

### The People Governed by Monopolies.

This subject was discussed during the canvass last past, and also the canvass last June. We claimed then and insist now, that the so-called Ben Holladay monopoly in Oregon with its ring and rings, was making rapid strides against the rights of the people. Whether or not Ben Holladay is the real power behind the throne, we do not pretend to know, nor are the people particularly concerned about that question; one thing is true, he is the acting and managing agent for the company who ever they may be. What we insist upon is this, that the acts and conduct of this man, or company, have been such as to deserve the condemnation of the people irrespective of party affiliation. In the first place Congress donated for the purpose of building a railroad in Oregon for the benefit of the people therein, not for the benefit of speculators, a large tract of land comprising all and every odd section, not already appropriated at the date of the law (1866,) in a district of country extending from Portland to the south line of the State, a distance of about three hundred miles, and this donation extended thirty miles each side of the line of the railroad to be built, making a strip of country 60 miles in breadth and three hundred miles in length. This every man of ordinary sense knows would take all the vacant land in the odd sections in the Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue River valleys, and a large amount of mountain timbered land besides. This grant of land was allowed by the law of Congress to comprise an amount of land equal to the whole of every odd section in a strip of land from the base line to the State line south, and forty miles in width, which would make six thousand sections, or three millions eight hundred and forty thousand acres of land. This land was granted to any company in Oregon that should be designated by the Legislature thereof; really then it was a grant to the State of Oregon or the people, to be given to whomever they desired. The Legislature of Oregon obeying the will of the people, gave this magnificent grant to the West Side Company, but by some chicanery of this unprincipled man, or of the company for whom he operates, and the baseness of George H. Williams, when the amendatory act was pending in the Senate, the grant was wrongfully and wickedly taken from the West Side and transferred to the East Side Company. From the time that this grant of land went into the hands of Holladay and company, every act of the company, save the building of the road, has been against the best interest of the people. The first imposition upon the people, was the hypocritical pretensions of this man Holladay, his agents, officers, servants and hirelings, that he, Holladay, had come here and brought with him a large amount of money which he designed to expend in the building of a railroad for the special benefit of the people of Oregon, when in truth and in fact, he or they, took the land grant which the people had given them, as the basis of credit, issued ten millions of bonds and actually received upon them in Europe, six millions of money; at least this is our information, and we believe it to be reliable. When it is understood that this amount of money has been realized by the company upon lands given by the people for the building of the east side road alone, independent of the grant of a later date for the West Side Road, it is easy to determine whether Holladay and Company, have sacrificed their individual means to benefit the people of Oregon, or have actually made a princely fortune out of the people's money. Three millions of dollars will cover the expense of the east side road so far, and Holladay now pretends he can build no more road, until he can sell more bonds or raise more money either from the general government or from the State or both. What has become of the other three millions which he obtained on his first bonds? laid aside we suppose, as a stake to fall back upon, when they shall have swindled the people to the extent of their

gullibility.

In the second place this man or company has imposed upon the people, by exacting from the tax payers of certain localities and towns, large donations of money, under penalty that if they refused, he would so construct the road as to ruin or injure them financially. He has used the very monied power, put into his hands by the magnanimity of the people, to impose upon and oppress them. He has torn down, laid waste their towns and villages which were prosperous upon his coming, and has commenced new ones of his own, and compelled the people to contribute largely to his coffers, for the privilege of doing business along the line of the road. He has managed so as to evade the law of Congress, made for the benefit of the landless; and to day is compelling the poor to pay him from five to fifteen dollars per acre for the land given him by the people, instead of two dollars and fifty cents per acre as required by the law. He has exercised unwarrantable power, in imposing tariffs, too grievous to be born, upon the very people from whom he has received his wealth. He has employed unconscionable means to accomplish his schemes and designs against the financial growth and prosperity of the people, by charging such prices for freights, between our commercial mart and San Francisco as would sweep the last dollar of profit realized from the labor and sweat of the hardy yeomanry of this valley and State, into his own pocket; and when any man or set of men has attempted to place upon the high seas between the points last named an opposition line of steamers for the benefit of the people he has universally managed to drive them off, or buy them out at his own figures, so as to continue to carry on his schemes for the subjugation (financially) of those people.

