be extended by citizens there for erection of grain warehouses at the mouth of the river.

Governor Grover, on invitation from the convention, made a statement of the contract existing between the State and the owners of the tugboat at the mouth of the Columbia river.

Mr. Daniel Clark offered the following:

*Resolved,* That it is the interest of the farmers of Oregon to render material aid to the WILLAMETTE FARMER.

Mr. Clark proceeded to explain

that the WILLAMETTE FARMER was originally started and supported by aid of the Agricultural Society, and that aid being now withdrawn, it was entirely dependent on popular support.

Mr. Galloway made a handsome acknowledgement of the services the FARMER has rendered in advocating cheap transportation, and hoped all the delegates would recognize the value of the paper, and give it their support.

The resolution was adopted. Hon. S. F. Chadwick was invited to address the Convention, and responded in a few appropriate remarks bearing testimony to the importance of the agricultural interests, and expressing great personal interest in the objects of the convention.

Gov. Grover was invited by the Convention, and addressed it on the questions that had been discussed at the present session. The union of the farmers for self protection was necessary and proper. They had never before had to organize, because they had never before been so hampered as now. The grasping power of capital claims more than a fair remuneration, it takes all it can and the people of the Mississippi valley are doing what we are doing here to-day. We have a great area of wheat growing lands, greater than any other State, lying near the sea. We must keep our avenues for transportation free and open to competition, which means low freights. Liberal appropriations should be made for the improvement of Oregon rivers and harbors.

Hon. Geo. R. Helm was called out and addressed the convention.—Thought perhaps something was spoiled when he quit the farm where he was raised and attempted to become a lawyer. Business was well attended to, when men attended to it themselves, this was a case where the farmers were looking after their own business and the effort must result in good, and had his best wishes He had predicted once in these walls, as a member of the Legislature, that the people would have to rise to protect their own interests. The canal and locks were a success. The farmers can ship their grain to whatever point that pays them best, and can now dictate terms to monopolists.—His remarks were received with applause.

Mr. Minto offered the following:  
WHEREAS, It appears that under the present law providing for a tugboat on the bar of the Columbia river, there is no means of enforcing a fulfillment of the contract between the owners of the tugboat and the State, and

WHEREAS, This convention have reason to believe that ships seeking to enter our chief sea port, are subjected to injurious delays by the insufficient management of the tugboat subsidized by the State, therefore

*Resolved,* That we invite the attention of our fellow citizens to the necessity of proceeding by law, for the maintenance of a more competent tugboat on the bar of the Columbia river.

The resolution was adopted. Convention adjourned to 1 p. m.

**AFTERNOON SESSION.**

A lengthy communication from Hon. W. H. Odell was read by the Secretary.

Mr. Davidson advocated the for-

mation of a State Board, and moved for the appointment of a committee of three looking to that object.

Mr. Hartless said the committee on Constitution would speedily report on that subject.

Mr. Minto hoped the motion would not be put, out of respect for the sitting committee.

Mr. Davidson withdrew the motion.

On motion of Mr. Moor, S. A. Clarke, editor of the WILLAMETTE FARMER, was invited to address the Convention, with which request he then complied.

Mr. Davenport, from the committee on Constitution, made their report as follows:

Your committee would respectfully beg leave to report that we are unable to agree upon an organization, and recommend that the present organization of the convention be continued after adjournment to a definite time, and that there be appointed the following committees, viz:

One on Constitution, to report at the next meeting of this convention.

One upon commerce, foreign freights, markets, wharfage, &c.

One upon internal transportation, freights, &c.

One upon domestic manufactures. Which committees are requested to gather accurate and useful information with regard to costs and conditions connected with the subjects committed to them for investigation, and that they report by the Secretary, through the WILLAMETTE FARMER, as soon as possible.

A draft for a constitution, which had been prepared by Mr. Ruble and had been before the committee, was then read.

