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LETTER FROM OCHOCHO.

PHRENVILLE, Feb. 10, 1874. MR. EDITOR.—Hoping a few items from this out of the way locality may interest your readers, I will use some of my leisure evenings to send them to you. The first thing that occurs to my mind relates to the way of getting here. One starting from Salem for Ochocho would naturally choose the Lebanon route, judging from the magnificent subsidy granted the company by Congress, and the \$3.00 per wagon toll punctually collected at the gates, and would dream of broad smooth and easy grades, safe bridges, well trunked through swamps, and well cleaned through brush and timber.

But these dreams fade and become ridiculous. Once through the gate one begins to turn and wind around trees and points, things being much as when the red man owned it. Moss Butte is reached—no small mountain—Isolated so that the road could pass either side of it. Over it goes and down it goes, and up and down again until it requires an extra turn of the temper screw to enable the best natured man to stand it without boiling over occasionally. Not only is the road up and down mountains but it is through rushing torrents, among boulders half as large as the wagon wheels. To climb the main mountain, he has to divert himself of all loose plunder, carrying from 900 to 1,200 pounds, which is a large load for a good span of horses. This little hill is seven miles long, I had almost said seven miles high.

The grades are so narrow and turn out so few that even a single horseman cannot pass a team, and when two teams meet the only alternative is to cut timber and make a staging over the precipice. This would be well enough if men had no rights in the matter. But the company was amply paid to build a good road, and was by law required to make it so. There is only one good bridge on the whole route. Down the mountain to Fish Lake, six miles, the logs and brush have been cut out, so it is better for work being done—and not much. The two mile Lava Bed around Fish Lake is as rough as that made classic by Capt. Jack, and is the scene of the grandest old crater in all this range of mountains, solidified, it would seem, when the molten mass was in one of its most active moments of evolution, into sharp, angular ridges, holes, pits and yawning chasms.

ceeded in establishing a school here for the young aborigines, and is very fortunate in having secured the services of Mr. E. W. Hammond as teacher, late of the Willamette University, who has, in our opinion, peculiar adaptation for his arduous duties, the Indian boys and girls appear to learn very fast, and as they are well provided for in clothing and food seem to be contented and happy.

Early in the winter we organized a debating club here, and have investigated and "settled" many of the vexed questions which are agitating the public mind elsewhere, and expect to continue our labors in this direction for some time yet, and the chances are that we will settle most of the great questions of the day, before Spring. I have only had the pleasure of seeing one or two copies of the STATESMAN since you took charge the last time, and I like the tone of it and think it vastly improved.

I believe this is about all of my items at this time, hence, I will stop. Wishing you abundant success, I am very respectfully yours, W. S. MOORE.

LANE COUNTY CALL.

To the Taxpayers and Laboring Men of All Classes of Lane County.

WHEREAS, In view of the fact that the best interests of laboring men of all classes have hitherto been subverted and wantonly neglected by would-be friends and midnight schemers of political parties, and that burdensome taxes have been levied and unjust legislation had, which has invariably worked a hardship on laboring men everywhere; therefore, be it

Resolved, That, as laboring men, we will come out and make a bold stand against such unjust oppression and assert our rights as freemen, irrespective of old parties and prejudices, and will ever be found battling for just and impartial laws, and will, to the bitter end, oppose any and all efforts by designing tricksters and dishonest politicians from riding into office by this bartering and selling game, thereby trampling under foot the will of the people.

Resolved, That we have the moral courage to cut ourselves loose from party, and earnestly contend for the rights of laboring men of all classes; that we will

SUPPORT NONE BUT HONEST MEN

for office, and that we will hereafter oppose any and all chronic and constitutional office-seekers. Therefore, as laboring men, we call upon the taxpayers of Lane county, irrespective of party or occupation (who advocate the principles herein enunciated), to meet at their respective places of holding elections, Saturday, the 21st day of March, 1874, at 1 o'clock A. M., to nominate suitable men as candidates for the next June election—one delegate for every fifteen votes, and one delegate for every fraction over eight votes, taking for a basis the aggregate vote of Wilson and Burnett.

The above call, as we are informed by Mr. D. B. Cartwright, was being circulated and very universally signed in Lane county.

MARION COUNTY CALL.

