

THE DESCHUTES ECHO.

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SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1903.

With all the railroad news that Portland newspapers have furnished us it is now clearly apparent that they never sought information from sources that have been of a reliable character. They have allied themselves with a set of non-capitalists or non-investing capitalists who are attempting to coerce Harriman into investments in which the latter's interest is not considered. Portlanders have asked Harriman to make their city a central point for freightage from this vicinity. Why should he, as a railroad man, content himself with a short haul to Portland when he could make a long haul of the same freight East and derive greater profits therefrom. Their unintelligible method of arguing, while it conforms to the ideas of Portland's business interests, has by no means escaped the notice and condemnation of Eastern lumbermen and capitalists who have dollars where Portland hasn't cents invested in this region. That these Eastern holders ever came out here and invested large sums of money without ever seeing or formulating some plan of getting an outlet for the product of their investments is a proceeding so absurd that it could be believed only by a Portlander. Portland waits until outside capital develops this region, then it wants Mr. Harriman to put in a road and get us in a corner where we cannot get away from them. Portland's attitude toward Harriman, in this matter at least, has been that of a persistent, vituperative, shameless beggar. We believe it was Emerson who said, that the basest thing in all the universe was the man who continually wants something for nothing, and certainly he is the most contemptible. We have this week received private personal information in regard to railroad matters that will interest residents of the Deschutes valley. On the 25th day of this month a newly formed organization of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan lumbermen, owners of timber in this vicinity, will meet in the city of Chicago for the purpose of sending a committee to confer with Harriman, when he returns from Europe in the latter part of August, on the question of an Eastern connection for marketing the timber of this region. The purpose of the meeting is also to arrange for Mr. Harriman's benefit a showing of the yearly amount of freightage that the organization could give a railroad and also find out whether he was desirous of buying and controlling the tapping road or what terms he would make. The Corvallis & Eastern route has so far been the only route under the consideration of this organization. We are in receipt of a letter from the secretary of the organization asking for detailed information as to the amount of support the irrigation projects in this region would give a railroad, also for information as to the progress in irrigation work. This looks like real business.

The Oregonian for a week or more past has almost daily contained articles urging the building of the Columbia Southern Railroad into this town. Now once for all we wish to say that the Oregonian in its attitude towards this section of the state has shown more advanced ideas and a keener appreciation of the future of this vicinity than all other business concerns in the city of Portland combined. It has sought eagerly for every item of news concerning the extension of a railroad into this country. As a consequence its news columns have often been filled by persons who can properly be said to have designs on this region. In the first place let us look at the actions of some of the persons coming here, claiming to represent the Columbia Southern Railroad men whose authority seems to be unquestionable since they are here with the officials of the road. These mysterious go-

proaching some owner of a desirable townsite offer to locate the depot centrally upon his property if he in turn will contract to pay over to somebody or other a great part of all receipts for lots sold. In the event that the owner of the desired townsite refused this modest request, they immediately go to surrounding owners and make them propositions apparently with the intention of coercing the owner of the townsite they desire into coming to their terms. Now what do these benefactors of this country want? Do they want the country as a bonus for building the road? Then again we would like to be enlightened as to where the money coming from these townsite "grafts" is to go. Is it to go to Harriman who is expected to furnish all the money and take all the risks or to the Columbia Southern Company, or would it be perfectly polite to ask if this money is to go into the pockets of the officers of the Columbia Southern as a reward for the immense amount of talking that they have done for the past several years. If the latter is the use intended for the townsite "graft" money, wouldn't it be "real mean" of Mr. Harriman to refuse to furnish these Portland gentlemen money to set the depot on the right townsite along the Deschutes river. We extend our heartfelt commiseration to these gentlemen of Portland for the anxiety this townsite question has given them and would feel ourselves amply repaid for our sympathy if they would tell us, in return, what brand of nerve food they use. The proposition of the Columbia Southern to build into Central Oregon and thereby shut out other roads is not entirely new. It has been a "dead horse" proposition before Portland financiers so long that putrefaction has long since set in. Portland financiers seem to consist of persons who would gladly make investments here if someone else furnished the money. Portlanders desire to have Central Oregon tributary to Portland and they want it for nothing. That is the highest bid they have yet made. Another question suggests itself. Would the extension of the Columbia Southern into Central Oregon be a benefit or a detriment to this section? Persons prominently identified with the extension of the C. S. were asked how far the possibilities of the manufacture of yellow pine entered into their estimate of freightage out of this country. They invariably answered that they had never given the lumber question a thought, yet practical Eastern lumber manufacturers have holdings tributary to this point which at first cost aggregates several millions of dollars and the individual small holders have treble the amount of the larger investors. What Portlanders don't seem to be able to understand is that these investors have some business sense and that they have not bought their timber with counterfeit money. Another thing that Portlanders do not understand is that a dry-country yellow pine is not the heavy pitchy fir that grows on the rainy coast. Pine has a well-established market all over the East; fir has not. Freight rates eat up profits on fir while the lighter and more valuable pine will yield a handsome margin of profit. Our yellow pine is on level ground and the cost of logging would be less than in Eastern states. West coast timber is mountain timber and more costly to log. The Columbia Southern has a road bed over which heavy freight could not be hauled. Its present line is a kind of a hand-car road. It could not give this country a market for one of its most valuable products and its advent into this region would be a positive detriment.

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Attention Fans. All members of the Baseball Association are hereby requested to attend a meeting of said association at the school house this (Saturday) evening at eight o'clock. The financial report of the treasurer will be read and other matters of importance discussed. A. G. RICHARDSON, Secretary.

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