Daily Astorian.

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In other words, as soon as Astoria is made a common point, the nitrate kings of South America, the rice and jute shippers of Calcutta and Bombay, the ore men of New Caledonia, and hundreds of other shippers all over the world will stop bidding against the Portland exporters for ships, and Astoria will have the tonnage of the world at her feet. This is theory, and a very poor theory it is, even for Astoria.—Yesterday's Oregonian.

Why will the Oregonian so misrepresent the Astoria contention? Neither the "man" nor the "paper" so politely alluded to by the Oregonian, nor any one else in Astoria has ever advanced any such "theory" as this. It is not in the regulation of the freight rates of the world through the common point at Astoria that the farmers of the Inland Empire can get a better price for their wheat if shipped from Astoria than if shipped from Portland, but from the difference in the cost of ship charters which will always prevail in favor of Astoria as against Portland; though Astoria will some day doubtless largely, if not wholly, regulate Pacific coast freight rates. However the "world's" freight rates may at present vary, ships will charter cheaper at Astoria than at Portland. The $500,000 item copied from the Oregonian and commented on a few days ago by the Astorian—which the Oregonian has twice since reproduced and discussed at length—was the first admission made by the Oregonian during the present controversy that the price of wheat in the hands of the farmer is regulated by the cost of charter. Of course such a primary proposition has never been denied by that paper, but up to the time of the publication of the item it had refused to be drawn into a discussion of the effect of charter rates on the crop of this season. It was because of this admission, and because that is the very root of the Astoria contention, that the Astorian noted and commented on the item. Now it appears that the Oregonian would escape the force of its admission and the opening left by it, through misrepresentation of the Astorian's meaning. Let believers in fair play and students of the common point question note the item and the comment of the Astorian:

An advance of nearly 4 shillings within less than 10 days proves that the freight situation is fully as strong as the most "bullishly" inclined operators have maintained, and it incidentially lops off about $500,000 in the value of the wheat yet unsold in the northwest.—Oregonian.

Make Astoria a common point, and not only will this $500,000 be restored to the value of northwestern wheat within 24 hours, but the worth of every bushel now in the hands of the grower will advance from 6 to 10 cents in addition. Who knows this fact better than the Oregonian? And yet that paper will not give its influence to the accomplishment of that object.—Astorian.

A few days ago the Astorian republished from the San Francisco Commercial News the name and charter rate of every ship loaded or engaged to load at Puget sound and in Portland this season. A comparison of these rates shows that ships destined for Puget sound have accepted an average lower charter rate of 3s 5d, or about 83 cents per ton, than those charged for Portland. Now the Oregonian will not deny that ships can be chartered for Astoria at rates at least as low as for Puget sound, and if an advance of 4s in general charter rates has depreciated wheat yet in the hands of northwestern farmers to that extent, would not wheat delivered at common point rates at Astoria restore at least 3s 5d of such depreciation? Thus, according to the Oregonian's own argument and calculation, a common point at Astoria would restore nearly every penny lost to the unsold wheat by this freight rate depreciation. As to whether this freight rate fluctuation will amount to $500,000 to the farmers, depends entirely upon how much wheat is yet in their hands unsold. It was estimated at the beginning of the season that the O. R. & N. Company would bring into Portland 650,000 tons of wheat. Assuming that 600,000 tons of this is yet unsold in the hands of somebody, the difference in charter rates between Puget sound and Portland would enhance its value $468,000. If, therefore, Astoria, as a common point, could obtain even no better charter rates than Puget sound, on this 600,000 tons of wheat the Oregonian's estimate of loss by advancing freight rates would be approximately restored. This, however, is not the whole of the Astoria contention. It has been reasonably demonstrated that wheat delivered at common point rates at Astoria would bring not merely the better price as compared with Portland of the difference between the Puget sound and Portland markets, but it would sell here for about the California price. This, if true, would increase the value of the farmers' present holdings to 6 cents a bushel above the Puget sound price, and make good every point maintained by the Astorian.

One year ago this month the British steamer Teenkai was chartered to load wheat at Tacoma or Portland at 35 shillings. A few days later the British steamship Glenlochy, well known in this port, was chartered at 37s 6d, with the same option. The steamers came along so close together in December that the Teenkai was loaded in Portland and the Glenlochy in Tacoma. The Glenlochy was a 2000-ton steamer, but on the long trip down the coast, was unable to get along with less than 1000 tons of coal, and accordingly carried but 3313 tons of wheat, which, at 37s 6d, made a gross amount for the trip of $53,217. The steamer came across the Pacific in ballast, a distance of over 4000 miles, and was 18 days in reaching Puget sound. To reach her discharge port in France she steamed 17,000 miles, and was 72 days making the run, a total of 21,000 miles, steaming at a heavy expense for 90 days, or an average gross earning of $591 per day.—Oregonian.

Here, again, the Oregonian, for the first time, admits another element in the seaport situation of Astoria as contrasted with Portland, viz: The loss of time of a ship is to be computed in going and returning from her loading port. If the Glenlochy's time is worth her earning capacity of $591 per day, and is to be considered as figuring in her charter rate, what about the steamer Athenian, which left the Columbia river three feet light the other day, after consuming two and a half days coming down the river from Portland? Adding to this two and a half days the eighteen hours the Athenian occupied in going up the river to Portland, we have over three and a half days wasted between Astoria and Portland. At $591 per day this loss of time would amount to nearly one dollar per ton on the cost of taking cargo at Portland instead of at Astoria.

United States Consul Stowe says in a report from Capetown to the state department that the industrial and arts exhibition to be held in Grahamtown, South Africa, between December 15 and January 21, will afford an excellent opportunity for the introduction of American goods. Canada has an eye on the South African market, and the goods of Canadian exhibitors will be sent free to the exposition. Austria and Hungary are fitting up a steamer as a floating exposition. It will be sent to a score of ports in the Orient, which is now the most glittering prize in sight. Consular reports have almost daily some reference to the extraordinary efforts being made by european nations to extend their foreign trade. Every advantage that can be gained through diplomacy or enterprise is utilized. The United States consuls urge American manufasturers to be early in new fields, and fight for their share of the trade. Consul Stowe, of Capetown, says: "Foreign trade once captured is easily retained, but when in the hands of the manufacturers of other nations it is hard to win. Goods once introduced are hard to replace, even with a newer, cheaper and more efficient article. Samples and tests will talk more and produce quicker and better results than in the hands of the best salesmen."

The county court has just incurred a liability of about $15,000 for the Young's bay bridge. The city of Astoria has been to the expense of $11,000 for a street to the Young's bay bridge, and citizens, by private subscription, have put up $25,000 for the construction of a road to this bridge—making a total of nearly $30,000 of obligations, public and private, on account of highway improvements in one year. Isn't this enough for a county in the situation of Clatsop to appropriate for such improvements in one year, without being now called upon to provide another extra levy?

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