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ANTELOPE ITEMS.

News Notes From the New Mining District.

THE KIND OF A GIRL TO HAVE.

New and Rich Discovery of Silver Bearing Quartz on Mr. Frazier's Place.

Several of our energetic farmers are plowing.

Save your potatoes. They are cheap now, but will be in demand in the spring.

Mr. Taylor Green drove his sheep down from their summer range to his Antelope farm last week.

Mr. John Dobbin, Jr., has contracted to deliver the lumber, about 12,000 feet, from the Park saw mill for the Telocaset school house.

Mr. Wm. Cates is busy hauling rock for the foundation of the new school house at Telocaset. It is to be somewhat larger than the new school house in upper Antelope.

Everybody hauling wood for winter. Many of the farmers have hauled condemned ties from the railroad for their winter's wood. Mr. Joseph Yowell has a pile as high as his house.

Judging from the way that horses have been shipped east this last year they will soon be scarce and in demand. Buyers go east with car loads of horses that they purchase here for a song and return and inform the farmers that horses are a dull sale east and they have not made anything, but notwithstanding they don't make anything in buying and shipping horses out of Grande Ronde valley, I notice they still keep in the business, for the fun of the thing I suppose.

Several of the mogul stock men of Grande Ronde valley have had their bronco busters riding the Antelope range lately, rounding up and driving off cattle to the valley. The consequence is that several of our cows and steers have disappeared from off the range that before their advent were running on the hills back of our farm in Pyle canyon. They are probably wandering around the lanes in Grande Ronde valley or have joined the gang that infests the streets of Union. It is a nuisance and should be suppressed. Probably the next thing they will be taken up as estrays and cost us a good round sum to get them back. If anybody that notices cows or steers branded with the triangle brand on the left hip and a crop and slit in the left ear—horses triangle on the right shoulder—will drop me a postal card I will be much obliged and will send them a chromo for their trouble, or, if they prefer it, my photograph, if I can induce my girl to part with it, but I do not believe she will, for

See a daisy, she's a ducky, she's a lamb,
And is beautiful, bonnie, bright and free.
She's the girl that doesn't care a damn
For any man in Antelope but me.

It has been known for years that the mountains at the head of Antelope and around Lyon's hill were full of float quartz, but no one has ever prospected for the ledges. Two or three weeks ago, however, Mr. Irwin Frazier uncovered a large buried ledge of dull looking quartz on his father's homestead. It is on the hill back of the old gentleman's dwelling house. It is a large body of ore and not very pretty to look at, but Oh My! Erve has just received his first assay of the ore from McVicker, an assayer of Salt Lake City, Utah. It assayed a trifle in lead, traces of gold and 150 ounces in silver. How is that for high? McVicker stands high among mining men as an accurate assayer. Irwin will immediately send off other samples from different places on the ledge to several assayers, to verify the Salt Lake City assay. I was down in his shaft yesterday. He is only down about ten feet but I must say it looks favorable for a permanent ledge. Of course he has not developed it enough yet to be sure as to its permanency, but receiving such an assay from such a large body of quartz in sight is very encouraging. This Antelope country one of these days will surprise the skeptical. It is full of ledges and float quartz, and has never been prospected by miners or anyone else. Some of the float assays well. It does not come

from the heavens, but from buried ledges that some day, when the right class of miners get in here, will be found, and then Antelope will hum with industry. It is to be hoped that Erve's ledge will prove permanent and that the assays to be had shortly will verify the Salt Lake assay. H.

FAVORS THE WASHINGTON SIDE.
The Portland Chamber of Commerce interesting itself in an Open River.

The Portland chamber of commerce has decided to adopt the portage road from The Dalles to a point opposite Celilo on the Washington side of the river. This route was adopted by a vote of 20 to 7. Portland is to take \$300,000 in bonds. Lengthy reports were made on all possible routes. The following contains the gist of the report of the committee, as relates to the objections of the Norton route.

We do not consider the so-called Norton route on the Oregon side feasible, nor, in view of the probable legal complications over the rights of way now controlled by the Union Pacific and the Columbia Railway and Navigation Company, do we consider the route paralleling the Union Pacific on the other side, or the route suggested by Mr. Bogue in his report, from a point near Three Mile Rapids to Celilo, on the Washington side, as being proper for favorable recommendations. We find that by Mr. Bogue's estimate the lowest cost of this route would be \$347,000, exclusive of warehouses, wharfbots and steamboats. This estimate is made on a basis of \$18,000 per mile, cost of construction, while the same engineer for a piece of road on the Oregon side which, we are informed, is not much if any more difficult of construction, estimates the cost at \$25,000.

