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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1896.

SOMETHING IS WRONG.

When the contract was for the construction and completion of the canal locks at the Cascades, it was the universal belief, in fact it was promised, that they would be opened in 1895; but the high water of 1894 necessitated a change in the plans of the work, and to comply with the new plans, the date for the final completion was extended to March 1, 1896. But now we are confronted with the information that, even if the canal is opened for the passage of a boat on March 1st, which is not promising for the work, as once closed, and that they will not again be opened for operation until another appropriation can be worked through congress to build walls between the first and second locks.

To say that this is disappointing to those who have for years looked forward to the time when the water of an open river to the sea, as an era of prosperity to the Inland Empire, as a time when Eastern Oregon could utilize the great waterway for floating her products to market, is putting it mildly indeed. The people are not only disappointed, but they are led to believe that there is something decidedly wrong somewhere; that either the government engineers who prepared the plans and specifications when the contract was let were a set of incompetent ninnyes, or that undue influence is somewhere brought to bear upon the engineers now in charge of the work.

The engineers who prepared the plans on which the contract was awarded considered the natural walls between the first and second locks sufficient to withstand the force of the water when the locks should be opened, and made no provision for the water which would be protected by solid masonry of other artificial walls; but now the engineers in charge condemn them as being unsafe, and insist that they shall be protected before the canal is opened for traffic, necessitating an appropriation of \$400,000.

If this proposition is true, why have not those learned engineers discovered the fact years ago, so that provision could have been made for this extra work while the other work was in progress? They had been exposed to view for years, why, then, have the engineers been so long discovering that they would not withstand the waves? Why have they waited until the other work is nearing completion, they admit, to discover this? With which to complete that particular part of the canal?

The casual observer would naturally infer that the engineers have had an object in retarding the work. What this object may be, if there is any, we do not pretend to say; but we do believe that under the circumstances, and the fact that the people would be justified in insisting that the war department cause an immediate investigation to be made, and ascertain if some of the engineers are not working in the interest of some one else than the government and the people. It is a well known fact that the canal should be made as soon as the channels leading to the canal are opened and the machinery for operating the gates is in place. The passage of a few boats through the canal can do but little if any damage to the masonry walls, and it would be safe to open the canal for general traffic. If, however, they should suffer material damage from the effects of the water, that will be abundant time to condemn the work, and to demand that the government should be held responsible for the damage. The opinion, or rather the skill of the engineers who prepared the plans on which the contract was let, is certainly worth something, and it is but right that the work when completed in accordance with those plans, be given credit. Nothing is more practical than to let the people that the engineers are honest in condemning that portion of the work that is claimed to be unsafe.

WHAT THE DALLES NEEDS

A spirit of prosperity and enterprise pervades The Dalles, and is shown by the amount of building that is now contemplated this season. The city will assuredly enjoy more substantial growth the coming summer than it has at any time in the past five or six years. An immense amount of money will be invested in buildings, and a number of new mercantile establishments will likely engage in business here; but with all this anticipated increase and general thrift there is one thing lacking. No efforts, so far as we are concerned, are being put forth to establish any class of manufacturing industries here. In this, we believe the people of The Dalles are short sighted. We may erect mammoth buildings, increase our facilities for transacting the mercantile business of the country, and offer inducements for trade to center here, but unless we can do something to increase the population, make more mouths to feed and more persons to clothe, our efforts toward advancement will fall to meet the reward to which they are entitled.

The Dalles should, in two years, become a city of the past five or six years. It will never be unless industries are built up that will give employment to more people. Therefore now all the people here who can find profitable employment. There is nothing at present to invite another wage-earner to come to the city. But we wish a manufacturing plant, another large flouring mill, a foundry, machine shop, wagon and carriage factory, woolen mills, etc. The Dalles would soon become the most attractive point on the coast for laborers. Without some such industries the city may soon exhaust its resources, as has nearly every other town on the coast. Seattle, Tacoma, Ellensburg and Spokane furnish good examples of cities that have been built up expecting to live on the resources of the country and without attempting to create any resources in the way of manufacturing. Today there are cities of immense brick blocks that are tenantless, investments in their real estate is no where near paying interest, and in many instances

NOT REALIZING ENOUGH TO PAY TAXES.

