THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1890.

W. C. BYRD,
CHAS. W. BYRD, - - - - - Editors.

A PETITION

To the Hon. John Wanamaker, Postmaster General, U. S. A.

The petition of your Memorialists respectfully shows:

That we are residents of Harney County, State of Oregon; that the town of Harney, in said County and State, is in all probability the temporary county-seat of said County, and will so remain such temporary county seat until a railroad shall be built in our country, and establish a town thereon; That the matter to test the question if said town is not the county-seat is now being litigated in the Courts, and is yet pending, nor has the same been decided; That we are informed and believe that the people of the town of Burns (which claims to have been chosen as such county-seat at a recent election) are numerously signing their own, and fictitious names as well, to a petition of one C. C. McCoy, of Walla Walla, Washington, to have the mail route between the Railroad and Burns, passing Harney, discontinued, to the end that Harney may be cut off from all mail communication, and fall off in consequence thereof in population and importance, in order to bear upon said litigation in favor of said town of Burns, and against said town of Harney; That the said C. C. McCoy bid in the contract to carry the mails on said route at too low a rate to be able to execute the same at a profit, and has declined, neglected and refused to comply with the terms thereof, in consequence of which there has been no mail brought to Harney since the 1st of July, 1890, the date at which the previous contract expired; and the damage from nonreceipt of their mails among business and professional men residing and doing business at said Harney has been considerable, and said C. C. McCoy, well known both the existence of said damage and the fact that he is responsible therefor, is seeking to escape from his said responsibility and from the consequence of putting in his bid at too low a rate as aforesaid, and to be rid of the same and the result thereof, taking advantage of the feeling existing between the residents of this county, very nearly equally divided on the question of county seat aforesaid—a small majority being in favor of not determining upon any place for said county-seat permanently and incurring heavy taxation and indebtedness pending the expected building up of a town by the advent of the railroad for the benefit of the country at large, or at least until it can be ascertained if any of the towns now existing will be on the line of said road, to the end that the permanent county-seat may be also such railroad town; and a large majority being in favor of building up their own interests at said town of Burns; the laws leaving the county-seat at Harney until such question shall be decided by an election, and such election having been had and the result of which is now in contest as aforesaid: taking advantage of said fact, we say the said McCoy has procured the signatures of those in favor of building up said town of Burns by such taxation and indebtedness, and of locating the county-seat permanently at this time there, and proceeding to erect the necessary public buildings there; to destroy said town of Harney; and at the same time through that to afford him the said McCoy a means of escape from his said contract and liability; and adding thereto other and fictitious names, has forwarded to your Department a petition, so signed, praying the discontinuance of said route, and to order all mails to be taken off the cars at Baker city and brought via Canyon City and Burns to Harney, Drewsey and points eastward of said Burns, which will necessitate the rehandling of all our mail at the several post-offices at Canyon City and Burns and subject us to much delay and loss.

That there is no route established from Burns eastward, except as part of the route between Burns and Ontario, the route they propose to discontinue; and the Baker-Canyon-Burns route would practically deprive us of all means to receive our mail at all.

That we are informed and believe that the reason assigned for said proposed discontinuance, in said petition of the said McCoy, is that the road from Ontario through to Vale, Beulah, Drewsey and Harney to Burns is impassable in winter. THAT SUCH IS NOT THE FACT. That the said route lies over county roads maintained by the County Courts respectively of Harney and Malheur counties, and the same is in as good and often better condition than the roads between Burns and Canyon and between Canyon and Baker City, and the route is a much shorter one.

That from Baker City, mails taken off the cars there are taken by stage over the Blue mountain 90 miles westerly to Canyon City, and there re-handled. Thence they come south by another stage line 65 miles to Burns, and are there re-handled. Those for Harney, Drewsey and points to the eastward again toward Ontario and back to the Railroad, will be dependent on chance messengers, should the petition of McCoy prevail, for there is no established stage line now running from Burns eastwardly, nor has there been since July 1st; and since said date we have had to have friends call for our mails at Burns (oftentimes refused as they were directed to Harney) or get them as we could.

That mails leaving the cars at Ontario can be brought direct 150 miles westerly to Vale, Beulah, Drewsey, the settlements on the Malheur river, Harney and Burns, and the contract therefor should be let as an entirety. Prior to July 1st the then existing contract had been so divided and part of same sublet, to wit: from the cars to Beulah, and the other part from Beulah to Burns, sublet to other parties. Hence the difficulty last winter, which was due, not to the bad roads—as the affidavits of the employees of P. F. Stenger, subcontractor between Beulah and Burns, allege—but to the bad management of the said Stenger, who procured said affidavits to shield himself from the censure of the Department when complained of by people along said route for his delay and mismanagement. For one month during last spring the people of Harney received no mails from Beulah, and they complained; affidavits as aforesaid were procured by said subcontractor laying the blame on the roads, but the same cause of complaint existed thereafter up in the months of May and June, when no pretense could be made that said roads were impassable.

