

# The DesChutes Echo

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1903.

The Great West and the Two Easts.

A resounding chorus of gratulations will herald to the world within the next two years the first centennial of two events upon which the history of the Great West is founded—the purchase of Louisiana and the expedition of Lewis and Clark to the mouth of the Columbia River. Whether the student of history at the Saint Louis World's Fair in 1904 pause in admiration of the political foresight of Jefferson, or join in the general acclaim of the heroism of our first explorers at Portland, in 1905, the fact that will most impress him is that geographical lines have been obliterated and there is no West. Migrations having their origin in the dim, remote past, and continuing down to the present, have brought the Aryan race face to face on the opposite shores of the great western ocean, and the world finds itself confronted with that condition which William H. Seward predicted, when, addressing himself to the commerce, politics, thought, and activities of Europe, he said they "will ultimately sink in importance, while the Pacific, its shores, its islands, and the vast regions beyond, will become the chief theater of events in the world's great hereafter." The East that Columbus sailed westward from Spain to discover will ever be the world's East; the West, "the remote shores that Drake had once called by the name of New Albion," will be the East of the World's Great East, and the West, only in its geographical relation to the Atlantic seaboard of our own country.

The West has fulfilled every promise of its value to the Union made by its champions when its cause was before the people of the new Republic; it has refuted every prediction of dire effect made by the opponents of its acquisition. When the purchase of Louisiana was under consideration, the fear was expressed that people who would move to that region would scarcely ever feel the rays of the general government, their affections would be alienated by distance, and American interests would become extinct. The generous response of men and money made by Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa, when the Union was in the throes of a struggle for its preservation, attests the loyalty of the Louisiana region. A Southern senator asked, in 1843, what good was Oregon for agricultural purposes, and said he would not give a pinch of snuff for the whole territory. Yet the Oregon Country has given the Union three sovereign states, and part of its territory has been taken to form two other states; its occupation by Americans was a direct cause of the an-

neaxation of California; it has in the Columbia River and Puget Sound two important bases for military and naval operations; far from being inhospitable to the honest farmer of the Atlantic seaboard, or the Ohio Valley, it has one hundred thousand farms valued at nearly \$600,000,000. Alaska was denounced as a barren waste, that would never add one dollar to our wealth, or furnish homes to our people. Yet in less than forty years Alaska has supplied gold, silver, and furs worth \$150,000,000, and has paid revenue to the government exceeding by \$1,500,000 the price Russia got for it in 1867; and at no distant day Hawaii and the Philippines will justify American occupation by statistics as telling as those here presented of Louisiana, Oregon, and Alaska.

If a nonexpansive policy had prevailed in our national councils at the beginning of the nineteenth century; if the presidential chair had been occupied by another than the broad statesman who saw beyond the Mississippi, over the Rockies to the Pacific, and over the Pacific to the cradle of the world, we should now have an intolerable situation of affairs in North America. Had we refused Louisiana from Napoleon, what is now the United States would be partitioned, geographically, about as follows: East of the Mississippi would be the Republic of the United States of America of 1783, with England in Canada on the north, and Spain in Florida and fringing the Gulf of Mexico. Louisiana would have fallen into England's hands as a result of the Napoleonic wars, and so, perhaps, Oregon, either by reason of a favorable interpretation of the Nootka convention, or Vancouver's discoveries. Mexico, as the successor of Spain, would own Texas and all the remainder of the west south of the forty-second parallel and not included in Louisiana.

The beginnings of the West date from 1850. As early as 1840 there were nine hundred thousand people along the western shore of the Mississippi in Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana and Missouri. These states were long on the firing line of American civilization, and their people subsisted by general farming, or by outfitting ox-train merchandise caravans for Sante Fe and Chihuahua, or by outfitting and trading with pioneer settlers en route to Oregon, or gold seekers flocking to California. With the upbuilding of the country and the spread of knowledge of its capabilities, the title of "Great American Desert" has been swept away, and the colored maps that illustrate the books of the twelfth census, regard the white portion as "unsettled area." This includes a considerable area in every state and territory west of the ninety-ninth degree of longitude. East of that line the only white portion is in southeastern Florida.—Harry E. Reed in The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society for June.

Read THE ECHO for all the local news.

The Oregonian on Monday published a lengthy news article from its Washington correspondent on the probable change in the public land laws that will be enacted during the next session of Congress. Among other things it stated that Secretary Hitchcock had made the miraculous discovery that the timber lands of our state were worth \$400.00 per acre instead of \$4.00 for which they have been selling. We wonder whether the writer ever bought any government land that he knows its price so well. We wonder again whether the honorable secretary has an idea that Oregon is one vast forest of ebony or lignum vital. Then again is possible that this is only a pipe-dream of the pencil pusher. Whatever the case may be, we are willing to bet an acre of this \$400 land to a single thought from his fertile brain, that the Oregonian made a mistake and sent its fish editor instead of a nose newsgetter to the National capital to obtain these valuable facts.

For several years past labor unions have done considerable good. They have held the sympathy of the people and defended the rights of their members. There are features of these unions, however, which will one day bring them into direct conflict with the American public and render their usefulness a thing of the past. Some, if not all of the unions, bar from their ranks members of the state militia. Some of them go so far as to refuse to march in processions in which a militia company takes part. They should get over their antipathy to the boys in blue. It is bad taste and comes so near being treasonous that it can be safely avoided by any citizen. The barber's union of Portland sometime ago ordered all razor grinding and honing shops to raise the price of honing razors to fifty cents. This was supposed to be an endeavor to prevent individuals from shaving themselves. This is only a type of the little interferences with individual rights that is creeping into the unions and rendering them tyrannous.

It is getting so near 1904 that the politicians are beginning to do some hard thinking. This is likely to increase the sale of headache remedies.

No more Lilliputian forests of sagebrush have been taken under the protection of the government since our last issue. The forest reserve business is at a stand-still.

D. J. Brewer, associate justice of the supreme court, advises the abolition of criminal appeals as a remedy for lynching. The remedy is likely to produce as much injustice as the disease.

The Bend correspondent of The Dalles Chronicle, in that paper's issue of Aug. 15th, very knowingly informs his readers that no serious effects will be felt in this vicinity following the late withdrawal of public lands from market. He should be given credit for his thorough understanding of the situation. We would suggest, however, that he consult some school boy for further information on the subject.

Secretary of War Root, who is reported to be about to resign from the cabinet, has introduced into the U. S. Army a system of instruction that bids fair to be permanent and is certainly of great value. All officers at Army posts are formed into classes for instruction in gunnery and in various subjects pertaining to war. The officers act as instructors and the result has been a great benefit to the Army. Heretofore Army officers have loafed about Army posts and became rusty and lazy.

The effect of the recent withdrawal of timber and desert lands from entry is already being felt in this community. Business at the hotels, stores and stables has dropped off materially and a number of people have left town while others are preparing to leave. If the withdrawal of these lands should stand for an indefinite period it can be expected that Bend will lapse into a state of unconsciousness such as it enjoyed before the advent of the timber seeker.

#### For Sale.

I have for sale cheap, a few Hereford bull calves. For further information call at my ranch on Bear Creek, or address me at Prineville.

J. A. RAYL.

## Timber Lands Wanted.

### Do You Want to Sell Yours?

We are now in a position to make purchases of from 40,000 to 50,000 acres of well-timbered yellow and sugar pine lands in both large and small tracts. If you are looking for a buyer and want the highest market price, it will pay you to call or us. List your lands with us and allow us to examine them and make you an offer.

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