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—AT—
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LUMBER AND WHISKY.

The Transportation Question in the Northwest—The O. & W. T. Railroad—The Paper Mill Again—Haggard's New Book—A Question for the Home Builders of Eastern Oregon.

Editorial Correspondence.
In the East Oregonian of the 6th, just received, I notice with pleasure the efforts of a useful, though but a brief, resident of Pendleton—Dr. King—in securing \$700 toward the paper mill project. Can not ten other citizens do as well? This would make up the deficiency and insure the success of the important enterprise. This, with the Long Creek trade secured next year, the reservation lands sold, and a new court house and other improvements already in progress or planned, would send Pendleton a long stride ahead during the next two years and ahead. By January 1st, 1890, I trust to see it the second city in importance, if not in population, in the State. It may be so, and will be if all opportunities are grasped with confidence and zeal.

I wonder if the considerably large-sized truth slightly touched upon by your Portland correspondent—in regard to Portland's relations to the traffic of the Interior—will not be seen and appreciated to some extent before many months by the people of Portland themselves. They have already lost hundreds of thousands of dollars of trade, and will lose more; gradually, if not speedily, the trade of Eastern Oregon and Washington will be diverted more and more from Portland, unless that city itself itself of the oligarchy of railroad politicians who are sacrificing her commercial interests. Already, as is noted by the East Oregonian's Portland correspondent, the bulk of Eastern Oregon and Washington wheat is destined for Tacoma rather than Portland. The O. & W. T., even if it does not come to Pendleton, will receive a very large share of Unadilla county's crop, while not a bushel from Washington Territory that can reach the Northern Pacific's connections will go down the Columbia. Mr. Holcomb has been a great improvement—or at least since he came into control the company has seemed disposed to treat the interior more fairly than before; but there is room for a great reform yet, both on the part of the company and of Portland business men, and the reform is for the interest of both the company and of Portland, as well as inland problems. We must all grow or starve together. What injures one must ultimately injure all.

If a bonus must be given to bring the O. & W. T. road to Pendleton, are not such of the farmers living in the vicinity of Pendleton as are well-to-do and who raise large crops interested as much as the business men of Pendleton? If the completion of this line is to benefit any persons certainly the large wheat-rabbers near town, and all the way between Pendleton and Helix, and north as far as Prosser, are those most interested. It is my opinion if they would join the town's people to the extent of their (the farmers') comparative interest, the road could be secured. Of course the farmers, as well as some of the townsmen, are suspicious that the road might soon pass into such control that it would be of no practical benefit, but I believe that although there is no certainty of this not happening, it would be a good plan to secure the road anyway. Suppose an organized effort was made among the farmers between Helix and Pendleton to assist the building of the road, not to Pendleton, but toward Pendleton, as far as possible; or with as much means as could be raised among the farmers for this purpose, with the understanding that then Pendleton people should make up the remainder of the \$50,000 asked. It seems to me that thus the burden could be borne more equally by those to be benefited. Some of the farmers raise 10,000 bushels of grain. If they can save five cents a bushel, either in freight, or labor, or both, why not contribute this \$50,000 a year's saving toward the road? It seems to me that if Pendleton furnishes the depot grounds, and right-of-way, the farmers who are to be benefited ought to help contribute the \$50,000. But beside the suspicion already mentioned, there is also the serious objection I have formerly alluded to which is perhaps as unfortunate for Pendleton and the farmers as for Mr. Hunt.

If this letter happens to be a "medley" it will be because I am writing whatever happens to occur first to my mind. I have read quite a number of books within the past few months, the latest being Rider Haggard's late story, "Mr. Meeson's Will," and while I do not pretend to be a literary critic, this book seems to me to furnish evidence that the somewhat cele-

brated author is "on his last legs." His fame, if not his fortune, would certainly be brighter and better in the long run, if he did not think it necessary to turn out a new novel every few weeks. That the author of "King Solomon's Mines," "She," and "Jess," which certainly give evidence of rare constructive and imaginative genius, should descend to such an inspired, characterless, inconsistent and trashy midsummer literary muddle as this "will" story, is pitiable. Not only is the plot a very narrow one, but the execution is that of a "penny-a-liner" or a "Waverley" contributor. And the lame, hurried, enunciated and absurd delineation of the legal contest over the "will" is enough to make the shades of Dickens and Samuel Warren grow pale. This is only another evidence of what a name can do over a literary production. This story, if written by an unknown author, would have been contemptuously "refused" by any publisher in the world. But anything with Haggard's name to it will sell—yet.

