East Oregonian.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1901.

FLOODS AND TIMBER DEVASTATION.

Recurrence of the annual floods of the Ohio river valley once more suggests that it is not the part of wisdom to permit the mountains in any country to be denuded of their forests. It is especially applicable to the Pacific coast, where lumbermen are hastening to secure such vast tracts of timber land, with the intention of proceeding to cut off the trees to supply the demands of the lumber trade.

When, in the early "sixties," the lumbermen began to cut away the forests of Pennsylvania in real earnest, the mountains of that state, from which flow the sources of the Ohio and the Susquehana rivers, were extensive, and floods were of infrequent occurrence. The industry soon attained great proportions, and in ten years the surrounding states that are drained by these two rivers, especially the Ohio, experienced annual floods, later becoming serious and causing immense damage. Nowadays, floods occur each spring, and seem to be increasing every year.

This year, they have been very serious. Conservative estimates place the number of people rendered homeless at 11,000, and the property losses at $2,750,000. Cities have been inundated, and villages swept away, industry has been at a standstill, and life rendered insecure in many places.

These calamities are directly traceable to the absence of forests in the Pennsylvania mountains, for these forests have been almost completely destroyed.

Before many years have passed, the coast states will have the experience of the Ohio valley, for the same thing is happening here. Our forests are doomed. The axe of the ruthless lumberman is doing its deadly work.

WHY NOT TRY A ROCK CRUSHER.

Pendleton has always been considering the propositon of making good streets and the cheapest method of doing so. During the past few years some effectual attempts have been made to accomplish this end, and the council street committee has done some good work. Parts of Main and Court streets have been put into good condition, and some of the other streets are improved over their former condition. But, there is quite a strong sentiment in favor of making streets from crushed rock. This sentiment in the main is not based upon experience, but is merely a guess that it would be feasible for Pendleton to adopt this method. It might be well to make some investigations. Athena has ordered a rock crusher, and will soon have the machine in operation. This will afford an opportunity for the city officials to observe close at hand the excellence or otherwise of the plan, with no expense to the municipality.

It is claimed that in many places in the Inland Empire rock crushers have solved the street question permanently. On the contrary, some contend that streets thus treated are not desirable, and that gravel is much the better. However this may be, the experiment of Athena will furnish the opportunity to see how it will work, and perhaps Pendleton may profit by Athena's experience.

LET THEM TAKE WARNING

From time to time, reports go over the wires of alleged attempts to assassinate kings and emperors in the European countries. Some of these reports are denied, others being substantiated. The man who made an ineffectual attempt to kill King Charles openly stated that that was his object, and it was intimated that a general plan had been formed to kill all of the rulers of European countries.

It is easily to be credited that such an attempt was contemplated. In all of those countries is a spirit of unrest at the exactions imposed by the monarchies, and the burdens of supporting the expensive courts of these men who pose as of divine authority, and who still regard the common people as beings born to contribute to the happiness of kings and emperors.

Emperor William of Germany and the czar of Russia are two who are in much danger. Force is employed to suppress the tendency there to revolt against the stringent rule of the monarch who desires absolutism in his rule, and force cannot accomplish this end.

These crowned heads would better take warning and learn the severities, else some of them will follow King Humbert to the grave.

This is a mere statement of the probabilities. Assassination is of course, criminality of the lowest type. It is anarchistic. It is committed only by men of fierce natures, who disregard the laws that must exist for the protection of human life and property. Nevertheless, the resentment against the undue severity of royalty is felt, and the men live who are capable of resorting to bloody means to accomplish their murderous ends.

LESSON OF A BROKEN TRUST.

From far-off Vancouver comes a warning and a lesson to those who may look upon the acquirement of wealth as the chief object of existence. It is a story of speculation, broken trust and self-destruction. The president and cashier of a bank in that city, having wrecked the institution for which they were responsible, and, driven by fear and remorse, went to a lonely spot and took their own lives, the one weapon serving for both. They had speculated with the money of others in their feverish haste to acquire riches, and their consciences could suggest no other way to avoid the disgrace of discovery than that final resort of the demented and the cowardly—self-immolation.

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These men considered money of greater moment than any other thing: more desirable than reputation, honesty, peace of mind, mental attainments. They proved that the easiest thing in the world to get is wealth and that the hardest is to earn it honestly. By their actions while living they said to every young man: "Get money, no matter how." But by their tragic death they say: "Be honest, and be content with what honesty brings you, and you will never be really poor."

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How timely just here it is to refer to the addess of Senator Depew at a dinner in New York Saturday night. He was celebating his sixty-seventh bithday anniversary, and in the course of his remarks he made an eloquent and earnest plea for an aristocracy of brains, as opposed to an aristocracy of millions. In London, he said, genius finds a welcome and recognition in the homes of the oldest and most distinguished among the nobility; but in this country "our millionaire exclusives bar the doors and refuse to let in upon a social equality the representatives of intelligent achievement. They seek to make all, except the possessors of exaggerated incomes, socially second class."

