

# The Daily Morning Astorian.

VOL. XXVII, NO. 14.

ASTORIA, OREGON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1887.

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**REMARKS OF SENATOR J. H. D. GRAY.**

In the Oregon Legislature on the 13th Inst.

In submitting some resolutions favoring Columbia river improvement in the senate last Thursday, Senator J. H. D. Gray, of Clatsop, spoke as follows:

Mr. President:—Having introduced these resolutions thus early in the session so that some plan can be formulated before its close, I deem it proper to say a few words in their favor at this time, and in so doing to call attention to some of the wants of this state, and I wish to beg the indulgence of senators for the brief period of time which I shall occupy, for there are others on this floor who are as deeply interested as myself and better able to present the matter; but having been requested to perform this duty by a meeting of the members of the senate and house from the counties in eastern Oregon and those bordering on the lower Columbia, I cannot refuse to serve them and my people to the best of my ability. If you will allow me to use the homely simile, I will compare the state to one of the early emigrants, whom we will designate Oregon, who went out from the populous states of the east to hew out a home in the far west and, in the language of Horace Greeley, "grow up with the country." About twenty-eight years ago this hardy pioneer commenced an existence away off here in the northwestern portion of the Union. A country at that time almost unknown to the people beyond the Rocky mountains, considered little better than a vast wilderness, and described by Bryant as the country "where rolls the Oregon and bears no sound save his own dashings."

The counties, though somewhat numerous, may be considered as the children of the pioneer settler, and without much consideration for the gender of the names I will refer to them as a family of boys and girls. Let me then designate Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Curry, Coos, Douglas, Jackson, Linn, Lane, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, Washington and Yamhill as the boys of this family at the beginning of the settlement, and Columbia, Josephine, Marion, Multnomah, and Umpqua as the girls or daughters. To this numerous family a number of other children have been added, consisting of two girls, Umatilla and Union, and seven boys—Baker, Grant, Klamath, Lake, Crook, Morrow and Gilliam. One has passed away. Fair Umpqua exists only in history and memory. Some of these children of the state are strong and vigorous, and have grown rich and powerful, while others are still weak and poor, but they are all brave, energetic and proud, and if recognized and assisted by their more fortunate brethren and sisters, the poorer ones will soon become wealthy and prosperous.

The territory of this state may be considered as a vast farm, upon which this old pioneer located these counties as his children, to let them in a great measure provide for themselves and contribute annually to his support and maintenance, and yet he is constantly watching their progress and often renders them assistance. Some of these children—Wasco, Jackson, Josephine, Curry, Coos, Umpqua (now deceased), Benton, Tillamook and Clatsop—having located on the border of this great farm have had to struggle along as best they could, with but little assistance.

However, Benton county has recently been receiving some assistance. Then Marion, the original homestead, has been specially favored, and Multnomah has been quite a favorite with the old pioneer. Other counties, among which I may name Clackamas, Lane, Union, Baker and Josephine, have all been assisted more or less. Clatsop stands at the principal gateway of commerce for the whole family and has received a little help, but not what she requires when the great importance of the position occupied is considered. But Wasco, too, occupies an important position upon the waterway by which all the family must reach the ocean and the commerce of the world. At that point this waterway is rendered impass-

able by rapids and rocks and falls. Those counties east of the Cascades were at first only considered fit for grazing purposes, and stock raising was their chief, and I might say only industry. But during more recent years they have been rapidly developing into agricultural counties, and what is now known as the "Inland Empire" is becoming the great grain producing portion of the state. Yet nature has locked the gates at the dalles of the Columbia, and Wasco, Umatilla, Union and Baker and the other children east of the mountains have no outlet by water, her own great highway to the markets of the world; and now they come before you, appealing to their more fortunate sisters and brethren for help. They must have help. We all are interested in their progress and prosperity. It is time that these weaker children should receive assistance. They ask for a free and open waterway to the ocean. Can they have it? Give them this open highway by which they and their neighbors may reach the channels of the world's commerce and you will be greatly benefited as well as they.

The proposition is made to you that this difficult portion of this great highway known as the dalles of the Columbia, shall be dammed by the construction of a large iron caisson immediately above the dalles, which is to be constructed in the form of a large, heavy iron cylinder about 120 feet in diameter, or large enough to extend some distance on each side of the upper entrance to the dalles, to be constructed with the bottom water tight, the inside to be filled with heavy timbers surrounded and solidified by concrete. This cylinder is to be constructed high enough and kept in floating position by chains so that when completed and allowed, by loosening the chains, to swing around to the intended position at the upper entrance to the dalles, it will form a complete dam high enough to back the water sufficiently to afford practical water navigation over the Celilo falls, and by that means make continuous water navigation far up the Columbia and Snake rivers. During the time of the construction of this large cylinder it is proposed that a canal be built, which, owing to the favorable character of the rocks and formation of the country in that vicinity, can be constructed around the dalles, a distance of less than three miles, to what is known as the Big Eddy near Five Mile creek, above The Dalles city. Or should your committee, with the representatives of the general government, report the construction of a ship railway preferable, and from their investigation and knowledge gained on this tour of inspection, find the necessity for speedy action upon this matter so pressing, and the expenses not too great, and in their opinion it is deemed best to have this state take immediate action thereon, and report some proposition to you favorable. It is further proposed that owing to the national character and importance of this work at some future day, not far distant, to petition the general government to reimburse the state of Oregon and assume the operation and control of these improvements. And now, referring back to the original simile, the sons along the western or coast border of this farm will appeal to you during this session for assistance in various ways, and when we do we shall be pleased to more fully explain and make our wants known, and we hope and trust that we shall meet with favorable consideration, and that we may receive justice at your hands. And now, sir, with thanks for kind attention, I submit these resolutions and move their adoption.

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