

# The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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## THE RAILROADS AND THE PEOPLE.

THE CONTEST that is now on between the railroads and the people, in the end, will be won by the people; because justice, right and power is on their side of the question. The contest is sure to be bitter and, of course, will be carried to the court of last resort. Every delay and block to the wheels of justice, which the shrewdest and most capable lawyer in the nation can invent, will be employed in the interests of the railroads. If, in the end, the conditions are made severe to the offending railroads, they can comfort themselves, if it will be a comfort, with the assurance that they themselves only are to blame.

President Roosevelt has rightfully said, "I am responsible for the light, but not for what the light discloses." If the railroads and other corporations had been complying with the letter and spirit of the law, they would have experienced no harmful (to them) effects from having the light turned on.

When a company of men obtains a charter from a state government to build a railroad, it in effect enters into a contract to do certain things, and for which it is granted certain specific privileges. Thus the people or state government becomes the grantor and the railroads the grantee. In order to note just wherein and how far either party has wandered from the contract, it is well to examine the requirements of the ordinary railway charter.

In order to build a railway, a right-of-way is necessary. The state grants the company the right over public property and protects it from exorbitant charge for the use of private property. The state also grants the company the right to issue bonds in order to build and equip its line. Impliedly, the company has no authority to issue other than what are necessary to construct and equip its line. The company, on its part, stately or impliedly, agrees to construct its line within a stated period, to perform the duties of public carrier, promptly, at reasonable rates and without partiality. Now it certainly is not difficult for either party to the contract to conform to the letter and spirit of the provisions of the instrument. Had this been done, the railroads would not now be entangled in the meshes of the law; nor would the financial crisis now existing be vexing the business world.

There is not an instance on record wherein the people, or the state, have not fully and completely lived up to the letter and spirit of the provisions of the contract with the railroad. On the contrary, there is not a case on record wherein the railroad has not violated its part of the agreement. Let us see. Impliedly, the railroad has authority to contract a bonded debt sufficient only to construct and equip its line in first-class condition. Invariably this condition has been violated, and in most cases, viciously so. To illustrate: A few years ago, the Harriman people acquired control of the Chicago & Alton railway. The line was entirely completed, had a splendid equipment, and was, probably, the best paying property in the Mississippi Valley. There was not the slightest necessity to increase the bonded indebtedness of the property. But this is just what the Harriman people did. They increased the debt some \$90,000,000, yet did not add one dollar to the physical value of the property. They converted a large dividend-paying property into one that can pay but a very small one. Without increasing the earning power of the road, they doubled the interest charges against it. What became of the money used by the new bond issue? The Alton will forever have to pay interest upon these \$90,000,000 of pure, unadulterated water, the proceeds of which, we hope, Mr. Harriman will have to account for.

The grievances of the people against the railroads may be summed up as follows: Knowing that the earnings of a railroad must pay operating expenses, for betterments of the line, keeping up and increasing of rolling stock as needed, paying of interest on bonds, the railroads have increased the indebtedness thereby adding to the interest charges, without increasing the earning power nor adding to the physical value of the roads. They have arbitrarily fixed tariff sheets on the basis of what the traffic will bear. They have supplied cars for the transportation of freight only when it pleased the railroad company to do so, thus consulting their own convenience and never that of the shippers. They have debauched and demoralized many of our state governments in

order to accomplish their selfish ends. And, finally, they are almost wholly responsible for the present financial crisis, which disrupts and arrests the business prosperity—a crisis wholly unnecessary and uncalled-for.

On the other hand, the people are willing the railroad should earn sufficient money to operate and keep up the road in first-class shape, and to pay a reasonable interest on the legitimate cost of the road, operation, betterments, etc.; but they are opposed to over-capitalization or watered stock and the payment of interest thereon. They demand that the railroads shall bear their just portion of the burden of taxation in the various states where they are located. And, finally, they demand that the railroads shall be amenable to and obey the law, just the same as the ordinary citizen.

Because of these demands of the people, the railroads and other predatory corporations are now endeavoring to discipline the people through a senseless and needless financial crisis. The effort will prove fruitless, however. The country has been on a cash basis too long, and is too free of debt, for a wildcat speculators' panic to affect it to any considerable extent.

