Times-Mountaineer.

SATURDAY.....FEBRUARY 22, 1890

PORTLAND AND AN OPEN RIVER.

The *Oregonian*, following *lex talionis*, never forgets or forgives an antagonist. In yesterday's issue it publishes the following:

Says The Dalles TIMES-MOUNTAINEER: "For the past decade our people have hoped that an outlet would be furnished them by an open river to seaboard, but have nearly lost all expectation of relief from that direction.." Years ago when the *Oregonian* foretold this situation, which to it was just as clear then as now, the TIMES MOUNTAINEER was extremely unkind in its criticisms. We all want the river opened, but there is small probability that any of us now anxious will live to see it. The government will do the work, in time; but we never can get much more than our moiety of the regular appropriation made by the river and harbor bill; hence we cannot see the work make rapid progress, and the hope of seeing it completed will have to be handed down to posterity. At last what the *Oregonian* said on this subject a dozen years ago is beginning to be understood.

We do not desire to bring to the surface the controversy which we had with our esteemed cotemporary, the *Oregonian*; but are forced to do it for our own vindication. For this daily of the northwest, superlative in enterprise and all matters which constitute a metropolitan paper, we have always entertained the highest respect. But the TIMES-MOUNTAINEER acts on its own judgement, and is fearless in the expression of its opinion. The *Oregonian* is the acknowledged organ of the best interests of Portland; and the *T.-M.* humbly considers itself in the same light as regards The Dalles and vicinity. For this reason it has carefully watched the course of the great paper for a number of years past, and it is forced to acknowledge that it has rarely seen anything in its columns that favored an early completion of the locks at the Cascades. At the time to which it refers the *Oregonian* gave publicity to statements against the advisability of removing obstructions in the Columbia river, and editorially said that appropriations for the locks at the Cascades were "feeding an elephant," "a waste of public money," and that the railroad would do the carrying trade of the country. It was in connection with such comments that the *Oregonian* stated that this generation would pass away without seeing the locks at the Cascades completed, and, as the wish was parent to the thought, we feel in no manner thankful for the prophecy which it tried by every means to fulfill. The fact is apparent,—however painful it may be to acknowledge—the business men of Portland have never been in favor of an open Columbia river. They have been in earnest in improving the mouth of the river, but have never given any aid to the removal of obstructions in this great artery of commerce to the interior. During the domination of the old O. S. N. Co., because the directors lived and spent their accumulated wealth in Portland, that city upheld the company in all its extortionate charges. Later when the O. R. & N. Co. secured the control of the line to the interior, and charged 12 cents a bushel for carrying grain a distance or 88 miles—simply an annual tax of about $4 per acre on all cultivated land in Wasco county—the same city came to the rescue of the monopoly, and said, considering the country through which the railroad passed, the freight rates were reasonable. Still later, when Mr. Henry Villard was deified by Portland, in expectation that he would make that point the terminal of the great transcontinental line, the business men did every thing to discourage the completion of the locks or other improvement to the navigation of the Columbia—except at the mouth. The sympathy which Portland has extended to Eastern Oregon has been Greek gifts. That city has reaped every advantage from the country east of the Cascades, and has given nothing in return. The *Oregonian* has advocated the special contract rates on freight—forcing us to deal with her merchants—decried work on the locks at the Cascades, been the steadfast friend and supporter of the most ruthless railroad monopoly that has ever cursed any portion of the country, and is friendly to no improvement only as far as Portland's selfish interests are concerned. The commercial advantages of the inland seaport are not at all in harmony with those of the Inland Empire. This has been verified in many different ways, and the people of The Dalles cannot expect anything but Punic faith from the business men of that city. We have a rich country, unlimited resources, and soil which will produce abundantly; but if we desire to develope and grow and prosper we must isolate ourselves politically and commercially from that city, and ally ourselves with some point like Astoria, which is directly interested in our welfare.

INDICATIONS.

We may expect grand revelations in railroad matters during the coming summer, in this portion of Oregon. For many years Eastern Oregon has has desired some means of direct communication with seaboard, which would be available by reason of cheapness. The people waited patiently for years expecting the Columbia river would be made navigable. But the improvements progressed so slowly that during the past season a welcome was extended to Mr. Hunt, and already he has completed one road to Pendleton, and has another surveyed into Union county. There will be great activity along the line of his roads as soon as the spring opens, and it may be that other roads will be projected.

We have heretofore intimated that Mr. Hunt could find a rich country in natural productions in Wasco county, and by building through this region he would build up a thriving trade. This may be more difficult than is apparent at present; but we think it could be accomplished as easily from Pasco as the Grand Ronde valley can be reached from Walla Walla. By such a route he would go through Klickitat county, a rich farming country, and would use the Columbia river as a means of transportation to seaboard. The Dalles has always been the center of a large lucrative trade, and has been the shipping point for cattle and large quantities of the natural productions of the region east of the Cascade mountains. During the season of 1888 there were handled by our local dealers over 5,000,000 pounds of wool and 15,000 tons of wheat, with only 150,000 acres under cultivation. Our sheep-raisers are constantly improving their herds, and it is reasonable to expect in a few years that Eastern Oregon will produce as fine wool as any portion of the United States. By reason of two land grants a considerable portion of our most valuable land has been kept from settlement. If these grants were forfeited, which they will be in the near future, our wheat output would be more than doubled.

