

The Columbia Register.

HOULTON, ORE., JUNE 10, 1904.

—PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY—
N. H. MITCHELL, Editor.

Application has been made to enter this paper as a second class matter at the Houlton, Oregon post office.

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Advertising rates reasonable.

Judge Hattan.
Clerk Henderson.

For congressman the prohibition candidate received 120 votes; the socialists, 147; the democrats, 340; the republicans 947.

The good report expected by Bro. Flagg from the result of the work of his pet campaigner in the Nehalem, has been heard.

Multnomah county prefers the Democrat's Word by 3,000 majority rather than an independent Storey, or a straight republican Bird.

Prohibition will carry in every precinct in Columbia county except Rainier, Oak Point, Clatskanie, Goble and Union; and possibly in one or more of those precincts.

The republican state ticket received 76 votes in Oak Point precinct, the home of G. G. Mayer, while the Hon. Geo. Mayer got 97 votes, or 21 more than the high man on the state ticket.

The situation of the strike in Colorado is, to say the least, very bad. The troops have been fired upon by the miners and the rioters are now in the bull pen. War in Cripple Creek district is being waged by both miners and soldiers.

The direct primary law has carried in the state, and will go in to operation at the next election so far as democrats and republicans are concerned, but the socialists and prohibitionists will have to do their nominating by petition.

Arbor White, the bell wether obfuscator of the Rainier Obfuscationist, is considerably obfuscated. His labors of last week were about equal to those of the mountain which brought forth the mouse.

The honorable, the real master of Columbia county is quoted as saying that the socialists did the republicans a dirty trick. Can't see how it was done when we consider that the republican party has a clear majority of 500 over all.

Local option is the law of the land. Now if you desire the saloon business closed you must sign a petition to the county court asking for the privilege of voting on the question of license or no license in November. This vote may be taken by precincts or by a combination of precincts or by the whole county.

The lesson of last Monday's election should teach the republicans that no matter how they trade in their campaign and in the election, unless they put up good men they can not elect. It means that there shall be no political machine rule in Columbia county. There is cause for congratulation and profound satisfaction over the result.

There was considerable excitement over the election, but so far as we can learn every thing is satisfactory with the average citizen. The republicans have demonstrated again that they have a good 500 majority over the democrats and have helped to elect Mr. Hattan and Mr. Henderson because they liked the men. The balance of the ticket was elected republican because the republicans were well satisfied with their men.

Among the men who are entitled to great credit as well as the gratitude of the people is a modest man at Oregon City named W. S. U'Ren. He has been a faithful, unremitting and altogether unselfish worker in the cause and that the initiative and referendum and the direct primary laws are now on the statute is very largely due to his untiring efforts. It is a pleasure to be able honestly to say this in behalf of such a faithful worker in the cause of good government.

The cause mainly contributing to democratic success in the recent county election was failure, on the part of the republicans, to heed the advice and desires of their own party, both as to nominations and management. The party reins were usurped by a coterie of boys and novitiates, who with a bigoted desire to hog everything in sight, attempted to run rough shod over the rights of their own party with the result that the surrounding air is now filled with dolorous lamentation more dismal than Rachel weeping for her children. Not only were the old timers and tax payers ignored, but the callow management resorted to coercion and undertook to force, by threats and otherwise, various members of their party and especially some and perhaps all of the post masters to support their dinky ticket. What they failed to do by coercion they attempted to complete by falsehood; a dirtier campaign was never conducted in this or any other county than by this party of unpledged adventurers, and it is not to be wondered at that the substantial republicans are laughing much heartily than the democrats.

Indictment of the Competitive System.

The Competitive system of industry stands indicted before the grand jury of the people, and must answer for the following crimes against Society:

First—It arrays every man against his fellow in the scheme of life.

"Do unto others as you would that they should do to you," was the golden rule of our fathers. This has given place under modern commercial customs to the New York golden rule of "Do others before they do you," the scheme of every man for himself, and the devil take the hindmost, has compelled the for a lion of trade unions among workmen, for no other reason than to prevent men from injuring their fellow men. The man who can drive a sharp bargain is considered a shrewd financier, even though he ruin his own brother in the doing of it.

Second—It puts a premium on dishonesty, and discounts the truth. The merchant in trade who sells shoddy goods for pure wool or takes liberty with human life by selling adulterated foods, deserves the penitentiary instead of a brownstone house.