On a motion to take up the plan of Mr. Ruble, debate was participated in by Messrs. Minto, Galloway, and others.

Mr. Minto moved to adopt the majority report, and elect the committees that are provided for in it.

Mr. Hartless explained that the committee were unanimous in their conclusion, as they did not believe the farmers were yet prepared to decide fully on what course should be pursued.

Messrs. Davenport and Ruble spoke in explanation of the acts of the committee, and the propositions before the convention.

The resolution of Mr. Minto was adopted by the convention.

The committee were elected as follows:

*Committee on Constitution*—T. W. Davenport, Jesse Stump, G. B. Curry, Wm. Ruble.

*Committee on Commerce*—T. P. Powers, Jos. Watt, John Minto, E. Hartless, J. H. Baber.

*Internal Transportation*—J. H. Smith, Daniel Clark, P. Low, W. C. Brown, H. Hewitt.

*Domestic Manufactures*—G. F. Crawford, John Kelley, Geo. B. Curry, James Finlayson, C. E. Moor, Ira Townsend.

Motion of Mr. Davidson, that convention adjourn to meet at next State Fair was amended to read the second Tuesday in June next, in this Hall, and passed as amended.

Mr. Joseph Watt read the constitution and by-laws of a proposed Ocean Transportation Company, and made some remarks on that subject.

On motion of Mr. Curry the following was adopted unanimously.

*Resolved,* That this convention recommend that the farmers of each precinct in the State of Oregon organize into clubs and send the names

of the officers to the Secretary of this Convention immediately after their organization, and that each precinct organization not represented in this convention be entitled to one delegate at the next meeting of this Convention.

On motion of Mr. Smith of Linn, the chair appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. J. H. Smith, T. W. Davenport, and Thos. Edwards, to prepare an address to the farmers of Oregon, urging upon them the necessity to organize clubs, and join the farmers' movement.

On motion of Mr. Curry, a resolution was adopted inviting the mechanics of our State to co-operate to secure the redress of our mutual grievances.

On motion of Mr. J. H. Smith, it was

*Resolved,* That the thanks of this Convention be returned to the officers thereof, for the able manner in which they have discharged their several duties.

On motion, the Convention adjourned until Tuesday, June 10, at 1 o'clock, p. m.

**The Modoc War.**

**The Troops Move on the Lava Beds!**

**Desperate Fighting.**

**The Modocs in a Tight Place!**

Major-General Commanding, San Francisco, April 15.—The following dispatch received:

Headquarters, Camp South, } Tule Lake, April 14. }

Lieutenant Sherwood, of the Twenty-first Infantry, died at 1 o'clock to-day of wounds received on the 11th, while receiving a flag of truce from the Indians.

Seventy-two Warm Springs Indians under Donald McKay arrived at camp east of the Modoc position last night.

The army will close on the Indians' position to-morrow and endeavor to cut off all escape. No effort will be spared to make the punishment of the Indians severe. If possible no Indian shall boast that he or his ancestors murdered General Canby.

ALVAN C. GILLEM.

Yreka, April 15.—The regular courier arrived from Headquarters at 5 o'clock this afternoon, having left there at 10 a. m. yesterday, and up to that time there had been no fighting, except a slight skirmish on Colonel Mason's picket line on the 12th, resulting in one dead Indian and the capture of ten ponies. The Warm Spring scouts arrived on the 13th and would be armed yesterday, and beyond a doubt the troops moved into the lava bed last night or to-day.

Mr. Dyar, the Commissioner who was unhurt, telegraphed to Washington for instructions, saying that it is useless to try longer for peace with those Indians. There is no doubt but the Modocs expected to get Gillem and Colonel Mason. General Gillem expected to have been present at the council, but on the morning of the massacre he was too indisposed to leave his tent. It is now stated that both Generals Canby, Gillem and the Commissioners talked about Riddle's warning, and came to the conclusion that it was only a ruse of Riddle's to delay negotiations. They had not the utmost confidence in Riddle's veracity, but on this occasion it seems he was right in his supposition.