The people will simply smile at this tempest in a teapot, and press steadily forward to the end contemplated, which is to compel the railroads and every other corporation to live up to and obey the requirements of the law. If the promoters of such nefarious deals as Mr. Harriman's Alton fiasco, are made to suffer for their misdeeds, they have only themselves to blame. The railroads, the same as individuals, must understand, once for all, when an issue of bonded indebtedness is made upon a property, the property must be increased proportionately in its ability to pay the interest.

When the railroads are content to serve the people to the best of their ability, and are satisfied with a reasonable financial return, considered upon a legitimate basis; when they abandon exploitation, issuance of watered stock, etc., then will they find the people their friends instead of enemies. If they would have what they denominate "persecution" cease, they must obey the mandates of the law, just the same as ordinary people are compelled to do.

### STICK TO THE FACTS, BROTHER.

THE OREGONIAN is so prejudiced against Mr. Bryan and the free coinage of silver, that it neglects to be fair and just, which it is in the discussion of most other questions. It even goes so far in its screeds upon Mr. Bryan and silver, that it makes positive misstatements as to facts. In speaking of the financial panic of '93, it lays the entire blame on Mr. Bryan and the free coinage of silver. Now, as the free coinage of silver did not become a national issue until three years later, nor was Bryan a national figure until he made his celebrated "Cross of Gold" speech at Chicago in 1896, it is difficult to see wherein free coinage and the Nebraskan were responsible for the financial condition that had existed three years prior thereto.

Instead of the threat of free coinage of silver being the cause of the '93 panic, just the reverse was true. Silver was demonetized, or, more correctly speaking, the gold standard was created in '93, if we are not mistaken. This fact, coupled with the small per capita of money in circulation, made it possible for Wall street to bring on the collapse which rocked the financial condition of the country from center to circumference. The people, also, were largely in debt at that time, which enabled Wall street banks, acting through the country banks, to make the people dance to Wall street music. Wheat, at that time, was sold in Albany at from 35 to 40 cents per bushel. Good teams of horses were sold at \$50 per span.

Compare the present farcical financial panic with the disastrous '93 collapse. Now, the people are not in debt, and the banks assure us if the people will only leave their deposits in the banks all will be well. Wheat now sells for just about double what it did in '93. Horses now command about six times the price they did at that time. There is now three times as much money in circulation as there was then. Wall street has made a mightier effort to bring on the financial crisis than she did in '93. Note the difference. The people can just snap their fingers at Wall street and say: "Go ahead with your little old tinhorn panic just as long as it pleases you to do so, and when you get tired you will probably quit." The people, and the farmers in particular, now have money to loan, and, mayhap, Wall street will be the borrower. It does make a difference whose ox is gored, don't it?

No, brother, drop your prejudice against Mr. Bryan and silver. Every public act that makes Mr. Roosevelt's administration popular, has been advocated by Mr. Bryan for the past fifteen years. To have coined all the gold and silver there was in the country in '93, would not have given the people as much money per capita as is in circulation today. Mr. Bryan's quantitative theory of money is amply demonstrated by the conditions of the present day.

The Wall street will, to bring on a disastrous financial crisis, is even stronger at the present time than it was in '98. She would gladly paralyze the entire industries of the country, if by so doing she could discredit Mr. Roosevelt's administration and the trend to restore the money to the people. This little financial fiasco, that will hurt nobody but the Wall street gamblers, is the last despairing effort of the vilest kind of grafters and financial buccaners that have ever disgraced our country to regain their waning power.

## INTERESTING NEWS

### Long Distance Telephone Communication For Scio and Vicinity With All Points in the United States and Canada

On last Tuesday afternoon, Mr. W. K. Merrill, of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., gave a very interesting lecture in Wesley & Cain hall at Scio, illustrated with stereopticon views, relating to the "Growth, Progress and Usefulness of the Telephone, and the Benefits to be Derived by Co-Operation."

He spoke of the excellent service of the Pacific Co., now spending large sums in Oregon in rebuilding and repairing the equipment. The growth of the business has been remarkable, about 12 per cent since last January, now having over 278,000 subscribers.

Then he told of the uses and many interesting features of the business. Great assistance has been rendered by the farmers of the country, and now the lines even go into the resorts of the hunter as well, and one almost anywhere can communicate with their home over the Pacific Telephone Co.'s lines. The telephone used for the farmer is one suitable for the situation the same as that for the city skyscraper.