In the third place, he has undertaken to demoralize the people by using the very means they have put into his hands, for laudable purposes, to interfere with and control their elections, and has actually and unscrupulously attempted to dictate to the sovereigns of this country who should hold office in city, county and state, and who should not; and it has come to pass that whenever the dominant party in Oregon, desires to make sure their political schemes, they go to this man, as a child would go to his father, and ask his assistance and influence, in consideration of which they submit to any dictation of terms.

In the manner shown above, the people of Oregon are governed and controlled by one man or company of men, who are making rapid strides in their encroachments upon and in their abridgment of the people's most sacred rights. And for proof of the power exercised by this man Holladay, we have only to refer to the operations of the last Legislature. A few instances will suffice. We drew a bill with our own hands regulating the rates of fare and freights on railroad lines and steamboats, limiting them to about the same figures now charged, which are far above what they ought to be, and a Republican House with a majority of thirteen, which Holladay claims to have elected by his own exertion, voted it down two to one, leaving him unrestricted in his tariff powers. A bill was also introduced for the purpose of compelling Holladay and company to fence their road for the protection of those through whose lands the road run, but that could not be passed, nor could any measure be passed which tended in the slightest degree to weaken the power this railroad monopoly is exerting over the people of this State, or toward protecting the rights of the citizens. The simple truth is the last Legislature squandered its constitutional term, ignoring the wants and rights of the people, and spent their whole forty days either legislating for the special benefit of Holladay and company, or in preventing any unfriendly legislation to him. The Holladay members spent their time on the stump in the June election, screaming against the Swamp Land swindle, and when they were elected and took their seats, on that subject, they were as dumb as Balaam's ass. These members of the Legislature also made the people believe during the canvass, that if elected

they would furnish a remedy for what they called, the Lock and dam swindle, but when elected, they through their own committees pronounced the works a magnificent structure highly creditable to the makers and of great and incalculable value to the State; and absolutely undertook to compel the people to purchase the works at the enormous price of one million dollars besides the two hundred thousand already given.

All these things are true and more, and all, is the legitimate result, of a people who pretend to be free, quietly submitting to the rule or misrule of one man or monopoly. How long will the intelligence of this people, blinded by political superstition, submit to outrages so gigantic and gross?

The telegraph brings the news that Grant has pardoned Hodge, the great defaulter. This is as we expected. Hodge was sent to the penitentiary as one of the biggest thieves in America. Grant likes his kind and consequently pardons him out, upon the pretense that he, Hodge, was drawn into the thing by the intrigues of some other Grantite, Grant don't know precisely who. Grant's army of thieves can't afford to leave Hodge in prison, they must have his counsels.

It is reported that Gen. Palmer has resigned his position as Indian Agent at Siletz. This is as it should be, he is a man too honest to be in Grant's army. Let Simpson have it back, or perhaps Mr. Baily would do.

A SEMI-CENTENNIAL.—1823—1873—The fifty years of the New York Observer are completed, and to signalize the event the publishers are about to present to each subscriber a memento in the shape of a JUBILEE YEAR BOOK, which is to be embellished with appropriate illustrations and historical remembrances. Fifty years of unceasing prosperity in a public journal, while pursuing the same unswerving course may well inspire its friends with confidence and strong attachment. We are informed that the subscribers of the Observer are usually subscribers for life. It has never gone backward since its first appearance on the stage; and it bids fair, judging from its present position, to double its circulation and influence in the near future. It stands unmistakably at the head of the Religious family Press. Three dollars a year. Sidney E. Morse & Company thirty seven Park Row, New York.

### Japan as a Naval Nation.

A report by the captain of Russian corvette Boyarin published in the *Corvett Messenger*, gives some curious details on the present state of the naval armaments of Japan. On the 14th of July, 1871 (he says) five Japanese ships of war entered the harbor of Yokohama. One of these ships is a corvette of English construction, armed with six long cast iron guns and two bronze guns. The second ship is an iron clad ram, the *Stonewall Jackson*, formerly part of the American Confederate fleet. It is armed with a three hundred pounder and two Armstrong rifled seventy pounders. The three other vessels are screw gunboats of English construction, each armed with three guns. The crews of these vessels are composed exclusively of Japanese, with a uniform exactly the same as that of English sailors. On the 28th of March a casemated Japanese corvette, the *Reuzokan*, armed with eight guns, also entered the harbor. The Japanese army is equipped and armed in the French manner, and its rifles are according to the Albiot system. In the Gulf of Yeddo there is an arsenal, situated on a terrace cut into the side of a mountain. This arsenal is provided with a large dock four hundred and seven feet long, eighty two feet wide, and twenty one feet deep. The largest ocean steamer can enter it for repairs. The water is exhausted in ten hours by three large steam pumps. Its construction occupied eighteen months, and cost the Japanese Government \$240,000. Thirty vessels have already been refitted in this dock. Another dock of smaller dimension is being constructed, by the side of the first, for ships of small tonnage. The Admiralty also has a rope manufactory, a foundry, a boiler manufactory, a mechanical

