

**Rivers of the Southwest Coast of Oregon.**

We have been requested to give an outline of the volume of water of the different streams in Southern Oregon, their depth and dimensions, amount of agricultural land, etc. We are not at present in possession of the data necessary, consequently, unable to give more than a faint outline regarding this matter. The Umpqua is the largest river in Southern Oregon. It extends a long distance from the sea, through the Coast Range until within five miles of Roseburg, where it branches into what is known as the North and South forks. The South fork overlaps the headwaters of Rogue river, the mouth of which is distant from the mouth of the Umpqua about 90 miles. There is considerable farming land on the Umpqua and in the valleys contiguous. It has a bar at the mouth.

The next in size, where length is to be considered, is Rogue river. It is full of obstructions, being shoal but a short distance from the mouth, and possessing a bad bar. It passes through rugged mountains, and what are called meadows—the Big and Little meadows—are but the grassy slopes of Alpine localities. Where it passes through Jackson county, we find considerable open land, valuable for grain and stock-raising. Near its mouth there is some good farming land.

Next, we come to the Coquille. This river has a shoal bar, but at the present time efforts are being made by the government to improve it. After crossing the bar, this river is the deepest among those mentioned, and vessels of the same draught of water can ascend higher up than on any other on this coast, without meeting obstructions. There is considerable farming land, extending the whole length of the river, on both sides, and on the North, South and Middle forks.

The next is Coos Bay—a misnomer, unless its advocates will show us wherein the difference lies between it and the Umpqua. The truth is that for ten miles from its mouth, the most vivid imagination cannot draw a single, distinctive feature. For that distance from the sea, the apparently wide area of water covers extensive mud flats which are dry at low tide, leaving a narrow, tortuous channel in both the Umpqua and Coos. The principal farming land is on Coos river and its tributaries—the North and South forks. It has a bar similar to that of the Umpqua, and while both are bad, they are the best that we have. The government is making great improvements in the bar at Coos river, and taking the amount of coal, lumber and other exports and imports, and her growing commercial importance, it is but just.

The Siuslaw is the next and last that can be considered as one of the rivers on the Southwest coast. Cape Perpetua, the Western boundary of Lane county, covering a long extent of rocky coast, may be properly designated as the dividing point. This river has a shoal bar, is narrow and deep for a short distance, but then expands and divides into two branches. There is some farming land on its upper waters, but we are not prepared to say how much.

All these rivers pass through sections of country whose resources are as yet but slightly developed. Timber, coal, and other minerals abound in every portion of it. The rivers contain fish of the finest quality, and salmon in abundance during the season in which they come from the sea. The climate is salubrious, rather damp in winter, owing to the prevalence of rain, but then we cannot expect to have a monopoly of all the good things. We plant and are not troubled with drouth—that is a blessing which offsets the inconveniences due to a large rain-fall in winter.

In giving these details, we are aware of one thing and that is that

with our limited knowledge as to the general statistics, we are unable to do full justice to the subject. We are also aware that some will object to our calling Coos bay a river. Shakespeare says: "Call a rose by any other name, 'twill smell as sweet." Custom has made that name familiar, but custom should not be allowed to prevail against that which is correct.

We have during a period of 36 years become familiar with several ports and their tributary streams on this coast, notably, the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Port Orford, Coquille, Coos, Umpqua and Yaquina. We consider ourselves a fair pilot on the two first, and on the three last, and we have no desire to detract from the merits of any. Having been raised on the sea, our experience has been to estimate our distance and to take our departure from objects which are immovable, and laid down with strict regard to the truth, thus avoiding the danger of dashing on the rocks of uncertainty, doubt, prejudice and ignorance. The term departure, in the last sentence, has a nautical significance.

**THE HIGHER CIRCLES.**

Mayor Tannatt, of Walla Walla, recently resigned his commission, laying before the City Council his reasons for so doing. The principal ground for complaint is that several young men in high circles, arrested by order of the Mayor, for misdemeanors, were discharged by the Police Judge in collusion with the City Attorney. When this matter was called to the attention of the City Council, that body tabled it. This indicates that the mayor must select criminals.

The higher circles are progressing in importance—they will continue to increase if allowed, until their influence places society in the same position here, that it may be said to have occupied in Great Britain during the time of the Georges.

