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ROAD TO THE NEHALEM. The County Court Will Levy a Tax to Build it.

The Astoria Herald says: The interest taken by the people of the Nehalem in the new proposed county road from Olney to Jewell and Elsie is certain to result in its being built next year. Experience has demonstrated that it is money thrown away to improve the present road. In the first place the present road is not practical on account of many hills, making an impassable grade in many places for the hauling of heavy loads of produce to Astoria. The proposed new road as viewed by P. O. Wage, R. M. Wooden, S. A. Gragg, Jas. Gallager and W. G. Prescott, not only shortens the distance a mile and a half, but can be built on not to succeed a five per cent grade. It will leave the old Bunkey road and go to Glasser's place. The route is a practical one, and the viewers are all satisfied with it. The importance of the new road to Astoria cannot be estimated. If it is built at least 20 feet through the center, planked or graveled, and cleared to the full width of 60 feet, as it is contemplated, it will make a good road summer and winter. It will enable the farmers of the Nehalem to drive to Astoria in six hours, instead of twelve hours as at present. They can haul their produce to market and find a ready sale for it. By so doing they will buy their supplies in Astoria instead of Mist and Portland.

It is estimated that at least \$10,000 a year goes from the Nehalem to Mist and Portland, and even then, it does not give the farmer a market for his produce. Nearly all the provisions and supplies are brought down from Mist in large, flat-bottomed boats, built of rough lumber at Mist and floated down the Nehalem river on the current. The building of the new road will encourage the farmers to clear more land and raise more produce. At present, there is no object in raising any more than is necessary for their own use.

The new road will bring all the trade of the Nehalem to Astoria and means the expenditure of a large amount of money with our merchants. More than that, the merchants can buy nearly all farm produce necessary to supply Astoria from the Nehalem farmers, thereby saving a large amount of money from being sent out of the city and county to Portland and San Francisco. It will open up for settlement one of the richest agriculture sections of the state and will be an inducement for new settlers to go in and farm.

It is estimated that the new road will cost \$20,000. The question is how shall this money be raised. There is only one way to raise it and that is by levying a tax running through a series of years. A five mill tax on all the property in the county, according to the present assessed valuation, for four years will produce the necessary amount. It will not be necessary to levy the five mill tax for road purposes except in the east and west end of the county. This will cut down the taxes in Astoria and the Nehalem, so that the extra tax will not be felt. It will also compel the rich lumber syndicates, who own thousands of acres of the finest timber lands in the country to help build the road. As it is now, their timber lands are not assessed at one-fourth of their actual value.

The county court and a large majority of the people of the Nehalem are in favor of the direct tax to raise the money. A petition will soon be circulated asking the county court to levy a five mill tax to build this road. It will take until about January 1st to circulate the petition, as it requires one-half of the legal voters on the petition before the county court can levy the tax. The petitions are now being prepared in the Astoria Herald office and will be sent out in every district.

There are few who object to levying a tax for making road improvements. They have always objected and that is one reason why Clatsop county has poor roads. They not only object to levying a tax, but as they have never contributed one cent to assist the farmers in building a county road. Nearly every merchant in Astoria is in favor of the tax. They are anxious to secure the trade of the Nehalem valley.

When this road is built, and Astoria is prosperous, there is a sale for real estate, and new developments are made by the

railroad company, roads will be built to Tillamook and Westport. Both of these sections, including Seaside and Clatsop plains have railroad connections with Astoria, while Westport, Knappa, Clifton and Svensen has boat connections that will answer until the county can afford to build the roads. The Youngs Bay bridge was built in this manner and it is proving a paying investment. The farmers of the Lewis and Clark find a ready market for their produce and drive their teams in to Astoria. It has resulted in stimulating trade in this section of the county, and the tax is scarcely felt.

The Astoria Herald is in favor of the new proposed road and will from time to time point out the many advantages to be gained by building it. We are in favor of any improvements that will assist in developing farm lands of this county. It is a good investment and when completed everyone will wonder why it has not been done before.