The newspaper which publishes untruths, or but half the truth to serve partisan or commercial ends, is quite as dishonest and criminal as the highwayman who holds you up with a club and takes your purse. The professional man who practices quackery or employs dishonest methods to line his pocket, is of the same stripe.

It is no longer considered dishonorable to lie in a business transaction. If caught at it, you are told that the other man does the same thing and we must do it or go out of business.

Third—It has raised false standards of measurement, but of many, we will only mention one illustration. Many others will suggest themselves. The man in the street digging a sewer is performing a valuable service to society. By his labor he is promoting the public health.

But he is put down as a common laborer, and both he and his family must suffer the odium of social ostracism for no other crime than that of being poor. His children must go poorly clad to school, and at a tender age must be deprived of an education and forced into the factory, where their little lives are ground into dollars to line the pockets of an employer already rich. This family must live in a shack on an alley or a side street, and can not enjoy the luxury of a sewer for themselves. The professional man who enjoys an income of many thousands and lives by his wits, can afford a mansion on the boulevard, though he performs no useful service of any kind to society or to humanity.

If men were rewarded in proportion to the real value of the service rendered, these two families would change places.

Fourth—It has corrupted the courts and legislative bodies of the nation. Only a few years ago a woman in Buffalo, N. Y., who stole two loaves of bread to feed her starving children, was sent to the work house for thirty days. This same week a bank wrecker in Chicago, who stole a few hundred thousand from poor men and widows was discharged from custody on a technicality in his commitment papers. Men now holding seats in the United States Senate have been openly accused of bribery to secure their election and have been seated just the same. The legislatures of several states are notoriously influenced by money in the making of laws. Laws made in the interest of the masses are regularly set aside as unconstitutional by the supreme courts whenever large monied interests demand it. A New York alderman pays \$20,000 for his nomination to an office which has but a \$300 salary, and retires from office worth a million and so on.

Fifth—It robs our men of their manhood and our women of their virtue. The saloon, the gambling house and the brothel all prove the truth of this assertion. None of these would exist for a moment were it not for the profit found in the business. Girls forced to sell their souls and bodies for bread are to be found on the streets of every city and town. Four dollars a week or less in store or factory leaves but one alternative to the girl who believes herself entitled to some of the comforts of life and she takes the chance. You know the rest.

Sixth—It takes from labor the fruitage of honest toil, for why should the farmer while feeding the multitude, compel his family to live on what he cannot sell; or the shoemaker, while shoeing the millions, send his children barefooted to school; or the carpenter, while building palaces for the many, yet lives in a shack himself; or the printer, while making books for you and me, is obliged to go without a library. Statistics prove that the producer receives but one seventh of his product. The balance is expended in wasted energy and in profits to the non producers.

Muzzle not the ox that treadeth out the corn," were the words of the Great Commoner.

Seventh—It dwarfs the intellect, and will destroy the state. The last census shows that in the factory towns of New England, the population increased in the last decade from 18 to 22 per cent, while the school attendance increased but two per cent. This means that the tots who ought to be in school are having their bodies and intellects woven into the warp and woof of the competitive industrial system, and in the end this must

react on the character of the citizens of the coming generation.

Eighth—It neutralizes all the efforts of the church and fraternal brotherhood to promote fellowship. Men meet each other as brothers at church or in their lodge, and then treat each other as hyenas all the rest of the week. The spirit of commercialism seems to absorb their natures and makes of them human ghoulies.

AND LAST, but not least, it crushes the manly hopes of labor and tramples poor humanity in the dust. This is the indictment, can it be defended? No, a thousand times no. It was Shakespeare who said: "Thrice armed is he that hath his quarrel just, and he but naked, though clad in armoured steel, whose conscience with injustice is corrupted," and it is because socialism is thrice armed in justice that socialism, or universal co-operation, will sooner or later displace the competitive system of industry. Grant every other reform sought today, and leave the competitive system, and conditions will not materially improve. But once show the people that the co-operative plan will promote the cause of humanity, that it will stop strikes and lockouts by removing the causes for such disturbances, that it will lessen the criminal forces by removing the incentive to crime; that it will close the saloon as a place of debauchery by eliminating money and its evil influences from the scheme of life; that it will make of every man a better citizen, and of every citizen a better man. I believe there are few people in any community who will not assist to bring about the desired change.

R. SESSEMAN, Vernonia, Oregon.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON.

Location.

One of the most northern counties in the state. Bordering on the Columbia river, which forms the north and east boundary of the county, while bounded on the south by Washington county and on the west by Clatsop county. St. Helens, the county seat, is on the river, but twenty-five miles below the city of Portland.