For the past decade our people have hoped that an outlet would be furnished them by an open river to seaboard, but have nearly lost all expectation of relief from that direction, and will extend a welcome to any corporation that will furnish cheap and direct transporation.

BRITISH CAPITAL IN THIS COUNTRY.

In an article on "British Capital and American Industries" in the *North American* for February, Erastus Wyman points out the fact that Great Britain is in receipt of enormous revenues, not merely from her trade, but but from the interest on government loans, from the returns on English capital invested in foreign state and municipal improvements, and by the return to the mother country, with all their money, of successful Englishmen who have accumulated fortunes in various parts of the globe. "The result of this vast volume of interest, dividends and profits is the creation of an annual income far in excess of spending or absorbing possibilities within the island itself." During the past year $815,000,000 was subscribed to new enterprises launched in London. Of these three-fourths were industrial enterprises, of which one-half are located in Great Britain, while the other half are scattered all over the world.

The United States is now the most attractive field for the investment of English capital. During the last two years about $1,000,000 a week of English money has been invested in industrial enterprises here. Twelve millions of dollars have gone to the purchase of seventeen distinct brewery establishments, which have since been united in one grand combination. Warner's "Safe Cure" establishment brought $3,500,000; the Chicago Grain Elevator Line nearly $5,000,000; the California Consolidated Quicksilver companies $2,000,000, and so on through a vast and varied list of enterprises. The capitol at Austin, Tex., was built with British money. British money is developing the great tin mines of Dakota and it has secured vast sections of our grazing and arable lands.

The community of financial interests which has thus been established between the two great branches of the English speaking race is profitable to both. We need English money to give employment to the host of laborers we have received from Europe, and every lover of his kind must view with satisfaction an industrial relation which cements more closely the bond of union between this and the mother country.

The time is drawing near when the state will be convulsed with a political campaign, and each party is making preparation for the contest. There is no question but Oregon is Republican by from 5000 to 10,000 majority, and if the party manages affairs properly the candidates on its ticket will be elected. There is complete harmony at present in the ranks, and this may continue if there are no attempts made to control conventions by cliques and rings. If the primaries are not what they were intended to be—the free expression of Republican electors—the election may not result as expected. You cannot drive men to the polls and force them to vote as desired in this free country. They must exercise discretion, and the only way possible to control their votes is by convincing their judgment. We do not apprehend anything of this kind being inaugurated; but it is proper to give warning and state the consequence if such an emergency should arise.

A special dispatch from Walla Walla, which we publish to-day, intimates that Mr. Hunt will be induced to build down the Columbia river to Portland. The metropolis has always had an ardent affection for railroads, and it is not so many years since that her business men clung to Mr. Villard, hoping he would make that city the transcontinental terminus. Mr. Villard failed in his first railroad scheme, and since he has again come to the surface in railroad matters he has transferred his love to the City of Destiny on the Sound. It may be possible that this fair city on the murky Willamette may yet woo and win Mr. Hunt to carry out her desires for a railroad terminus. But our people are more interested in the lordly Columbia flowing unvexed to the sea, than in railroads coursing down the river to the Webfoot metropolis.

THE MORTGAGE-TAX LAW.

As we expected, the assessors, who met in convention in Portland this week, have made themselves heard. It is reasonable to suppose that these men who have had practical experience in the matter could point out the evils of the present system of assessment and suggest some remedy. Of course they could not change the existing law; but our legislators would act wisely if they followed the suggestions made.

One important action was the passage of a resolution favoring the repeal of the present mortgage tax law. The object of the passage of this law was for the state to derive some revenue from the immense amount of foreign capital invested, and undoubtedly the legislators were honest in believing that such a measure would accomplish this result. Practical experience has demonstrated that the borrower is forced to pay the amount of the tax, and not the lender. Money is governed by the same law of supply and demand that wheat or other necessary commodities. If he who is desirous of a loan approaches a money-lender he is forced to pay the ruling rate of interest for the use of the money. In case a mortgage is given, the per cent. of taxes is charged to the prevailing rate of interest, and the poor man has to bear the increased burden. Legislation cannot change this, no more than it can the price of produce of the farm. In case laws are too stringent, the capitalist will seek another market, the same as the wheat seller. There are times, perhaps, in every person's experience, when money is more valuable than at others; and in such emergencies a much higher rate of interest is readily paid. In this stage of our development foreign capital is very welcome in this state, and it will be advantageous if it can be procured. The reason for the act never existed, even if it had not reacted on the portion of the community which it was designed to benefit.

