

The Daily Astorian. ASTORIA OREGON: THURSDAY OCT. 15, 1881. J. F. HALLOMAN, Editor.

River Improvements. In a few days from now a convention will meet in St. Louis, Mo., to consider the important subject of the improvement of the Mississippi river. That convention will be charged with the responsibility of giving definite expression to the views of the people of that great valley respecting their own interests. It will represent nearly half the population of the United States, and its deliberations will no doubt attract the attention that the magnitude of the interests involved demands. Though possessed of no legally delegated power yet a good deal depends upon the nature and result of its deliberations. In a few weeks from now, a legally appointed convention, styled the Congress of the United States, will meet in a city 1200 miles farther east to consider the important subject of the improvement of the whole country. The St. Louis convention will doubtless be a unit in favor of doing the right thing in the right way: the Washington convention will be left to its own devices and having minor questions of privilege, of patronage and of political circus business to attend to, will hardly get down to work as soon or as practically. Upon the St. Louis convention depends primarily the navigation of the Mississippi; upon the Washington convention or its successors depends ultimately the navigation of the Columbia. The one will be directly interested, the other indirectly cognizant. The Mississippi and its tributaries flow by the homes of over twenty million people, a generation in advance in wealth and numbers of their Pacific brethren. The great stream running north and south flows through many a degree of latitude on its way to the southern gulf: our own Columbia drains a scope of country more nearly uniform in climate, more productive in grain yield and relatively easier to place and permanently maintain in navigable condition. Here, unfortunately, the analogy ceases. The St. Louis convention will present an organized and solidified system of concerted action that will have most potent effect in securing its wishes. The Washington convention will at best examine the fair demands of this section as would an attorney who has been assigned by the court for defense. Yet, taking lesson from the past, it may be that by unity of action on the part of all interested, on the part of the people that live in the great valley of the Columbia, on the part of the press—the exponents and mouth-pieces of that people—that something can be done. In this matter the exercise of practical common sense, as opposed to the indulgence of indefinite and too widely extended demands, is above all things necessary. It will be important to so place the matter that the justice of the claim shall be recognized, and to do that will require a truce to a good deal of silly rivalry and useless contention that has done no good in the past, and must necessarily retard our common progress and injure our common prosperity in the future. It is a recognized principle in all works of the kind we speak of, improving and rendering navigable a great river, that the mouth of the river be made the initial point of beginning. This is the history of all kindred projects, from time immemorial; this is what the Mississippi valley press have agreed upon this fall; this is, indeed, as it appears to us, the only rational, dispassionate view that can be taken of the matter. The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, a paper published 1,200 miles from tide water, says: "In perfecting the navigation of the mouth of the great river the proper begin-

ning was made; and the right plan for the systematic improvement of the water courses of the heart of the continent is here suggested. Let the lower Mississippi be attended to first," etc. An extraordinary demand upon congress for an appropriation for the improvement of the Columbia would, in all probability, be of no avail. The true policy is first to aim at essentials, at possibilities. To do even this there must be a concentration of effort, a unity of purpose, a hearty acquiescence in endorsing and clearly stating the case, or nothing satisfactory can be accomplished. At the best it will not be a very easy matter to obtain effective congressional aid, and the difficulty will increase with the extent of the demand. In writing this way THE ASTORIAN lays no claim to any especial originality; it simply says what has been doubtless said in better phrase, before, but we certainly think that there is fairness and justice in the position we take. The exchange referred to, speaking of the Mississippi project, continues: "A reasonable request will carry its own weight with it. Where to draw the line, intelligence and practical spirit will lead to decide, we trust, wisely. The wisdom of being moderate will suggest itself, and also the principle that what is done at all shall be well done. If the foundations of the edifice are not secure, the value of the subsequent superstructure is materially affected. Influence in furthering its object will depend upon the suppression of inferior local considerations, and an unselfish unity of effort with reference to the general good. This alone can give a dignity and force to the appeal which will insure its respectful consideration. An intelligent public sentiment, such as, it is to be hoped, the convention will be the exponent of, cannot fail to exert a strong pressure. Divided counsels and an absence of practicable method in the demand will render that sentiment weak and ineffective in its operation." All this applies with equal force to the river that flows by our doors. This matter of improving the mouth of the Columbia interests this community just as much as it does any other community on the main river or any navigable tributary, and not one bit more. It affects the common good, the general welfare of every one who ever expects to ship a pound of freight to sea upon the waters of the Columbia, and for this reason, the press of the state, rising to the dignity of the occasion, should throw aside whatever of petty spite or local jealousy may exist, and unite in asking congress for that which is the natural right of the people: it represents—an unobstructed highway, an open outlet to the sea. This is a matter that does not require any fine spin argument. It's a very plain case; we are either right or wrong, and are willing to leave it to the highest and most impartial tribune that earth affords—public opinion. Ex-Senator DORSEY's cattle ranch in New Mexico consists of five hundred thousand acres, much of which is under fence. The whole being valued at \$3,000,000. The property is stocked with thirty-one thousand head of cattle, among which are five hundred bulls that cost \$300 each, and a herd of twelve hundred horses. From these statistics it is inferred it pays to be a Star-router. The "pious monks of St. Bernard" and their famous dogs will soon have lost their benevolent occupation. Within a few months the beneficent hospice will be closed. The railway under the Alps will draw all travelers away from the road. So ends a great charity, one of the most beautiful and self-sacrificing that the world has ever seen. An exchange says: "There is one person that Arthur ought to keep in the background during his administration, and that is Grant." The party to which said exchange belongs to tried to do the very same thing seventeen years ago and failed.

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Delinquent City Taxes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I, the undersigned, Chief of Police, have been furnished with a warrant from the city council requiring me to collect the taxes assessed for the year last, and now delinquent upon the list, and make return of the same within sixty days. GEORGE LOVETT, Chief of Police.

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