Let The Dalles profit by the experience of those cities and instead of depending solely upon the resources of the surrounding agricultural regions, create resources for itself.

HOW IT WORKS.

A practical illustration of how the endless chain of greenbackism is enriching British usury at this country's expense was unexpectedly developed the other day in New York. When the steamer St. Paul ran ashore on the Jersey coast says the Portland Telegram, she had in her hold \$1,200,000 in gold. This gold was taken out and returned to the sub-treasury at New York, where it was found, upon examination, to be the identical metal that had been taken out of the same sub-treasury just as soon as the gold had been sent to Europe and shipped back again immediately, bearing all the costs of freight and insurance and dangers of shipwreck.

This was inadvertently exposed the game of hide and seek by which the bond subscribers, foreign and domestic, have been attempting to cover their tracks. That gold had been drawn from the United States treasury and shipped to London for the ostensible purpose of meeting the ordinary requirements of exchange, but in reality it was taken out to precipitate another call for the treasury, and to be returned to the treasury in payment for its equivalent in bonds. Ere now it probably has been restored to the treasury reserve, but only to be drawn out again via the greenback route, just as soon as the requisite amount of currency can be created and presented for redemption. The most grievous feature of this expose is that it shows the new loan, like all that have preceded it, is paid ultimately, except an inconsiderable fraction, with gold withdrawn from the treasury itself. It also emphasizes the fact that so long as the greenback redemption system makes the periodical issue of bonds necessary, just so long will it be impossible for us to prevent the money-makers of London from profiting by it. Englishmen may, through their financial agents, maintain a run upon our treasury if they please, and we cannot put an end to it so long as the legal tenders are outstanding.

It is rather a costly price we are paying for the poor privilege of seeing a slowish progress do nothing.

NO DANGER OF COMPETITION.

In a recent editorial on the possibility of competition with Japanese manufacturers resulting disastrously to the American manufacturers the Oregonian said: "This consideration is of special interest when we turn it to the fact that the materials of steel, iron and steel, wool and cotton manufactures. With ocean freights to pay each way, and with an increasing wage scale, Japanese competition is scarcely to be considered in these lines. Considerable attention has been paid to the fact that the syndicate of spinners for 50,000 bales of American cotton. But as our annual crop is between 6,500,000 and 9,500,000 bales the goods made from this order or from others like it are more apt to be consumed in Japan than cross the ocean again in manufactured form. The staple raw materials are our own. Under wise policy we shall manufacture them ourselves. We shall be excelled and undersold for a time in ornamental articles and fabrics. But the gains as time goes on should be all on our side."

This is our belief that the Oregonian is not compatible with the songs that great daily has been singing in the past. It has always held that the manufacturers of America could not successfully compete with those of Europe because of the difference of wages in the two countries, and has ever held that a protective duty in favor of the American manufacturer was necessary. Now it seems no danger of competition with a country that pays lower wages than any other in the world except China. If it is true that we need no protection against the "rampant" labor of Japan, how then is it that we need protection against those European "paupers" who command twice the wages of the Japs?

AN OBJECT LESSON.

The deadlock that exists in the Kentucky legislature in the senatorial contest is an excellent object lesson of that clumsy process we adopt for electing United States senators. One of the duties of the legislature is to elect a senator, but owing to a division on party lines, no election can be effected without the vote of the populist members, and virtually those two men have in their power to decide for the people of the entire commonwealth of Kentucky who shall represent them in the United States senate. That is the way we can cast the vote of the entire state.

This state of affairs should be a sufficient argument in favor of electing senators by direct vote. Speaking of the deadlock in Kentucky the other day Senator Turpie, of Indiana, in a speech before the senate said: "But whatever else may result from this deadlock in the Kentucky legislature, it should teach the People of the United States that the time has come when there should be adopted an amendment to our national constitution giving the people the right to elect the senator, and the election of United States senators, that the 'ballot of opinion,' unthought and unswayed, may settle the question of election to the United States senator."

FAIR TRADE AND THE TRUSTS

Every man who is engaged in legitimate trade is endeavoring to supply the largest possible number of people with all they can possibly use of the article in which he deals. Profits thus acquired are fair profits because they result from work which has benefited everybody.