The switchboard is an important feature of the business. There are many sorts. Some of these in the big cities are hundreds of feet in length but do not do their work any better than the small ones. The object now is to make it compact. A 25-line switchboard is so small it may be fastened to the wall in the farm house kitchen, and so simple the farmer's wife may act as telephone operator.

More and more the farmer's lines are becoming an important part in the country's great talking system. The development of this, by the farmers themselves putting up their own poles, was shown, and how they have co-operated with the Company.

In some places, cross-country trolley systems use the telephone wires, with added appliances for avoiding mishaps, once frequent.

What a change in affairs. When some of the farmers' machinery breaks down the damaged part can be replaced in a day by telephoning a supply house instead of their being a week's delay as there was in the old mail day.

The telephone was invented about thirty years ago and its spread is wonderful. There are more Bell phones used today in this country than there are phones in England, Ireland and Scotland, and all continental Europe thrown in.

This coast is up with the times. More than 85 per cent of the whole population of Oregon, Washington and California can now avail themselves of the Pacific Telephone Co.'s service, because I have not one himself, there is always a pay station nearby. A person can make a trip to Portland, San Francisco and Seattle in a short time by the use of the Pacific Co.'s lines.

The telephone has become a great factor in the farmer's life. It is always a source of advantage to it in his campaigns. William Jennings Bryan once talked to people scattered over hundreds of miles. President Roosevelt uses it constantly, a marked example being that of the peace conference.

A recent development of the system is the use of the telephone throughout the forest reserves, where fire is a menace, and a prompt alarm is necessary. The telephone is even on the ocean steamer, and as soon as tied up to a wharf connection is made with the system of the city.

The number who are not familiar with the use of the telephone is about as large as those who have never ridden in railroad trains.

The lecture and illustrations gave one a splendid insight into the business of telephoning. Mr. Merrill is a pleasing talker and handles the subject well. His next report, after the lecture, on being asked what was the aim and object of the lecture and his visit to Scio, Mr. Merrill said:

"Our prime object is first to demonstrate, by photographic films, and the aid of the hypos, x-rays, lanterns, the physical facts and, substantiated by statistics and figures, the magnitude, scope and possibilities of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company, a condition made possible by the brains, stirring energy and capital of the American Business people, of which the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. is an integral part, and that the opportunity to fully enjoy a part in this great system could only be secured by becoming part of it, which was within the easy reach of all, whether you resided in the great metropolis, the smaller village, at the country store or way station, on the farm, or in the mountain's fastness.

"And, second, to tell the people how they can become a part of our great system with the least possible cost, consistent with sound business principles and without sacrificing service to maintain the minimum cost of operation. And when I speak of service, I mean the best, as we propose to standardize our service on this coast; and that means that one of our phones in the house on the isolated farm, shall render that same efficient service that is maintained in the residence of the president of our corporation or the wealthiest and most influential citizens of the metropolitan cities both as to tone of instrument and promptness of service.

"Also, to uproot the erroneous but prevalent belief that we are in opposition to the so-called Mutual and Independent, Farmers or Rural lines, with which this state is cobwebbed; but to cooperate with them, by bringing them closer together and extending their usefulness and scope, that they may become more of a blessing to these sparsely settled communities—where mail and telegraph facilities are inadequate to the growing demand of this great and beautiful region, whose natural resources would supply homes for more than a million happy and prosperous people, in addition to those already here—and at a less cost to the individual subscriber, without destroying the integrity of the local corporations.

"They would still, if our proposition is accepted, maintain their respect for corporation, and through them conduct their business with us collectively.

"Our proposition is to the people of Scio

## New Goods!

We are now ready to show you a nice new up-to-date line of Dress Goods, viz:

CHIFFON BROADCLOTH LADIES' CLOTH  
CHIFFON LORENTO CASHMERE  
WOOL TAFFETA ALBATROS  
PANAMA ENGLISH SERGE  
SERGE PLAID SUITINGS  
MOHAIR WOOL TRICO, Etc.

ALSO

MISSES' COATS  
BOYS' SWEATERS  
LADIES' WRAPPERS  
(Large Size.)