The aristocracy of that period, wore swords and other insignia indicating rank, and, occasionally, would smite a churl with perfect immunity. Some of those judges and district attorneys, town councils, et al, who pander to the higher circles, need hoisting. There is a growing necessity for what we will call a board of equalization, to be organized for the avowed purpose of dealing out justice to that class, who having the administration of the law in their hands, make a mockery of it, and whose only efforts tend towards bringing law into a disgraceful position. "He that sows the wind, shall reap the whirlwind." The citizens of Walla Walla ought to make it hot for that class of snobs who are disgracing its municipal records. Where law and justice are dealt out with no regard for impartiality, all measures with the view to wiping out the offenders, become justifiable; and the more extreme the retribution, the sooner will society be provided with impartial administrators of justice.

These ever-recurring verdicts where the former position in society of the criminal is taken into account, and made to weigh in his favor, irrespective of the enormity of the crime, must be checked.

The judges, and all who are inclined to such methods, are servile scoundrels, who receive the price of their degradation behind the scenes. Even if this were not so, it is evident that such men are unfit to be trusted with the dispensing of justice. We are all equal before the law, and he who will not recognize it while holding the scales of justice in his hands, and sworn to decide impartially, ought to suffer death or public disgrace.

We do not wish to see the impending revolutions which are threatened and likely to be produced at any moment, by which the despotic power of dynamite is to be brought into play to redress the wrongs of the lower classes against the continued encroachment of the mushroom aristocracy, realized. We would not have it even thought that we advocated a sys-

tem which brings destruction on the innocent as well as the guilty. But some change must take place—some revolution in the sentiment of society with regard to this growing partiality for an over favored class.

If class legislation and special verdicts are to be the rule, then, that class which is made to suffer, will have the right to rebel and exterminate the tyrants.

**Labor to the front.**

A bloody riot took place in the Hocking Valley, Ohio, during the early part of the last month. An armed force attacked and drove in the guards at Murray City. Explosives were thrown from the hills, and burst in the town, shaking the ground terribly. All the telegraph lines between Columbus and Murray City were cut, and the Carbon Hill and Sand Run Railroad bridges were burned, which stops all traffic. The dynamite era seems to be upon us with a vengeance. The men who realize large fortunes and then lock their employees out and close their factories, thereby reducing thousands to a condition of starvation, will now be the medium by which we may learn an enduring lesson in political economy.

**GENERAL NEWS.**

The new Sheriff of Snohomish county, W. T., is named Stretch.

About \$50,000, duties on imports, were paid at the Yaquina Custom House last month.

It has just been discovered that the charter of Albany, Linn county, is a "dead letter."

Mrs. Dr. Sawtelle, a female physician from California, has been whooped out of Ashland.

There is such a glut of apples in New York that farmers are selling their crops as low as eight cents a bushel.

The value of the 6,000 volumes presented to the Brown University by the late Senator Anthony is said to be \$25,000.

Ninety-five thousand sheets of paper are daily consumed in printing Uncle Sam's money and internal revenue stamps.

F. E. Goff, a young lawyer of N. Y., has left her to over \$10,000 left to him by an old negro named Aunt Katy Tanner.

A human skeleton was found on the South fork of the Little Butte, Josephine county, buried under a foot of rocks. It was left as found.

A premature blast on the Oregon Pacific road, near Little Elk, Benton county, knocked an eye out of H. G. Fairclough and also injured Charles Wilson, workmen.

Lewis McDaniel, an old president of the State, and a citizen of Ashland, was waylaid and murdered on the night of the 23rd inst., while on his way home from shopping.

A band of from 200 to 300 bison or mountain buffalo were seen in the National Park a few days ago. They were watched by a gamekeeper, so that hunters could not molest them.

Oil has been struck in Webster, O., twenty miles south of Bellaire. Two wells are now running 100 barrels each a day. Operators are flocking to the spot, and a town of seventy-five has grown to a place of 1,000 in ten days. A score of wells are being sunk.

Parisian papers severely condemn Jay Gould and his associates at the way in which they manipulated the Associated Press to the benefit of their financial interests, saying that no paper relying upon its reports can hereafter commend itself to public respect.

G. W. Smalley, London correspondent of the New York Tribune, writes to the London Times sharply complaining of the system of British mails to America. He urges that mails should be given to the fastest steamers by way of Queens-town and Southampton.

Dr. Carver's visit with a lot of cowboys to Hamilton, Ont., recently set all the small boys lassoing. The result is that a small boy named John Carey was lassoed by his companions and dragged along the ground for some distance, receiving such injuries that he died soon after.

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