Area.

The area of the county is about 350,000 acres, all of it originally a heavy, dense, forest of large timber; of superior quality for commercial purposes.

A little back from the Columbia river, and running parallel to it, is a mountain range running the whole length of the North and East line of the county, and indeed most all the way from Portland to Astoria.

Stone, Iron, Coal.

In this range iron and other ores are found, and every acre of its surface was originally densely timbered. Much of this, nearest the river, has been used by lumbermen, and much destroyed by fire.

Timber.

On the summit, and west slopes towards the Nehalem river it is as dense as ever, and this timber will find its way to mills and to market, up and down the Nehalem river in the near future.

Interesting Topography.

Two thirds of the county, perhaps 200,000 acres, lays to the west and south of this range, and constitutes, with one half of Clatsop county, the region known as the Nehalem valley. A high, elevated district out made a perfect valley by a crater like subsidence in the center of several hundred feet below the mountain rim inclining it on all sides.

The highest is that of the Coast range on the west. The Columbia River range is the next in height, and the Green Mountain range at the south the lowest.

These ranges run up to an altitude of sixteen to twenty hundred feet above sea level; enclosing within their protecting summits a district of peculiar interest to the agriculturist, and lovers of rural homes on small farms, or on larger tracts.

The surface is most everywhere, gently rolling, but most level along the streams and hilly between these waters (the Nehalem and its tributaries.)

Richest Soil.

The Base of the soil is the basaltic rock of igneous origin, changed for many feet deep to a soft loamy soil, free from gravel and stone, and fertilized by tropical vegetation of age upon ages until a peculiar fertility remains, which is not surpassed, if equalled, on any known part of the Pacific Coast.

This remarkable fertility created from these elements combined with these surroundings produce unfailing verdure, crops, fruits, vegetables, hay, of clover and timothy as the sure reward for the farmer.

Perfect Fruit.

To be particular, fruits like the apple, pear, prune, quince, and plum are never touched by the deadly Codlin moth or other insect pests. This immunity is due to the elevation, the climate, and atmospheric influence from the sea so close to this vicinity; and these large fruits mature with a flavor of

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superior excellence, while the strawberry, blackberry and other small fruits grow with luxuriance nowhere surpassed.

The peculiar adaptation of this valley for raising of the most perfect and superior fruits insures in the future a fame and a notoriety equal to the foremost of the western states.

Meadow Land.

Equally remarkable is the unfailing annual harvests of timothy and clover hay here; which when once sown requires no reseeding for several years; and makes a crop of from three to five ton per acre annually on the natural soil never yet fertilized by the farmer.

These grasses, like much of the vegetation in the woods, remaining green the year round will make this an ideal dairy and stock raising district.

Other Products.

Wheat, Oats, Barley and Millet are easily raised making good yields; but clearing timber land is too wasteful and too costly to raise these crops for more than home consumption.

In the vegetable line a crop never fails, such as the potatoes, beets, cabbage, turnips, and carrots a yield is had from 100 bushels of potatoes per acre to ten to fifteen tons to the acre for the other vegetables mentioned.

Tobacco and Hops.

Tobacco is a sure crop, and is cultivated by emigrants from tobacco states, with perfect success here.

The quality is as fine as the Connecticut Leaf, yielding 1000 lbs. to the acre, and best of all, the tobacco worm (the scourge of Eastern States) cannot live in the Nehalem atmosphere.

Hops are free from lice, and yield largely, but its cultivator must wait until more "pickers" move in, to save the crops.

Immunity from "pests" is so marked as to merit a notice here. The cut worm, the cabbage worm, the locust, grasshopper, and the mosquito and poisonous snakes find no life in the Nehalem country. The mosquito, when wanted, must have an artificial propagation in a rain barrel or never be seen here. Stagnant water is nowhere seen here. The unfrozen ground and the deep, soft soil absorbs the gentle rainfall fast as it comes; so that none stands on the surface, or runs on the side hills in the most rainy season.

This retains the planted crop, and the fertility of the soil on the side hills as securely as on the level surface.

The Water.

The water of this valley is entirely free from lime and alkali. It is pure as pure can be, and cold; alike in the wells, springs, and in the trout-streams from every hill side, and from God's pure, cold store in the mountains near by.

So cool and delightful yet hardly ever seen frozen even in winter; and its complete distribution by the winding river, the creeks, and a thousand rivulets has a value, and a charm, which easterners seldom see.