Aside from the results named, the manner of the collection of tax on mortgages is not in the least satisfactory. The law provides that such delinquent taxes shall be a "lien on the mortgage and debt," and this is impossible of enforcement. If this property is sold for delinquent taxes, the only deed the sheriff could give would be simply a certificate of sale, and this would have no binding force on the mortgageor. The mortgage record could not be changed, and he who owes the debt could settle it without paying any attention to the "lien" created.

A reformation is needed in this regard, and it would be for the best interests of our commonwealth if our next legislature would abolish this law on our statute books, together with that against usury. Both can be placed in the same category of ill-conceived legislation, and the quicker the state is freed from such obstacles to its growth the better. The consumer pays for the price of the commodity, however costly its production or manufacture, and the money-user will pay all taxes on mortgages and bear any other burdens which may hamper its free interchange in the markets. There is not a community in Oregon which does not desire capital, and money-sellers should have the same immunity in our markets as cattle or sheep-dealers.

The decision of Judge Sawyer in the cases of the United States against The Dalles Military Wagon Road Company, and the Oregon Central Military Wagon Road Company, were announced by Judge Sabin Tuesday. The suits were brought to forfeit the land grants of the companies on the ground that the roads had not been built as required by law. The court dismissed the bills and the title remains in the companies. This will be welcome news to many settlers in this county, who purchased their lands from the road company in good faith, and have made improvements thereon. To have disturbed the rights of these settlers would have been a great injustice, and the decision will meet with the approbation of our people.

The Democratic papers have not stopped complaining because of the rulings of Speaker Reed regarding the counting of all members present in considering the question of a quorum for the transaction of business. What ever may have been the custom of the lower house of congress heretofore, it is only plain common sense, which is followed, in every deliberative assembly to count those present, whether they desire to vote or not, in making a quorum. To follow any other rule would block legislation, and leave majorities at the will of minorities. The sovereign people desire legislation to be expedited as much as possible, and any other plan is detrimental to the best interests of every community.

This winter will be long remembered for many disasters caused by snow and washouts. The terrible wreck near the Cascade Locks, causing a fearful loss of life, will never be forgotten by relatives and friends. In Southern Oregon and California the blockades of the Southern Pacific have been unprecedented, and have entailed quite a loss to the company. The Willamette valley suffered from the highest water experienced for twenty years, and in portions of Eastern Oregon the loss of cattle has been quite heavy, and even now from the severe weather additional losses may be expected. Truly, this will be a black page in our history for years to come.

The appointment of Capt. John W. Lewis register of the land office in this city, although unexpected, will be satisfactory to Republicans in this vicinity. Capt. Lewis is a resident of Grant county, is extensively engaged in the sheep business, served in the army during the war, has been a lifelong Republican, and is in every way qualified for the position to which he has been nominated.

We are asked by a correspondent, in another column, why Capt. Lewis was appointed register of the land office in this city, when he was not a resident of the land district, and not in any manner prominent in politics. At first blush yesterday we thought he would be acceptable to the party; but upon inquiry to-day we learn the appointment is not only a disappointment but has caused great dissatisfaction. If, as the dispatches state, Mr. Lewis was named without the knowledge of the Oregon delegation, there has been arbitrary and high-handed work somewhere. From present indications, and what we can learn from prominent Republicans, the naming of Capt. Lewis as land register will cost the party dearly during the next campaign in this county.

The dispatches Saturday entitle the trouble in Canada "the Holy War." This is not putting the question fairly or honestly. True, there is considerable contention in this portion of the British colonies between Catholics and Protestants; but the trouble in the provice of Quebec is not caused by religious differences but by race prejudices. The Quebec Canadians of to-day are as much French in their costumes as they were before the conquest by the English more than a century ago, and to be connected with any other government than *la belle* France is not in harmony with their existence.

Another brutal prize-fight has taken place, and is read with the greatest interest. In fact, newsboys have reaped a rich harvest in selling papers with full descriptions of the fights between Kilrain and Corbett and Dempsey and McCarthy during the past two days. It is not surprising, viewing human nature as it was and is, that the coliseum at Rome was thronged with people to witness the bloody gladiatorial combats. If such exhibitions were given now reserved seats would sell readily.

The news from Washington is to the effect that Democrats are opposing the admission of Idaho. This has been the plan of the party in the past, and will be in the future. The new states which were admitted last year were kept out a long time by a Democratic house, and we presume any new territory which has Republican proclivities will be forced to fight its way into the union against the determined opposition of the Democratic minority.

The south is at least consistent in advocating the repeal of the fifteenth amendment. Ever since its adoption the people in that portion of the United States have done everything possible to stop its enforcement, and in almost every state south of Mason and Dixon's line have rendered the law nugatory. They have never favored the amendment and are perfectly honest in advocating its repeal.

A new railroad is projected from Drain to tidewater at Gardner, a distance of fifty-five miles. This will be a feeder of the Southern Pacific. A mortgage for over $1,000,000 has been filed at Roseburg, bonding the road to the Central Trust and Investment company, and the road is to be finished by July, 1891. This is a very important road, and will furnish an outlet to a rich agricultural and mineral region.