The principle involved in all attempts at monopolization of trade. All commerce that complies with it is fair, useful and profitable to all who do not forfeit by incompetency. As trade departs from or defies this principle it becomes unfair, because it endeavors to take advantage of the weakness and necessities of the largest possible number of people to extort from them the largest possible profit by supplying them the least possible quantity of what they need and pay for.

This is exactly what the members of the "combine" are doing. This is why their undertaking is dishonest and criminal. This is why every man of them is damaging the community and demoralizing trade. They are conspirators and law-breakers. Why should not the laws be enforced against the lawless?—N. Y. World.

A REPUBLICAN HERESY.

The majority of the republicans from the west say that, during the very hard times, when democratic politics have thrown so many people out of employment, is the time when the government should push the government work authorized, and expend all the money possible, so that there may be more work for the people and money kept in circulation. This has been claimed as the true policy, and democrats have been arraigned for not doing this in the past.—Oregonian's Washington Correspondent.

Is indeed the democratic party being arraigned for not having spent money extravagantly? Do the republicans desire to make this question an issue in the coming campaign? Will they advance as their policy that the "government expend all the money possible, so that there may be more work for the people and money kept in circulation. This has been claimed as the true policy, and democrats have been arraigned for not doing this in the past.—Oregonian's Washington Correspondent.

The idea of the government furnishing employment to the people sounds well; it is a nice theory, but in practice it is a failure. The people are the government; it has no means of obtaining money except by imposing taxes upon the people, then when it furnishes work for the people it simply takes money from them to give back, less the cost of collection. The idea of creating good times by taxing one class of people to give work to another is a heresy that none but half-bred communists will accept, for it is to tax the people to give work to the people, the actual producers of the country, to give employment to a lot of poorly-paid laborers and well-paid officials. It is a heresy that will not be accepted by the masses, and if the republicans adopt it as a party principle, they do so at their peril.

TIRED OF WAITING.

Patience is indeed a commendable virtue under ordinary circumstances, but when it is maintained for a long time it becomes unbearable. This is now the case with those who have patiently waited for years hoping to see the Columbia river opened to navigation. They have waited and waited these many years since the first ground was broken at the Cascade Locks, and they expect every year that it would be the last until their exports and imports should float unimpeded up and down the great waterway of the Northwest. They have seen over \$3,000,000 expended on this work, and probably \$1,000,000 more will be expended before the locks will be opened to navigation. They have waited and waited these many years since the first ground was broken at the Cascade Locks, and they expect every year that it would be the last until their exports and imports should float unimpeded up and down the great waterway of the Northwest. They have seen over \$3,000,000 expended on this work, and probably \$1,000,000 more will be expended before the locks will be opened to navigation.

A DANGEROUS CURRENCY.

Mr. Charles C. Jackson recently contributed an article to sound currency that is a timely and interesting discussion of the need of retiring our credit currency. In a most convincing way the article shows that we are using an ancient and discarded method of currency and heading not the clearest and most convincing warning from experience of the danger that this form of paper money leads to. Mr. Jackson thinks that the gold has been flowing away from this country during the past year, and that we have had an excess of currency, and because our government has so abused its power to issue paper currency that both our own and foreign investors are doubtful whether that currency will always be redeemable in gold. This doubt has been growing with the decline in value of our large stock of silver, all of which is practically redeemable in gold, with no adequate gold reserve to meet such an obligation. Certain it is that for more than three years there has been such anxiety about the maintenance of the redemption of our currency in gold as to greatly harass all business men and seriously check investment and enterprise here on the part of our own and foreign capitalists. This anxiety would have no existence were it not for the government's policy of maintaining a constant prompt redemption of these notes in a task for which the treasury is utterly unprepared. Our banks, with \$5,000,000 banking assets, are much better fitted to issue currency than is our government, which has practically no gold, and which in the past has been unable to redeem its notes in gold.

IS NOT DEMOCRATIC.

