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W. H. BYARS Editor
 CLARE E. IRVINE Manager

POINTS BY PARAGRAPH.

The winter of Montana has been
 mild beyond precedent and the stock
 is in fine condition.

The orange crop of Southern California
 this year figures up as bringing
 into that region over a million
 and a quarter dollars.

Portions of China are again suffering
 from famine which seems to be a
 chronic condition there. Hundreds
 of thousands are dying and the
 government has actually appealed
 to the outer world for aid.

CALIFORNIA'S two insane asylums
 are over crowded. The one at Napa
 and one at Stockton have some 1500
 each where five hundred only can be
 provided for. Insanity prevails in
 California. The dead booms of San
 Diego and Los Angeles account for it
 partially.

THE Episcopalians of Southern
 California are determined on
 having a Diocese of their
 own and are hot upon it. If
 refused they will withdraw and
 become a mission. The cause is
 evident—the Diocese is too large for
 one man to supervise.

THERE is great excitement at the
 St. Louis Southern hotel. Preller's
 ghost is hobbling around in his old
 room, rapping and shooting off fire-
 crackers and other explosives.
 Some spiritualists profess to have had
 actual and visible proof that it is a
 real ghost making all the "discom-
 bobberation."

THE New York world declares it
 was Grover Cleveland who was de-
 feated at the polls in November '88,
 and not the democratic party.
 "Maybe so; maybe no so," is the
 Indian said. But then it was evi-
 dently Grover Cleveland who was
 elected in November 1884 and not
 the democratic party. He got in by
 the merest "scratch," a la billiards.

It is indeed urgent that congress
 shall devote thorough attention to
 the great empire of Alaska, as it is
 called. The profligate waste of real
 salmon and other most important
 resources of the future if not
 cared for is a disgrace and a shame—
 a killing of the creature to get one
 egg to-day when care and foresight
 would give to our descendants in-
 finite wealth, and that too at a time
 when it shall be needed.

WHERE else could it happen but
 in these glorious states that a court
 of murderers was convened in the
 Kentucky penitentiary in order to
 find out who was the thief that had
 been picking up things rather fresh-
 ly. And Judge Sam Pulliam, who
 killed a man in his office, was made
 president. Sam Scanlan, Esq., who
 murdered his wife, made a motion
 to appoint a detective. The Hon.
 Charles Dilger, who killed two po-
 lice men, was appointed. Harry
 Smart, Esq., who murdered Green
 and Miss Ward was first searched
 and the search continued through
 murderers row. Nothing was found
 and the mystery of the missing ar-
 ticles is manifestly fixed to date.

We would suggest to the legisla-
 ture to incorporate one clause in the
 liquor license act and that is to re-
 quire on every petition for a license
 the names of a majority of the tax
 paying inhabitants of the town or
 village or vicinity; and in cities of a
 certain size, say from a thousand
 inhabitants, of the block or square
 where it is proposed to establish the
 dram shop.

WHY are license laws strictly en-
 forced and obeyed; and why are
 prohibitory enactments evaded, vi-
 olated and finally allowed to lapse in-
 to a state of "innocuous desuetude"?

THE MOST WONDERFUL WONDER.

The phonograph of Edison has
 come to Portland and will soon be
 here. After all, this is the most sur-
 prising invention of all ages. It is
 a step into the domain of the myster-
 ious, the wonderful, the spiritual.
 It reproduces in simple perfection
 all sounds, all conversations, all
 music, in the very tones as uttered.
 Just think of it! Had antiquity
 possessed this, we might to-day
 have stored up in museums millions
 of reams of tin foil or other sub-
 stance, from which we could hear-
 ken to the very tones of Solomon in
 that wonderful prayer after the
 building of the temple, or to that
 immortal declamation of Demosthe-
 nes on the crown, or to some of
 Cicero's thundering perorations.
 We might even listen to old Homer
 as he recited the Iliad, or coming
 down to a later time to blind, glori-
 ous, old Milton, as perhaps he rolled
 forth, under a deeper inspiration,
 some of the more illustrious portions
 of that "divine song which would
 not have misbecome the angels
 whom he saw with that inner eye,
 flinging down upon the Jasper pave-
 ments of heaven their crowns of
 amaranth and gold." But we might
 make a book where we are limited
 to a paragraph.

WAR.

The San Francisco Examiner says:
 "Let Germany beware. Our young-
 er American officers will fight like
 devils. Never was promotion so
 pinned for as now. There are hun-
 dreds of lieutenants pining for
 promotion, etc." That is just the curse
 of a large militia in time of peace.
 It exerts a mighty influence for that
 sharia, that burning disgrace to
 civilized man, war. The very idea
 of Christian peoples armed and
 ready to shoot each other down is
 amazing. If that is so what shall
 be said of war itself? It is useless to
 talk about reforming the world,
 about temperance and morality,
 while war is at all probable. For
 what is war, at best? Murder, rob-
 bery, pillage, arson—in fact it sums
 up all the villainies under the sun,
 and we have the testimony of all the
 greatest military heroes against it.
 Wellington abhorred it. Napoleon
 himself shuddered at it. Grant de-
 tested it. Sherman very lately de-
 nounced whoever favors war as a
 fool. It is the last awful resort.

THE LOCK AND DAM QUESTION.

EDITOR CAPITAL JOURNAL: The
 importance of looking after the
 Willamette falls and lock company
 is urged. It is thought by some
 that the incorporation will make an
 effort to sell them out to the present
 state during the present session.
 This belief is somewhat strength-
 ened from the fact that the profits
 of the works through the past few
 years have shown a marked decline.