OTIS A MILLIONAIRE. (TO EDITOR OF TILLAMOOK HEADLIGHT)

SIR,—By request I submit these few lines in regard to the Philippines. I would rather not say anything about the battles in which the Oregon regiment took part, because I believe every one is tired of hearing of battles from which nothing was gained.

The first thing that I would like to say anything about is the conduct of the officers that are now in the islands. Gen. Otis is what you might call an "Old Woman," rather childish, and in the Philippines not for the benefit of his country, but for dollars and cents. He is making this war last as long as possible so that he may return to the United States a millionaire. He gives the generals under him orders to take certain places, which he has never seen, and furthermore, never will see, because he never leaves Manila, and when said places are taken an order will come to fall back to their old position. Such fighting is very discouraging to the soldiers. Such as he should be kicked out of the services of the United States.

One word about Brevet Brigade Gen. Summers. He has done more for his country than any other general in the islands. He is loved and honored by all his men and by all that become acquainted with him in the far east. His promotion did not come from any pull that he had like Colonel Smith of the 1st California Volunteers, but from good hard fighting.

The memory of Chaplain Gilbert, of the 2nd Oregon Volunteers, will be cherished by the men of the regiment for his gallant work with the sick and wounded.

And now I would like to say a word in regard to insurgents, their habits, etc. I believe the insurgents are the most treacherous people on the face of the globe. They will not hesitate to do deeds at which the Americans would shudder. They are very passionate and when in a good humor are rather comical, but when angry would not hesitate to do any dastardly deed. They can be as smiling as they please to your face but when your back is turned you had better look out if you want to remain for any length of time in this world. They give no quarter to prisoners of war but prefer to kill them on the instant, fire on all hospital corps, and should they come across a wounded American soldier they would kill him on the instant.

They like to fight, it is second nature, but they do not like to fight the Americans, because they fight too hard. While fighting the Spaniards they could stop and sleep and smoke their cigarette and eat their rice, but not so with the Americans. They can't see how the Americans can fight 25 to 50 hours without stopping to rest. They do their best fighting when they are drunk on "Beno" (a native drink like alcohol.)

One word as to the country: There is no doubt about Manila being a beautiful city, and the surrounding country is as pretty as you would choose to gaze upon, but the scenery is the kind that you would soon be tired of seeing. The main products are hemp, sugar, tobacco and rice. I would not advise any one to go to Manila to make a living unless they had at least \$40,000. That is not the place for a laboring man. It is so hot

that no one works during the hours between 10 a. m. and 4 p. m.
 Respectfully,
 C. L. NEWMAN.

Bunch of Short Stories.

Some needful repairs in the library of the supreme court in the capitol at Washington recently recalled to the venerable ex-senator Edmunds his first visit to that library, many years before he entered the senate. Mr. Edmunds had been ordered south for his health, and, stopping at Washington, secured permission, as a young lawyer, to browse in the court library.

He had just taken down a book at random when Webster and Choate in earnest discussion, entered the room. The young man could not but hear. With lightning eye he turned over the pages of his book, and laying his finger upon a certain paragraph, slipped the volume into Webster's hand. The great man read and exclaimed triumphantly: "I am right! Here is the very authority. Young man, I am greatly obliged to you."
 "Young man," echoed Choate. "I am not at all obliged to you." But his smile made the words a compliment no less cherished than those of his great opponent in the law-suit.

In 1864 a regiment of confederates from South Carolina was marching north to join Lee. While in North Carolina they camped one day on two opposite hills, between which a road ran. It happened that an old Methodist preacher, a strong unionist, lived in that vicinity. Early the next morning the preacher mounted his mule and trotted down the road, meaning to pass through the camp to show his contempt for the "rebels." He was a very old man, with a stern face and long, white beard, which, taken with his white hair, gave him an appearance decidedly patriarchal.

"Hullo, fellows, here comes Father Abraham!" called one soldier to a comrade on the opposite hill as the old man road between them.
 "No, he isn't," shouted back the other; "he's Father Jacob!"
 The old parson stopped and shook the finger of scorn at the laughing soldiers. "I am neither Father Abraham nor Father Jacob!" he cried. A knot of soldiers gathered about him.
 "Well, who are you, then?" persisted his tormentor. "It is no use for you to deny you are out of the Old Testament somewhere."