We, the undersigned, declare ourselves in favor of a movement of the people which laying aside old partisan prejudices, leaving as belonging to the past issues which have been contended for and settled, setting aside the party machinery of the two great parties of the past as being now in the hands of rings of office seekers to such an extent as to preclude the possibility of securing a fair and honest representation of the public wants. In order that we may secure honest representatives of the people's wishes; for good and economical administration of county and State finances in the next Legislature, and select for all offices men whom the people shall choose and not men chosen for them by corrupt rings, or secret influence of monopolizing combinations, we favor preliminary meetings to take place on the last Saturday of March, 1874. The precinct meetings to ballot for candidates to the various county offices and the delegations to carry a certified copy of such ballot to the county convention, as a basis of action.

can draw public money in each district. This is an unjust law, and should be abolished by the next Legislature of Oregon. How a set of men with ordinary intellect could have passed such a law, (unless they were paid by the publishers to pass it.) This unnecessary expense will cost the people of this State a great many thousand dollars to supply each district with new books. I see an article in the FARMER on this subject which holds the idea "that the people ought to sue for the school money before the courts and test the law." Now, Mr. Editor, I beg leave to differ with the writer. In my humble opinion it would be better to run an independent ticket next June, in this State, for State officers, and especially Senators and Representatives (and deliver us from politicians lest they sell themselves and us, that they may repeal the aforesaid school law, and who will not pass in the Legislature a resolution to amend the State Constitution so as to have three more judges in the State at five thousand a year, salary, which would make fifteen thousand dollars added to our taxes.

We may need other judges in a short time, but we, the working people of this State, are willing to work for eight hundred or a thousand dollars a year, while men will tell us we must pay them for their extra intellect. We are willing to pay them two thousand dollars a year, and if that will not do let them resign at once, for we can get able, honest men to take the office at that price without compulsion. Yours respectfully, G. W. BURFORD, Fifteen Mile Creek, Wasco, Feb. 20th.

"CURIOSITIES OF TAXPAYERS."

VERNON, Marion county, Oregon, } February 28, 1874. MR. EDITOR:—I see in the supplement to the FARMER of Feb. 7th under this caption

"CURIOSITIES OF TAXATION."

Yesterday Mr. Boynton, the County Treasurer of Marion county, deposited in the State Treasury the amount of State tax due from this county, as follows: Due for State tax proper \$16, 573 59 and poll tax \$1,419, making a total of \$17,992 59. and on the same day Mr. Livingston, County Treasurer of Douglas county, put in appearance with the taxes of that county, as follows: State tax proper \$17,019 87, poll tax \$852 making a total of \$17,871 87. Thus it will be seen that while Marion county pays for \$1,419 for polls and Douglas county for \$852 polls, the latter is assessed at its highest property valuation and pays the largest property tax." From the above figures you conclude that it is very necessary to have a Board of Equalization, in order that the taxes be equalized throughout the State.

As your comparison between those two counties reflect rather hard on Marion county, I will give you some figures to digest, which in all probability will enable you to see how and why it is that Douglas county pays more tax than Marion. On the 5th page of the Report of the State Board of Equalization we find the following table, showing the amount of land in each county and its valuation for the year 1873. We find that Douglas county, has an area of 395,895 acres of land, valuation \$1,776,137 average value \$4.48 9-100. Marion county has an area of 365,195 acres of land, valuation \$2,358,067, average value \$6.53 9-100. We will now turn to page 8 of this report, I find the following:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Douglas county has value on town lots \$147,587; on merchandise and implements \$21,292; Money, notes and accounts \$46,704; Furniture, carriages and watches \$100,480; On page 6 you will find the table: Horses, 4635; valuation, \$186,217; average value, \$40 25; Cattle, 15,078; valuation, \$177,163; average value, \$11 56; Sheep, 22,920; valuation, \$289,979; average value, \$12 64; Pigs, 5271; valuation, \$11,974; average value, \$2 21; On page 7 we find the following: W. U. Telegraph Co., 80 miles at \$100 per mile, \$8,000; O. C. R. R., 32 miles, \$416,000; gross value, \$3,385,243; indebtedness, \$614,718; exemption, \$222,492; leaving a total to pay tax on of \$3,048,034.