The weather is delightful.

The surgeons report Mr. Meacham's wounds to be a gunshot wound of the right fore-arm, a gunshot wound of the left index finger, also one of the forehead and nose, and a wound of the scalp six inches in length caused by an attempt to scalp him.

Yreka, April 16.—The Union has the following:

Lava beds, April 15.—The day opened warm and still, but was ushered in by the roar of musketry and occasional booming of howitzers

from Col. Mason's camp on Hospital Rock, on the north side of Captain Jack's position, and directly under that famous stronghold.

Gen. Gillem, who had awaited the arrival of stores and of the Warm Springs Indians, ordered yesterday tents to be struck and drawn in a compact place near the hospital; for the troops to be supplied with three days' rations and one hundred rounds of ammunition; for the cavalry to move at 2 a. m. to-day, and for Col. Mason, on the opposite side of the lava bed to move at the same hour on the enemy.

Colonel Perry and Lieutenant Carson of the Cavalry were to move to a point beyond the main cave and conceal themselves until joined in the morning by the infantry and artillery.

Just at daylight we heard an irregular fusillade on the opposite side of the lava bed, and knew that Colonel Mason's skirmishers were engaged.

At six o'clock we heard the booming of howitzers, and saw shells bursting over Captain Jack's camp. At this time the rocks were swarming with Indians and the firing was rapid.

Captain Miller of Company E 21st Infantry, commanded the battalion, his company being commanded by Lieutenant Leary. Miller had the extreme right, next to Captain Throckmorton's Battery M, Fourth Artillery; Lieutenant Harris, Battery K, Fourth Artillery, and Captain Egan's Company G, Capt. Wright's Company E (both of the Twelfth Infantry) in the center, and the cavalry on the extreme left.

The plan of the battle was—From the east side, Col. Mason was to advance his command on the right; the Warm Springs Indians on his left up along the ledge, to unite with the right of the troops from this side, leaving only the lake open for the Modocs to occupy.

Lieut. Green was in camp in charge of the arms and ammunition. Captain Trimble, First Artillery, with twenty men, was left in charge of the camp on this side.

While marching along the lake shore, just at the head of the long cave, and one and a half miles from Jack's camp, we encountered the first opposition—straggling shots at long range. The men deployed in open skirmish order and advanced slowly, under such cover as the rocks afforded. To our right a gorge opened in the bluff from the right bank, from which came straggling shots, while a few fell around us from the left point. Our skirmishers crept up on them, supported by the reserves, until we arrived within short range, when a severe volley was fired from the bluffs, there evidently being 25 or 30 Indians posted there. The fire was heavy and galling, and after standing it fifteen minutes the order to charge was given, and the men sprang forward, amid the most deafening yells from the Modocs.

Such was the rapidity of the onslaught and so unexpected, that the troops were on them before they knew it, and in a few minutes we were masters of the situation, and the men took position behind the rocks and rested at leisure.

It is now six p. m., and the mortars are being moved forward, as our men are ready to scale the heights. Col. Mason's line has not been broken, and by to-morrow we will join with the Warm Spring Indians, and have the red devils encircled, with but the lake for them to escape by.

The men were provided with overcoats, blankets, and three days' rations and 100 rounds of ammunition each. The howitzers had the range of Jack's stronghold, and the shells were thought to have a very demoralizing effect on the Modocs. When night closed yesterday's fighting, our troops held the ground to within 300 yards of the enemy's strongest position, and fighting was to be resumed at 7 this morning.

It is asserted that had it not been for the acquisition of the Warm Springs Indians, the soldiers would have got the worst of it yesterday.

Mr. Meacham is improving, and comfortable. His wife arrived from Salem, Oregon, last night, and departed this morning to join him.

See later news on Fourth Page.