The old man rose in his stirrups and waved his hand toward the camp in comprehensive contempt.
 "Yes, I am out of the Old Testament sure enough," he roared. "I'm Saul, the son of Kish, looking for his father's asses, and I've found them."

Prattle of the Youngsters.

"Tommy," said the teacher to a pupil in the juvenile class, "what is your idea of the result of our war with Spain?"
 "It made g'ography lessons a heap sight harder," was the logical reply.
 "Ma, I've got such a stomach ache just here."
 "That's where that piece of watermelon lodged."
 "Tain't neither. That's where it's empty."

Little 4-year-old Flossie had been spending a day with a playmate during house cleaning and upon her return home she found the carpets had been removed from the hall and stairs.
 "Oh, mamma," she exclaimed, "the hall and stairs steps are all barefooted."

Willie, aged 4, noticed the moon in the western sky one morning after sunrise. Having never before seen both orbs at once he was deeply impressed and running into the house exclaimed:
 "Oh, mamma, I've got a good joke on the angels!"
 "Why, Willie, what do you mean?" asked the astonished mother.
 "They forgot to take the moon in," answered the little fellow.

"I want to ask you one more question mamma," said small Freddie, as he was being put to bed.
 "Well, what is it?" asked the tired mother in a tone of resignation.
 "When a hole comes in my stocking," said he, "what becomes of the piece of stocking that was there before the hole came?"

The Philippine Alternative.

Gov. Roosevelt is a good maker of "strenuous" phrases, but his burning words will not always bear a cold analysis.
 To the pioneers of Niagara County the Governor said:
 We pray for peace, we crave no war, but we fear no war when to shun or to fear it would mean a stain of dishonor on the flag.
 What dishonor could come to the flag in offering to the Filipinos exactly what we are pledged to give to the Cubans—freedom and independence? Does not the danger of a "stain" on the flag come rather from the policy of "criminal aggression"—forcing our sovereignty on the islands by war and governing the people without their consent?
 Gov. Roosevelt further said: "We are there. We cannot run away." Who has proposed running away? Cannot the subjugators state the real alternative fairly?
 Our mission in the Philippines, according to Gov. Roosevelt, is to "establish and maintain liberty and justice." The Filipinos stake their lives on the contention that they are fighting only for liberty and justice. They point to our own Declaration—our "prattle of liberty" as we regret to see Gov. Roosevelt calling it—as their warrant for maintaining that "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are among the "unalienable rights" of "all men"—yellow men as well as white men.
 They cite the same charter of our liberty to prove that "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed." And they insist that, as our trusted allies in the capture of Manila, justice requires that they should at least have a trial in governing their own country.

If, therefore, our only purpose is to establish liberty and justice, and the only motive of the Filipinos in fighting is to secure liberty and justice, why must we assume that the sole alternative is to subjugate or exterminate the inhabitants or to "run away?" Gen. Funston is a "strenuous" fighting man as is Col. Roosevelt, and has the advantage of being on the ground. And Funston has recently expressed his conviction that a little honest diplomacy would do more than gunpowder in securing peace and prosperity for those unfortunate islands. Is there any "dishonor" in trying it? Why not send to Manila our delegates to the late Peace Conference at The Hague, to negotiate the peace for which Roosevelt "prays," but which Mr. McKinley's war has brought no nearer after more than six months of "strenuous" fighting?

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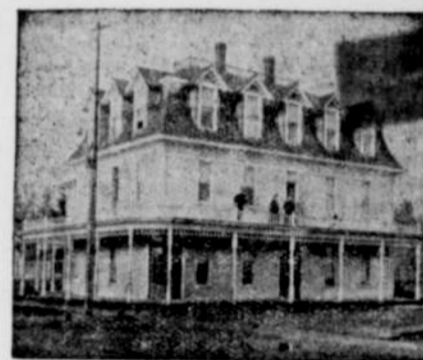
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