Marion county has valuation on town lots \$1,230,228; Merchandise and implements \$72,094; Money, notes and accounts \$99,255; Furniture, carriages, watches, etc \$190,025; Horses, 4771; valuation, \$204,130; average value, \$42 78; Cattle, 10,803; valuation, \$152,256; average value, \$14 08; Sheep, 31,157; valuation, \$56,067; average value, \$1 80; Swine, 4778; valuation, \$7,364; average value, \$1 50; On the W. U. Telegraph Co., 45 miles at \$100 per mile, \$4,500; O. C. R. R., 4 1/2 miles, \$175,750; European & Oregon Land Co. 9425 acres, \$2,357,000; valuation, \$5,793,968; indebtedness, \$2,415,412; exemption, \$365,075; total amount to pay taxes on, \$3,043,381.

my judgment is a good county of land, while in all probability, her land is not equal to the best land in Marion, yet it is of good quality, that is some of it, and the remainder is almost all good for pasture, while it is not so in Marion; there is not to exceed one-fourth of the land in this county that is of any benefit to the persons that are the owners, for the reason that the other three-fourths is incumbered with brush and timber, and is not worth one cent per acre for the year to the parties that own such land. In fact it is a detriment to own it, for the reason that a man has to pay tax on it and he has to make the money to pay it off his arable land. We will now come to the reason why Douglas county pays more taxes than Marion the present year. The reason is plain to my mind. Douglas has not been farming much until within the last year or two, her main support being her stock, which has been paying her due profits, until those hard times came on which has now turned the minds of the people a little towards farming. By comparing the indebtedness of these two counties you will find the true cause in paying tax. Douglas county is in debt \$611,718 while Marion is in debt \$2,415,412. The reason for this is farming did not pay in 1872 and the farmers all got in debt, and were not able to pay the merchant, and per consequence he was not able to pay his debts, so the indebtedness was all remaining when the last assessment was taken. As ever your most obedient servant, T. C. SHAW.

A CALL For an Independent State and County Convention.

We, the undersigned citizens of _____ county, irrespective of party, favor an independent movement for the purpose of nominating candidates for the different county offices, at the coming June election; also for members of the Legislature. We endorse the resolutions of the Douglas County People's Convention, recommending a State Convention to be held at Salem, April 15, 1874, for the purpose of nominating a State ticket. The precincts will hold their meetings at the usual place of voting, on Saturday, March 28, and elect delegates to the County Convention, to be held at the County Seat, April 4, 1874, at 2 o'clock p. m. Each precinct shall be entitled to one delegate for every 25 voters in such precinct. Each county shall be entitled to one delegate in the State Convention for each 200 voters in said county; the vote of the general election of 1872 being taken as a basis.

The above call is being circulated in this county in place of the call which we publish elsewhere that was circulated before the action of the Douglas County Independent Convention last Saturday. The names given to-day were mostly got in one precinct up Mill creek, and we understand that many other names have been got elsewhere. Those who have those calls are requested to send them in for publication and adopt the new call instead.

FRENCH BRIG WRECKED.

The Brig Nido, from San Francisco Wrecked Inside the Columbia Bar.

We are called upon to record a sad disaster to the brig Nido, Comdant Master, while on her way to this port from San Francisco, under ballast. We succeeded in getting the following particulars: The brig was a French vessel, owned by a gentleman residing in Havre, having nine-seventy on board, and under ballast from San Francisco for this port, to land with wheat to Clark & Co. on the arrival of the first of the morning, at 11 o'clock, and displayed a signal for a pilot, which was not answered. For a short time she stood on and on the bar, which was very smooth, with a light breeze from the north. Although the captain was a comparative stranger in the locality, the smooth sea tempted him, and he turned his prow toward the "Three Columns," thinking to enter at the northern channel. In safety she stood on toward the harbor of safety inside. Every moment the wind quickened and a blackness came on such as only seldom is seen, reminding us of the heavy clouds gathered through the fog dropped down, completely shutting out from view everything by which the course could be ascertained. At length, in mid the terror of the scene, the wind blew a fresh gale, and the sea fell in blinding gusts. In this lamentable situation nothing could be done but to get the anchors, the order for which was given, with a crashing sound the heavy cables parted through the iron stowaways, while the anchors shot to the earth bottom. As the chains became taut what anxiety must have been felt! They stretched, when suddenly a huge force from the craft told her plainly that the anchors were dragging. Link by link the cable was paid out until its entire length was between the vessel and anchor, and still she drifted before the screaming, leaping gale. Ballast was thrown overboard in order to lighten her, but still she surged at her fastenings like an eagle on her prey. Amid the din of warring elements a shudder passed along her hull, which made it most quiver and almost knocked the men from their feet. Their greatest fears were that she had struck a rock and would soon go down beneath the angry waves. The pumps told otherwise she had struck upon a sandbar; but still she drifted before the terrible storm. Ballast had been thrown overboard until it was useless to continue, and she should be swamped. Again she struck and bounced backward, only to repeat the act. When daylight came she was ashore about a mile from the light-house, on the Washington. For three miles, trying to get out at low tide. The crew remained on board until Monday, when a pilot boat signalled them to come off in a small boat. Nothing can be done to save her, as a boat cannot get within a mile of where she now lies on account of shallow water. The constant beating of the waves at high tide will soon rend plank from ribs, and the brig Nido, which so short a time since merely drifted upon the waters of the Pacific Ocean will be known no more. Bulletin.

