

THE TELLER.

LEWISTON, NORTH IDAHO.

SATURDAY.....NOVEMBER 25. 1876

OUR REPRESENTATION.

The Senators and member of Congress from Oregon, and the delegates from Idaho and Washington in the present Congress are all unqualified supporters of the measures looking to the opening of the Columbia and Snake rivers to uninterrupted navigation from head of navigation to the sea. They are on the record as warm advocates of these measures and during their term of service we have every reason to expect they will be persistent in their efforts to effect this in behalf of the people of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and that no sinister efforts and designs of any corporation or individuals can change their purpose in this respect. We are made to understand that the entire delegation from California in the present Congress are also committed in our behalf. The late election has somewhat changed the delegation from Oregon and California who will operate in the next Congress. Oregon has one new senator and a new Representative. We are not advised as to the position of these gentlemen upon this question, but presume they have been put to the test upon this question by the people of Oregon to be considered safe for these improvements, else they would never have been elected, as we believe no man known to oppose these measures could ever have commanded one tenth of the popular votes of that State, or one tenth of the members of their Legislature on a joint ballot, for either Representative or Senator from that State.

Hence it is safe to presume a persistent and continued support of these measures by the delegation from Oregon, Washington and Idaho during the next Congress, and that no serious opposition will come from any of the delegation from California. With such united support from the Representatives of the people to be affected by these improvements, both in the Senate and House, we can but hope that before the expiration of the next Congress, sufficient will have been accomplished by legislation of Congress to render the opening of these rivers to free navigation to tide water, a fixed fact beyond every other peradventure, save the necessary time in constructing the canal & locks, which are to furnish the outlet to the sea. Again it is reasonable to suppose that now the Presidential election has passed, the next two or three sessions of Congress will not be characterized with quite so parsimonious a spirit in relation to appropriations which are absolutely essential for the development of this western country, and if proper efforts and representations are made by the delegations alluded to, it may reasonably be expected that large additional appropriations will be made for the improvement of these rivers before the expiration of the next Congress. With such arguments as we have in our favor a continual knocking at the doors of Congress for aid will induce that body to listen to our appeals and grant us that which we so much need. Then let our people take courage and hope and prepare for the event, and affix a proper value upon the country tributary to the waters of the upper Columbia and Snake rivers.

PORTLAND WAKING UP.

We notice in the Oregonian that two mining incorporations have been created in Portland. One with \$500,000 capital having Messrs. J. A. Chapman, D. P. Thompson and C. H. Woodward as incorporators. Amount of each share is one dollar. The name of the company is "Oregon Bonanza" Another with \$250,000 capital having Messrs. H. B. Oatman, C. D. Failing, and L. H. Parsons as incorporators. Amount of each share is one dollar. Principle offices of both companies to be at Portland, and the object of the companies is to mine for gold and silver in the State of Oregon, construct and operate quartz mills etc.

With the great resources of Oregon and other sections tributary to Portland, in the precious metals the monied men of Portland have hitherto done but little in the way of expending money for the development of the mineral wealth that has been known to exist within their reach. In fact, altho the mines of the Upper Columbia and its tributaries have done very much towards giving to that city its present prosperity, yet the people of that city have done but little more than to become the recipients of the gold dust that has found its way down the Columbia, from the toil and earnings of the common placer miner, who had to pay the highest prices for his supplies to the merchants of Portland, without receiving in return any means in the shape of money to aid him in making such developments of the mineral wealth of the country as the prospects well warranted years ago. If there had been monied men in Portland who stood ready to chance money in mines and mining enterprises east of the Cascades eight years ago when chances offered, quartz mining industries would to-day have assumed such proportions as to have furnished a constant stream of gold and silver bullion flowing into that city to augment its wealth. But no, the mania for purchasing city property and the construction of fine buildings which were soon to become tenantless without corresponding development of the country tributary to Portland, had far greater attractions for their surplus money, till now city property will not sell for fifty per cent. of its first cost, and large and magnificent buildings are not commanding rents enough to pay taxes upon them. One hundred thousand dollars judiciously invested in the quartz of Warrens camp alone by the people of Portland in 1868 would have more than trebled itself ere this time, and the people of Portland would have had a mining district so developed at the present time as to afford a large annual revenue to the merchants of that city. But the reported late discovery of the silver springs in Wasco co., without any further development of their wealth or extent, seems to have excited the cupidity of some wealthy men in Portland, and there is a prospect of their waking up to some well organized definite action with a view to the development of the mineral wealth of Eastern Oregon. We are glad to see this much and hope it will prove to be something more than a spasmodic effort to foster one of the most important industries of the country, that of legitimate quartz mining.

