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When, alas, When?

We give below an extract from a letter which Mr. A. B. Hammond sent in reply to a communication by the President of the Portland Board of Trade:

"The Astoria & Columbia River Railroad, that has its eastern terminus at Portland, will be extended to the coal fields of the Nehalem and the great forests of Tillamook county. The wholesalers of Portland will be able to deliver their goods to the merchants of Tillamook the day after they receive the order. The whole country will grow, and Portland will prosper and become the great metropolis of the Northwest; not at the expense of the surrounding country, but through the efforts of her citizens, directed towards the development of the state's resources. When this is done, capital will come unsolicited."

How nice this sounds. It would be enough to make Tillamookers jubilant had they not heard the old, old stereotyped story of this county securing railroad connection—or we should have said the same old chestnut; but we have been building on vain hopes and railroad procrastination so long that we are constrained to ask: "When, alas when, will railroad construction take the place of railroad gossip?"

Is this the answer to our query. It is taken from the Astoria Herald:

"All the timber lands purchased in Clatsop and Tillamook counties by the Astoria company have been sold to the A. B. Hammond company. It is reported that the railroad will be extended from Seaside to Tillamook this fall and that a large saw mill will be constructed. N.B.—This is not the big saw mill that Hammond is going to build at Flavel."

We are not inclined to take this paragraph seriously, for it looks more like twitting Mr. Hammond than anything else. As to the transfer of the land, it is generally understood that the Astoria Company, A. B. Hammond, the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad and the Southern Pacific are practically one and the same thing. It may, however, be the intention of Mr. Hammond to build this fall, for being menaced by the proposed railroad from Columbia county, it may force him to do so.

This is, perhaps, what is causing Mr. Hammond to get a hustle on, for it will in all probability encroach upon the territory Mr. Hammond intended gobbling up. We take this from the Oregon Mist, and as this is the company which has commenced construction and is headed for this county, it may be the salvation of Tillamook from a railroad standpoint and head off the Southern Pacific from making exorbitant charges whenever it builds here:

"The proposition of building a railroad from Kenben to Nehalem Valley promises tangible results. A good deal of material for preliminary work has already been delivered to Kenben, and on Monday the steamer Gatzert took down a quantity of lumber out of which to build a large camp capable of accommodating 200 men, who are expected to go to work on the proposed road at once. From the best information it is possible for us to glean, it is ascertained that about three and one-half miles of road will be built just as quickly as it is possible to prosecute the work. This is done in order to tap a very extensively timbered region, and the work of putting logs in the water will begin as soon as possible. The ultimate purpose of the promoters of the project, we understand, is to reach Nehalem Bay by crossing the divide from the Columbia river, intercepting the Nehalem River near the mouth of Oak Ranch Creek, thence following the valley to the river's mouth."

Now for a strong and determined pull, and what will do Tillamook as much good as a railroad, and a little more, perhaps, is a government appropriation for the improvement of Tillamook bays and harbors. To develop the county and

boom the lumber business, make the bars so that large vessels can cross in and out with big cargoes of lumber, and then it will be seen what a great advantage it is to Tillamook to have shipping facilities by water.

Wipe out China.

The reports that come each day from China, while not yet authoritative, make it seem almost certain that the legations have been destroyed and all the foreigners at the capital massacred. Such a condition of affairs is without a parallel in the history of the civilized world. Among nations the safe conduct of representatives of foreign governments is always guaranteed, and even savages usually respect envoys. Not only is the person of an ambassador or attache held inviolable, but a legation is regarded as resting upon the soil of the country from which its head is accredited, and the right of refuge at a foreign legation is recognized among nations. There is no greater offense against international law than a disregard of the rights of a foreign representative, and no crime can be more heinous than the murder of an ambassador or a member of the legation. When a country accepts the credentials of a foreign diplomatic representative, it binds itself to afford him protection while acting in his official capacity, and to give him safe conduct to the border when he is withdrawn. A country that will not, or cannot, fulfill these obligations should no longer be regarded within the pale of civilization. It has ceased to be a nation among nations.