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This is significant criticism, coming as it does from a man of both wealth and brains, because it shows which of the two he values the more. The hope of this republic lies in brains, not dollars. The multi-millionaire, who has nothing but money, may be in the ascendant for a time, but he will pass, and the man who achieves by his brain and his manliness will sit in the highest places. We cannot improve on Solomon's advice to his son: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And with all thy getting get understanding." Mere wealth of money is trivial compared with this.—Chicago Post.

A MUSICAL DISCOVERY.

A curious discovery, which resulted from much electrical research and experiment at the Central Technical college of the city and guilds of London institute, is reported by W. Duddell. Mr. Duddell recently explained the discovery scientifically at the institution of electrical engineers in a lecture on "Rapid Variations in the Current Through the Direct Current Arc." In more homely language Professor Ayrton gave some interesting details recently.

"The arc, of course, is the blaze of light which exists between two sticks of carbon placed end on and between which the electric current flows.

"To illustrate the flame-music discovery I must remark that two different kinds of carbon are employed in the arc lamps used for lighting the streets, railways stations, public halls, etc. In the one kind the carbon stock is made hollow and is filled with a powdery material, while in the other kind the carbon is homogeneous. The former type of carbon is called 'cored,' the latter 'solid.'

"Now, the cored carbon arc Mr. Duddell has shown to possess no musical soul. It is deaf to all persuasion, whereas the solid carbon arc, he finds, is like the mouthpiece of a flute, ready to emit any note. The note of the flute depends of course on the length of the pipe, as determined most cases generated by a machine at a considerable distance.

"Hence," said the scientist, "we have this great possibility—namely, that the ordinary arc lamps at present used in lighting a hall can be played on not merely by a performer who is in the hall itself, but who may be outside it somewhere else. Consequently an audience paying no more attention to the arc lamps hung up above them than they would to a gasolier may be suddenly astonished to hear a tune coming from the space around them.

"I do not wish to give the impression, of course, that out of the arc lights the public may expect anything like the glory produced by a Joachim or a Paderewski, but what can be done is to produce and play tunes on electric lights while the player is invisible—and this at no great expense.

"Why, for halls winter gardens, all buildings, in short, that are places of public resort, the possibilities of electric music in the art are very suggestive."

Mr. Duddell has also shown that the electric light arc can be use as a telephone receiver. He has already used it for the receiving of telephone currents from a transmitter spoken into in another part of the building.—London Daily Mail.

A WITTY RETORT.

"Henry S. Lane was one of the best stump speakers that Indiana ever produced," said a gentleman the other day who has resided in this state for over sixty years. "He was essentially a stump speaker, using that term in the old-time sense of the word, and I am sure that sending him to the United States senate was equivalent to putting him in a coffin as far as the display of his peculiar oratorical ability was concerned. He was especially brilliant at repartee, and his ability in this respect might be likened to the play of a master with the rapier. But his nature was so refined and his sensibilities so delicate that whatever he gave utterance to in the hustings was not possessed of a rancorous sting, and there was a wholesouled heartiness of spirit about him that won him many friends.

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"I shall never forget the time that I heard him make one of his apt replies to Thomas A. Hendricks. It was back in 1857 or '58, while I was teaching school down at Leavenworth in Crawford county. Lane and Hendricks had been stumping the state and holding a series of joint debates that aroused the interest of all the people. Their stay at Leavenworth was limited to the time between two boats, and it was agreed that the debate should be governed by this fact. Hendricks spoke first and made a very plausible argument for his side of the question. Lane arose to reply only a short time before the boat was due, but he pitched into the argument of his opponent with such a vigorous attack that in a very few minutes Hendricks became uneasy and appeared to be very uncomfortable. I was well down toward the front of the audience, where I could see every expression of the two orators' faces. Presently, as Lane was in the midst of one of his most scorching and sarcastic periods, the whistle of the approaching steamboat was heard.

"At the sound, Mr. Hendricks, who was seated on the platform immediately behind Mr. Lane, leaned foward, and in a whisper which could be plainly heard by most of the auditors, said:

"'Mr. Lane, the boat is coming. Don't you think you had better stop?'

"Mr. Lane paused, and looked down over his shoulder for a moment at his interrupter with a look of utmost scorn on his face, then turning to the audience with a smile, remarked: 'I thought that it was about time the gentleman would want to take to the water.' This witty turn, of course, caught the fancy of the crowd, and it was many a day before Hendricks heard the last of the incident."—Indianapolis Journal.