THE TRUE POLICY.

It is abundantly evident that every business man in this section of country would be glad to have the quartz veins of Warrens operated successfully and receive his pro rata of the advantages which would thereby accrue to the country. It is further evident that nearly every man who knows the character of the quartz veins in that camp, fully believes that if they are ever operated by suitable machinery, under skillful management they will be highly productive in gold and silver. This belief has been almost universal among the people of this section, who are the most familiar with the character and prospective value of the veins.

But the men here have not faith in their ability to open and work them for want of the requisite capital to construct the reduction works and make an unembarrassed beginning. Hence they have with-held their means from this branch of industry and contented themselves with other pursuits and other sources of gain, waiting for outside capital to come and do the dead work required to open and develop the quartz. Many have discouraged our own people from attempting anything towards development and predicted failures in such attempts, and to make their predictions true have sought to harass and embarrass those who have made attempts.

Thus with a full knowledge of the existence of these rich mines in our vicinity years have elapsed without any effort to work these mines, save by a few who had no means, and what is worse without any

effort to properly represent their value to capitalists abroad to induce them to come among us with their money for development. As other sources of mining wealth have become very much restricted among us, there is now beginning to be foreseen some necessity for the opening and working of these quartz leads, and a few have shown a willingness to do a little something towards offering inducements to capitalists to take hold and operate them. But in some instances the spirit seems to prevail, in favor of inducing capital here, more for the purpose of absorbing it by exchanging merchandise and labor for the cash brought to us, than for the advantages it would produce in opening the mines, and working them to a profit for the operator and owner. Or in other words they would seem to say to capitalists abroad, "Come and expend a few hundred thousand dollars in the country and give us a chance to gobble it up whether or not it will ever pay you a dividend." We say to all such, as have no other desire for money to come among us and have no more consideration for the capitalists who invest their money, than as above indicated, you are but leeches in the country. You suck its blood but are not willing to furnish that which makes the life blood of a country. You have no good reason to expect that men abroad having money will ever be willing to come and invest it among us just for the sake of giving you a chance to filch it away little by little to enrich you while they themselves are to get no return of interest upon it even if they get back the principal. The effort to develop should be mutual between those who are here and those who may be induced to come here with their money. We may not have much means of our own to invest and may need the great bulk of money for this development to come from those abroad who have an abundance. But we are supposed to know more of the merits of our mines than those who are out of the country and have barely heard of their existence, and they expect of us to be foremost in efforts to develop in accordance with our ability. At any rate they do not expect us to look upon the money they may see fit to invest with eyes of covetousness, such as will gobble it up without rendering an equivalent towards making that development which would be conducive to the prosperity of both in proportion to the amount invested by each. The men of Warrens who are owners of ledges in most cases have generally offered to give a controlling interest in them to such persons as will do a reasonable amount of development upon them. They have already been to the outlay of both time and labor in discovering, uncovering and annually representing them for some years past. They would go further if there means would permit. It remains for others who are in the country and identified with its growth and prosperity, to use their influence and such money as may be requisite to induce capital to come from abroad to our aid, and when it does come not be over eager to absorb it before it has been economically expended in the requisite development.

Department of the Interior.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
October 28th, 1876.
REGISTER & RECEIVER,
Lewiston, I. T.

GENTLEMEN:—By referring to my letter to you of April 15th 1873, transmitting a map of the designated line and forty mile limits of the land grant of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and directing the withdrawal of the lands therefor, I now enclose you diagram No. 2, which has been prepared in accordance with the map filed by the Company in August 1873, and also in connection with the completion of the surveyed boundary line between Washington and Idaho Territories, thereby making the line of road and limits more definite through Idaho. Accordingly, I have to direct, that the surveyed and unsurveyed odd numbered sections north of line of road, and falling between the yellow limit of former withdrawal, and the amended red forty mile limit, be withdrawn from homestead and pre-emption entry, and the even numbered sections to be held at the increased price of \$2 50 per acre. You are also directed to restore after 30 days public notice, to homestead and pre-emption entry, the odd sections south of line of road, and within the yellow and said amended forty mile limit. The even numbered sections within said limits, and which were increased in price by former withdrawal, are reduced to \$1 25 per acre, from the date of receipt of this order.

Yours respectfully,
J. A. WILLIAMSON,
Commissioner.

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