DOUGLAS COUNTY INDEPENDENT CONVENTION.

Pursuant to call, the Delegates to the Douglas County Tax-Payers Convention, numbering 121, assembled at the Court House in Roseburg, Feb. 28th, to nominate candidates for the Legislature and for County officers.

Mr. Chas. C. Drain presided during the temporary organization.

The usual committees having been appointed, the Convention proceeded to a permanent organization by the choice of Robt. M. Gurney, Esq., as Chairman, and H. P. Watkins and Quincy A. Grubb, as Secretaries.

The Committee on Resolutions presented the following, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in this movement we only seek to secure the greatest good to the whole people of Douglas county; and while we recognize the necessity of political organization in order that right may triumph over wrong, we realize no wisdom in the great agricultural, mechanical and laboring classes (whose interests are identical, whose labors, rewards and emoluments are the same) remaining divided into two antagonistic political parties, each warring on the other, in order that the highest degree of County, State and National prosperity may be attained.

Resolved, That we look upon the lavish expenditures in County, State and Nation of the people's money as contrary to the principles of economy upon which our Government was founded, and in total disregard of the interests of the great laboring classes.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the Legislature investigating to the fullest extent the amount of all moneys paid to all departments of the State and district, and all salaries fixed by the Constitution having been enlarged, to be reduced to the constitutional limit.

Resolved, That we view with alarm the reckless disregard of constitutional limitations manifested by members of both political parties in the last Legislature in passing what is known as the "Increase Salary Bill," and we hold that the salaries of judicial district officers having been fixed by the terms of the Constitution itself, we deny to the Legislature or any other department of State the power to increase or diminish the same without a change of the Constitution by the people.

Resolved, That railroads and railroad enterprises are necessary to the development and prosperity of our State, and their interests are identical and dependent upon the great agricultural classes, and in the discharge of their honorable obligations and duties to the public, they are entitled to their gratitude and the positive and uniform protection of legislative authority; and in this matter we seek no quarrel with a common benefactor, and while we are willing to encourage to the fullest extent the railroad enterprises of the State, we cannot submit to manifest injustice nor permit the abuse of chartered privileges.

Resolved, That it is with feelings of pain and sorrow that we witnessed the attempts in Congress, by leaders of both parties, to make that infamous piece of larceny known as the "back salary grab" respect-able by putting in high positions of honor and trust men who are notoriously guilty of filching from the Treasury money not their own; and we denounce with unfeigned denunciation and brand with scorn and contempt all concerned in perpetrating that fraud upon the American people.

Thereupon the Convention proceeded to ballot for candidates, irrespective of party antecedents, for the Legislative Assembly and county officers, with the following result: For State Senator, W. F. Owens; for Representatives, G. W. Riddle, Daniel W. Stearns, Thos. Lidgerwood and John C. Drain; for Sheriff, Plin. Cooper; for Clerk, Eleazer Stephens; for County Commissioners, A. T. Ambrose and Henry O. Adams; for County Treasurer, John S. Borchardt; for School Superintendent, H. P. Watkins; for Assessor, A. A. Matthews; for County Surveyor, William Thiel; for Coroner, Dr. S. Palmer.

The Convention, upon motion, then ordered that these proceedings be sent to the WILLAMETTE FARMER, Mercury, Oregon, and Plutarch with request to publish the same.

Thereupon the Convention adjourned. R. M. GURNEY, Chairman. H. P. WATKINS, Secretary. QUINCY A. GRUBB, Asst. Secy.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Douglas county will have to divide the honors of the State movement with Benton county which looked that way a week ago and with Washington which lends four hundred of her voters names to urge on the good work.

The Forest Grove Independent comes to hand with this call and those names and strengthens the people's cause greatly thereby. It may be possible that the rings can keep Multnomah county in subjection, but we do not know of a single other county in the Willamette valley that will go against the People's Movement.

Isn't it about time that some more of our Salem friends began to be converted from the error of their ways and began to see the virtues of the popular demonstration? We are afraid they will be late and will be left out in the cold if they do not.