The world must hold the government of China responsible for the brutal murder of the German ambassador and for the probable annihilation of all the foreign legations. It will not accept a statement that the imperial government was unable to protect the legations. It is possible that the government might not be able to prevent the slaughter of missionaries or other foreign citizens in remote provinces, but the foreign officials are located at the seat of government and could not be seriously molested without the open consent or secret connivance of the imperial authorities.

The murder of the missionaries was sufficient cause for foreign interference in China, although in these cases an allowance might be made for the intensity of religious fanaticism, which, possibly, the government could not check. But the outrage of the foreign citizens is so dastardly that no excuse can be accepted. If, when the veil is lifted from the imperial city of Peking, it is found that the worst has happened, the powers should join together and wipe the Chinese empire from the map of the world. A government so savage, or so impotent to protect foreign ambassadors, has forfeited its right to either recognition or existence.

American Commerce.

"The Commercial Ascendancy of the United States" is set forth in the July Century by the Hon. Carroll D. Wright, United States commissioner of labor.

The industrial ascendancy of the United States has long been assured. According to careful estimates, the production of manufactured goods the present year will reach at least the value of \$1,250,000,000. This sum is considered to be at least \$450,000,000 in excess of the manufactured products of the United Kingdom and Germany, the chief competitors of the United States. The United Kingdom not many years ago held not only the ascendancy in manufactured goods in the world, but the supremacy. The United States has encroached rapidly upon that position until in many great lines her products vastly exceed those of Great Britain, while in the total they are very much in excess. It took many years of the introduction of most improved methods, the application of highest skill and all the energy of our iron manufacturers to bring the production of pig iron up to that of our great competitor, but for several years the amount of production in the United States has led that of England. The latest returns for this country show a production of nearly 12,000,000 long tons of pig iron, while the production for Great Britain for the same period was 8,631,161 gross tons. The iron trade is basic in its nature, and, as a rule, when it flourishes all other industries flourish.

In the great field of agriculture ascendancy has long been accorded to this country, and the United States has furnished the food products to sustain the work of her great competitors in manufactures. According to Mr. Michael Mulhall the United States employs the largest number of persons in agriculture of all the great countries except Austria, where 12,900,000 are employed. Germany comes next to the United States and then France. The productivity of the agricultural labor of the different countries varies greatly, however. According to the same authority, an ordinary farm hand in the United States raises as much grain as three in England, four in France, five in Germany and six in Austria, which shows that an enormous waste of labor occurs in Europe, largely because the farmers are not possessed of the mechanical appliances used in the United States. This is seen when we examine the production of grain per capita of the persons employed. In the United States it is 350 bushels, in the United Kingdom 119, in France 98, in Germany 76, in Austria 64 and in Italy 39.

There is not so much variation in the productivity in manufactures as in agriculture, but, still, in the use of machinery it is great enough to give ascendancy to this great country. In the United States it is 1,949 foot-tons per inhabitant, in Great Britain 1,470, in Germany 902, in France 910, in Austria 560 and in Italy 380. In these statements we find the basis for the phenomenal commercial expansion of the last few years.

It is only natural, when considering this industrial ascendancy of the United States, that one should consider the question as to whether commercial ascendancy has either been reached or is in sight. To secure commercial ascendancy the exports of a country must be greater than those of any other country; for the total exports of a country indicate its true position in commerce, as they usually consist of surplus products.

Taking the domestic exports from this country for the year ending March 31 the present year, we find that they are \$1,309,142,217. British statistics for the same date are not at hand, but as British exports have not been increasing of late very rapidly it is safe to conclude that at the present time the exports of the United States exceed those of any other country in the world.

Mighty Man of War.

The nation and the navy will mourn the death of Rear-Admiral J. W. Philips. The suddenness of it quickens the sense of sorrow because of it. He was a capable officer, a careful sailor, a brave man, a true citizen, a loving husband and parent, a formidable foe in battle, a clement conqueror in victory and an humble, faithful Christian.

