

America were as lightly esteemed, and the disappointment of those who saw Oregon's fairer part lost may have led them to undervalue the part saved. Its geographical importance, at least, it cannot lose. Such an opening of the sources of industry and wealth as will systematically relieve the well-nigh desponding multitudes of the land, should be the primary object during the execution of the works we have been contemplating, as it is their highest and noblest aim.

To derive from these measures the chiefest benefits they may confer, the work must be executed under the superintendence of the Imperial Government. In a young country, where there is yet little general capital and much speculation, the system of contracts is, at all times, bad for extraordinary works. The failure of the parties, from whatever cause occurring, not only ruins themselves, and is of great injury to the undertaking, but the opportunity the system furnishes to dishonesty is reprehensible beyond expression. Very commonly the labourer, who has worked unremittingly, is defrauded of his earnings, and left starving and helpless, a prey to discontent and indignation, whilst to him it seems but a mockery that he has no protection to look to. And, in spite of the legal impediments interposed by a contract, who can gainsay the equity of the man's persuasion, that "It was a Government work, and they should have protected the poor man's toil." Thus are the spirits of men embittered and exposed to the heartless sophistries of demagogues; very far towards blighting the happy moral effects of the stimulus afforded to labour would such a system tend; and, even if the whole scheme were so completed with all the precision of the most perfect good faith, how very far short would the beneficial results fall of those which might be attained; for the experienced craftsman and the regular excavator would then share the benefit, and, probably, the transient stranger, also, if not foe, attracted by the harvest to be reaped. On the other hand, if entirely conducted by Government, and with the above object kept constantly in view, one result of this proposal, the greatest and the happiest, the most triumphant and enduring—one that may stamp the era, and the country, as presenting the noblest monument of human wisdom and benevolence that the world has known—remains yet untold.

The principle of our proposition may be thus briefly

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