

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1887. CARRYING WHEAT TO SEA.

During a recent trip through Oregon and Washington, that which was the most singular of all that was seen by the writer, was the transfer of wheat over the switchback to Tacoma. Nothing more artificial, nothing more incongruous, can be imagined than to carry wheat up over those Cascade mountains, zigzagging over a steep grade, a few cars at a time, an enormous 100-ton engine at each end, pulling and tugging, and boosting and gripping on the sharply-inclined track, at an enormous expense, carrying grain to tide water, when the natural, easy, marked-out way by nature and the laws of commerce would be to lead down the Columbia river to Astoria.

On seeing the grain thus lifted up, up, up, among the eternal snows, and then lowered as abruptly to the other side, and carried hundreds and hundreds of miles from its source to its destination, our first thought was one of remembrance of discussions with Portland papers in bygone years when the argument of THE ASTORIAN was that deep-sea going vessels, carrying grain, could load at Astoria cheaper than they could at Portland, and the argument of the Portland papers was that "the nearer you can bring an ocean carrying vessel to the wheat fields the cheaper you can load her."

The arguments of the Portland papers were then disproved by facts and figures furnished by THE ASTORIAN: these same arguments are now being further disproved by the logic of events. THE ASTORIAN'S arguments were then and are now irrefutable; they were not then and are now not susceptible of successful contradiction. As in '81 and '82, and every year since, wheat could and can be loaded cheaper at Astoria than at Portland. Wheat should be worth as much afloat at Astoria as afloat at San Francisco.

Under proper conditions it can be. From reasons that need here no more than passing allusion, the wheat loading is passing from Portland. The inevitable has arrived. It is for Portland to choose; which shall it be, Astoria or the Sound? At present Portland's answer seems to be adverse to her own interests. The interests of Portland and Astoria are identical; what affects the one affects the other; if, as is plain, the wheat must be loaded elsewhere than at Portland, why not at Astoria?

This is the present status of this important question. The matter is, of course, purely a business one. When Portland shippers find, as they ultimately will, that the business is transferring itself away from "the point nearest the place where the crops are grown," they will load at that point where the grain can be loaded the cheapest. That point is not Portland, nor Tacoma; it is at Astoria, and every dictate of business, finance and community interest point to Astoria as the loading place for deep-sea going vessels carrying foreign grain surplus of the Columbia basin.

A MISTAKEN IDEA. ALL the branches of the so-called labor parties are resolving that government ought to take control of the telegraph system. There might be conditions and there may be a time in which government control of the telegraph system would be the lesser of two evils; but under any circumstances it would be an evil, for it would be an erection of a new and powerful monopoly. It is strange that those who profess themselves most injured by and most resolved upon the abolition of monopolies should be the first to advocate the relegation of all business to certainly the most absolute and possibly the most corrupt of all monopolies. It has always been a matter of doubt to the wisest business men whether business of that kind can be conducted by government as economically or as free from scandal as by private persons. It is plain that if government should take and run the telegraphs of the country, it would soon be asked to take railways under its control, and, indeed, most of the advocates of a government telegraph system are prepared to advocate a government railway system. After this, government control of mines, factories, and all other branches of industry would come easily. The administration would be the universal wage-payer and the people its dependents. This would be a system of nominal socialism and absolute oligarchy. No dictator or band of oligarchs has ever had so strong a bit in the jaw of the people as the foolish ones who would make government the national wage-payer would devise. Our telegraph system is faulty enough, but its fault is that of a monopoly tempered by fear of competition. Charges of tele-

graphic service, though too high, are not absolutely oppressive, and they are lower than they were a few years ago. Any attempt to seriously increase them could not fail to bring a new company into existence. A law to regulate interstate telegraphic service may in time be wisely demanded, but governmental regulation is one thing and governmental control another and a very different thing.

MR. BLAINE'S second canvass for president—if he makes a second canvass, as now seems probable—will be free from some of the unpleasant features which attached to the canvass of 1884. Everything of a personal nature which can be said, has been said. The Mulligan letters will now provoke only a peal of chestnut bells, and if the Indianapolis paper were to print photographic views of five different marriage certificates running through a series of years, the sensation would provoke no interest at home or abroad. Mr. Cleveland, also, if he be the nominee of his party, will be spared further reference to the Maria Halpin episode. The absorbing question will be protection or free trade, and in the discussion of the mighty issue, the pre-nuptial peculiarities of the candidates will be lost sight of.

JOHN CONNESS, who was United States senator from California, from 1863 to 1869, and who narrowly escaped being made secretary of the interior by Grant, is now running for alderman of the city of Boston, upon what ticket we do not learn, but as he is supported by the Boston Herald we conjecture it is not the Republican ticket. Sewator Conness was always a turbulent, if not a controlling, element in California politics, and unless age has impaired his vigor, he will make a strong run—but alderman!

"When from his toils he found release, He died a justice of the peace." What Push Can Accomplish. The first experience of a millionaire merchant of Philadelphia on his arrival in this country aptly illustrates what push can do. When he stepped ashore from the sailing vessel, he said, "I was without money or friends. I spoke to a man on the wharf and asked him what to do. He replied: 'Work, young man. Have you any motto?' 'No,' I said; 'what do you mean?' He said: 'Every man must have a motto. Now, think of one. Go out and hunt for work.'"