Freezing water of the streams with ice an inch thick is hardly ever seen, and crops of potatoes are safely left in the ground for digging until February and March.

Timber Untouched.

All of these Nehalem lands, except where cleared by the settler, or have been reached by forest fires, have an immense growth of fir, cedar, hemlock, and spruce timber. The spruce is most abundant near the mouth of the river, about the coast. The settlers have destroyed a good deal of these timber in opening their ranches; but they have recently learned that, with transportation advancing, the uncleared parts of their claims have an equal value to that of their cleared fields.

Low Prices of Land.

Up to the present time these ranches, with perfect title, have been held at prices ranging from \$5 to \$12 per acre. These low prices are due solely to the want of a railroad through the ranges

referred to, which encircle the valley.

After that want is supplied, few spots on this coast will be more attractive to the modest investor and to those who appreciate the great value of the rural home.

Vernonia.

Near the center of the valley and near the confluence of the largest branches of the Nehalem, the little town of Vernonia is situated.

It has a small population of good citizens, four stores, one drug store, one doctor, good mechanics, a city council, a nice church and parsonage, a good school, a Board of Information, and no saloon. Information recently sent east has brought new settlers already, who say, "Easterners will capture the whole valley as soon as its resources are known."

Being asked if there are any business openings in Vernonia and what business advantages are here for development, strikes me like asking if there is "coal at Newcastle" or water in the Columbia river. Yes. The foundation of commercial and manufacturing business is not lacking in this district by any means.

In my recent published description of the Nehalem Valley my chief aim was solely to draw attention to its superior fitness for varied agriculture, and for rural homes so largely and so wisely now sought for in Oregon; leaving to speak for itself in due time, a mine of wealth in the timber of this forest. That due time, it is true, is not very remote in the future.

Upon its Coming.

This monstrous growth "of a thousand hills" driven on the river and its branches to central localities in the valleys from whence this product will be started to the markets of the world, makes this the most ideal and the most valuable lumbering territory in the State of Oregon.

The foregoing does not rest merely upon my own judgement and long study of this part of my adopted state, but is the expressed opinion of several experienced lumbermen of Michigan, visiting here, and who have invested largely west of Vernonia. The "Rapids" in the Nehalem River in T. 5 N. Range 7 West, and Vernonia here in T. 4 N. Range 4 W. are both natural centers, and gateways for any railway traversing this valley between Nehalem Bay and Tillamook on the west and Portland on the east and fixes these points with evident advantages for business as this resourceful region is opened in the future.

At Vernonia, mills for flour and lumbering are both needed on a small scale; to be greatly enlarged especially in the lumber department, as soon as heavy machinery can come in by rail.

The central location of Vernonia in the Valley and its attractive surroundings seem to make a home near that place desired by the most of the new comers here, and as a center of a forest soon to send a thousand tons daily of its products to the docks of Portland, there need be no doubts as to the business opportunities which are coming to life here.

But Little Railroad Needed.

Fifty miles of railway extended from the Southern Pacific, near Hillsboro will complete the connection of Portland with and through the main valley west of Vernonia as far as the "Rapids" above mentioned.

A moments consideration given to this last stated fact, taken with the foregoing statements enables me to answer that the business advantage paramount to, and controlling all others, will be the undertaking which will provide and hold the transportation by rail to Portland, of the vast present and future tonnage with which God has so bountifully enriched more than a thousand square miles of the hills and valleys on the Nehalem.

Visitors can reach here from the Southern Pacific at Forest Grove or Hillsboro; thence by private conveyance, 30 miles, to Vernonia

The nearest railroad at this time is the Northern Pacific, with stations at Clatskanie and Houlton; thence by private conveyance the Nehalem River at Vernonia or Mist is reached.

These points in the valley are reached by a daily horseback mail from Portland and by telephone from the N. P. Road.

Settlers are scattered over the valley, with school houses from two to four miles apart.

Information to emigrants will be given with pleasure by the Board on application by mail (which is daily from Portland) or by wire from the various stations on the Northern Pacific railroad.

Within ten miles of Vernonia, twenty colonies, with ten families each, can find space of choice, cheap lands in the valleys of Rock Creek, Crooked Creek, Pebble Creek, Beaver Creek and East Fork, and still leave room for more to follow them.

Respectfully,
JOHN CAMPBELL,
Secretary of Vernonia Bureau of Information.

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