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MAY CHANGE ROUTE

Under the above head, the North Bend Citizen advocates discontinuing the Mail route over the Coos Bay wagon road and having the Coos Bay mail brought over the middle fork route via Myrtle Point. The reason given is so that "appropriations" can be concentrated on the middle fork route to get "one good road" into the country.

One of the arguments used is: "This will make it necessary for the railroad exceeding from Myrtle Point to Marshfield to run two trains per day each way, and not only will we then have better railroad facilities, but equally as good mail service."

Comment on that does not seem to be necessary, further than to remark that it must make Manager Chandler smile.

This question has been threshed out, and there is only one side to it, so far as Coos Bay mail is concerned. It is only mentioned here to show that the MAIL's recent warnings were not entirely uncalled for. We have had the assurance of the Enterprise that Myrtle Point people do not want our mail to come that way, but the editor of the Citizen recently visited that section, and evidently got a fill from some one.

CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION

The DAILY COAST MAIL has one of the most satisfactory subscription lists of any paper on top of the earth. Nearly every man keeps his subscription paid ahead, and there are not half a dozen on the list who are three months in arrears. One reason for this is that our subscribers have come to us voluntarily, because they wanted the paper and were willing to pay for it; they stay with us and keep their subscriptions paid in advance for the same reason. Another reason is that we never keep sending a man the paper after his subscription expires unless we think that he wants it; then if we hear nothing from him after a reasonable time we quietly take his name off the list and

say nothing about it. If we send the paper after the subscription expires, the subscriber is under no obligations, legal or moral, to pay for it, even if he takes it from the post-office and reads it every day. In that case we are sending it on our own responsibility and taking all the chances on being mistaken as to whether the man wants it. We wish this clearly understood. If we can not get out a paper that is worth the money, the sooner we go out of business the better.

It is perhaps largely because we deal with our subscribers on this basis that we have so little trouble with delinquents, but we are also inclined to attribute the satisfactory state of affairs in a great measure to the fact that the Coast Mail subscription list represents a lot of thundering good people.

LANGLEY'S FLYING MACHINE

The Oregonian waxes awfully funny over the failure of Prof. Langley's flying machine, or aerodrome to make a successful flight on the first trial. The Oregonian seems to take the position that this demonstrates conclusively what it is assumed every one knew before, that a flying machine is the dream of a crank, and Professor Langley and his flying machine are in the same class with Dams Green and his'n.

Nevertheless, Professor Langley is working on the right lines, and either he or some one else will build a machine within the next few years that will demonstrate that they are right. The failure of Prof. Langley's assistant to ride the air with his machine at the first trial, no more proves that it can't be done than the failure of a man to ride a bicycle on the first trial proves that no bicycle can be ridden.

The explanation that the machine was not properly balanced, as this could only be told by actual trial, is a very reasonable one. If it was a little "down by the head," the very principle on which it depends for flight would cause it to come to the ground, or in this case to the water. Any boy who has ever "sailed" a shingle through the air understand the aeroplane principle on which Professor Langley is working and he knows that if he throws his shingle with a downward dip it will come immediately to the ground. That is what happened to the aerodrome. Next time it may be down by the tern too much, and if its power is not sufficient to drive it uphill fast enough it will stop and fall more desastrously than the first one. But control of the machine will be acquired, by this kind of experimental work, and the men who are risking their necks are entitled to more credit than they seem to be getting.

A TRUTH REITERATED

There seems to be a disposition to misunderstand the COAST MAIL's position in regard to the controversy over the disposition of a certain sum of \$500. Because Fire Chief Murphy's statement was given equal publicity with the communication of his critics, it is assumed that the MAIL is fighting his side of the battle. Nothing could be more unreasonable. The MAIL is not disposed to butt into the argument as to what should have been done with that \$500, whether or not the best disposition was made of it. There is room for a wide diversity of honest opinions on that point.

The only statement the MAIL made on its own responsibility was the one vouching for the fact that Mr. Murphy arrived at the engine house before the

engine was taken away. This statement is vigorously assailed by parties who were in the crowd, and who did not see or hear Mr. Murphy there. This statement however, we desire to reiterate most emphatically, and to suggest to those who are so industriously denying it that they are placing themselves in an awkward position by denying a fact. We do not care a tinker's anathema how many people didn't see Murphy there; two of the COAST MAIL force did see him there and at least one member of the city council also saw him there. One of us heard him give an order to take the engine out, and again it makes no difference how many persons in the excited crowd didn't hear him; we know that he gave the order. That is all that we have vouched for. And in all candor, is this doing any more than simple justice to Chief Murphy?

SALEM'S POPULATION DECREASING.

