

CONTRACTORS DENY RUMORS OF SCARCITY OF LABOR

The Oregon Trunk and Deschutes Lines Are Building Right Along, Keeping Good Men

The following dispatch from Portland would imply that the rumors of the scarcity of help along the new railroads are more or less exaggerated, as both camps have a full complement of men.

The dispatch says: Twohy Bros, contractors for the Harriman Deschutes line, and Porter Bros., building the Deschutes line for the Hill interests, deny current reports that the work is being held back because of scarcity of labor.

"In matter of fact," said one of the Twohy Bros, sub-contractors, "we have more men applying for work than we can care for, and at the present time are busted with the process of weeding out the poorer workers and replacing them with better help."

From contractors for Porter Bros. come the same statement. According to their declarations labor is plentiful. No trouble is experienced in getting all men necessary.

Labor for the construction of the two lines up the Deschutes canyon is being drawn from all over the Northwest, gangs of men being sent weekly from Spokane and Seattle, and as far east as Butte, Mont.

Construction on neither road is being held back, and is proceeding as rapidly as conditions will allow.

SHADE TREES AND OTHERS

It means more than the mere looks of the trees and shrubbery to a town when the streets are bordered with poplars, birch or other shade trees. It is the finest sort of an advertisement for the thrift and ability of the citizens, if every traveling salesman and tourist, railroad agent and politician who visits the city can go away knowing it to be one of the prettiest cities he has ever visited. For of a surety those who have marveled at the beauty of the streets and the fine residences will tell their friends, and they their friends in turn. Those who have visited Bend, in Central Oregon, know that the best advertisement that little city has, the one thing that after everything else is forgotten still remains in the memory of all who have visited the town, is the striking beauty of the bungalow owned by Mr. A. M. Drake. There is nothing that pleases investors in just the same way. They, as you, like to know that they are buying property in a wide-awake city. The beautifying of the streets and gardens remains solely with the property owners themselves, and this is a fair question: Do you like to get up in the morning and look out on a filthy back yard?

MORE PINCHOT-BALLINGER

Washington, D. C.—The opinion is prevalent in Washington that President Taft will be compelled to take further cognizance of the Pinchot-Ballinger fight, in view of the renewal of attacks by Glavis. It is well known and so stated by Pinchot's friends that Pinchot himself urged Glavis to make the attacks upon Ballinger, and that one of Pinchot's men was detailed to assist him in preparing the accusations.

Francis J. Heney may also figure in the affair before it closes, for it is now known that he, too, gave aid to Glavis in preparation of his attack on the member of the cabinet. It is expected in some quarters that as a result of his interference, Heney will no longer be employed by the department of justice.

It seems more apparent than ever that the president will be unable to amicably adjust relations between Pinchot and Ballinger, and sooner or later must make a choice between them.

The twenty-third child has been born to "Nat" Vallone and his wife, Italians of Pittston, Pa. He is a boy, and Vallone wants to call him "Bill" Taft Vallone. There have been 15 boys and 8 girls in the family, and of these 10 boys and 3 girls are alive. Vallone and his wife were married in 1884. He is now 51 years old and she is 47.—Baltimore News.

\$716,000 FOR KLAMATH PROJECT

Is Well Up Among the Big Ones of the West—Means Early Completion of Project

Word comes from San Francisco that the tentative allotment for the Klamath project for 1910 is \$716,000. This is the sum that has been set aside by the reclamation service for use on this project next year, and indicates the determination of the officials to rush to completion these works. As is well known, connected with this allotment is a string that may be used in withdrawing a major portion of the money. It has been announced by the government that unless it is given adequate security by the increasing of the capital stock and the placing of the par value of the shares at \$30, only such sum as will be necessary for the running expenses of the Klamath project will be finally set aside for the coming year. This statement has been accepted in some quarters as a threat, but all of the officials, from Secretary Ballinger down, disclaim any intention of threatening the landowners under this project. They simply state that they have no desire to take on hand half a thousand law suits, which might be the case unless the by-laws of the association and the provisions of the reclamation law are complied with.

The tentative allotments for Oregon and California projects for 1910 are as follows:

Klamath, \$716,000; Truckee-Carson, \$260,000; Orland, \$440,000; Yuma, \$1,135,000; aggregating \$2,551,000.

