

MOST PRACTICAL ROUTE.

From East Portland to Nehalem, via Oswego and Tualitin Plains.

Mr. William Reid, in writing to the Oregonian on the most practical route for the proposed railroad from Portland to Tillamook, says:

It is true, as the Hillsboro Independent states, that the line proposed from East Portland to Nehalem via Oswego and Tualitin Plains, is the ideal route, because, as that paper says, it passes through a fine agricultural country for 34 miles already settled, with vacant lands free of timber, all tributary to Portland. Above all these advantages, and that of timber and coal to carry from the Nehalem to Portland, that route possesses the sine qua non for successful railroading, namely, a water grade for 34 miles, and if a bridge below Oswego be added it would have 40 miles of a water grade, all of easy construction, with no tunnel. But when we made the survey in 1890 and 1891, we found that route had the disadvantage of being about 10 miles (or possibly less) greater length than the North Portland route with a tunnel. Against this, however, it has the following advantages, besides easier grades:

First—A cheap railroad extension of five miles from Oswego to the west side of Oregon City bridge, at which city is delivered and consumed now over 70,000 cords of wood yearly, on which its factories pay for stumpage alone 50 cents per cord; while in addition the pulp wood carried there for the two paper mills from the Nehalem would keep these mills running for 40 years. Within five years 60,000 tons of coal, if it can be delivered there from Nehalem for factories, etc., at \$3 per ton will displace the cord wood; with the advantage of being able to secure sawlogs by rail from Nehalem as cheap as to Portland; then new saw mills will certainly be erected at Oregon City, prospectively with sash and door factories and woodenware industries.

Second—To the Oswego iron and steel works (now idle) could then be carried the iron ore of Nehalem in unlimited quantities of high grade, as per reports of Major Jones, late United States Engineer, at Portland; in addition, Oswego, with Sucker Lake behind it for saw logs and a water front of 100 feet fall, and for other manufacturing enterprises, with the Willamette River in front and two separate railways thereto constructed, could also be made the most economical place, with cheap coal, for other manufactures than iron and lumber.

Third—Direct railway connection with the O. R. & N. line recently extended to Southeastern Portland; Nehalem freight and coal could there and at Albina be more economically transferred than at the terminal grounds, where charges are greater.

Finally, by the Nehalem railroad getting to the river either near Elk Rock, Springfield or Linton, river steamers could temporarily handle lumber, and steam tugs and barges handle coal, and river steamers merchandise to and from the city till the line should reach Port land, north, south or east sides, just as we did at Elk Rock in 1886 and 1887, during the time of the long litigation which prevented us entering the Jefferson-street depot for some two years, and sawlogs in any event can be as cheaply delivered to the Portland saw mills at Elk Rock, Oswego, Springfield or Linton as at the terminal grounds.

If, therefore, the new president, Mr. Hayes, of the Southern Pacific, should favor the Nehalem railway, after it reaches a point below Oswego, with the same facilities and terms as those the Northern Pacific did offer at Cornelius Gap, I should in that case advise constructing the Nehalem railway on the water grade via Oswego. Otherwise, perhaps the better course may be to select the north route, with half a mile of tunnel, either to Springfield or to North Portland. Although most costly, this has some eight to nine miles shorter distance.

To Assure Honesty in Banks.

It is said of the recently arrested assistant cashier of the First National bank of Greeley, that he entered the service of the bank twenty years ago when he was but 17 years old, and during the whole time since then has maintained a high character in the community at large, and has been trusted implicitly by the bank officials and stockholders.

It is a fact, which is remarkable or not, according to the point of view from which one looks, that every one of these bank gentlemen who is detected in appropriating other people's money to his own use, has been for more or less time a peculiarly trusted official or employee of the institution.

People speak of this as if it were one of the most surprising things possible, when as matter of fact, if any stealing is done at all in a bank it can only be by some one of these peculiarly men, as every one may see from a moment's thought.

No other kind of man would ever get any chance to steal. If the owners of the bank had in their employ a man of another kind, would steal, they would be rid of him in a moment.

The alarming increase in the number of those who yield to this temptation has attracted wide attention, and men have been eagerly asking for a remedy.

The consideration just spoken of seems to furnish an answer. It is—don't trust anybody with unwatched control of other people's money. Watch every bank employe, and watch them all alike. The honest man will not resent it, for he knows its need. The dishonest man deserves it, and it is the only thing that can save him.

A Contrast.

The Canadian statistics of crime make an astonishing contrast with those of the United States, says the Examiner. The annual report of the Dominion for 1899 shows that there were but twenty-five indictments for murder during the year, and that only two of the cases were left without final action. Nine of the accused were acquitted, eleven were convicted and hanged, and three were detained as insane. According to the newspaper statistics the murders in the United States run as high as 10,000 during a year, and rarely run below 5,000. These include manslaughter, lynching and justifiable homicide, but the list is discreditably large. On the basis of population, the United States should not have more than 375 cases of murder.

Why do we have twenty times as many? Our people are not very different in stock or circumstances from those who have settled Canada. Where does the difference come in? Canadians lay it to the quality of justice that is served out in the Dominion. When a man commits a murder there he is not given unlimited time to make ready for trial, weeks are not taken in getting juries, the trial judge does not have to allow all sorts of irrelevant questions to be asked lest a technical-minded Supreme Court reverse him, and if a conviction is had there is no two or three years of waiting to allow an appeal, and no new trial. The only appeal is to the clemency of the Government, and it is rare that the judgment of a jury is overruled. Punishment quickly follows the crime, and there are no lynchings. If the Canadians will only adopt the United States system of justice they will soon be able to boast of as large a murder roll in proportion as our own favored land. Our "judicial safeguards" appear to condemn about 7,000 innocent persons to death each year at the hands of the murderers.