Hon. Napoleon Davis has just returned from Washington, and is quoted in the Oregonian as saying in reference to the appointment of receiver of public moneys at the Oregon City land office: "I think the president was a trifle sorry that he had only one position for 35 men so highly recommended, as he will necessarily lose the opportunity of making 34 good and loyal friends who would stand by him through good and ill report. The drawing capacity of a federal office is simply wonderful, and the president has, in this instance, a great source of strength."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The senate don't want any tariff tinkering and the house won't have free silver. So there you have it, a deadlock in the great legislative body of the nation. One of Oregon's greatest needs is more employment for laborers and less employment for politicians. More farmers, mechanics and day laborers and fewer office holders would be a benefit to the agricultural production bill.

Frecher Threatened With Death.

INMAN, Pa., Feb. 18.—Rev. R. G. Hammond, pastor of the M. E. Church at Ambria, who has been very determined in his opposition to the saloon, is said to have received an anonymous letter threatening both his life and that of his family unless he stopped his warfare against the saloon. The preacher is not to be intimidated. Some weeks ago Constable Charles Howe, a leader of the anti-saloon faction of Fowler, was waylaid and terrible beaten, it is claimed, by friends of the saloon.

Miss Barton in Turkey.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 18.—Miss Clara Barton, president of the American Red Cross Society, has arrived here, and is organizing a system for the distribution of relief to the suffering Armenians. It has been arranged that Rev. George P. Knapp, the American missionary of Bitlis, accompanied by his family, is to come to this city to be examined by United States Minister Terrell regarding the charge of sedition brought against him by the authorities.

Andrews Marries a Nobleman.

CHARLOTTVILLE, Va., Feb. 18.—Amelia Rivers Chandler and Prince Pierre Turovetsky, a Russian nobleman, were married this afternoon at Castle Hill, the home of Colonel Alfred R. ves, father of the bride.

Attempted Train-Wrecking.

STARBUCK, Wash., Feb. 18.—Some mischief made an attempt to wreck the train on the Pomeroy branch. Only the vigilance of the engineer prevented a serious disaster. The wretched crew of the train, who were engaged in a work, had the train started to go over the switch, it would certainly have been dethroned. The engine was stopped within a few feet of the switch.

Will Be From Eastern Oregon.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 18.—Governor Ladd expects to fill the vacancies on the board of regents of the university of Oregon and the state agricultural college, in a few days. He says both

A BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

Within less than four months the people of every county in the state of Oregon will be called upon to select their public servants for the coming two years, and it behooves them to begin exercising their judgment as to who will best serve them in the different official capacities. And there is any reason why business methods and common sense should not govern them in making these selections? Why should honest men, men successful in business, shrewd merchants and successful farmers think of placing civil power in the hands of professional politicians, who use such power to destroy the credit of the county and state by incurring needless expenses, and whose sole regard is for the emoluments of the offices to which they may be elected? Why should such men be allowed to manipulate conventions and name tickets which the voters of the respective parties are expected to march to the polls and blindly support, simply on party grounds, regardless of fitness, honesty or claims to public support? Why should not the business men of the state take the management of the government into their own hands, and elect to their hands of professional politicians, and see to it that only honest, capable men are named for the different offices? Public affairs can be conducted on business principles if business men are elected to all offices, from the constable up to the governor. It is never by if professional politicians are allowed to name themselves and their underlings for office. It is now time that the business men of the state bestir themselves, and by attending primary meetings take a hand in choosing the men who will be put in office to take public affairs in elevating them to office. Politicians, who are in politics for revenue only, have run the affairs of Oregon long enough. It is time that those who pay the 'taxes take a hand. Let them consider the duties of office, and the business proposition, and the system of organized piracy that has prevailed in the state in the past will disappear.

TELEGRAPHIC.

BOLD BANK ROBBERY.

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To Exterminate the Seals.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The house committee on bills and means today voted to report a bill for killing all the seals in Behring sea unless an effective agreement for their protection can be reached.

Great Loss of Life.

LISBON, Feb. 19.—Great loss of life attended a fire in Santarom last night, while the Artists' Club masked ball was in progress. Thirty-four bodies have been recovered. Many were injured by jumping from the windows.

Compromise Rejected.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 19.—The proposal of the Greenway government to settle the school question by making the schools absolutely secular and eliminating all religious exercises, has aroused a storm among the clergy. Both Protestant and Roman Catholic