THE above is only a part of the petition sent from Harney to the Postmaster General.

Our comment on the petition is simply to disabuse the minds of our readers, and all the citizens of Harney, of any impression the petition might have made derogating to Burns, and the friends of Burns.

The people of Harney were deceived when they were made believe that Burns was trying—or rather signed a petition—for a discontinuance of the Ontario mail route. We don't suppose such a petition was ever in existence; we have no knowledge of anything of that nature. The citizens of Burns were, and are, just as anxious as Harney for a daily mail from here to the railroad by way of Harney.

The petition says: "we say the said McCoy has procured the signatures of those in favor of building up said town of Burns," etc. Had such a petition been in circulation, it would surely have been generally known, and we are willing to take an oath we know of none such.

COMMUNICATION.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The force bill is dead, and it was smothered too, by republicans. The senatorial caucus a senator says is a cute instrument for putting obnoxious legislation out of the way. As is known it has all along been stated in this correspondence that this iniquitous measure would never become a law. It is startling tho to find that some of the most radical of republicans opposed its passage. But simply on the ground of political expediency. Both Quay and Don Cameron heard a whisper from Pensylvania capitalists who are largely interested in southern developments that such legislation wont do and they accordingly bowed to the inevitable. Other republican senator were also plainly told that their political safety depended upon the protection of northern capital in the south. It should be said, though to the honor of such men as Plumb, of Kansas, that the forcible seizure of local elections was fought upon the higher grounds of statesmanship. Sufficient it is, however, that Tom Reed has been defeated and the force bill is now only to be classed as one of the curiosities of legislation.

Senator Gorman, says that a terrible weight has been lifted from off the south which threatened to crush out the commercial life there in process of development and that the friends of good and clean government everywhere have cause to rejoice.

The House of representatives has been wasting its time for several days over the Nat McKinley claim. Probably your readers are not acquainted with the individual nor his aforesaid claim, but I will inform them as to the facts.

McKay is the man whose proudest distinction is that he wilfully insulted a President of the United States. Several years ago this claim which is of the war odorous order, was allowed by congress or rather the court of claims, was directed to examine it which is just the same as if it had been allowed, but Mr. Cleveland intervened with the presidential veto and locked the game. McKay who is a man that can hardly write and whose compositions are strictly among the curiosities of literature, then, after Mr. Cleveland's defeat, got some one to write a telegraph message of insult to the White House and which was signed with his name. For this act he became a power in republican politics and is now getting his reward. I forgot to say that Mr. Cleveland did not take as much notice of McKay as he would of a dirty cur should it invade his premises. As to McKay's claim it is but necessary to say that Robeson when Secretary of the Navy saw nothing meritorious in it even in that day when the Secretary's and other gunboat people were provided with a duplicate key to the vaults of the treasury. McKay then is another ironclad attack on the peoples cash box, and the republicans favor it as in payment for the help rendered by the claimant in Harrison's campaign in frying the fat out of the manufactures. Finally I am told McKay believes that Mr. Cleveland was defeated because he vetoed his claim and that the tariff so long as he lives will only be a local issue after all.

Republican senators do not attempt to disguise the fact that democratic attacks upon the McKinley bill has made a breach in their party walls; hence their anxiety to close out the discussion. Such democrats as Gorman of Maryland, McPherson of New Jersey, and West of Missouri, not to mention the "tall sycamore" eloquent Dan Voorhees, say that they are ready and eagerly willing to submit the case to a jury of the American people at the ballot box. But while this is their disposition it is further said by them that they will continue to oppose the enormities of the measure and its systematic robbery of the people so long as the opportunities offers. The republicans however, are just about ready to admit that they have had enough.

The republican managers find themselves in such straits that they have forgotten all about their purpose to effect Blaine's political ostracism. Indeed they are ready to turn to the sagacious Maine man with the cry of "help me Cassius or I sink." Meanwhile "Jealous Jim" as they started out to dub him, "aint saying a word" but he is spitting on his hands so as to make some one turn a political sumersault so sudden that his head will swim.

It is the intention to put electric lights and other modern comforts into the White House before the next social season opens. The grand east room is literally to be made as bright as day on state occasions by a row of electric lights around its walls just where the ceiling joins. The Harrison's want the old place embellished as they intend to make the next social season the "feature of their lives." The President's wife is already known as the best dressed woman who ever presided over the executive mansion and she is ambitious of rivaling and surpassing the great state entertainments which have been noteworthy in the past. In this little conceit the President partakes for Ben is an aristocrat all over.