## HIBLER & GIER Co.

## J. F. WESELY'S GROCERY

### Headquarters For

SCHILLING'S and DIAMOND W. Spices,  
Baking Powders, Coffees, Teas and Extracts.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY BACK

Full line of Glassware, Stoneware and China  
ware, at Living Prices.

Yours to "Live and Let Live,"

## J. F. WESELY,

"We propose to them to establish an up-to-date exchange, and run all lines now coming into Scio, into and connect them with our switch board; do all their local switching, at a cost of one dollar per year to each subscriber. The one dollar is the whole amount that we will receive for local exchange and switching from the various phone holders on the Mutual or Independent lines that now run into Scio.

"We will maintain the central, pay the local operator, rent the building and all other necessary expenses to maintain an up-to-date central exchange, thus leaving the farmer lines only the expense of maintaining their individual company lines. And we pledge ourselves to give the best service to Scio and her radiating lines that the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. is competent to give, with the aid of the American Bell Co. to draw upon for the acknowledged best electrical equipment and electrical appliances known to human mechanism. And then by courteous treatment, fair dealing and watchful care of our co-operative interests, we hope to gain, and retain, that confidence which has been obtained by the untiring efforts of our servants, who are now laboring among you, and, in the end, overcome the prejudices that have become so prevalent by the negligence of your interests by other corporations in the past. We feel that your interests are our interests."

Mr. E. B. Johnson, one of our special agents, will remain among you for several days to explain fully our desires and to draw upon for the aid of the Mutual to any and all that are interested in this important subject.

### TO DISPOSSESS TIMBER BARONS.

A special dispatch to the Portland Journal from Albany, dated November 2, says: "The valuable timber lands located in the Crabtree and Thomas creek districts will be contested and, if possible the patents cancelled. Contests have been filed, others are in course of preparation against the entire area, and the present owners will be forced to fight for lands purchased from the original entrymen. It is claimed that title to the lands was obtained through fraud. The department is expected to render a decision in the near future to the effect that lands obtained from the public domain through fraud in perfecting entry or otherwise, even if patents have issued, will be subject to contest and cancellation. On the strength of this many are rushing to these lands and preparing to fight for title on the grounds of fraud and bad faith on the part of the original entrymen.

Many of these claims will cruise 16,000,000 to 20,000,000 feet to the claim and are valued all the way from \$5000 to \$12,000.

The patents were issued in many instances several years ago, but parties who have made investigation say the chances are favorable to contestants. Considering the present scarcity of lands so obtained have passed from the original entrymen to large timber and lumber concerns. The Wright-Budget company, the Hammond Lumber company and the Curtis Lumber company all have immense holdings.

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### The Local Markets.

The following are prices quoted on Thursday of each week by our dealers:

Wheat, per bushel	1.80
Oats, per bushel	1.15
Flour, per sack	1.15
Bran, per ton	22.00
Shorts, per ton	27.00
Chop, per ton	27.00
Butter, (country) per roll	45.00
Eggs, per dozen	45.00
Chickens, per pound	19.00
Geese, per pound	14.00
Turkeys, per pound	25.00
Ducks, per pound	12.00
Beef, per pound, live weight	38.00
Hogs, per pound, live weight	38.00
Veal, per pound, for shipping	37.00
Sheep, per pound, stockers	36.00
Mutton, per pound	36.00

## WANTED!

Ship all your

### Poultry, Eggs, Veal and Pork

To the largest and oldest established produce house in Portland, to obtain highest market prices;

Market today on  
Chickens, 14c to 15c per lb.  
Ducks, 15c per lb.  
Veal, 9 to 10c per lb.  
Pork, 8 to 9c per lb.

Write now for our free folder, "How to Dress Poultry." Quick reports and quick returns on all consignments.

## PAGE & SON

PORTLAND - OREGON

## Farmers' Meat Market

### GEORGE KOENEKE

Proprietor

SCIO, - - - OREGON

Having purchased the above-named market from the former proprietor, Guy McKnight, I solicit the patronage of the public. I will continue the wagon on the road on the routes established and supply choice cuts at reasonable prices. With a desire to form the acquaintance of every body and a determination to treat every one right, I am

Yours for business,

### GEORGE KOENEKE

If you want notarial work done, a deed, mortgage or lease written, or a pension voucher filled out, you can get it done at The News office upon short notice.

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