

THE OREGON SCOUT.

AMOS K. JONES - EDITOR.

City and County Official Paper.

Thursday, June 27, 1889.

OUR SIXTH VOLUME.

With this issue THE SCOUT enters upon the sixth year of its existence. In reviewing its career we feel gratified at the many evidences of appreciation that has been given it, and thankful for the hearty support that has been extended, particularly by the reading public in the way of subscriptions. While the business men of the town have not given it the support that is due from them, the people throughout the country have exceeded our expectations, and we think we can truthfully say that THE SCOUT has a larger number of readers than any other country paper in the state. On the whole it has been fairly prosperous from the start and notwithstanding the enmity of a few who would destroy it if they could, it will, no doubt, continue to prosper in the future. The recent assault made against it, by a few men with more money than brains, had about as much effect as the chinook winds have on the granite mountains that surround our valley. During the next year many improvements will be made in the paper, and if the era of prosperity which now seems to be about to come upon our town and county, does not prove to be delusive, THE DAILY SCOUT will be introduced to the public. Thanking our friends for their liberal patronage, and our contributors for the valuable assistance they have given us in the past, we start on another year's campaign, hoping that all our friends will accompany us, and that many new ones will be found during the year.

THE RAILROAD SITUATION.

The railroad situation is assuming a shape more or less complicated, so much so, in fact, that any opinion founded on anything more than mere conjecture would be impossible at this time. What effect will the proposed Villard policy have on our local interests? What will become of the Hunt system? What position should the people of Walla Walla, Pendleton, Union and other interested towns take? These are questions which many are asking but do not find it easy to answer satisfactorily. At Portland, last week, Mr. Villard spoke very plainly and defined his position in such a way that no one could mistake him, providing he was telling the truth, which some seem to doubt. He defended the existence of the Oregon and Transcontinental and said that he thought it deserved the control of the O. R. & N. Villard's plan is to practically make the branch lines both north and south of Snake river part of the O. R. & N. system, which is then to operate harmoniously with both the Union and Northern. He admitted that he had been in favor of the joint lease, but did not say whether that plan would yet be pursued. The Hunt roads are the greatest obstacles in the way of accomplishing the desired object. Mr. Villard's idea is, however, to buy the Hunt road and make it a part of the O. R. & N. system. He said he had tried heretofore to buy Hunt out and told him to name his price; but he does not make it clear how he is to oblige Hunt to sell. The new board of directors of the O. R. & N. company, elected on the 17th inst., are men who will carry out Villard's plans and purposes.

It is evident that Villard greatly pleased the people of Portland, and if he was sincere in his speech to them, a great danger menaces the people of Eastern Oregon, who in case he succeeds, will be more hopelessly in the clutches of the O. R. & N. company than they ever were. The following extracts will show how the matter is viewed by our exchanges across the mountains, and that the people there are determined not to submit to the bondage of the O. R. & N. company again without a most vigorous resistance. They have experienced the benefit of freedom and know what it is. The Walla Walla Union says:

Walla Walla will not give up the advantages it is receiving from "the Hunt road" and submit to become the bond slave of the O. R. & N. company, and Portland, without a struggle worthy her wealth and resources. Walla Walla has for many years played the part of an orange for Portland to suck. Her substance has gone to swell the money bags in Portland, to keep up the tottering fortunes of the O. R. & N. company, without an adequate reward, or even praise, in return. She is too big and too wealthy to become the plaything of Henry Villard or any other manipulator of corporations. She has the power to free herself, and if she does not exert that power

she deserves to remain a slave forever. The agreement with Mr. Hunt for the subsidy of \$250,000 in bonds provides that in the event of the failure of the O. & W. T. railroad company to carry the produce of Walla Walla county to Puget Sound for the rates charged by the O. R. & N. company to carry it to Portland, the bonds or their value shall be returned to Walla Walla county. The agreement is for all time not for the present year, and the penalty great enough to cause the railroad company, represented by Mr. Hunt, to carry out its part.

