

The West.

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THE weather here, like cats, is squally.

PERHAPS there has never before been such a continuous rainfall in Florence—twenty days of steady down pour.

A MAN can do business without advertising,—so can a wagon go without grease—but it goes hard!—*West Side.*

THE new secretary of war, STEPHEN B. ELKINS, took the oath of office on the 24th ult., and will assume his official duties on the 4th instant.

THE Washington Correspondent of the Oregonian is authority for the statement that JOE SIMON will not be appointed judge. The President, it is said, has ceased to consider the matter since receiving such an amount of remonstrances.

THE intensity of interest in the Chilean affair is now at its height, as the latest dispatches indicate a determination on the part of the Government to settle the matter with war ships, as it seems Chili prefers that method. It is certain that every preparation is being made by the secretary of war to be in readiness for the event.

OUR correspondence columns present interesting features for our people this week. There are two able articles on roads, written by men who have given the subject practical attention and much study, while the communication regarding a whaleback craft to do our carrying, written by that able seaman and scholar, Capt. J. J. WINANT, ought to set aside all clashing controversy about what kind of a boat we shall build, and centralize all efforts in favor of the new model.

We ask our friends to lend us a helping hand in making this paper more widely known during the year 1892. We ask all our readers, men, women, and children to do something to get THE WEST into homes where it may not now be known. Remember this is not altogether our paper. It is your paper too and we want you to feel more and more that it has a place in your heart and a warm place too. Now is the time to let outsiders know there is such a paper published in Florence. The publishers feel proud of the growth of THE WEST during the past twelve months, and if all of its friends help to build its growth now, we will close the current year with the largest circulation of any paper in Lane county.

SOME years ago Representative HERMANN introduced a bill in the lower house of Congress which provided for paying salaries to registers and receivers of the United States land offices instead of fees and commissions as now. It was the same in purpose as the DOLPH bill, introduced in the Senate on Friday. At the time Mr. HERMANN introduced his bill very little attention was ever given it either in the House or Senate, though it ought to have passed. The chances

that it will pass now are much better than they were for its passage at that time, for the reason that there are twelve more senators and a corresponding number of representatives in congress now from states in which the United States land office is still an important factor in affairs and a man with whom the settlers have a deal to do.—*Oregonian.*

OUR VIEW OF IT.

THAT the Marshfield *Sun* does not consider the purchase of threshers by the Jobbers' Union, of Minneapolis, and the free transportation of these by the railroad to citizens of Northern Minnesota and Dakota, to secure their wheat crop, as an act of kindness, but "reprehensible," is evident when reading his reply to our article on that subject. As there is an even number of mean or selfish motives, that are handily applied, as there are ways of doing good, it is folly to argue the question of motives of individuals or corporations, in the doing of kind acts, with any one who insists they were done only upon the principle that "I know no kindness only where my own interests are concerned." The personal experience of the editor of the *Sun* will, without doubt, corroborate this statement. We think that the better way to judge of men's motives in doing good acts is by the acts themselves instead of hunting for a bad intent. The *Sun* says:

"THE WEST forgets that during 'Previous poor crops' the people were reduced to starvation in these same places and begged for reduced freights on breadstuffs and coal, but were refused by these same railroad people who are so liberal when the people have 'plenty and to s'—ship."

As the railroad company had little to do with the article we wrote, it is evident the editor thinks his case is the stronger by selecting them for his subject, because of popular opinion, rather than the Jobbers' Union. Will you please inform us what they wanted reduced freights for? If your statements are true, they had nothing to export nor money to buy either "breadstuffs or coal." Reduced freight rates when there is nothing to haul would certainly bring about gratifying results as well as a novel means for relief! Now that we have looked up this matter more closely, we find that this railway corporation did that which was fraught with more benefit than reducing freight rates, viz: they purchased and brought in coal, gave it to the needy, and the sum they expended was greater than either the state of Minnesota or the Dakotas paid for relief. The Minneapolis and St. Paul Jobbers' Unions trusted these farmers so long as they could without injury to their own credit. Both these and the railway corporations furnished seed wheat, and then the threshers to garner it. In answer to this it will be quite easy for the *Sun* to say that the motive that prompted all this was the fattening of a flock for future plucking,

and such an assertion is as irrefutable as "I told you so." Next the *Sun* asks us questions as under:

"Do you not remember that two or three years ago these farmers were chasing down starved wolves for food to sustain the lives of their loved ones, and had to hold up freight trains to obtain a little coal to keep them from freezing? They needed help a thousand fold more when starving and freezing than when simply unable to take care of a surfeit of grain. Don't you know that it was pure selfishness that sent this help?"