The Washington legislature, which has been in session in Olympia for an undue length of time, appear to be wearing out the patience of its constituents. There is no question but that the members have attempted to follow the rules of the "circumlocution office"—how not to do it—to a degree rarely ever attained by American solons. These men have made history for themselves in what they have not done.

Gossip has a juicy morsel in the reported trouble between Prince Henry of Battenberg and Queen Victoria's daughter. It is no person's business whether the queen's daughter or any other person's daughter has infelicitous domestic relations; but such trash is relished by a certain portion of the community, and a newspaper to satisfy the tastes of all classes must publish a little scandal—especially in high life.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A starch "trust" has been formed, and this will afford the Democrats another opportunity to vent their spleen against the "robber tariff."

Walla Walla is the first city in the northwest to collect supplies for the famine-stricken people of North Dakota. All honor to her generosity.

The people of the Willamette valley can now move around without using boats. The loss was considerable, but it is a rich country and will soon recover.

The La Grande common council has appropriated $2000 to bore an artesian well in that locality. If The Dalles would follow this example, we believe our citizens would endorse the action.

They need another man like Reed, of Maine, in Montana to regulate the legislature. Such men are very firm in their opinions, and are often necessary when defeated Democracy get dangerously rampant.

Some Republican editors devote their spare time to making political slates for the coming campaign. This is, to say the least, very unprofitable employment, and is a species of "building castles in the air" that results to the benefit of no one.

Emperor William and Count Bismarck are attempting to court the favor of the masses by adopting some socialistic ideas. This may have the effect of quieting some of the turbulent agitators; but not until the entire government is changed from a military despotism to a free republic will the object of socialism be accomplished.

Idaho desires statehood very much, and is using every effort to call the attention of congress to the fact. We can see no reason why the desires of the people should not be satisfied, as Idaho is rich in natural resources, and would make a very worthy member of the union.

The long protracted session of the Washington legislature is becoming very tiresome to all. If the members had consulted the wishes of their constituents they would have stopped wrangling over trifling matters and attended to the necessary legislative business long ago.

The Blair educational bill is now creating considerable attention in congress. There are some commendable features in the bill, and others which are not. As legislation for different portions of the country become prominent before congress, this and other measures will be forgotten.

The census this year should be thoroughly taken, as it is belived Oregon is entitled to another representative in the lower house. We need all the members possible in this branch of the national legislature, as our state desires government aid for the improvement of rivers and harbors.

Sandy Olds has been convicted the third time of murder in the first degree, and it is reasonable to suppose that he will suffer the extreme penalty of the law. With the different trials had for the purpose of giving him his full rights, Olds can make no complaint that justice has not been done in his case.

Mrs. Marion Harland is making an appeal to the women of America to contribute towards the completion of the proposed monument to the mother of Washington, who died at Fredericksburg, Va., over one hundred years ago, and to this end will devote 75 cents out of every $2 contributed for the *Home-Maker*, of which she is editor. We have received a letter from Mrs. Harland, desiring us to call attention to this fact.

Leprosy in China.

London Times, January 14.

In connection with a medical investigation recently undertaken in Hongkong, into the sources and amount of leprosy in that colony, a series of questions were put to the doctors of the principal local Chinese charitable institution, the Tung Wah Hospital, as to the prevalence and treatment of the disease in China. From the answers, it appears that eight varieties are recognized, and that the disease is regarded as contagious, infectious and hereditary. It is said to disappear in four generations. The populace dread it so much that they would not allow a leper "even if the son of rich parents," to remain in their neighborhood. No district is specially notorious for the disease, which is attributed by the faculty to "an excess of moisture in the phlegm." It is regarded as incurable, and is treated by attempting "to drive the leprous matter to one part of the body, so as to save the rest." The Tung Wah Hospital refuses to receive any leprous patients, but there is provision in Hongkong for sending them back to the leper village outside Canton. All lepers in China are compelled by the authorities to go to these villages, where they receive an allowance and have some land to till. The native doctors advise that no leper home should be established in Hongkong, as it would only lead to an influx of lepers from the mainland.

Matrimonial Tutelage.

N. Y. Ledger.

A man is in one respect like a tree. If not properly cultivated and pruned his moral nature gets gnarled and twisted, puts out shoots in the wrong directions, and becomes decidedly uncouth, if nothing worse. To prune and train his character, to remove its roughness, and develop its best points, is preeminently a wife's work.

An exemplary mother, or a good sister, may do much, but it requires the tender skill of a loving helpmate, whose whole heart and soul are in the task, to make a man all that he ought to be. And the process is no easy one to the woman—especially if the subject is no longer young and pliable.

