

PETITION FOR THE NICARAGUA CANAL

To the Honorable the Senators and Representatives of the State of Oregon in Congress,

GENTLEMEN:

Your memorialists and petitioners are citizens of the United States and also citizens of the State of Oregon, and they have the honor to exercise one of their constitutional prerogatives in thus addressing their representatives in the Congress of the United States.

We, your petitioners, are of the opinion that the time has arrived when the people of the United States should take final executive action and forever settle the question as to the construction of the inter-oceanic canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans through territory owned and governed by the republics of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, whose territorial and sovereign interests are directly concerned, and whose explicit concessions, granting the exclusive privilege to the people of the United States to build and to operate the Nicaraguan canal have been provided and guaranteed as we are informed.

Therefore, your memorialists do most earnestly petition and request our senators and representatives in congress to take prompt and united action to the end that the government of the United States may on its own account proceed to build, finish, and control the Nicaraguan canal, for the following reasons:

First. The magnitude and national importance of this great enterprise can no longer be delayed without impeaching our sincerity, resulting in humiliation, if not dishonor, to the people of the United States.

Second. The construction and ownership of the canal by the United States is dictated by the principles of the soundest statesmanship, by consideration for our future safety and the safety of all the republics of America in their future relations and dealings with the other nations of the globe, promoting to the utmost degree the harmonious and intimate intercourse of all the republican governments which now occupy the Western Hemisphere, and will constitute our Gibraltar of the West for the protection, development and improvement of every American state, giving an imperishable activity to American commerce and an indestructible bulwark to republican governments.

Third. Climatic conditions, the location of civilized races and the history of maritime nations all point eastward and westward as the great highway for the bulk of the commerce and intercourse of the world. What the Suez canal has accomplished for commerce between Europe and Western Asia, the Nicaraguan canal will immediately excel in its important commercial results to the Pacific and Atlantic states in both North and South America.

Fourth. The speedy construction of this work under the authority and administration of the government of the United States suggests the importance of creating a department to be known as the Department of Commerce, co-ordinate and equal in all of its functions and duties to the Department of War or the Department of the Interior. Such a department, created to promote American commerce, should be subjected to such requirements and regulations in its administration and management of the interests of the United States in the said canal that our commerce, Eastern and Western, would receive a powerful impulse.

Fifth. In conclusion your memorialists do most earnestly invoke and request the enthusiastic activity of our senators and representatives in congress in bringing this important matter to a final and favorable conclusion to the infinite benefit of our fellow citizens of this commonwealth whose personal interests in the completion of this great inter-oceanic highway we justly regard as one of the most important duties of our faithful representatives to prosecute and defend during the next session of congress. And your petitioners will ever pray.

County School Notes.

Miss Beamish of Hillsboro will teach school in district 44, near Glencoe, this fall.

Farmington school, district 51, opened a four months term Monday under H. C. Pearson.

The Verboort school, district 97, began Sept. 3, for three months with Frances Hensberger of Beaverton in charge.

The Greenville school, district 12, begins a five months term under Mr. P. M. Coram, of Hillsboro, on the 30th.

School in district 95, Raleigh, begins a term of three months on the 19th. Mrs. Oscar Thayer of Beaverton is the teacher.

J. Overholzer of Tigardville will teach the three months term in Tigardville school, district 40, which opens next Monday.

The Cedar Mill school, district 6, began Sept. 2 for a one month term. Mr. and Mrs. O. Sinclair of Cedar Mill are the teachers.

Florence Cook of Dundee will teach the school in joint district 20, near Middleton, beginning Oct. 1, for a three months term.

On the first Monday in October school will begin in district 66, near Glencoe, for a term of thirty-five days. Miss May Willis of Hillsboro, teacher.

The Middleton school, district 21, begins the 30th, for a five and one-half months term. Miss Mary C. Salton of that town will have charge of it.

Superintendent Craig was before the county court yesterday, advocating the adoption of a uniform course of study for the county schools of the county. The adoption of the course will require the appropriation of twenty or thirty dollars, hence the interest of the county court in the matter. The county schools differ from those in the town, in that while the towns have several teachers for the various ages and advancement of pupils the county teacher has to instruct pupils from 5 years of age to those of 20 years. The course presented by Superintendent Craig is one formulated in Illinois some years ago. It has been a success there and has been adopted in New York and in parts of other states. Benton county in this state has taken up the idea. Both teachers and patrons like it. The course is topical and any text book can be used. It would really be a good thing for Oregon. It would help rid us of the galling book trust that is now carrying things with so high a hand. —Hillsboro Independent.