Will the Oregon state legislators be able to bring about the state of affairs which exists in Canada?

The Cudahy Case.

While the startling story of the kidnapping of the son of Edward Cudahy of Omaha and his ransom for \$25,000 in gold almost overtakes the credulity of intelligent people who can hardly believe such a bold stroke could be played successfully in these modern days, it reveals what sacrifices a fond parent will make when convinced his child is in danger.

That the plot was skillfully laid and shrewdly executed is evidenced by every detail which the kidnapers had so carefully worked out in advance and whether they would or would not have carried out their hellish threats of personal violence to their victim had their demands been ignored will of course never be known.

What is to be apprehended now is that the story of the Cudahy ransom will give rise to imitations in all parts of the country. This has been already foreshadowed by the comment of one of the Chicago police officials, to the effect that it sets a most dangerous precedent likely to lead to a series of sensational child-stealing adventures and that if kidnapers get the idea they can successfully hold children for ransom rich men will have to employ servants to act as bodyguards for their young ones. On this account as much as any other it is to be hoped the perpetrators of the deed will be speedily identified and brought to justice.

Strange as it may seem, it transpires that nothing in the Nebraska criminal code prescribes a penalty adequate to this particular crime and that the prosecuting officials would have difficulty in placing a charge against them that would entail a penitentiary sentence. This defect of the law should and doubtless will be cured by the coming legislature.

In the meanwhile the Cudahy kidnaping stands out as one of the most sensational and remarkable pieces of crime of the closing century.

Political Drift.

The total vote cast in New York state for the several candidates for president was 1,549,612.

Cleveland's heart-to-heart talks with the late democratic party are as edifying as eulogies of the deceased at a "wake."

The Boston Globe figures that 6,500 failed to go to the polls last week in Nebraska shy 63,132 found them

Fourteen councilmen of Scranton, Pa., being of a thrifty turn of mind, forced themselves on the pay roll of a local franchise corporation at the rate of \$15 a month, and now stand a good chance of becoming penitentiary boarders.

Warrants are out for fifteen men at Crawfordsville, Ind., charging them with selling their votes. Indians cast the highest percent of votes to population of any state in the union, which warrants the conclusion that extra inducements were offered to call out a full vote.

Must Respect their Autonomy.

The report of the senate committee on interoceanic canals upon the preliminary report of the canal commission sets forth in unmistakable terms the duty and necessity of the United States respecting the autonomy and territorial integrity of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, in acquiring the right of way for a canal. It is declared that we must fully recognize the sovereign independence and authority of those countries "and deal with them without any attempt at encroachment on their national rights." It is pointed out that the acquisition of the sovereign ownership of a tract of country including the line of the canal would separate Nicaragua into two parts, between which the sovereignty of the United States would be interposed. "An act more fatal to its autonomy cannot be conceived," says the report, and even if the government of Nicaragua were not prohibited by its constitution from making a cession of territory "the severance of its territory by such mutilation would destroy its territorial integrity and with it the republic." It is declared that this is beyond the purpose of the house bill.

A statement of this nature was perhaps deemed necessary to reassure the Central American states, particularly in view of the fact that the position of some men in congress has been calculated to cause the governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica to apprehend that their territorial integrity might not be respected, in the event of their refusal to grant all concessions that should be asked, especially the right to make the proposed waterway a military canal. But if the United States is not to have sovereignty over the territory through which the proposed canal would run, why fortify it? If the sovereignty over such territory is to remain with Nicaragua and Costa Rica may they not reasonably object to fortifications and a large military force which might at some time become a menace to their autonomy?

While those countries are exceedingly well disposed toward the United States, it is very doubtful if they will agree to permit this country to fortify a canal in their territory and maintain there such a military force as would be necessary to garrison the fortifications.

Would Exclude our Wheat.

The German agrarians, according to a report from the American consul at Bremen, are proposing a policy which looks to the exclusion of American wheat from the German market. Having been unsuccessful in securing legislation prohibiting, in effect the importation of American canned meats, the agrarian party is now exerting its influence to heavily increase the import duties on all grains entering the empire, notably on wheat, and the consul expresses the opinion that the proposed law will be passed by the Reichstag.

He says the aim of the agrarians is to make Germany entirely independent of all countries for its breadstuffs and food supplies and remarks that it is difficult to see how the proposed national legislation can have any other effect in the long run than to enhance the price of the daily bread of the people. "It is impossible to understand," he adds, "how the proposed duty can increase the crops of wheat throughout Germany or decrease the appetite of the German people." Of course it can do neither and for that very practical reason it seems most improbable that the government will place a duty of 40 or 50 cents a bushel on wheat, which would be well-nigh prohibitive. It would be a rather dangerous thing for the government, under existing conditions, to adopt a policy which would materially enhance the price of bread, for the industrial situation in Germany is not such as will admit of any increase in the wages of labor. There is no question that German agricultural interests are suffering, but to seek a remedy for this in a policy that would make subsistence for the masses of the people harder could not fail to encounter most vigorous popular resentment and protest. If the duty on grain proposed by the agrarians should be adopted the American wheat growers of course would feel the effect of it, but not so seriously as the German consumers.

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