It will be seen from these figures that the Klamath project fared well at the hands of the reclamation service. The expenditure of this huge sum will have the effect of bringing a greater degree of prosperity to this county than has been experienced since the time the first contract was let, when business conditions in this city were at their zenith.

All that remains for the securing of this money is compliance with the requests of the government. These have been partially met in the increasing of the capital stock of the association to \$6,000,000. The directors are in special session this afternoon, considering the matter of placing the par value of the shares at \$30. If it is found that this can be done through the placing of the number of shares at 200,000, then it is possible that only a resolution of the board of directors is all that will be necessary to accomplish the desired end. If it cannot be done by the directors, then a meeting of the stockholders can accomplish the task, when it will be unnecessary to have a majority of the stock represented.

Directors' Meeting.

At the special meeting of the directors last Saturday it was decided to issue another call for a session of the stockholders, at which the matter of the par value will again be voted on. No date for the meeting was decided upon, that being left for future consideration.

A BIT OF BRET HARTE

One of those pioneers who lived through the first great rush at Leadville and other parts of Colorado, when that state was the frontier, told a story the other night of Bishop Williams of Nebraska, then merely a missionary in the cow country, and one of Bishop Paddock's best friends. It was at Meeker, Colo. The bishop, all dust from the drive across the prairies, alighted from the stage one day. There was no place in town for him to go save into the saloons. So into one of the saloons he went. At the bar stood a number of cowpunchers in their chapareros, spurs clinking, guns at their hips. They invited the bishop to drink with them, and he called for a glass of lemonade. They didn't ask him to take whisky. They were pleased that he drank at their invitation. Several weeks before one of the other churches had sent a preacher into that country, but he had failed miserably because he insisted upon degrading their ways and customs, and yet more than sixty cowboys and others turned out to hear Bishop Williams. It was merely a difference in the manner in which he approached the men.

BITTER COMPLAINT MADE ABOUT SERVICE AT WEED

Something Should Be Done to Bring Them to the Attention of the Railroad Officials

During the recent derangement of the train service due to the cave-in of the tunnel near Dunsmuir, it was brought forcibly to the attention of those who were unfortunate enough to have been forced to travel in or out of this city that the accommodations at Weed are of such a character as to be a disgrace to the Southern Pacific. One of the worst of these unfavorable conditions was the utter impossibility of passengers to ascertain the hour of arrival and departure of trains, and the apparently resolute determination of the employees to make it as uncomfortable as possible for the travelers. It was recognized that the railroad company was struggling with a huge task, and every allowance was made for this, but in no way could the difficulties near Dunsmuir be stretched to give warrant to the employees at Weed to cause to travelers the amount of inconvenience and discomforts experienced at that station.

The chief complaint was the inability to ascertain the time and departure of trains. Women and children were forced to remain all night in the small, poorly-ventilated waiting room without fire. The nights were cold, and so many passengers there that some were even forced to wait outside in the cold.

Another matter of complaint, not only during the blockade, but at all times, is the fact that the passenger coach running between Weed and this city is kept locked until leaving time, forcing passengers to remain outside until that hour. During this time of year this rule should be dispensed with. The car should be kept warm and open, at least a reasonable time before departure. This has been a source of complaint for months, and should be removed. It would be advisable for the directors of the Chamber of Commerce to bring these matters to the proper officials, and have them remedied. It is not the man "higher up" who is to blame, but the subordinate who too often stretches regulations to suit his own convenience. This may not be the case in this instance, and if it is not, then the efforts of the Chamber should be directed toward securing a rule that will relieve the employees from the complaints of the traveling public.

Mrs. Annie Worcester of Aurora, Cal., who for the past two weeks has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Ramsby of this city, and Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Martin of Merrill, came up from Merrill Saturday morning, and returned to her home.

J. A. Thompson of the Klamath livery stables expects to be able to move into his new residence on the hill about the 22d of this month.