I find in digging among the ar-
 chives of this commonwealth that
 once upon a time the government
 of the United States gave to the State
 of Oregon 500,000 acres of land for
 the purpose of internal improvement.
 This large donation, if it had been
 managed by faithful and competent
 financiers, would have been nearly
 equal to one million dollars profit to
 the people, which sum judiciously
 expended would have built the locks
 at Oregon City, and so far advanced
 the work of a canal and at the Cas-
 cades that a little help from the
 general government would have opened
 the upper Columbia river to con-
 tinuous navigation, and the Eastern
 Oregon people might have been
 reaping the benefit of it years ago.
 But extravagant and foolish legisla-
 tion has felled it, or as Gov. Thayer
 says: "Frittered it nearly or quite away."

The legislature of 1870 entered into
 contract with the Willamette Falls
 Canal and Lock Co., to donate \$200,-
 000 to that improvement. To raise
 this sum the state was bonded for
 that amount, the bonds bearing 7 per
 cent interest. They made provision
 for the payment of the same by al-
 lowing that 5 per cent of the pro-
 ceeds of the public land and any
 funds arising out of the sale of the
 500,000 acres of improvement land
 fund should be held for the pay-
 ment of these bonds and the interest
 that might accrue thereon. Now
 this vast tract of land has all been
 sold but a few thousand acres, and
 this residue of course is of inferior
 quality, much of it no doubt com-
 paratively worthless. According to
 Gov. Thayer's Message of 1882 there
 was left of the proceeds of that great
 tract of land, besides the 45,000 acres,
 of taglock yet unsold, but a few
 thousand dollars—he figured it at
 \$65,000—the balance having all been
 consumed in the payment of the
 lock bonds, probably aggregating a
 half million dollars or more. Now
 this is not all; they have drawn 5

per cent of the overflowed and
 swamp land funds, which amounted
 from 1880 to '82 to \$5,470 and would
 no doubt increase the waste of this
 fund from the time the debt was
 contracted until the bonds were all
 taken up, to several thousands more.
 The last mentioned interest I have
 no correct data only for the two
 years mentioned.

We find that there was by official
 report up to 1882 \$574,350 worth of
 improvement land sold. And ac-
 cording to Gov. Thayer's computa-
 tion there would be left, after re-
 deem the outstanding lock bonds
 at that date \$56,000, showing that
 to complete payment on the original
 \$200,000 worth of bonds has cost the
 people of Oregon out of this fund
 alone \$550,350 and perhaps \$25,000
 more that was taken out of the
 swamp and overflowed land fund,
 aggregating in all \$575,350.

Of course there was some expense
 attached to the locating and selling
 of this land that reduced the amount
 absorbed by the bonds. But we can
 hardly conceive how our public of-
 ficials could have consumed as ex-
 penses \$318,350 in selling public land
 enough to pay the original bond
 that only amounted to \$200,000. I
 once heard of man who built a
 house 15x20, and his fireplace mea-
 sured 20x24. The gross mismanage-
 ment in the payment of this debt
 and the sale of half a million dollars
 worth of land to meet it approxi-
 mate to the same proportions.

By the official report of the lock
 commissioners for the year 1881-2,
 taking those two seasons for an
 average, the gross earnings of the
 commissioners from 1870 to the pres-
 ent of \$472,500, then add the five
 hundred and fifty thousand dollars
 that they have already cost the state
 and it would seem like the com-
 missioners could well afford to keep
 and operate them.

But there is a new era dawning
 in the history of the upper Willamette
 river carrying trade. At the time
 the locks were built, they appeared
 to be the gateway through which
 the export and import trades of the
 whole Willamette valley must neces-
 sarily pass to and from the sea,
 while to-day we have three railways
 leading northward to tide-water,
 the fourth in contemplation. And
 with the continued improve-
 ment at Yaquina Bay, and the in-
 creasing trade of the Northern Pa-
 cific and O. C. Railway leading
 southward, the products of this val-
 ley will be so scattered in their
 transit to market, that the insignif-
 icant trade through the locks will
 bear about the same proportion of
 future profit to its owners that
 Barnum's elephant Jumbo did to
 the profits of his great show. Do
 the people want them? No, it's an
 elephant, and the company well
 know it. For the people to own
 them, judging the future by the
 past, it would take a large share
 of the land west of the Cascade moun-
 tains to finally pay for them. One
 of the strongest evidences that the
 state should not buy, is the com-
 pany's anxiety to sell. Men are
 not generally anxious to part with
 a business whose future looks prom-
 ising.

It is generally understood by
 those who know, that the locks af-
 ford one of the best water powers that
 probably could be found in the state.
 This the company well understand,
 and of course propose to reserve.
 But to repair and keep the works
 up is an expensive thing. Now if
 the people buy the locks they are
 virtually buying the privilege of
 entering into a series of expenses
 from which but little or no return
 to the state will ever accrue.

We are just reaching a period in
 the history of this Northwestern
 country, where a water power of
 such magnitude as the falls of the
 Willamette, located so near the sea,
 will be a bonanza to its owners and
 more especially so if it can be ob-
 tained by selling the carcass and at
 the same time reserving the meat.
 The locks have been built nearly
 twenty years, and the company
 have had the benefit of them
 through the best paying season that
 probably will ever be, and it is quite
 evident that the timbers used in
 their construction are in an ad-
 vanced state of decay, possibly
 the whole works ready to be carried
 away by any unusual high stage of
 water. No one knows their exact
 condition as well as their owners.
 By the repeated efforts that have
 been made to work them off on to
 the people, it is almost conclusive
 evidence that the position herein
 taken, as touching their present
 and future, is well founded.

FARMER.

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