Regarding "chasing down starved wolves," we have read considerable about it, but have come to the conclusion that the reporting was a little overdone when our partner, who has resided for eight years in the very heart of North Dakota and where there was the most suffering, declares that such statements are possessed of as much truth as the one we yesterday read in an Eastern exchange, that Marshfield was "situated about one hundred miles inland from the ocean and on the Umpqua river."

Certainly the "starving and freezing" people were in greater need for help than at any other time, but that fact detracts nothing from the credit of those who assisted them when the necessity was not so great. But there is more in this grain saving aid than appears at first sight. The "care of a surfeit of grain" paid mortgages and other debts, leaving the farmers their homes and land; it set aside the probability of starving or freezing for some years to come, at least, and relieved them from these bewildering, anxious questions, "where can we go and what can we do to find a shelter for ours and us?"

We do not "know that it was pure selfishness that sent this help." On the contrary we believe the reverse. As it was a good act, and as we believe that opinions on matters within the range of human thought admit of verification and should be verified, that is the reason we so believe. At least we prefer it to assumptive or ready-made opinions.

It is not our intention to defend the wrongs of rich corporations or men. Give them credit for all right acts and condemn that which is wrong, is simple justice.

Too often is wealth made the means of oppressive, even iniquitous transactions. The greed for gold incites men to run rampant after all kinds of methods of taxation upon labor to fill more completely their coin coffers. That the poor are persecuted and robbed by some rich corporations and wealthy men, there is plenty of evidence to show, and these acts cannot be too severely condemned.

As human nature is about alike, no improvement could be looked for if all the wealthy men became poor and the poor rich. We believe that most millionaires are neither better nor worse men than the editor of the *Sun*. No change may be expected so long as

money is the standard for a peoples position in society, politics and religion. When the masses are educated to measure man, not by what he has, but by what he is, then will the true reform begin.

Our thoughts upon this subject have been written—perhaps not in words—but in intent, with the same candor as we interpret your own while reading your article.

RIVER AND HARBOR COMMITTEE.

FORTUNATELY Honorable BINGER HERMANN is a member of the harbor committee, and the advantages of his appointment to our own and all the harbors on this coast are not far to seek. His own wish for this position expressed the prevailing sentiment of all the people on the Pacific border of Oregon, and without doubt of the state.

Virtually there is little to add to the knowledge of our readers on the important question of Mr. HERMANN'S fitness for the place. If he comes out comparatively as well in his endeavors to secure an appropriation for us as he did during the last session of Congress, it will certainly look as if we made no mistake in our selection for congressman, and it will further create a stronger sentiment to send him to the Senate.

It is true Mr. HERMANN is not politically in accord with a majority of the harbor committee, but his acknowledged fairness in support of appropriations for the Southern states when he sat with the majority, will give him confidence and strength in requests for his own state, and it is hoped that neither the Siuslaw nor any other Oregon harbor improvement will be materially affected by his changed position.

The chairman of the rivers' and harbors' committee is from Louisiana, and the other members, in most part, are from the Southern states, and there is little doubt, judging from their past record, that they will be in favor of liberal appropriations for Oregon.

In the matter of money for improvements we have inherited rights by a former sum set apart for the improvement of our bar, and if we have any features in growth and recent developed resources that have not come under the observation of Mr. HERMANN, it is a duty we owe ourselves and an assistance to him to submit these facts for his consideration. They are certainly right who say that Mr. HERMANN'S mind is constantly bent on the good and the progress of his people, and to lend such an one assistance is much more in accord with what he is entitled to expect, than to sit idly down and leave him to fight our battles under the sport of circumstances.

—New ground plows and harrows, all kinds of tools to work old and ground, at bottom prices. Write get prices on any thing you need in line. F. L. Chambers, Eugene.

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