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East Oregonian

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1901.

DAILY, WEEKLY and SEMI-WEEKLY
— BY THE —
East Oregonian Publishing Company
— AT —
PENDLETON, OREGON

EASTERN OREGON MUST GET TOGETHER.

According to the Portland Oregonian there are five eminent members of the republican party who desire for the nomination of governor at the hands of their party. These gentlemen are Stephen A. Lowell, of Umatilla county; William J. Furnish, of Umatilla county; Jonas M. Church, of Union county; Henry E. Ankeny, of Jackson county and T. T. Geer of Marion county, the latter wishing to succeed himself for another term.

Here we have three candidates from eastern Oregon. This number is far too many, for the simple reason that all three cannot be nominated and for the further reason that each one of the three stands in the way of the other being nominated.

As the East Oregonian was the first to propose that an eastern Oregon man endeavor to secure the nomination and to arouse republicans to their opportunity in this connection, it considers it has the right to make a suggestion, and it is this:

Let the forces of the three eastern Oregon candidates get together and ascertain as they can the relative strength of each man, and thereby ascertain the strongest candidate of the three. Then allow the other two to withdraw from the race and throw their forces to the nomination of the one so determined.

If this is done an eastern Oregon man will be given the nomination and become the next governor of Oregon. If it is not done, "any old thing" may happen and eastern Oregon be still engaged in hunting political snipe while playing in the hands of the wily politicians west of the mountains.

There are times when it is best to look a gift horse in the mouth and to be frank with ourselves. There is nothing to be gained in fighting and pulling among ourselves, while the other fellow gets away with the persimmon.

The eastern Oregon men should get together and settle the difference between them. It is not an impossible thing to do. And it is the most sensible thing that could be done. There is milk in it!

A ROAD TO SUSANVILLE.

The old, old question of a road to Susanville is being talked of again. It is being said that such a road would bring a large amount of trade to Pendleton, that now does not come here for the lack of a decent highway. This is doubtless true, but the need of a good road does not lie in Umatilla county and those who are most directly interested do not live in Umatilla. Why do not those people who see "millions" in this road get together and arrange an intelligent plan of action? They could at least agree upon the route. Pendleton will always be found ready to help a worthy project, but Pendleton is not quick to chase chimeras or follow a lightning bug with the idea that it is an electric light.

If the business and trade which is said to be in the Susanville peninsula, is alluring enough to intelligent people to help itself so much as at least to make its wants known to those who are expected to be in a position to render the necessary assistance.

For fifteen years Pendleton has been urging with this Susanville road stuff, and yet it has never been put in such shape as to merit Pendleton's interest and assistance. Will those of Susanville and vicinity as well as those along the route who want the road, please submit in writing to the Commercial Association of Pendleton or the East Oregonian, what they can perform and guarantee in the way of securing this road?

Pendleton cannot waste its strength helping those who will not help themselves, but it will be quick to help those who can and will show a disposition to help themselves.

FOREST RESERVE LANDS.

The Oregonian's Washington correspondent writes as follows:

The railroad holdings in forest reserves—sometimes called scrip, although the authorities here say it can not be so designated, as exchanges for these holdings must be by deeds of conveyance—stand in the way of successful administration of the forest reserves. It is impossible to approximate the amount of railroad and other holdings within the reserves, or how much will be relinquished to the government and then lands selected, because no one knows what the railroads or individuals will do. It is known that neither individuals nor the railroad will relinquish voluntarily some of these lands, because they are extremely valuable. The law providing for such relinquishment gives the holder the option of remaining within the reserves or taking lands elsewhere. After the railroads thoroughly examine the holdings within the reserves, and decide what is best for their interests, they will probably make exchanges, leaving the government any poor lands and taking better lands in other parts of the country. Settlers will do the same.

* * *

The men in charge of the forest reserves say that the holdings of private individuals and corporations within the reserves will always be detrimental to their management. Common law gives the right to these holders of entrance and exit to their lands, and they must pass through the reserves. It would also take very careful watching to prevent individuals from violating the regulations relative to pasturing on the reserves.

There are two courses open to congress, one of which would remove all holdings within forest reserves. First, a law could be passed limiting the time within which exchanges of property could be made. Congress could not compel those who hold lands in the reserve to relinquish them for other lands, but it could fix the time when the option that the holders now possess must be executed if such holders desire to avail themselves of it.

* * *

Congress could authorize the purchase of the lands, or, if the holders refused to sell, take them by exercising the right of eminent domain. Saying that the lands were wanted for public purposes, there could be condemnation proceedings and the actual assessed cash value paid for all the lands lost within the reserves.

* * *

It will be very hard to get congress to consent to any such proceedings unless the property is needed for park purposes, as any move in this direction would induce holders to refrain from making exchanges in the hope of obtaining high prices for the lands. It is believed, however, that a limitation can be set upon the time when exchanges will be allowed, and this would tend to make the railroads, as well as the individuals, expedite such exchanges.

A BOUNTEOUS CHRISTMAS.

Nothing could signalize the change in this Oregon region in a century more than this bounteous Christmas says the Portland Oregonian. Just eighty-six years ago this day Lewis and Clark were celebrating Christmas at Fort Clatsop. Such as observance at this, so far from the world, is past our fancy to conceive. We only know that this intrepid band of explorers were dead alike outside the limits of civilization, and that the sentiment which the day brought with it was locked in an unresponsive wilderness. The only element of cheer was in their fearless hearts, for nature wore a dismal garb. Picture to yourself the contrast with the present. Every mountain, every forest, and even the ever-constant rain join in the spirit of cheerfulness and plenty.

* * *

But the occasion, rare and glorious then, has gained in splendor since, and in the firmament of the expedition will be a star of gaining magnitude. The simplicity of the day is thus described in Lewis and Clark's journal:

We were awakened at daylight by a discharge of firearms, which was followed by a song from the men as a compliment to us on the return of Christmas, which we have always been accustomed to observe as a day of jubilee. After breakfast we divided our remaining stock of tobacco, which amounted to twelve carrots, into two parts, one of which we distributed among such of the men as make use of it, making a present of a handkerchief to the others. The remainder of the day was passed in good spirits, though there was nothing in our situation to excite much gaiety. The rain confined us to the house, and our only delicacy at dinner of the venison were some pieces of elk, some roots and some spoiled pounded fish.

* * *

In few few years more the stream of time will have flowed a century. Today, with all its enjoyments, its beauty and its fullness, it realizes the dreams of Oregon's pioneers, and the energy of its pioneers. We have gentle names to conjure in this Christmas, from this thrill of a pleasure and its power to carry forward our imagination another century, to the day when our children's children will remember the beginning. Nineteen years and the power of an empire rested in the fastness of a wilderness. The record of these years will inspire the devotion of today with gladness and with song, indeed, a merry Christmas, and also a happy Christmas, to those who will come hereafter. The world is big with promise today, and wider perhaps, than we can see through the commonplace window of life. But expand your view to the angle of the past and you will gather in a measure of the future as long as is the earth and as broad as is the sun.

A telegram from Childersburg, Ala., says a race riot is in progress there. So far two whites have been killed and many negroes wounded.

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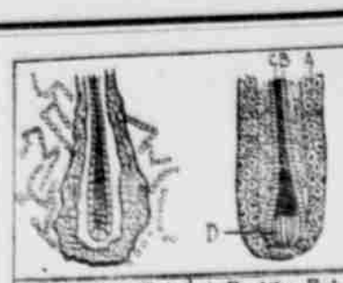

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