The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

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PRICE OF THE MISSING LINK.

SPEAKING of the Coast railroad to San Francisco, the *Bulletin* makes the following remarks, from which it appears that giving a subsidy to a railroad seems a good deal like drawing blood to some of San Francisco's citizens, much the same as it does to those of some other cities. Yet they feel that it would be better to pay the money rather than not get the road:

"It is semi-officially announced that the Southern Pacific will undertake the construction of the Coast road to this city, on the terms proposed by the San Jose convention. It sounds like the almost forgotten past to read that a railroad company is to get $100,000 worth of property in stations and right-of-way, and $315,000 in cash in three annual payments, to build a railroad for itself, in the management of which the donors are to have no voice. There is too much in the proposition like the cutting of a stick to break one's back, to make it altogether palatable. But the line in question is the missing link in the railroad system of San Francisco. By it passengers and freight from the south will reach this city by a route much shorter than that up the San Joaquin valley and will be landed without any ferriage. Its construction will place San Jose on an eastern trunk line. If there was no other way to get it but by granting the subsidy above set forth, the antiquated method of doing business which it reveals may be excused. But there ought to be some specification as to the time in which the work is commenced. If this link should be completed there will still be room for another road coming up the coast and reaching the water front at North Beach. It is the roads up the San Joaquin which render ferriage necessary to gain this city. San Francisco is on the southern side of the Golden Gate and she can be gained much more speedily by land than by making a detour and crossing the bay."

The S. F. *Chronicle* treats the same subject in this manner:

"The Southern Pacific company has responded to the offer made it by the railroad convention which met in San Jose in June, and is kind enough to say that it will accept the $315,000 tendered it by that body and will build a railroad between Santa Margarita and Ellwood, provided the convention will eliminate the time limit mentioned in the offer. In other words, the Southern Pacific will take the right of way, depot grounds, etc., and will build the road when it gets ready and not before. If the convention shall listen to this impudent proposition it will show itself to be possessed of more than ordinary folly. The chairman of the convention has called a meeting of the executive committee for the 16th of this month, in this city, to confer with the railroad people, and the members of that committee cannot do better than to put in the intervening two weeks in figuring what the counties on the line of the proposed road are to gain by paying this large sum of money to a company which obligates itself to nothing except to build a railroad when it sees fit. The time limit ought to be a condition precedent to the bonus, for with that taken out the counties have no promise of a return for their money until the railroad company thinks the building of the road would be a profitable undertaking. Under such conditions they would do much better to keep their money in their pockets."

NEW England sends $3,000,000 annually to the New Orleans lottery, and in return receives but $50,000. The managers of the lottery claim to do better for the New England states than they do for any other sections of the country, but California, on the whole, is their best customer.

HITS OF INFORMATION.

There are 4,041 muscles in a caterpillar.

Seventy per cent. of the voters of Kansas are farmers.

There are 160,000 persons of Canadian birth in Massachusetts.

The population of Ireland decreases by over six thousand a year.

There is one pauper in every thirty-seven inhabitants in England and Wales.

To salute with the left hand is a deadly insult to Mohammedans in the east.

Germany's accessions in east Africa cover twice the territory of the whole empire at home.

The number of people who speak the English tongue is now estimated at 125,000,000.

Switzerland is the only civilized country in the world which grants no patents for inventions.

Over sixty-four thousand people die in the British Islands every year from consumption alone.

The first session of the Fiftieth Congress, which session closed on October 20, 1888, was the longest ever held.

There are now 9,000 women doctors in the United States—about one to each thirty-three of the masculine variety.

The union of the five Central American countries would give the consolidated nation a population of about three million.

There are estimated to be 97,790 deaths in the world in every twenty-four hours, and 104,800 births, or about 70 per minute.

A writer in the *Critic* estimates that there are not more than fifty authors in the world who earn incomes of $5,000 or more by writing books.

There was never a time in the world's history when so many men were under arms and ready for war as in this year of our Lord 1890.

Lawn tennis is the only outdoor amusement in which the general public is interested which has never been tainted with "professionalism."

The deepest running stream that is known is the Niagara river, just under the suspension bridge, where it is 700 feet deep by actual measurement.

Quatrefages reckons up at least 172 races of men; all, however, reducible to three fundamental, black, yellow and white stems.

The new observatory near Tananarivo, Madagascar, will be one of the highest in the world, as the site chosen is about four thousand and four hundred feet above the sea level.

There are about 54,000,000 square miles of land on the globe, of which Europe has 4,000,000, America 16,000,000, Asia, 19,000,000, Africa, 12,000,000, and Australia and the rest 3,000,000.

A horse can perform 33,000 units of work—that is, a horse can raise 33,000 pounds one foot in a minute. An engine that can do the same amount of work is said to be a 1-horse power engine.

A German paper has collected statistics showing the railway mileage of the world. The United States not only heads the list, but has seven times as many miles of railway as any other country.

It is said that only one white man has ever crossed the island of Newfoundland from east to west, a distance of three or four hundred miles, and this journey was accomplished more than sixty years ago.

The longest day of the year has nineteen hours at St. Petersburg, seventeen hours at Hamburg, sixteen and one-fourth hours at London, fifteen hours at New York and three and one-half months at Spitzbergen.

Trade-marks were known in ancient Babylon; China had them as early as 1,000 B. C.; they were authorized in England in 1,300; Guttenberg, the inventor of printing, is said to have had a lawsuit over his trade-mark.

The interesting fact may be stated in a line that New York's new aqueduct is thirty miles long. It cost $22,000,000 and eighty lives were lost in its construction. It brings 18,000,000 gallons of water to New York daily.

According to carefully prepared statistics the people of this country are longer lived than those of Europe. Here eighteen persons out of every 1,000 die each year; in England the average is twenty, and in Germany twenty-six.

According to a consular report, the countries of Europe cover the following areas: Germany, 34,536,000 acres; Russia, 494,228,000 acres; Austria-Hungary, 45,951,700 acres; Sweden, 42,000,000 acres; France, 23,240,000 acres; Spain, 19,709,000 acres; Italy, 9,884,570 acres; and England, 2,471,000 acres.