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FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1902.

**OUR TIMBER RESOURCES.**

Prof. Henry Gannett, chief of the division of forestry in the agricultural department, makes the statement that the forests of western Washington are the heaviest and most continuous of any in the United States, excepting the red wood forests of California. The timber is mainly red or yellow fir mixed with spruce, hemlock and cedar, the trees reaching from twelve to fifteen feet in diameter and 250 feet in height, with clear trunks for 100 or more feet.

The entire area of Washington is 66,880 square miles, and of this 23,165 square miles are covered with merchantable timber. The standing timber by counties is 114,788 million feet representing an approximate value of 650 million dollars. Sixty per cent. of the standing timber is Douglas fir, a strong durable wood superior to all other varieties. The immense value of these forests is shown by the great number of lumber mills at Tacoma and elsewhere, which are among the largest manufacturing plants in the world.

Next to Washington for fine timber, both in quality and quantity comes Oregon, Washington's sister state. The fine timber resources of these two states are fast falling into private hands for reckless sacrifice for private gain. After the horse is stolen the people will wake up some day and lock the stable door against the timber thieves, but it will be too late. Surely, we should husband and preserve these great natural endowments, which go far to make Oregon and Washington great in the sisterhood of states. We should not allow these birthrights to be disposed of for a paltry mess of porridge.

It is not yet too late to prevent the waste of our timber resources to save them from the greed of those who look upon them as only a means to an end, without a thought of the interests of the state or to the people or the great loss to the human race that will follow the sweeping away of the magnificent forests of these two young states. Something could be done to prevent wanton waste in this connection.

**A NEWSPAPER DUTY.**

One would think that the Portland Oregonian, with all its reputation as a newspaper, would be a newspaper, fair, accurate and reliable in its news report, but it is not a newspaper in this respect, particularly so when it comes to political news. In this line it publishes the worst partisan rot as news, and seldom but one side of political information.

A few days ago it pretended to give the political conditions in the dif-

ferent counties of the state. In all of them, republican hopes were given as news. In every instance the reports were highly colored in favor of the republicans. In its reports of meetings, those of the republicans are boomed, while those of the democrats are briefly mentioned or the facts suppressed. The republicans always "play to crowded houses" and the democrats "to empty benches." This unfairness is not becoming in a great newspaper. It is simply newspaper dishonesty, that a self-respecting newspaper should be ashamed of.

A few days ago the Oregonian printed, as a news dispatch from Corvallis, that the Furnish meeting there was three times as big as the Chamberlain meeting. The real facts were that the Furnish meeting was attended by 391 persons by actual count, and the Chamberlain meeting by just 313.

The Oregonian in its estimate of the vote of Umatilla county places it at 750 republican, and exaggerates the votes of other counties in Eastern Oregon to a like extent. The Portland paper must know that its reports are not reliable and that it is its duty as a newspaper, patronized by both republicans and democrats, to print only that news that it knows is reliable, or to print both sides of such news that, in the nature of things, must be guessed at. In other words, it should not publish as news the guesses of unreliable partisans, unless such news is credited as coming from them, that all may read as they run.

Democratic estimates should be published side by side with republican estimates by a paper of the standing of the Oregonian. To do otherwise is to be unfair with a great number of its subscribers.

**UNDER MOUNT PELEE.**

In his book on the West Indies, Lafcadio Hearne describes Mont Pelee, the terrible volcano which has just caused such havoc at St. Pierre. He says:

Pelee is not so remarkable in point of altitude, being between 4400 and 4500 feet. But in bulk Pelee is grandiose.

Nearly 30 rivers have their birth in its flanks, besides many thermal springs, variously mineralized. As the culminant point of the island, Pelee is also the ruler of its meteorological life—cloud-herder, lightning-forgor and rain-maker. In clear weather you can see it drawing to itself all the white vapors of the land—robbing lesser eminences of their shoulder wraps and head coverings.

Is the great volcano dead? Nobody knows. Less than 40 years ago it rained ashes all over the roofs of St. Pierre, within 20 years it has uttered mutterings, for the moment it appears to sleep, and the clouds have dripped into the cup of its highest crater till it has become a lake several hundred yards in circumference. The crater occupied by this lake, called "The Pool," has never been active within human memory. There are others, difficult and dangerous to visit because opening on the side of a tremendous gorge, and it was one of these, no doubt, which has always been called

La Souffriere that rained ashes over the city in 1851.

That question, is the volcano dead? has been answered with terrible emphasis. It has been demonstrated that quiescence does not mean death in the case of one of these dreadful mountains. Though it slumbered, the slumber was only that of a giant. A few years of suspended animation does not suffice to deprive such a monster of its strength, but rather gives it added power. When it shakes off its long rest and arises in its might it is more puissant than ever, having gained power while wrapped in its long sleep.

The story is not a new one. Ever since the dawn of history communities have from time to time been swallowed up by eruptions of volcanoes, but mankind has gone right along making homes on the slopes and at the feet of these awful demons of nature. In the case of Mont Pelee it has been only 50 years since it showered the country with ashes and gave forth terrible noises, but the people living under the shadow of its crags entertained a sense of security. The mountain had no terrors for them, they daily went about their usual avocations without giving thought to the frightful possibilities of danger that hung over them in the bowels of the volcano. In St. Pierre the usual routine of life proceeded from year to year, and high on the slopes of the mountain men sowed and reaped, all unconcerned for their safety. The lessons of the past were lost upon them, and they remained in that frightfully exposed locality. But the hour came for the awakening of the monster of the mountain and we have the horrible story that the dispatches are now giving us from day to day.

No doubt other communities will continue to live at the bases of volcanoes, but it would seem as though every human being would desire to travel far from such a locality. The world is broad; there are places in abundance where nature holds no such terrible visitations in store for humankind, and it would seem reasonable to suppose every resident of a place in the vicinity of a volcano would wish to flee to such places, of safety.—Boise City Statesman

Rev. W. E. Smith, county judge of Washington county in an early day, died at his home in Hillsboro, aged 85 years. He had resided there since 1864. He is survived by a wife and three children.

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State Treasurer,  
C. S. MOORE, of Klamath County.  
Superintendent of Public Instruction,  
J. H. ACKERMAN, of Multnomah County.  
Attorney General,  
A. M. CRAWFORD, of Douglas County.  
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For Joint Representative,  
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Recorder,  
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Joint Senator,  
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Joint Representative,  
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