To change the subject again, I notice that a good many high-taxation and free-whisky organs in the State are wincing a good deal over the plank in the Chicago platform that rather than sacrifice an iota of "protection," (war taxes on clothing, food, and other necessities) the tax on distilled spirits (luxuries) should be "entirely swept away." This has staggered and fairly stunned for a time quite an element heretofore blindly devoted to the Republican party, and as they have begun to recover themselves, and ascertained that the platform says and means just that, they are becoming indignant and declaring that they won't stand it, which leads to no end of declarations from the organs that the Republican party is not a free-whisky party at all. But there is a platform, and that is certainly what it means, and nothing else. It would seem in their zeal for protection to the millionaires and monopolists, the party leaders went a little further than was prudent. They won't gain the "whisky vote," which they are fond of declaring belongs to the Democratic party, for the liquor manufacturers and dealers are not especially clamoring for free whisky. The increased price comes out of the consumer, and in fact the profits to the manufacturers and dealers are quite as large or larger than they would be on untaxed liquors, though the consumption is doubtless much less. (And this rule holds true with the taxed necessities also.) But they will lose the votes of a large class of men who believe that liquors, being mostly a luxury and one productive of evil at that, should be taxed, rather than clothing, food, farming utensils, lumber, glass, and about three thousand other things.

Now Mr. Blaine, if he had been there to have given his advice—especially if he was to have been the nominee—would have managed this better. Regrettably, and too late the protectionists are remembering Mr. Blaine's astute declarations. He was not such a fool as to drive away a good many very good votes, unless he saw where he could make them up somewhere else.

In his letter to Mr. Smith, November 22, 1881, Mr. Blaine said:

"The more I reflect upon it, the more evident it has become to my mind that it is wiser to tax whisky than to tax farms, and homesteads, and shops. * * * Could it be regarded as wise statesmanship to continue the heavy oppressive direct tax on all property under the State governments, and at the same time command a hurling luxury like spirits to go free? That would be a folly which no other government on the globe could by any possibility commit. The tax on whisky oppresses no one. It is paid only by the consumer, and the most extreme advocate of temperance cannot maintain that taxing the article increases its consumption."

Again in his "Paris messages," Mr. Blaine said: "I would not advise a repeal of the whisky tax. * * * Other considerations than those of financial administration are to be taken into account with regard to whisky. There is a moral side to it. * * * Whisky would everywhere be distilled if the surveillance of the government were withdrawn by the remission of the tax, and illicit sales could not then be prevented even by a policy as rigorous and searching as that with which Russia punishes the stillists. It would destroy high license at once in all the States."

In my opinion Mr. Blaine is a perfectly unscrupulous man in politics, and he is the high priest of protection, but he is too astute to make such an absurd blunder as to declare in favor of free whisky in any contingency, as the Republican party has done. He might do the deed—no doubt would, if necessary to "protect" the millionaires and monopolists; but he would never proclaim that intention in advance to the American people. He went so far as to advise the remission of the tobacco tax, and the remission of the whisky tax would logically follow; but still he knew it would not do to declare in favor of it.

Two products may well be used as a startling illustration of the essential difference between the St. Louis tax-reduction platform and the Chicago war-taxation and free-whisky platform. These are—whisky and lumber. How will the home builders of Eastern Oregon and Washington vote for untaxed lumber or untaxed whisky? It is no fanciful illustration that I am using. It is not only an illustration based upon uncontradicted facts, it is illustrative of the whole tenor and tendency and aim and spirit of the two platforms. Lumber is taxed twenty percent. The tax is unnecessary—still speaking locally—because it is certain that lumber can be manufactured quite as cheaply in Oregon and Washington as in the adjacent British possessions. Oregon and Washington have the material, the forests, the mills, the machinery, the skill, the labor, equally with British Columbia—and the Chinese "pauper labor" equally, too, if that be asked as an excuse. Yet, Mr. Dolph says, giving the home builders of Oregon and Washington untaxed lumber will absolutely "ruin the industry." No, it will simply deprive a few lumber manufacturing monopolists, who have formed themselves into a "combine" to advance the price nearly twenty percent, above