The uniform course of study soon to be in use in Washington county schools is

best explained in the following extracts from its preface:

The Course of Study is designed to be used by teachers and pupils, giving them a definite idea of the work required in each branch. It outlines in detail the several branches required by law to be taught in the public schools of the State. The aim of this work is:

First.—To advance the pupils, step by step, to give them credit for work done, and to lessen the damaging results of a too frequent change of teachers.

Second.—To unify the work in the common schools of the county, thus forming a basis for comparing, by means of written examinations or reviews, the results in the different schools, and for a closer and more effective supervision.

Third.—To keep constantly before the minds of pupils subjects and principles, instead of paragraphs and pages, thus practically solving the vexed question concerning diversity of text-books, and rendering it possible, by outlining by topics, for pupils to use whatever text-books they may have.

Fourth.—To enable directors and parents to know better what the common schools are accomplishing for their children, hoping in this way to gain their active sympathy in the work.

The effect of alcohol on the human system is required to be taught in all public schools of Oregon. No better simple summary is obtainable than the following from a lecture recently delivered in Albany.

Alcohol is the result of decay. It can only be made as the product of disease and death. Even a leech can only live five or six minutes in alcohol, though it will live for hours cut in two in the sun. Animals will never use alcohol unless taught. A pig was once beside a drunken man. Someone said a man is known by the company he keeps, and the pig left. Instead of being a stimulant as stated for years, it is now learned that alcohol is only an irritant and narcotic, the same as a hot coal on a turtle.

The little corpuscles in the blood are to take oxygen through the body. Alcohol makes these corpuscles hard and unfit for use. The alcohol increases the action of the blood, goes to the brain, benumbs the nerve that protects the heart and it beats twice as fast and irregularly. The pulse of a dying man is merely a ripple, and 120 to 130 beats a minute. Brandy should never be given a dying man; it increases the circulation. A man who drinks has a red nose because the nerves in the nose are paralyzed and the blood vessels become large and flushed. So, in the stomach alcohol paralyzes. As he drinks the stomach becomes ulcerated. The nerves of the stomach

are much less sensitive than of the head and throat, hence the effects of alcohol are not felt as soon on the digestion as the brain. Alcohol is not food, nor does it aid in the digestion. It is not even a heater; it decreases the heat. It does not help digestion; it irritates and hardens, hindering digestion. The speaker had the whites of four eggs in a glass. He poured alcohol into it. In less than two minutes it was hard and thick. Digestion makes thin. The proof was plain. After a spree a man throws up his food as eaten, undigested. In everybody are dead cells that must pass off in the healthy person. Alcohol preserves these cells and keep them in the body, and the man becomes large and bloated—full of dead matter. Sullivan, in his fight with Corbett, was hit 141 times in the face and 41 times over the heart. The trouble with Sullivan was too much booze. He was hit before he could see the blow. The yellow ring around the drinker's eye ball means degeneration of the brain. A picture was shown, actually painted by a man who had had delirium tremens, once a talented Englishman. The moderate drinker is the one who should be punished; the drunkard is a diseased man and should be treated. So the speaker declared a man might as well be licensed to sell smallpox germs as liquor. These old liquors were made a few days before. Lime kills the food oil that age used to kill, and the liquor gotten today is often a mixture of the worst poison and the most nauseating stuff.

Out of 20 men executed on a St. Louis gallows, 26 committed their crimes when under the influence of liquor.

Wilkes Booth drank three times before shooting Lincoln.

The Way to Manage a Eugene Newspaper.

By reference to our advertising columns the ad of the State University will be seen. In this connection we will state that Hon. Sen. J. J. Walton has returned from Newport, where he had been with a sick daughter, for her health. Mr. Walton says that through inadvertency he neglected to hand to the University ad at the time he furnished it to the other papers, that he did not intend to boycott the Broad-Axe, by any means. So we cheerfully make this explanation and beg to retract the charge that the judge intended to boycott us and we hope that nothing will occur in the future to require the Broad-Axe to speak of the management of our school any other way than in terms of commendation.—Eugene Broad-Axe.

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