

The Herald

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Monmouth, Oregon.

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WANTS THEM INDEMNIFIED.

Secretary Hitchcock has committed himself as being in favor of government ownership of the telegraph system, but against public ownership of the telephone system, and he gives fairly good reason for his opposition to telephone ownership by the government, in that it is more of a local benefit than national.

He favors the establishment of a parcels post, but thinks that the express companies should be indemnified in case of its establishment for the loss they should sustain.

We can see no particular reason why the people should be under obligation to indemnify the express companies if the parcels post is put in operation any more than a new express company starting up should be under the same obligation to those already doing business. Express companies have grown wealthy in the carrying business, and the people have made them so, and paid them for all the transportation that they did, and are under no other obligation as a money consideration ended the matter.

The public have a choice in the matter as to which company the individual may patronize and if it wish to set up the Parcels Post for its convenience (the public) certainly has the right to do so without indemnifying rich corporations for what they have not earned and in the majority of cases never would earn.

Heavy articles would still be sent by express as would also most articles of much value and the increase of business would give the express companies sufficient business, undoubtedly, to make them paying institutions, and if it does not do so, the law of "The greatest good to the greatest number still holds good."

When a railroad is built into a new country it knocks out the teamsters and small carriers because of the cheaper rate of transportation and the public or people are glad to get it but there is no thought of indemnity to those misplaced; they have to hustle for themselves: the public paid for the service rendered and turns to the railroad as a means of improvement; the teamster can change his occupation, and in the case of the express companies, they are not entitled to indemnity for what they have not lost.

Chicken thieves are coming in for a good deal of street comment these days and we are inclined to think from the tone of commentators that the business is hardly popular and that the perpetrators may come to grief if it is carried much further. There is talk of bird shot, salt and brimstone, shotguns, henroosts and chicken thieves, so we conclude that henroosts are

somewhere near the danger line, for if those who rob the roost keep clear of the law, they are likely to come to grief otherwise.

The HERALD is in receipt of an anonymous communication this week, which we will not publish, and we will say to our readers that it is no use for any one to waste their time and stamps sending communications without signing their name to them, as such news has the stamp of cowardice and mischief and will not appear in the HERALD. The editor and proprietor stands behind what appears in its columns and must know the source of information especially when the news furnished is of a shady character.

OUR POLICE DUTY IN CHINA

We have sent troops to China, but not at all in the spirit of aggression. The step has been in accordance with a treaty which arose from the emergency that caused us to go into the Flowery Kingdom during the Boxer uprising. At that time it was necessary to force a way from the sea to Peking for the purpose of saving the European and American Legation that were in jeopardy in that city. By treaty agreement the obligation rests upon China to keep that line of communication open, and if there is doubt of Chinese ability to do that, the powers have the right and are charged with the duty of policing the line.

There is no immediate prospect that our present mission in China will be other than peaceful. The field of existing trouble and turbulence is removed far south from Peking; but Uncle Sam has chosen to forestall the necessity for any hostile action. In the present movement on the part of this Government there is neither the color of invasion nor intervention. It is merely the exercise of an assured right and the discharge of a duty—something that possibly may not be understood by every man who reads the papers.—Telegram.

OLD TIME GEOGRAPHY.

Sailors' Yarns and Flights of Fancy Recorded as Facts.

In the old days, before the explorers had so thoroughly mapped, charted and otherwise made known to all the mysterious places of the earth, geography must have been a vastly more interesting, even fascinating, study than it is today. So little was known positively about the distant world and so much depended on the tales of seamen that it would seem each geographer chose his facts to suit himself. The result was that there was a never ending variety about the old geographies.

"The joint snake," declared the author of "Geography Made Easy" more than a hundred years ago, "is a great curiosity. Its skin is as hard as parchment and as smooth as glass. It is so stiff it can hardly bend itself into a hoop and so brittle that when it is struck it breaks like a pipstern. You may with a whip break it into pieces not an inch long and produce not the least tincture of blood."

"In California," the old geographer stated, "there fall in the morning great quantities of dew, which, settling on the rose leaves, becomes hard like manna, having all the sweetness of refined sugar without its whiteness."

Another curious fact set forth by the old time geographer was that in the Friendly islands the great men were fond of a singular kind of luxury, which was to have some one sit beside them all night and beat on different parts of their body until

they went to sleep, after which they would relax a little of their labor unless the subject appeared likely to wake, in which case the operators would redouble their exertions until the subject was again fast asleep.

The diversions of the Scots, as given in the ancient geography, were "dancing, goff and curling. The goff is a species of ball playing performed with a bat and ball, the extremity of the bat being loaded with lead, and the party which strikes the ball with fewest strokes into a hole wins the game."

To the question, "What curiosities are there in France?" this reply is made: "A fountain near Grenoble emits a flame which will burn paper, straw, etc., but will not burn gunpowder. Within about eight leagues of the same place is an inaccessible mountain in the form of a pyramid reversed."

In like manner the old geographers ranged from Australia to New England, setting forth the most marvelous matters.—New York Press.

Caught in the Act.

"You have not been obeying my injunctions, and yet you expect me to cure your husband."

"But, doctor"—
"Tut, tut! I told you to do nothing to aggravate him."

"But I"—
"Madam, you were playing the piano when I came in. I both saw you and heard you."—Houston Post.

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