its reasonable and proper price, of that much plunder pilched by operation of law from the home builders of the northwest. The great Chinese organ, when it was disposed to tell the truth, as it often is in "soft" years, declared that the greatest, most inexcusable and outrageous iniquity of all the bundle of iniquities known as the tariff laws—or words to that effect. But now, since it is anxious to elect the Republican candidate, it joins in the cry that untaxed lumber would ruin the country. Taking the absurd, unjust and iniquitous tax of lumber might deprive the lumber barons of Puget Sound and Portland a portion of their immense profits, but it would be a benefit and a blessing to every farmer, every house builder, every man who constructs a dwelling, or a barn, or a fence, or anything requiring lumber; and indirectly to every merchant, every artisan, every mechanic, every working-man. To tax these men twenty percent upon lumber is a shame, a wrong, an "iniquity," a moral crime. To even defend or apologize for inflicting such an indefensible and iniquitous burden upon the people of the Northwest—and the same is true all the way from the lakes to the Pacific—is an insult to these people, but how is that insult intensified when the platform of the same party that imposes this tax, rather than to yield an iota of it, proposes—to do what?

To give them free whisky! What, really, in all sincerity and as reasoning men and women, do these home-builders think of this platform—taxed lumber and free whisky? It is proposed, rather than to allow you to buy lumber for your farms, your stores, your shops, your barns, your houses, at its natural, reasonable ordinary cost, to compensate you for the twenty percent burden maintained—and an average of over forty-percent per cent, on your other necessities—by giving you and your daughters and your neighbors—untaxed whisky.

I cannot help wondering—notwithstanding the surprising result of the late election, if we shall not see an awakening, and a turning in the other direction even before November. I cannot resist wondering if farmers and workmen will not yet in considerable numbers perceive the force of such facts as I have used above as illustrations. If any one doubts the correctness of my statements, let him merely hunt up the two platforms and read them for himself. The Democratic party proposes to tax luxuries generally rather than necessities. Among the luxuries upon which it would maintain the tax is whisky. Among the necessities upon which it proposes to repeal the tax is lumber—and on many other necessities, such as clothing and sugar, it proposes to largely reduce the tax. It proposes to do this, not directly or seriously to attack "protection" so much as to provide for reducing the revenues to the necessities of government, and leaving the "surplus" not being collected in the hands of the taxpayers instead of being locked up in the treasury or squandered by profligate legislators. If this is not a good, a reasonable, and in every respect a correct policy, then I admit that I am utterly unacquainted with any correct principles of government in a republic like ours. On the other hand the Republican policy, as enunciated in their platform, distinctly announces its intention to maintain this war-time taxation; and if the revenues must be lopped off, to make whisky free of taxation instead of lumber, salt, sugar, clothing, farming implements, iron, steel, jute, or any one of the thousands of articles of necessity upon which the consumers are enormously taxed in the interest of a few favored capitalists.

This is the issue; this is the difference; and as good an illustrative question as can be asked is the one I have put to my readers: Which will you choose, free lumber or free whisky?

J. P. W.

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NOTICE.
All persons knowing themselves indebted to the undersigned will please come forward and settle their accounts by cash or note, as I wish to balance my books by August 1, 1888. All accounts not settled by that date will be placed in the hands of a collector.
M. J. SMITH.
July 14th dsw Proprietor City Bakery.

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.
Due notice is hereby given that a meeting of the stockholders of the Oregon Building and Loan Association will be held at the office of the Unadilla Real Estate & Loan Association, in Pendleton, Oregon, on July 24th, 1888, at 7 o'clock p. m., of July 24th, 1888, for the purpose of formulating and adopting a constitution and by-laws, and electing stock directors and committees and will conform to the by-laws then adopted.

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JOHN M. DICKINSON, Postmaster General.

It is an able and logical exposition of the injustice and delusions of the protectionary. The work is timely, and a very valuable contribution to the literature of tariff and trade.

W. W. TOWNSEND, M. D.

I notice that this book is meeting great commendation. It is bottomed upon the mental truths, and I wish that the facts and arguments may be in the hands and minds of every citizen who takes part in the great economical questions of our day and tariff.

GEN. JOHN C. BLAINE, Commissioner of Pension.

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