A middle-aged bachelor, full of oddities and eccentricities, slovenly in his habits and set in his ways, is a tough pupil. Yet we have seen one of these Calibans become, under judicious matrimonial tutelage, an amiable, polite, considerate, companionable husband within six months after marriage. So wisely and gently did the fair performer "bo her spiriting" that the "deformed transformed" was unconscious of the metamorphosis.

"The Pearl of Pekin."

The management of the Vogt Grand has the honor to announce the engagement of Rice & Dixey's phenominally successful production of burlesque opera, "The Pearl of Pekin," which will appear at this opera house one night only, Thursday Feb. 27th, mounted in its novel fashion, enveloped in silken wrappings of vivid colors, will be seen in this city for the first time with all the original cast, unique and beautiful scenic effects, brilliant costumes and elaborate surroundings. Not alone in its staging, composition and conception, but in its entirety, this production is dissimilar to anything of its kind ever seen in The Dalles. Beautiful in its melodies, brilliant and continuously humorous from the rise to the fall of the curtain, it stands pre-eminent among all the productions of Rice & Dixey. The cast includes the names of sixty artists of metropolitan fame and reputation, the particular star being the comedian, Mr. Louis Harrison, who, as the principal character and main factor of the performance, has scored the greatest success of his career. As in all productions of this firm, the female element predominates, and this organization is everywhere spoken of as containing more pretty faces than any similar company now before the public.

"The Pearl of Pekin" is the first Rice & Dixey production ever seen in The Dalles, and the only one ever seen in the far west with exactly the same cast and same surroundings that have distinguished the eastern productors. The Dalles is the only city between Portland and Denver that "The Pearl of Pekin" stops at, a rare treat is therefore in store for our citizens.

The Pulpit and the Stage.

Rev. F. M. Shrout, pastor United Brethren church, Blue Mound, Kan., says: "I feel it my duty to tell what wonders Dr. King's New Discovery has done for me. My lungs were badly diseased, and my parishioners thought I could live only a few weeks. I took five bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery and am sound and well, gaining 26 lbs. in weight."

Arthur Love, manager Love's Funny Folks Combination, writes: "After a thorough trial and convincing evidence, I am confident Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, beats 'em all, and cures when everything else fails. The greatest kindness I can do my many thousand friends is to urge them to try it." Free trial bottles at Snipes & Kinersly's drug store. Regular sizes 50c and $1.00.

Notice to Fishermen.

Gibons, Macallister & Co, agents for the American Net and Twine Company of Boston, Mass., are now prepared to receive orders for Nets, Seines, and Twines. Orders should be booked early to insure prompt delivery. w6f3m

THE FIRE FIEND.

A $50,000 Blaze in Walla Walla Wednesday.

Furious Snow Storm and Heavy Blockades Anticipated.

Special to the TIMES-MOUNTAINEER:

WALLA WALLA, Feb. 19.--This morning at 12:10 fire was discovered in the large brick on the corner of Third and Main streets, owned by Fred Stencil and occupied by the White House Clothing Co. The fire department with two steamers were promptly on hand, experiencing great difficulty in getting water to the seat of the fire, which seemed impossible to locate. The smoke was so pungent and dense that the firemen could not enter or approach in near proximity to the building. Finally three streams were turned on, not, however, before the entire interior was a roaring mass, the roof falling at 1:30. After two hours of hard work the flames were subdued. Loss of stock and property is stated at not less than $50,000; building $10,000; both are well insured.

It is snowing furiously throughout the entire Inland Empire. Heavy blockades are anticipated.

FATAL FIRE AT WHATCOM.

WHATCOM, Feb. 17.—A coal oil lamp exploded in a back room of Hayes & Merriam's dry goods store last night, causing damage of $2000 to the stock and building. A bucket brigade quenched the fire by hard work. Mrs. J. C. Merriam, aged 60, was burned so badly in the explosion that she died last night. Her husband was also badly burned trying to save her, but he will recover.

"A SOP TO CERBERUS."

LONDON, Feb. 16.—John Burns, the organizer of the great dock strike and leader of the English proletarians, was interviewed to-day with regard to his opinion on trades unionism and aristocratic concession. He said:

I am a socialist to the bone and look upon the concessions that the emperor of Germany has been making to the democracy in the same light as I view the charitable contributions of wealthy Englishmen to the dock strikers, as merely a "sop to Cerberus."

But what do you believe will be the effect?

The effect will be quite different. In my opinion these concessions will but whet the appetite of the working classes and increase their discontent with the existing order of things. Monarchy must either assimilate itself to the people or it must fall. I consider that no man has a right to use his individual liberty to the detriment of the standards of his class. Therefore no man has a right to refuse to pay his trade union dues any more than to pay his taxes. I look upon orderly agitation as a challenge to the world.

What do you believe will be the result of the eight-hour agitation?

The eight-hour agitation has already extended to Australia and will go farther in time. Working overtime is not favored by trade unionists, who are strongly against it. Some unions even go so far as to propose to make their members forfeit their overtime. Overtime means that some one is deprived of work, and is liable to come on the sick fund. What a man gains by overtime goes in at the spigot and out at the bung. Brain work is not so monotonous as manual labor. For instance, the work of clerks is the hardest in the world, but not physically exhausting or subject to such degrading discipline.