"BOB."

Gen. H. Natter, a politician of Charleston South Carlina, was shot on the night of August 10 the ball entering the breast near the heart and coming out at the back. The wound is considered dangerous.

FROM RED S.

A Description of the Lakes.

EDS. HERALD: Presuming that a few items from our vicinity will not be out of place, I will submit the following:

Hay-making is in full blast and will continue so for some time. A considerable grain harvest is awaiting us in a short time.

Our people were scared with the probability of an interference with the hay harvest by injunctions, but it turned out to be a rumor without foundation.

Everything looks re-assuring, and if we get a good supply of snow and honest freezing next winter, the numerous large hay stacks will come very handy.

It may be interesting to your readers to know the extent of our almost limitless and rich empire of Harney, for whose benefit I recommend you to insert a descriptive account of the country between what is known as the Red-S and Lake Harney.

This is an immense area of very rich alluvial land, partly hay land partly fertile plow land, with here and there a few elevated spots covered with grease-wood of great thickness. The appearance of the country inspires the idea that it was laid out by nature for small holdings of an agricultural community. The grass plats and plow land parts well watered, and giving each occupant an elevated, elaborately building site. The grease-wood on the intervening knolls will supply the settlers with excellent fuel for many years to come, while there is a good supply of juniper on the NW., of very good quality, both for fence posts and fuel, and of sufficient quantity to last for away in the future.

Traveling in a southeasterly direction from Burns, you come to the "Narrows," a deep narrow channel, west of Malheur lake, which is reaching out like an arm to connect it with Lake Harney.

At this point settlement has already started, and your correspondent would not hesitate to assure them of success. It is where the energy and enterprise of Burns has commenced the erection of a bridge to facilitate communication between our—the north—side and the Blitzen—the West side of the lake. From this point the country puts on a more gloomy aspect, and the land looks more dreary and sterile. The vast expanse of the salt grass, though a genial impression to the eye, is formidably accompanied by the inconvenient thought of the niggardliness of nature—except at and around the "Mud lake," a lagoon formed by the narrow channel above described, where many and excellent locations awaits its reclamation by the industry of the pioneer. There is yet a space of some four miles from this point (Mud lake) to the Harney lake, on a straight line, but about six miles on the possible road, this stretch of country may be called the "alkili fields." There is a deposit of soda and potassium with more or less saline compounds over a large tract of country, giving an appearance of that sublime awfulness that one experiences in solitude clothed with the white garment of barrenness; yet there is no monotony in the horizon of this region. The imposing grandeur of the snow capped Steen mountains, with its spurs, gorges and fantastic irregularities in the southern back ground, well compensates and refreshes the eye of the beholder.

The gentle slope east and west inspire one with the notion of being inclosed in nature's own peaceful abode, while a view of the Blue mountains on the north revive the hope of the tourist and quicken the mind with freshness and perpetuity.

Desolate as this region may appear, yet there seems to be a deep purpose in the circle of nature to work up the substances collected in the basins of this region into a very useful material to supplement industry and bring forth a very useful article for the use of man.

There is a slimy, glutinous mass and foam, washed into these basins at high water time, in other words the water deposits here a foamy substance, carried along on its surface, of a dissolved vegetable matter, resin, etc., which is prevented by the layer of soda or alkili, from being absorbed by the soil—like the layer of flour prevent dough from sticking to the kitchen table—which compound at the same time undergoes a process of crystilization by their contact with the moist vegetable substance, these tempering and concentrating such layers of foamy deposits and forming them into something like paste board. Your correspondent has visited the Delta or Nile Valley in Egypt, and is inclined to compare the production of this substance with the papyras of that country, so thorough and perfect is the manufacture of this kind of substantial wall paper carried on by nature and so thoroughly is this climate adapted to its production that a crop of this article can be obtained annually. After the sheets are perfectly dry nature folds them up double or quadruple, by the action of the wind, and they lay, as we may say, ready for market. Passing this place carelessly one would imagine them to be cow-hides, washed down by the water, but on closer examination you discover a fibrous, elastic, and advantageously adapted for walling outhouses. I made a "round trip" this time, coming home by an opposite route to the one I went.

In my next I will send you a specimen of this our natural "home production."

Leaving these "white flats" and going in a southeasterly direction you come to a high sandy bar, overgrown with monster grease-wood, called "The Sand Reef" which forms the northern boundary of Lake Harney. Here you come again to the narrow channel or strait reaching out from Malheur lake. Following its course you come to where this strait had subteraneously undermined a bluff that formerly inclosed Lake Harney. Thus connecting the lakes at high water time.