forge, a steam sawing machine, and all the appliances necessary for repairing ships. Engines and boilers are now being constructed for river steamers. The building are all of wood; they are not supplied with much machinery, but what they have is sufficient for the wants of the harbor. This small establishment will evidently never become the naval arsenal of Japan, but it forms an excellent nucleus for the young Japanese fleet, and will afterward be of great use for the squadron which the Japanese Government is apparently about to keep up in the neighborhood of the capital. The arsenal was built by a French engineer, M. Verry, who has been retained as a manager of the establishment. Thirty Brethren are attached to it in the capacity of foremen, assistants, and instructors. The maintenance of the works costs \$300,000 a year, and since they were begun five years ago, the expenses of the establishment have amounted to \$1,500,000.

### ALL AROUND.

The Circuit Court is now in session at Salem. The celebrated McMinnville Ditch case will be tried during the term, having been transferred there for trial.

A special term of the Circuit Court by order of his Honor Judge Bonham will be held at Lafayette on the 10th, of December several important cases will be tried among which is the case of Whitlow and Reace, which involves the title to the town site of Lafayette.

The Willamette valley has again resumed her appropriate mantle, and the gentle rain is falling. Everybody is glad except the Stage drivers.

We learn from the *Herold* that a Mr. Turk by eavesdropping his own house, caught his wife in adultery with some other fellow. Eavesdroppers never any good of themselves.

The *Plainsdealer* says: The Depot at which the new town has been laid out is situated about half a mile south of the old village. The new situation is a much more eligible site, as the ground is level, while the old town was inconveniently placed on the side of a hill. The town gives evidence of great energy on the part of its citizens. There are already built two hotels, three stores, a drug store, blacksmith shop, saddler's shop, market, and many private residences, while others are being constantly erected. A flour mill will be erected in the spring. Business seemed to be lively, and there is no doubt that in another year Oakland will be a thriving town. We paid a visit to the old town. Although the removal of so many of the buildings gives it a rather deserted appearance, it still seems to flourish, and singularly enough its residents seem to entertain no jealousy of their more pretentious rival. When the valley of the Calapanin Creek and the surrounding country is filled with settlers with small farms, who will develop its resources Oakland will be united, and as the center of a wealthy community will be second to few towns in this section of the State.

On Monday last, there was enacted one of those tragedies which are becoming alarmingly frequent in this State, and which nothing but the rigors of the law can ever be invoked to prevent. As we learn it, John Wilson and Sumner Hauxhurst were coming down the Bay together in a small boat, and as Wilson tells it, had an altercation all to themselves. Upon reaching a point opposite Wilson's cabin the boat was lashed, when he immediately repaired thither and got his revolver and returned toward the landing, met Hauxhurst and shot him through the breast. Dr. Davidson was called and pronounced the wound fatal. Wilson was arrested and taken before Esquire Jenkins and had an examination resulting in his being held to answer at the next term of the Circuit Court for this county. He was brought over by Constable Day on Thursday last, and lodged in jail where he now remains.

Wilson's version of the affair is that Hauxhurst had beaten him while aboard the boat and threatened his life. The accused is 57 years old, and formerly resided in Josephine county, and later stopped in this county. He does not bear the best reputation—*Courier*.

There has been an earthquake in New Hampshire. A vigilance committee was formed lately in Lafayette, Missouri, for the purpose of lynching Col. Turner.

The *Statesman* says that Brigham Young got on the rampant the other day and declared that nobody should go to heaven but himself and followers.

It was stated a row occurred at the rooms of Mrs. Fair, not long since, but it was not stated how many were shot.

The mercury stood 15 degrees below zero at Boise city during the late cold snap.

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Published by L. Samuel.

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