What do you expect to accomplish by the May day meeting?

The London May-day meeting will be the biggest demonstration ever seen. The trades council that controls London meetings also governs Liverpool, Glasgow, Manchester, Dundee, Birmingham and other large towns. I speak in London, but I have never yet made a penny by my words written or spoken. I am reproached with making capital for myself. All I get is £2 a week, and £1 for my expenses in serving in the London county council, much less than I earned when employed at Hoe's printing machine works.

What about Lord Headly's scheme?

Lord Headly's gay society really means a lot of jail birds who go out in the morning to look for work and pray to God that they may not find it.

What effect is it likely to have?

None. It is nothing but an attempt to introduce the Pinkerton detective system into England and effete as we may be here, England would not stand such a system for twelve hours without bloodshed.

But the Americans stand it?

Yes; but in America labor is not so well organized as in England. Americans allow wire pullers to boss them in the interest of one or the other of the big parties. In five years from now American labor will be properly organized and then it will use politicians, instead of being used by them.

Why don't you go to America yourself to give them your ideas?

Well, I have an invitation from the Federation of Labor to lecture in the states, and I hope to be able to accept.

What effect had the great dock strike?

A very great one. I estimate the dock strike brought 300,000 recruits to the labor unions, reduced the hours of work for 80 per cent. of them and increased wages 30 per cent. The moral and political effect will be enormous at the next election for parliament, which will be determined by the labor question.

CALIFORNIA NEWS ITEMS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—On January 13 and 14 a moderate gale was experienced at Apia, Samoa; The barometer gave timely notice, and the United States steamer *Adams* and the German cruiser *Alexandriene* went to sea to escape. The Adams ran leeward and anchored in Pago Pago, which being a perfectly landlocked harbor, surrounded on all sides by high mountains, afforded security. The *Alexandrine* weathered the storm on Monday and Tuesday night at sea, and experienced very bad weather. A bark and several small schooners remained at anchor in Apia, and had no difficulty in riding out the gale. The experience of the last hurricane in March has demonstrated the necessity of leaving this harbor on the approach of bad weather.

THE BLOCKADE DIMINISHING.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17—There was but little change on the Oregon line today, though what there was brought opening of the line nearer. The blockade at tunnel 9, near Delta, is yet all that interferes with the operation of the road north to Ashland, and passengers and light freight are still being transferred there. An order was issued to-day from the general freight office to receive groceries and provisions for all points on the line as far north as Ashland, and all other freight for points as far as Delta.

Assistant General Superintendent Pratt reclaimed another mile in Cow creek today.

YOUNG SALTMARSH DYING.

ALBANY, Feb. 18.—George Saltmarsh, who attempted suicide last night by shooting himself in the head with a revolver, is still alive. Part of his brains were blown out, and his physician thinks he cannot recover. His young wife, whose wound, inflicted by her husband is slight, has been by his bedside all day.

A LITTLE PIRATE'S EAR SHOT OFF.

COLFAX, Feb. 17.—Two little sons of Mrs. Montgomery, aged respectively 9 and 11, were playing pirates with a 44-caliber pistol, which accidentally went off, taking a portion of the left ear off the 9-year-old boy.

L. P. Berry and family leave to day for Olympia, their future home.

THE YAMHILL MURDER.

SALEM, Feb. 18.--News comes from Wheatland this evening that the coroner had returned to Wm. Scott's farm with an attorney and a detective and had impaneled a second coroner's jury and was holding another inquest. The father and son have been shadowed since Sunday evening, and suspicions are growing that the murder of old Mrs. Scott was committed jointly by the father and son. It is confidently expected that the finding of this jury will recommend the detention of the suspected parties.

UNION COUNTY PRISONERS BREAK JAIL.

LA GRANDE, Feb. 18.—Robert Wild and Frank Winsten were convicted of larceny from a dwelling during the term of court now in session at Union, and yesterday the court pronounced sentence of one and one half years each. Sentence was pronounced at about 1:30 in the afternoon, and the prisoners were immediately taken back to jail. The sheriff, O. N. Hamilton, and deputies and the bailiffs were very busy in assisting to expediate the business of the court. One of the deputies was in the jail at 3 o'clock P. M., and found everything in good condition. At 5 P. M. Sheriff Hamilton went to the jail and found his birds had flown. It was found that the prisoners had escaped by sawing their way out, having evidently been furnished with implements from the outside.

NEWS FROM VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 18.—Arthur Proebstel was drowned in La Camas creek yesterday, while rafting logs. The funeral took place to-day at Fourth Plain.

Sheriff Fleming left here to-day for Steilacoom with Miss Lesa Dahl, of Cedar creek, who was adjudged insane.

YAQUINA'S BLOCKADE RAISED.