Referring to the possible line on the Oregon side, suggested by Mr. Bogue, paralleling the Union Pacific, we find the estimated cost by the report is \$400,000, exclusive of boats and wharfboats, and in this estimate apparently the necessary tunnel at Cape Horn, referred to in Mr. Bogue's report, is omitted, which tunnel would cost on a conservative engineer's estimate from \$65,000 to \$75,000, and again, while this line is estimated to cost \$25,000 per mile, we find on investigation that the Union Pacific line in the same district cost from \$50,000 to \$60,000 per mile.

MILLIONS OF BUSHELS LOST.
Rain and Snow in the Northwest Causes Irreparable Damage to the Wheat Crop.

A Minneapolis dispatch of October 13th says: The suspense over the wheat crop of North Dakota and the Northern and Western counties of Minnesota has grown into positive alarm. Up to today there was a general hope that the grain could be threshed and graded, rejected or used for feed for stock. During the night, however, heavy rains set in all over the North country which changed to snow at 10 o'clock this morning and is still falling. The storm extends as far south as Minneapolis tonight, and all threshing operations are suspended and will not be resumed before next week, even if there is no more rain or snow. Mill and elevator men declare tonight that from three to five million bushels of wheat will be utterly ruined.

Oregon's Financial Condition.
The fact that the state treasurer is now indorsing all warrants drawn on the general fund, "Not paid for want of funds," has elicited considerable inquiry as to the financial condition of the state. State Treasurer Metcalf said that the state board which made the levy of taxes for this year met just prior to the legislature and levied a sufficient sum to meet the current expenses of the state for 1891, estimating on the same basis as 1890, but the legislative assembly made greatly increased appropriations and large sums were soon asked for, for which no provision had been made in the estimate. As a natural consequence the funds have been exhausted. The total amount received into the general fund this year, including the balance turned over, is about \$530,000, which has been paid out on warrants since January 1. State warrants are eagerly sought at their face value, showing the soundness of the state's financial condition. There is no state indebtedness, the bonded debt being but \$1000, and outstanding warrants other than those of this year, only \$700.

The best job printing can be procured at this office.

WASHINGTON.

Our Weekly Letter From the National Capital.

CUSTOM COLLECTION DISTRICTS.

The Speakership Contest at a Standstill - A Methodist Conference in Session.

WASHINGTON, October 9, 1891.
EDITOR OREGON SCOUTS:

Secretary Foster was a successful business man before he ever entered politics; therefore when he tells the public, as he did in an interview with a committee of merchants from New York, that there are at least fifty custom collection districts in the United States that could be abolished without detriment to the public service and at an annual saving of several hundred thousand dollars, were it not for the opposition of the politicians, his words are worthy of the most careful consideration on the part of the people, who are already beginning to realize that they are the masters, not the servants, of the politicians. Mr. Foster is a good deal of a politician himself now, but it was the business man, not the politician, who spoke when he told of this absolute and unnecessary waste of public money, simply to provide patronage to be disposed of by politicians. He said of the districts which ought to be abolished: "More than a score of these districts are in New England alone. Out of fourteen districts in Maine, but four are really necessary. Massachusetts has eleven, and of these all but three ought to be abolished." That is plain language about his own department, and he was equally plain in replying to the question asked by one of the merchants, "Why are they not abolished, then?" He said: "Because the politicians will not allow it to be done." The abolishing of these districts means the abolition of just so much patronage, and representatives and senators are more interested in increasing than decreasing patronage. What an indictment that is against congress. This is the second time that Mr. Foster has dropped the role of politician long enough to call attention to useless offices connected with the treasury department. It is a very unusual thing for the head of a department to do, and something ought to be done to save the people's money. But will congress do it?