The new government map sent out by the department only gives Salem, the capital of our glorious commonwealth, a population of a little over 4000. This is rather hard on that city which certainly has more. It seems there is nothing more for the capital city to do now but patiently wait until the next count is made, and then she will be in line for a boom, and can probably make as big a show for growth as any town in the land. In the meantime, however, she can content herself as being a small town, even to the extent of being the smallest town in the United States, with the biggest industries, compared to her population. Considering it that way, Salem has the biggest payroll, is the heaviest tax-payer, educational center, etc. also the smallest town in the world, supporting a city water company with more than 100 miles of mains and other pipes; (the latter now receiving the attention of even so distinguished a body as the State Medical Board,) also an electric lighting plant which cost over half a million, and thousands of H. P. of water that is not now being used, also one of the biggest flouring mills in the state. Besides all this she has all the state institutions and an electric car service of over 30 miles of track and 50 cars which is said to be paying a good profit. There are about 4000 school children attending its 5 large schools. The town has several banks, any of which do business amounting to millions annually. There are two good daily papers in the town, which have always done the lions share in building their town. Added to all this, a prolific population, Salem has nothing to fear if she can but philosophically live down her present disgrace. Salem will, undoubtedly be heard from when the next count is on.

COOS MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY

All the good things of the county exhibits which were at the state fair have been gathered and are being shipped to the St. Louis Fair.

Right here is where the thing comes in. Had Coos sent up a dairy exhibit or a general exhibit it would have been among the St. Louis show. Of course if the general interests of Coos county wish to remain in the dark and hide forever from the world this is the proper course.

When the Iowa dairy exhibits went to the Centennial at Philadelphia it opened the way whereby that state went to the forefront in the dairy line, and the dairymen in Iowa were at a great disadvantage, compared to this much

favoured country, where dairy food stays green the whole year.

A very small exertion and expenditure of money will be returned ten fold to the counties who made state exhibits and they will reap rich reward and do honor to Oregon. The counties whose exhibits go to St. Louis are: Polk, Linn, Washington, Marion, Lane, Douglas. There are two car loads of exhibits and they are taken free of charge. The MAIL has repeatedly urged that a State Fair Exhibit be sent out from here, not so much that it takes the premium, but so the outside world might know that Coos county is not only on the map but in it.

State and General

Governor Chamberlain has been asked to be present at the dedication of St. Francis Hospital Pendleton.

The Quaker doctors practically had to leave Pendleton. Life became too strenuous.

Counterfeit \$20 bills are afloat in Portland.

Geo. Smith of McLeod was crushed to death by a tree which he was falling.

The Grand Lodge of K. of P. is in session in Portland.

The Oregon condensed milk plant at Hillsboro is being enlarged.

A tramp was fatally injured at Albany while stealing a ride between there and Portland. He fell asleep on top of a train and fell off.

Seaside will make an electric light franchise recently entered into.

John H. Huffer, Sr., who has been a resident of Jacksonville for 50 years a greater part of which time he has followed mining successfully, while prospecting, recently found an apple tree in one of the gulches up Jackson Creek that was loaded with large apples, and although surrounded by brush the tree was thrifty in appearance and the fruit free from scale and worms. He has been carefully watching the development of the fruit since, and expects when it is ripe to submit samples of it to the orchardists for their judgement with respect to its worth.

Scarlet Fever at Sumner

Dr. Mings went up to Sumner, Thursday, where scarlet fever has obtained a foothold. He fumigated Capt.

Harris' place, and quarantined the family of J. W. Catching, Mrs. Catching being sick with the malady, but improving.

Scarlet fever seems to be working its way in from Fairview where it has been epidemic, and an attempt will be made to stop its spread and stamp it out.

Rusty Nail Wounds.

One of the very best remedies that can be applied to a wound made by a rusty nail and which is almost infallible in its cure is to take a quantity of peach leaves, beat them to a pulp and then apply them to the wound, and in a very short time an improvement will be noted in the wound.

Saved His Ear.

During an affray among tramps in a Kiev lodging house one of them had his ear cut off. He went to the hospital, taking with him the severed ear, which the doctor immediately sewed on again.

Perpetual Ice.

There is a point near the famous Stony cave, in the Catskill mountains, where ice may be found on any day of the year.

Vote Getting.

The campaign is open, they say: From now on swift will be the stride of it; But be its state thus, as it may, Not much shall we see of the inside of it.

—Indianapolis News.

Gambling In Steam.
 A Statute law forbids gambling with dice unless a permit has been obtained. Permits are issued only on feast days. They cost the holder two tickets (\$1.20) each and authorize gambling one day only.

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