OIL IN THIS VICINITY

F. A. SMITH SAYS THERE ARE TWO WELLS

Natural Gas Formed; Due Either to Presence of Gas or Asphaltum Peat Probable Cause

It has several times been asserted that oil exists in the Klamath Basin. At one time a company was organized for the purpose of making experiments, but nothing came of the matter. In talking over the formation of the Klamath country, Mr. F. A. Smith, who is largely interested in lands in this basin, and who has had a number of years' experience in the California oil fields, made the statement that he knew of two wells, one 540 and the other 560 feet deep, within seven miles of Klamath Falls, that are at the present time emitting gas that can be ignited. He further stated that he had discovered crude petroleum in this basin. These matters have made him a firm believer in the future of the Klamath country as an oil district. In discussing the matter Mr. Smith said:

"I am convinced that oil can be struck in several places in the basin. All that is needed is a little enterprise. I will gladly take stock in a company that will make experiments along this line. The gas escaping from the wells I have mentioned is due to one of two things, either to the presence of oil or asphaltum. The large peat beds prevailing here are against the discovery of oil, and in favor of an asphaltum bed. However, the existence of either would be a valuable discovery."

"Klamath has grand opportunities for cheap gas. The peat could be utilized along this line. Its composition is such that gas can be manufactured at a very low cost. I feel certain that the time is coming when Klamath will have extensive oil fields, or else large asphaltum beds. In either event it will mean much to the country. The indications are such that I believe it to be a matter that should be thoroughly investigated."

Rumors are afloat today to the effect that there is a good-sized row in the making over the matter of the sewer bonds. How far it will go and who will be involved is not included in the news the old lady is handing out, but it is claimed that it is all due to the fact that there is too much talking and not enough business. Many ears are down to the ground listening to what is going to happen.

San Francisco's ambition is said to be to become the "Paris of America." Rudolph Spreckels may reflect that the Germans have forced Paris to surrender before now.—Kansas City Star.

There are, of course, several kinds of loons, but you can't beat the man who waits for two feet of snow and several inches of ooze before he starts getting in his winter wood?

COL. WILKINS TO RESIGN

He Is Being Urged to Remain as a Member, and May Possibly Re-Consider Decision

Col. M. G. Wilkins, councilman from the First ward, is going to resign. His decision to do so is due to the fact that he is dissatisfied with the manner in which the city has proceeded in the matter of sewerage of the city and paving Main street. These two projects have been hobbies of the Colonel for many years, and when he went back as a member of the council he did so solely for the reason that he thought he would be able to lend his assistance in pushing to an early completion the installation of the sewer system, and thereafter the paving of the main business thoroughfare of the city.

When Mr. Gilmore, the representative of Morris & Co. of Portland, was here he and the mayor passed some severe compliments to each other while an informal meeting of the council was in progress, and the episode resulted in Colonel Wilkins declaring that he no longer desired to be a member of the council; that he wanted results and not talk, and that unless he could see something of that character in the near future he would never again return to the council chamber as a member. After giving the matter further consideration he has decided to resign.

A number of the Colonel's friends are urging him to reconsider his determination and continue to serve the city, but to date he has refused to recede from the stand he has taken. If he should resign the council will have to elect his successor, and there is considerable speculation as to who that will be. The near future is going to see a number of questions of vital importance to the city up for the consideration of the council, and it is felt that the strongest man that can be secured should be elected to fill the vacancy.

The sentiment of a number of business men who have been seen about the contemplated action of Councilman Wilkins have expressed themselves that he should not take such a step at this time. He has been long enough on the council to thoroughly familiarize himself with all phases of the affairs of the city, and is in a better position to serve the city than anyone else would be until they had been several months in the harness. The force of this argument is strong, and it is to be hoped that it will have sufficient influence with Colonel Wilkins to keep him in the council.

Mayor Sanderson and Chief of Police Carter have been making a tour of the city and outlying districts, inspecting the sidewalks and crossings. The work of improvement will continue, and all the crossings, etc., which did not meet with the standard set by the mayor will be renovated, especially those in the outlying districts.

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SHOULD HE BE OSLERIZED?

King Edward VII. of England celebrated Tuesday the 68th anniversary of his birth. It was on the 9th of November, 1841, that the news went out from Buckingham Palace that Victoria, England's then youthful queen, had given birth to a son. A daughter had been born the previous year, to the great disappointment of the queen, the prince consort and the entire nation; and now this disappointment was changed to rejoicing, for, though proud of the little Princess Royal, who was not barred from succession by her sex, they were still firmly held by old traditions to the desire that a king should rule over them. King Edward has thus far justified the hope that was born in him. As Prince of Wales he was known for over sixty years. He succeeded to the throne in January, 1901, and has been King of Great Britain and Ireland nearly eight years. On account of his physical health, his chances for a long life are small, but long or short, it will be characterized by dignity and his passing at its close will be sincerely mourned by the British nation.

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