In view of the threats made by Villard and the Portland papers, it is necessary for Walla Walla to be as one man in support of the agreement for a subsidy made with Mr. Hunt. He who now refuses to sign the petition asking the legislature to authorize the issuance of the bonds, or who obstructs the passage of the necessary law, is the servant of the unbalanced combination between Villard, Portland and the O. R. & N. company, and the enemy of Walla Walla.

The East Oregonian says: For ourselves we are neither surprised nor alarmed at the shape matters have assumed. We, in Walla Walla and Pendleton, are in a position if we act unitedly, to have something to say. We think about all that is necessary to say just now is, give us satisfactory assurance, first, that the Northern Pacific traffic agreement is all that it has been represented to be; and second, that it is of undoubted legal validity and binding force, and we will stand by the Hunt system, and do all that we have agreed to do and probably more. But if we are to be left to the unpledged and unbound mercy of the combination, then the least we can do is to refuse to pay the subsidies and refuse the rights-of-way and test our rights in the matter in the courts.

It is an open secret that Mr. C. B. Wright, perhaps assisted by some silent partners, is backing Mr. Hunt. It is also known that Mr. Wright is chiefly interested in Tacoma, and therefore it is not impossible that these parties will refuse to submit to the combination now formed without the very assurance which we indicated as necessary—that our produce must find both a reasonable and equal market by way of both the Northern Pacific and O. R. & N. company.

If this probable case is the true one, we need not regret our subsidies; but if there is a probability of our being left entirely at the mercy of the O. R. & N. and Portland, as formerly, then we not only may, but ought, in justice to ourselves, to refuse the subsidies and any other valuable privileges.

All the Walla Walla papers urge the bonding of the county in aid of the Hunt road extension to the Grande Ronde valley, and are confident that the traffic agreement will protect the people of the Inland Empire. The Statesman says:

There is one thing the people of this section will not stand and that is to be forced into a procession to do homage and pay tribute to Portland. We want our own seaboard. Hunt gave us our first and only relief from the exactions of Portland and every man will stand by him provided he can and will do the same by us. If he does not sell out and cannot be frozen out he is our man from now until doomsday, or his fifty-year contract with the Northern Pacific expires.

We believe that the only danger now is in Mr. Hunt selling out, and that he will do so we do not think is at all probable. He appears to us to be holding a pretty big hand, and has it in his power to give any of the eastern roads heading this way a terminus on the Sound for the next fifty years at least. We are of the opinion that Hunt will stay with the people. The people should stay with Mr. Hunt. We regret exceedingly that the citizens of Union county have not responded promptly and raised, in full, the very reasonable subsidy asked by him to aid in building his road to this valley.

If you know a news item don't forget your editor. If a youngster arrives at your house begging for food and raiment and you conclude after due debate, to feed and clothe him, bring us a Havana and we will name him free of charge. When you have visitors, if you are not ashamed of them, bring them in or tell us about it. When friends gather at your home for social communion, bring in a cake or a ham, just to show good faith, and we'll give you a column write-up. Oh, no, no! don't bother to invite us; we couldn't possibly come; our wardrobe was built for summer wear. Do all these things, and ye shall be blessed, and if a day be when ye hang around the gates of the city with a great vacancy in your pocket book and a large patch highly adorning the bosom of your pantaloons, some good Samaritan will do for ye.

The advertising columns of some of our exchanges west of the mountains disclose the fact that timber lands are rapidly being taken up by Michigan and Minnesota men. The witnesses residences as shown in the published land notices are many of them, given as Duluth, St. Paul, etc. That most of the entries are fraudulent being made under contract is no doubt true, but unfortunately this is incapable of proof.

The Free Trade club of Cleveland, Ohio, recently celebrated the anniversary of the birth of Richard Cobden, on which occasion William Lloyd Garrison, not being able to attend sent a letter, in which he said:

"It is because of his sacrifices and labors and those of his noble coadjutors that Great Britain, emancipated from the narrow and insular policy of restriction, now leads the world in manufacture and commerce. The misery and wretchedness resulting from protection was there fully exemplified. The degradation of the laborer was complete, and salvation was only possible through the abolition of the corn laws. His was a life to stimulate the enthusiasm of youth and the gratitude of age. Its value can not be overestimated at a time like this, when a great people deludes itself with the absurd and medieval system of restriction, demoralizing, enfeebling and suicidal. Protection is the enemy of peace, the fountain of international jealousy, the waster of wealth, the robber of wages, the essence of barbarism."