Senator Call, of California, appears to be confident that he will win in the contest for a term in the senate, notwithstanding the action of the governor of the state in refusing to sign his credentials, and in appointing ex-Representative Davidson to fill the vacancy, which he claims exists by reason of the failure of the legislature to legally elect a senator. Mr. Call bases his confidence upon an act which was introduced in congress in 1886 by Reverdy Johnson, which says that a majority of both branches of a legislature acting as one body may elect a U. S. senator. He claims that eight similar cases furnish precedents in his favor. The senate committee on elections, of which Senator Hoar is chairman, will really decide the contest, as the report it makes after investigating will almost certainly be adopted by the senate, and as a majority of the committee are republicans and both of the contestants democrats, there will be no political complications in the case, which promises to be decided solely on its merits.

The speakership campaign is practically at a stand still, as those members yet unpledged—and there are a good many of them—prefer waiting to see the result of the state elections next month before committing themselves. At first glance this may look queer, and one not used to going below the political surface might ask, "what have the results of the state elections to do with the speaker of the house?" But those who are familiar with the undercurrents of things political know that upon the result of the state elections depends the fate of one of the leading candidates for speaker, and every one of the candidates will be affected one way or the other. For instance, the fourteen democratic congressmen from New England have formally decided not to commit themselves in favor of any candidate until after the state elec-

tions. All of the uncommitted want to go to the side of the winner, and they recognize the fact that it will be easier to pick the winner after the result of the state elections is known.

Away back in the days "before de walt" the negroes used to sing at their church meetings a hymn with a refrain something like this:
"Sing Metho'dic hymns and a Metho'dic hymn,
An' a Metho'dic'll be th' th' best o' dem."
that ought to be popular here this week, owing to the presence of so many Methodists, from all parts of the world in attendance upon the Ecumenical conference of all the branches of that large denomination, which opened on Wednesday, and which is to last two weeks. Wednesday night a Washington banker gave a reception to the delegates which is said to have eclipsed a similar entertainment given to the last conference, ten years ago, by the Lord Mayor of London.

The presence of Mrs. Cheney as a guest at the White House has given the rumor a fresh start that ex-Governor Cheney, of New Hampshire, is to be secretary of war. J. H. C.

A BIG SUIT.
The O. & W. T. R. R. Co. Made Defendant in a Proceeding for the Collection of \$4,000,000.

The Farmers' Loan & Trust Company of New York have commenced action to foreclose mortgages aggregating something over \$4,000,000 against the O. & W. T. Railroad Company.

The suit was begun last week in the United States Circuit Court for the District of Oregon, and service was had on the 13th inst. upon the defendant company's attorney, C. H. Carter, Deputy U. S. Marshal Gregg of Portland visiting Pendleton for the purpose. The plaintiff company holds the mortgages as trustee, to secure the bonds of the defendant company which have been issued.

The suit is undoubtedly the largest ever brought in Oregon courts, and will doubtless be the means of determining the true ownership of the O. & W. T. railroad. It is stated that merely the real estate of the company, and not its rolling stock, is covered by the mortgage.

The complaint prays for a decree of foreclosure and for the appointment of a receiver. The defendant company have filed no answer and as yet the action they will take is problematical. They have always been in a state of financial difficulty, which is increased by the suit, and it is believed in this instance if rescued at all from collapse the Northern Pacific will be the saviour.

At present, it is understood, the Northern Pacific is not the owner of the road, as has been often believed.

Railroad in Luck.
It is said that the decision of Judge Caldwell in the North Pacific case is worth to the railroad \$20,000,000 to the railroad, although on the main issue, as to taxation of the lands, the decision gives them a clear title to all the land within their grant not known to contain minerals at time of filing maps of the definite location of the road. The interior department has hitherto refused to patent these lands until the railroad should produce proof that the lands did not contain minerals. Many thousand acres of land in Montana, Idaho and Washington, upon which gold, silver and copper have been discovered since the filing of the maps of location, and which the interior department held, were not included in the grant, are by Judge Caldwell's decision declared to be the property of the railroad, not only the land but the mineral as well. The value of the railroad taxes involved in Judge Caldwell's decision for the twelve counties interested will be about \$100,000.

A Nightmare.
Have you ever been visited by that frisky and uncomfortable animal, called a nightmare? Have you ever had it climb upon the bed while you were asleep and go through a lively performance which would make a fortune for the proprietor of a circus? You never can tell just when this nocturnal steed will make its appearance, but you are absolutely safe from it if you happen to be reposing on one of S. C. Miller's new bedsteads, which are unsurpassed in quality and price.

R. H. Brown is selling school books at Portland prices and is giving away a set of handsome picture cards with each book sold. Call early and get choicest cards. 10-15-11