NEWPORT, Or., Feb. 16.—The blockade from the outside world which commenced on February 1, was raised on Friday last, when Yaquina Bay received its first mail from beyond Corvallis.

The storm along this part of the coast was the most severe and prolonged ever experienced since this part of the state was settled. But for all severity, Yaquina bay and its tributary country suffered very slight damages. While from all points of Western Oregon reports come of immense loss of property and even lives, nothing more serious than a few landslides and the floating off of a hundred cords or so of wood is reported here.

THE PARNELL CASE IN COUNCIL.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—A cabinet council occupied four hours to-day in discussing what reply to make to Mr. Parnell on Monday. Parnell has asked what course the government intends to take. The meeting was not stormy, but was hopelessly divergent in opinion. W. H. Smith's suggestion that Parnell be informed that the government would leave the judges' verdict to the ratification of public opinion was finally adopted.

A FISH POACHER KILLED.

KALAMA, Feb. 17.—Information has been received of a tragedy near Rainier, a little town on the river six miles below here, in which one man lost his life and another had a narrow escape. A fisherman named Leland was out in a boat with a companion when they found a gill net set near the bank, and while in the act of taking fish from it a shot was heard, and a bullet struck the boat. They commenced to row away, when two more shots were fired and Leland fell dead with a bullet hole through the head. His companion rowed as fast as he could, but three more shots were fired at him before he could get out of range. All of them struck in the boat.

SNOW ON THE TRACK.

SISSON, Cal., Feb. 18.--The snow blockade is still on. The Ashland train ran back to Englewood, as the plow has not left here yet to open the road. It has been lying idle two days waiting for engines from Dunsmuir. It is reported that there are two passenger coaches and a caboose full of passengers, and that they will soon be, if they are not already, without food. When the engines from the last train reached here the snow was over three feet deep on the track and had drifted into the cuts five feet deep. It was impossible for one engine to move the plow through such deep snow, so an engine and plow was ordered to get ready, and it was stated that an engine from Mott would be here as soon as possible to assist the snow plow. The engine left Mott at 4:20 P. M. yesterday and has not been heard of since. It is supposed to be stuck in the snow and unable to move either way, or it would have returned to Mott.

It is not expected that trains can run for two weeks. The situation is almost as bad as it was before, when the first blockade commenced. The snow-bound passengers are at Preston's five miles this side of Edgewood, and there is no way of clearing the track to reach them and give assistance.

BADLY TREATED.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—Fred Messinger, a laborer just returned from the northern blockade near tunnel nine, tells a story of bad treatment received by the men from railroad officials. He says the foreman of a gang, named Sullvan frequently shoveled down rocks from a higher level on the heads of men below, hurting them badly. The men when work was over would often be locked out of the cars and forced to remain in the cold for two hours. The men had to eat in two shifts, and when the first lot finished nothing but bread was left for second table. When the men asked for their discharge a time clerk named Sexton would keep them waiting sometimes for two days or more and charge them $1 a day for board. Messinger seems to be an honest man worthy of belief.

THE STUPID DUKE OF ORLEANS.

PARIS, Feb, 18.—Boucher, Orleanist member of the chamber of deputies, has received from Havana a cable dispatch from the Count of Paris, father of the Duke of Orleans, in which he says: "I am proud of my son and pleased with the attitude he has taken, but deeply concerned on account of his sentence." President Carnot has decided to pardon the Duke of Orleans and send him under escort to the frontier.

STATE SOCIALISM IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—A deputation of ministers to-day visited the Earl of Dunraven and Lord Randolph Churchill, both of whom assured the deputation that they favor the limitation of working hours by the state. Matthews, home secretary, replying to a deputation of miners, told them that he could hold out the hope that the government would support the eight-hour bill.

IMPOSSIBLE TO LIBEL O'SHEA.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The high court of justice has refused to grant the application of Captain O'Shea for an attachment against the *Star* and the London edition of the New York *Herald*, for publishing certain comments relative to the action for divorce brought by O'Shea against his wife, in which Parnell is named as corespondent. In the case of the *Freeman's Journal*, of Dublin, against which a similar application was made, the court imposed a fine of £100 and costs.

Captain Shea, in his suit for divorce, has filed a supplementary petition in which he extends the period within which the alleged acts of adultery were committed.

RUSSIA'S DEMANDS.

SOFIA, Feb. 20.—Russia has demanded of the government of Bulgaria the payment of 3,000,000 roubles, arrears of money due on account of the Russian occupation during 1878 and 1879. The demand is in part related to the consolidation under one government of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. Russia has never pressed the debt, but demands arrears now, apparently under a sense of irritation.

WALLA WALLA.

Loss by Wednesday's Fire, $60,000.

Negotiations Pending to Induce Hunt to Build to Portland.

Special to the TIMES MOUNTAINEER.

WALLA WALLA, Feb. 20.—The inspection of the property burned yesterday morning confirmed the loss being fully $60,000. The stock is entirely destroyed. The building will be torn down. There is strong evidence of incendiarism. An investigation undoubtedly will be made by the underwriters when the representatives arrive.