"I started, thinking of a motto. As I walked along the street I saw painted on a door the word 'Push.' I said, 'that shall be my motto.' I did push at that door and entered an office. I was asked what I wanted. I said: 'Work; and the word on your door gave me not only a motto, but confidence.'"

"My manner pleased the man. He asked me many questions, all of which were answered promptly. He said at last: 'I want a boy of push, and as you have adopted that as your motto, I will try you.'"

"He did. My success followed, and the motto that made my fortune will make that of others."

The word is old, short and crisp, but it expresses everything that has carried out fortune and fame for hundreds of thousands of poor and obscure boys.—Dry Goods Chronicle.

IDEAL VS. REAL. The night fiend on a daily paper, even in as small a town as ours, sees many strange things. Of course he must be on the qui vive for news, and if he sees a man standing in a dark corner he intuitively tries to fathom the motive of the individual in thus exposing himself to the pitiless elements. Is he there to say to some one, or has his great soul been so embittered by misfortune, that he takes refuge in solitude to brood and agonize over his sorrow? An instance occurred in our experience last week illustrating the point. He stood, at the dead of night, alone, upon the darkened street, the wintry wind, with dismal moan, blew in his face the sleet. All homeless and forlorn he stood, no roof or shelter near; while from the black and barren street, the wind swept cold and drear. Fortune had decreed of other days when as a child he played; of boyhood's sorrows that shed their rays on hill and glen and glade. Of mother's lips that breathed and prayed, for him in unnumbered years of mother's hands that stroked his hair, of mother's sighs and tears of groves where he his friends of yore, of rest that he would love, of faces fond he knew before, now smiling from above. Fortune—ah! Why try to see the sorrow he has known? The silent tears rolled down his cheek, and from his lips a groan. Perchance he sees the village green, afar from strife and sin—but now comes Marshal Robinson, and runs him in. "Drunk and disorderly—\$5 and costs."—Walla Walla Union.

MARRIED. In Astoria, December 27th, 1887, at the residence of Rev. Geo. C. Hall, Dr. E. B. Stone and Mrs. Ada Hickok, of Ilwaco, W. T.

ST. JACOBS OIL. THE GREAT REMEDY FOR PAIN. CURES RHEUMATISM, Lumbago, Backache, Headache, Toothache.

NEURALGIA, Sore Throat, Swellings, Frost-bites, Sprains, SCIATICA, BRUISES, BURNS, SCALDS.

For Stablemen and Stockmen, The Greatest Remedy Known for Horse and Cattle Diseases.

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Some Fine Horse Plants. For sale to-day and to-morrow at Dr. Jay Tuttle's, Oswego, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by W. E. Dement.

This is Important. As we must give up possession of the toy room after New Year's, we will sell Wagons, Velocipedes, Doll Carriages, Wheelbarrows and Toys at cost, at the New York Novelty Store.

Pacific Coast Tide Tables. For 1888, at GRIFFIN & REED'S.

Acknowledged by All. That we have the finest stock of Holiday Goods and Novelties in the city. GRIFFIN & REED.

GRAND Christmas Festival. And Ball By The Scandinavian Benevolent Society, at Ross' Opera House, December 29th, 1887.

Admission, Children - - - 50 cts. (Each Child will Receive a Gift.) Spectators (from 4 to 8) - - - 25 cts. Tickets for the Ball - - - \$1.00

H. EKSTROM. WATCHMAKER. Jewelry, Watches and Clocks Suitable for Holiday Presents at Lowest Prices.

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Fancy Goods, Toys, Holiday and Juvenile Books. GRIFFIN & REED.

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Frank L. Parker. FRESH GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS Promptly Delivered AT LOWEST PRICES IN ANY PART OF THE CITY.

The New Model Range E. R. HAWES, Buck Patent Cooking Stove, Furnace Work, Steam Fittings, Etc., a Specialty. A Full Stock on Hand.

AMERICAN NET & TWINE COMPANY. ESTABLISHED 1842. CAPITAL, \$350,000. The Oldest and Largest Manufacturers of FISH NETTINGS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Hosiery and Underwear! WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED DIRECT FROM EASTERN MANUFACTURERS A LARGE LOT OF Gents', Ladies' and Children's Hosiery and Underwear.

THE EMPIRE STORE W. T. PARKER, Manager. A. G. SPEXARTH, COLT'S New Lightning, 40 and 45-60. COLT'S New Baby Shotgun, 28-inch. COLT'S 44, 41 and 38, Single and Double Action Revolver. Lord Conlin, and Diamond 22 cal. Pistols.

Our Immense New Stock, Consisting of 4 CAR LOADS of fine Artistic and Plain Furniture, Carpets, Oil Cloth, Madras-Silk LACE AND PORTIERE CURTAINS, Dado Shades, &c., Has Arrived.

INSURANCE. CAPITAL STOCK, \$500,000 COLUMBIA FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE CO.

\$67,000,000 Capital. Liverpool & London & Globe, North British and Mercantile of London and Edinburgh.

Elmore, Sanborn & Co. COMMISSION MERCHANTS, Fire Insurance AGENTS.

The Oregon Bakery. A. A. CLEVELAND, Prop'r. Good Bread, Cake and Pastry.

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