The Daily Istorian.
ASTORIA. OREGON:
B. C. IRELAND
THURSDAY

Railzoad Talk.

There is just at this moment a great deal of railroad talk pertaining to Oregon and Washington territory interests. . It all looks hopeful for 'the development of the interior, with but little for Astoria to expect, however. We-presume we must go on hoping, as Astorians have hoped for the past thirty years.

It is reported in prevaie circles that Mr. Jay Gould has parchased a concontrolling interest in the Oregon-Steamship, company, and the Oregon, it will then be seen that Astoria ne-Central, and the Oregon and California railroads. That he is pushing his Utah Northern from Ogden on to the Columbia river as fast as possible; that narrow gauge iron is afloat; with which to begin work at some pointion the Columbia, and build eastward to intersect the Utab Northern, in the vicinity of the boundary between Oregon and Idaho; that the nullion dollars raised in New York, is for the Portland, Dallesand Salt Lake railroad, and that The Dalles-Celilo portage will be built at once.

In this connection we are informed that the Walla Walla and Columbia river road will not be extended this year towards Dayton, but will divert from Whitman station in the direction of Grand Bonde, via Weston. Works will be commersed on the Yorthern PReific also, from the Colum is river eastward, somewhere in the isinity of the mouth of Snake, river.

We are at the same time given to understand that many of wealth, in Galifornia have taken hold of the Seattle and Walla Walla road, or ane shout to do se; and that road will be carried on several miles further towards eastern. Washington territory. On this side, and further south, the Central Pateific are looking upon Orezon wistfully for a terminus.

Putting:all of this and that together se far as peer mortal who have not the handling of the money is able to are used to endorse the rumor, which Absern, the dawning of an newsera is the serviving friends of Mr. Prenties certainly seen for Oregona. Bat from an Astoria stand-point we cannot feel that gratification which Portland must icel, as the tendency is to give her at least one, if not more termini, at no very distant day. . The Oregon, Central will be comideted to Corvallis, as per previous arrangements. Work must also proceed upon the Yaquina bay branch; and should Foulweather be selected as the point for the harbor of refuge, we shall see the general government engaged in the construction of an "artificial port," to compete with the Columbia river and Puget sound. It matters very little to Astoria how many railroads are built; how much the general government may expend in the construction of harbors; how vast population may increase; we still have the noble old Columbia and its tributaries passing our very doors from all Col. J. Stoddard Johnson, secretary points, from remote Lewiston, Colville, etc., as well as the valley of the Wallamet, and "sooner or later,"very much sooner, we should presume, with all the developments talked of,a railroad outlet from the interior raust seek this cityr Still, in view of all the circumstances surrounding us; this combination of capital and this energy displayed to build up the interior; may we incuire if it is not, at least, time that Astoria.take her light from under the bushel, where it has been hidden all these years, and let it so shine that all may see the advantages which we lave to offer as an and ucement for the investment of capital in our mudst? it not time that Astoria publish to the world some of the pages, written in behalf of her interests, and by concerted action on the part of this public lay open a full and covincing statement before men who control the means to relieve us? This part of Oregon and Washington is an Empire in all the natural resources that produce. wealth, We need population to develop if; we need capital. Population and capital seek investment alike upon the basis of information furnished. That infor-

tion is all the capital we have at p disposal,-let- us-use it. "Wested the star of empire" has been arching, until Iginois, Wisconsin, way, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado d Utah, now funnish the supplies to ep up the rank and file. Maho, bregon and Washington are this year seeling more sensibly the push of that grand army, but the coast counties are not receiving their percentage. Shall we wait until history repeats itself for a benefit, or shall Astoria and Matsop county, join with Pacific, Tillamook, etc., to make the effdit now? With development of the interior, as forecast by the present movements, the steamship passenger trade will be so far diminished as to render it certain that but few people will travel this ways seeking homes. They will come in by rail from the other sideglected its golden opportunity, and we will still be found wendering, waiting for a revival of trade; an example of hopes deferred.i. A Shameful Libely In his day and generation George

D. Prentice, of the Louisville Journal, of the United States. He could write sustained articles of great, power, and occupied i a respectable position as a poet, but was better known as a saturist, unsparing in his lampoons on those who incurred his displeasure, and witty to a remarkable degree in his terse and epigrammatic comments upon corrent events. During the exciting times leading up to the war of the rebellion Mr. Prentice remained a staunch friend of the Union. He cas erted great influence with his paper in preventing the withdrawal of Kentucky from the family of states (more influence, perhaps, than any other one man in Kentucky), on which account it was very desirable by secessionists that he should be won over to their way of thinking. As southern feeling because intensified, however, Mr. Prentice was overslaughed J. Some person, raking; among the reminiscences of the past, affects to have discovered that Mr. Prentice accepted a bribe of \$25,000 to advocate the secession cause. Two or three names



pronounce a shameful libel.

The previous life of Mr. Prentice had been above all suspicion as a bribe-taker, in his editorial or any other capacity, and it is with no small amount of indegration that his admirers find there is occasion when it becomes necessary for them to defend his good name. The issue has, however, been forced before the public, and like all scandals involving the reputation of public men, has become a topic of animated discussion throughout the breadth of the land. All fair minds will admit that there is more pleasure in establishing than tearing a reputation to pieces, for which reason, having a kindly remembrance for Mr. Prentice, and his brilliant journalistic labors, we bring forward a scrap of windicatory testimony which seems to be worthy of some respect .. of state of Kentucky, writes a lengthy letter, in which he admits that Mr. Prentice was offered \$25,000 by G. W. Johnson, if he would go over to the confederate side. Mr. Prentice discussed the secession subject in all its bearings, but could not be moved frem his union sentiments. Soon afterward he made the following declaration:

If at any future time I conclude that there is no earthly chance of the south's coming back in war, I shall advocate the recognition of southern independence; but in doing this I shall ifeel little else than despair for what I have ever regarded as the most blessed consiry on earth.

Mar. Johnson realized that Prentice was firm in his convictions, and says, "rebol as I was, I write this letter in his defence." It cannot be seen, even if. Mr. Prentica had been bought, which we do not believe, what good can be subserved by bringing the matter before the public at this late day.

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