There is a most magnificient view; the broad expanse of the beautiful mirror like surface of 12 x30 miles inclosed in an oval shaped basin of gently rising hills is a grand picture well worth the seeing. The Iron mountain on the desert bathed by its waves recalls to mind the distant shore of a sea coast. Thousands of white birds, from the royal pelican, down to ducks and sea gulls, sail on its gentle breast, while numerous fishes occasionally make their appearance above the water, turn summersaults and show the confidence of a perfect water republic.

Were I to spend hours and hours describing what I saw, I would never be able to do justice to the beauty and gradeur of this natural panorama. If I succeed by these lines in inducing some weary mind—caused by the unchangeable monotony of the town or farm—to come out and commune with nature, put all care aside for once, be refreshed by the beauty and immensity of this natural scene, I shall be well paid and shall also find real happiness that I was not the only one overjoyed by nature's magnificence.

However this may be, we can well be proud of this our extended possession and grand empire has not only inexhaustable resources for a successful development of flourishing towns and happy villages, but contains even those rare treats for the refined soul that at once encourage and enliven the mind with good aspirations, and elevate the spirit of man, enhancing his action to all that is good.

Happy the people thus situated;
Happy those that this is their domain. M. B.

Horses now Training for Burns Races

John S., bay gelding, 3 years old, sire, Prince of Norfork; dam, Minnie C. Owned by T. J. Silman.

Emma C., sorral filly, 3 years old, sire, Prince of Norfork, dam, Mollie Stockton. Owned by J. S. Devine.

Steen Mountain Belle, bay filly, 3 years old, sire, Prince of Norfork, dam unknown. Owned by Henry Long.

Cicero, bay gelding, 3 years old, sire, Connor, dam Sagehen. Owned by George Hayes.

The Flood mare, 4 years old, name Mollie B., sire, Connor, dam unknown.

Bay mare, owned by Cutting.

Dandy Jim, a quarter horse.

Split Ear, a quarter horse.

Iron Wood, a half mile horse.

Conswelo, thorough bred, mile horse.

Harney Humbug, thorough-bred heat horse.

Steen Mountain Swell, thorough-bred heat horse.

The Little Daisy, half mile mare.

Woe Be Gone, quarter horse.

A riot occured in Boston State prison Aug. 7th but was promptly quelled by the police force.

BURNS ADVERTISEMENTS

N. BROWN

Dealer in General Merchan[dise]
AT THE OLD STAND,
BURNS, HARNEY CO., OREGON

Our immense Fall and Winter Stock will commence ...

Portland Exchange Sold, County Scrip ...

DRUGS. MEDICINES, PAINTS, ...

TOILET ARTICLES, GLASS, PUTT[Y]

W. E GRACE, PROPRIETOR, - - - - BUR[NS]

A Large Assortment of

FINE CUTLERY. NOTIONS, ...

Has just been Received.

PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY C[OMPOUNDED]

Everything guaranteed pure and of the very b[est]

BURNS HOT[EL]

E. K. TAYLOR, - - - - - - - - - -

This large and commodious Hotel has been generally renovated. The Proprietor will spare no pains to please ...

Good table service, and tables furnished with all ...

BURNS CIRCULATING LI[BRARY]
AND
BOOK EXCHANGE,
IN THE HERALD BUILDING.

CHAS. W. BYRD, - - - - - - Librarian.

Object of opening this business to connect ... with the Free Reading Room ... for purchasing books for a Public Library ...

TERMS: Membership Fee ... a year. Reading Fee ... Deposit ...

The Librarian is agent for and will take subscriptions ... and order any Book, published in the United States ... Pictures, Works of Art, House-Building Designs, Etc.

THE PACIFIC FIRE INSURANCE C[O.]

CAPITAL $500,0[00]

F. E. BEACH, President,
E. HUGHES, Vice-President,
WM. MCFALL, Tre[asurer]
W. F. BROWNTON, S[ecretary]

safe & reliabl[e]

List of Directors and Stockholders at the office of ...

J. D. Shaw
BURNS, OR.

2-30tf

The Saw-Mill

NEAR BURNS, OREGON.

JNO. W. SAYER - - - - - - - - - - Pro[prietor]

Keeps constantly on hand a large stock of

Flooring,

Moldings,

Rustic.

All kinds of surface lumber thoroughly seasoned for building purposes ...
REDUCED PRICE.

New Machiner[y]

N. B. A Good road all the way.

Burns-Canyon Stage Line,
I. JEWITT, PROPRIETOR.

Leaves Burns on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays ... Connects with the Ontario, Prineville, and Lakeview stages, at Burns ... tions for passengers.