Hon. W. P. Winans slipped on the ice yesterday breaking three ribs.

It is believed here that negotiations are pending whereby Hunt will be induced to build down the Columbia river to Portland.

Since the effort to expel gamblers from Spokane this city is becoming filled. Steps will be taken to cause them to move on.

Applegreen, in jail here for selling liquor to Indians, was discharged this morning much against his will, he having snug quarters for the winter.

The great depth of snow in the mountains has driven thousands of birds into town. The streets present an unusual spectacle by droves of chirping songsters seeking food.

The military company here have disbanded, on account of *internecine* disagreement.

SIX PRISONERS CRAWL THROUGH EUGENE JAIL.

EUGENE, Feb. 19.—The prisoners in the county jail, six in number, managed to cut their way out some time last night. They had in some way secured a saw, and after sawing a piece off the lining they pushed out a stone, which made a hole in the wall large enough for them to creep through. So far their whereabouts remain unknown. Reed, the timber-land swindler, was probably the most important criminal, but the other five were all candidates for the Salem penitentiary for various offenses which the next grand jury was to investigate.

DROWNED WHILE SKATING.

VICTORIA, Feb. 19.—Two young men, James and George Alexander (colored), were drowned to-day while skating on a pond close to the outskirts of the city. The ice broke and both men were precipitated into the icy water. The sister of the young men witnessed the accident and ran to a house for assistance. She had barely time to tell what had happened when she fainted from fright and excitement. The people of the house ran to the scene of the accident, but both men had disappeared beneath the water. After search they were recovered, having been in the water over three hours. George Alexander, the elder, was married. The place where the accident occurred is a disused brickyard, and the water is about eight feet deep. It is said that the younger man broke through the ice and the elder brother went to his assistance, when the young man clung to him and both were drowned.

A BLOODY COAT FOUND.

MCMINNVILLE, Feb. 19.—The coroner and physicians returned last night from making a thorough postmortem examination of Mrs. Scott, murdered at Wheatland last Sunday. The first shot was fired when deceased was in bed, and only penetrated the outer skull of the forehead, and was not immediately fatal. It seems that the victim was followed out on to the porch facing the barn, and shot in the back as she went through the outside door, and there are indications that she was struck with the gun.

A bloody coat was found, which certain persons claim to identify and there is further evidence.

The body was brought here at midnight, and will be buried to morrow at Masonic cemetry. Deceased was a prominent member of the Rebecca Degree, I. O. O. F.

The Scott family bear a good reputation here, and are well known throughout the country, one of the elder Scott's sons having run for county commissioner here two years ago. One of the murdered woman's sons has arrived here and went with the officer to the scene of the tragedy.

No other murder in this county has shocked the people so much as this.

THE BLOODY COAT.

The coroner's jury in the Scott murder case are taking testimony in secret session to day, and nothing could be had of the sworn testimony of witnesses, but enough was learned from witnesses outside the jury room to cause the belief that the husband was the murderer. The bloody coat found was identified as his by several neighbors. Others believe that young Scott is the guilty one. The coroner stated this afternoon that he would adjourn the case over until Friday.

WANAMAKER'S POSTAL TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The house committee on postoffices and post roads to-day continued consideration of the postal telegraph. Postmaster General Wanamaker and A. Chandler, president of the Postal Telegraph Company were present, and gave their ideas on the subject. Wanamaker thought it should be under the control of the civil service commisson and that the wires should not be used politically.

In response to questions Wanamaker said the difficulty of getting a contract flexible in its character so that the government might take advantage of new inventions occurring during the ten years of the contract was not so troublesome as it might seem. His whole aim in using employes now engaged was to obviate the objections which have been raised that the postal telegraph would take a great deal of money from the treasury and would ring in a neat army of employes.

Chandler, the next witness, said his company could not do the work proposed at the maximum rates provided in the bill without a loss. No other company could do it without a loss. "We do not want," said Chandler, "to see a government telegraph established, or the beginning of a government telegraph that will destroy $8,000,000 which we have invested in property. We do not think the government has a right to do that, and if it has that right we think it would be unjust and very unreasonable to exercise it.

A bill was introduced in the house to-day by Wade, of Missouri, to establish a government postal telegraph. It appropriates $8,000,000.

THE FRENCH POLICY IN AFRICA.

PARIS, Feb. 18.—President Carnot has received Minister Lincoln in private before his return to London. Mr. Lincoln considers the Portuguese claims untenable, but in spite of Lincoln's mediation the French will support Portugal because for centuries she has exercised the right of appropriating the territory of the native chiefs, and Catholic missionaries are twice as numerous as the American and English. Carnot is determined that the French in Africa, whether missionaries or not, must not be insulted by English agents. Spuller, minister for foreign affairs, has been instructed to decline further part in the Belgian conference, on the ground that England refuses to define the limit of the territory assigned to the Portu