The Brooklyn Eagle says the end of the life of this mighty man of war was peace. He died the death, as he lived the life, of the righteous. He never fought for other or less than the liberation of man and the overthrow of wrong. His blade was as spotless as his simple, artless and heroic soul. And that soul was as devoid of guile as it was of fear.

"Don't cheer, boys, the poor fellows are dying!" was his request to his crew after the Spanish fleet had been destroyed at Santiago and the vanquished foe were battling for life amidst fire and water. And then he changed battle to rescue.

Nor did he omit to return thanks to God for the success of the fight for a cause on which he had invoked the blessing of God.

His life was full of such touches as these, but it happened that these two occurred when the flame of battle lighted to the world those who took part in it. They were not exceptional. They were just characteristic. But they will thrill history and humanity forever.

The command he held at Brooklyn will be signalized by the success of his labors to secure for the sailors a Christian home and center of uplifting helps and comforts and fellowships.

His early death at 59 was due to the effects on his system of his tremendous and unremitting service to his country and to his kind. He died on duty, at duty and because of devotion to duty.

To his memory all honor! To his kindred all condolence! To the navy all sympathy! To the government congrat-

ulation on the life and regret for the loss of such a rare man! To God his soul and to his countrymen the precious inspiration of his career!

While round the sun old Mother Earth Pursues the ever-decaying years,
 The nation shall recount thy worth
 With mingled pride and joy—and tears!

Marriage Not a Failure.

The noble life of the late Mrs. William Ewart Gladstone, recently ended, offers another emphatic proof that marriage is not a failure, says the Cincinnati Commercial. We speak not here of marriage contracts entered upon without regard for their serious obligations, or from unworthy motives, but marriage contracted from high and holy purposes and a just appreciation of its solemn duties and grave responsibilities. The wedded life of the Gladstones was one of ideal happiness. There were peace and love and content at the fireside of that happy couple, because truth and honor were at the basis of their union. Mr. Gladstone believed in his noble-hearted wife, and she believed in her gifted husband. Four times prime minister of England, Mr. Gladstone faced his full share of political storms, but he was never known to quail in the presence of hostility or of reverse.

What was the secret of this wonderful calmness and courage? His domestic life, sweet, tender and refreshing, blessed by the influence of the woman whom he loved and trusted more than any other living being. The secret of Mrs. Gladstone's happiness? The knowledge that she possessed, to the fullest degree, the love and the confidence of an incomparable man. Mrs. Gladstone's attention was first called to her future husband by the remark of an English minister who sat beside her at a dinner party. "Mark," said he, "that young man. He will yet be prime minister of England." Some months after she became the wife of the future premier, and then, for nearly a half century, sustained him in all his noble efforts on behalf of England and of the human race. What a true and loving wife may do for a great public man, and, through him, for humanity, is well illustrated by the married life of the Gladstones.

As a mother Mrs. Gladstone offers a touching example to all mothers the world over. She nursed all her children, eight in number, herself, and looked after them from infancy. She was lady of a great castle and able to command any required assistance, but the sweet offices of motherhood she preferred to discharge herself. Hence was her home one of peace and affection, blessed by a contentment that charmed every observer and captivated every visitor.

Some gifted American woman should, for the benefit of American daughters, wives and mothers, write the life of this splendid lady. Women like the late Mrs. Gladstone reflect more glory on the land their lives beautify and their influences strengthen than the greatest of military conquerors.

It is reported in the Salem newspapers that the Salvationists have commenced a campaign in that city. It's somewhat premature, for the state legislature is not in session. It may be that the Salvationists think that the state law makers are too hard cases to tackle with the legion of political wire-pullers and lobbyists who infest the state's capitol at that time, to say nothing of female night clerks and champagne.

For humanity sake let the government make some provision to bring back the people who were deluded by the transportation companies to go to Nome in the hope of finding gold in abundance.

The Chinese minister to the United States should be given his walking papers, and it would be a good thing for the Northwest if the celestials were given theirs as well.

The Belgian court has decided that the attempt to assassinate the prince of Wales was only a joke. It belongs to the same class of humor as the pointing of guns which are supposed not to be loaded at people.

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