Is the Arkansas legislature a member recently nominated a young lady for enrolling clerk in these words: "I shall not say that the one I name is as the angels are, for I have never seen an angel and know not how beautiful they are, but I will say that if angels look like the lovely maiden whose name I put in nomination, the angels are beautiful indeed." Nevertheless, the angel got her wings clipped in the balloting. Arkansas is no place for angels. They should fly to Oregon where the cow county members appreciate beauty, and the Yamhillers find clerkships for a fee of one dollar per day.

At present a good deal is being said and sung about Protestant and Catholic "influence" in the public schools throughout the country, and about teaching "religion" in the public schools. There are two things that should be kept outside the doors of our public schools; religion and politics. There are twenty reasons. One, all-sufficient reason is that politics and religion are purely matters of opinion; they are not exact sciences, capable of demonstration, and along with grammar, history and other theories are best left alone. So says the Astorian and so say all patriotic Americans.

The last legislature passed a number of new laws which materially change the duties of several of our county officers. As the provisions of these laws may not be generally known we shall in our next and subsequent issues publish a synopsis of the most important ones.

A Utopian Vision.

"A vision of the future arises; we see our country filled with happy homes, with firesides of content; the foremost land of all the earth. I see a world where thrones have crumbled and kings are dust. The aristocracy of illenness has perished from the earth. I see a world without a slave. Man at last is free; native forces have by science been enslaved; lightning and light and all secret subtle forces of the earth and air are tireless toilers for the human race. I see a world at peace, adorned with every art, with music's myriad voices thrilled, while lips are rich with words of love and truth.

A world in which no exile sighs, no prisoner mourns; where work and worth go hand in hand; where the poor girl trying to win bread with a needle—the needle that has been called the asp for the breast of the poor, is not driven to desperate choice of crime or death, of suicide or shame. I see a world without the beggar's outstretched palms, the miser's heartless, stony stare, and piteous wail of want, the livid lips of lies, the cruel eyes of scorn. I see a race without disease of the flesh or brain, shapely and fair, a married harmony of form and function. As I look, life lengthens, joy deepens, love canopies the earth and over all the great dome shines the eternal star of human hope."—Ingersoll.

Oregon Hops.

W. J. Herren writes as follows on hops in a Salem paper: The Pacific coast is fast becoming famous for the choice quality of hops grown here, and the production of hops is fast becoming one of the leading industries of our state, and as is usually the case at this season of the year, much anxiety is felt on the part of growers with regard to prospective prices. It is yet too early for anyone to even guess what the price of hops will be four months hence; but a statement of a few facts connected with the out-

look for Oregon hops elicited while the writer was east may not be uninteresting to our hop growers. While there we interviewed most of the brewers and hop commission men. All of them agree that all markets will be bare of choice hops by the time the crop of 1889 is harvested. There is yet a considerable quantity of old hops and low grades of 1888's on the market, but the movement in this class of hops is slow and sales difficult, but choice Oregon hops are wanted at good prices. All the brewers with whom we have talked speak in the highest terms of the quality of Oregon hops, and say if our growers will use proper care in handling and curing their hops, that they will always find a ready market for them, and that they compare favorably with New York state hops. All accounts agree that the roots in New York state have wintered well, and as the "grubbing" season is now in full blast in that state, hop roots are being offered in Waterville and Utica at the extreme low price of fifty cents per bushel and no buyers. This shows conclusively that New York hop growers begin to realize the fact that they, with a yield of 600 to 800 pounds per acre, cannot compete with the Pacific coast, with a yield of 1200 to 2000 pounds to the acre. In conclusion we say to Oregon hop growers, make the best hops you can and fear no competition.

Hold Up, There.

The parties who appropriated that hammer, broad-axe, and other things from my place on Ramo flat, are known to me and are hereby notified to return the same and save themselves trouble.

W. M. HAYNES.



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