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THE COLUMBIAN [Olympia newspaper]

The Road Across the Cascade Mountains.

The meeting in this place on Saturday [May 21] last was largely attended, and a general and generous enthusiasm prevailed. The people of Washington are going about the matter with a spirit of admirable determination. Such a degree of enterprise has never before been evinced by our citizens, and should the report of the surveying party be favorable, there is not a shadow of a doubt but that the road will be completed. Viewers are to start out on Monday next, and immediately on their return and report of the practicability of the route, a host of able men will undertake to open the road. Already numbers have volunteered their services, and many others to provide provisions, &c. Warm hearts and willing hands are not wanting in Washington, and it only needs the surety that the road is practicable, and soon the line of light will guide the toil-worn and weary immigrant to the home to which we most heartily bid him welcome. Nothing can contribute more to our welfare and prosperity than the completion of this road, and as every citizen is interested, it is to be hoped that all will come forward manfully to work and aid either by contributions in money or labor, to the best of their ability.

May 28, 1853, Page 2, Column 3

THE COLUMBIAN

Cascade Road Meeting.

The meeting of the citizens of Washington Territory pursuant to a call in the Columbia of the 14th inst., was numerously attended, and a degree of interest and enterprise manifested that does infinite credit to our new Territory.

Upon motion, Wm. W. PLUMB, Esq. was called to the chair, and A.W. MOORE appointed secretary.

The president, in a brief and forcible manner, stated the object of the meeting, namely: To open a wagon road from Puget Sound to Fort Walla Walla, on the Columbia river, if possible, in season to admit the ingress of the emigration of 1853.

Information concerning the proposed route being called for, Mr. E. J. ALLEN read the statement furnished by Mr. BLANCHETT, concerning the feasibility of the road.

G. N. McCONAHA, ESQ., after a few remarks, setting forth the immense advantages that would accrue to our Territory, and the necessity of every citizen's lending his aid to the furtherance of the project, moved that a committee of five persons be appointed by the chair to view the proposed route and report upon its practicability.

Mr. JAS. HURD moved to amend, by substituting that the appointments be made by the house; in accordance which, the meeting appointed G. M. McCONAHA, WHITFIELD KIRTLEY, CHAS. EATON, JOHN EDGAR, AND E. J. ALLEN.

Upon motion of A. W. MOORE, it was proposed that a committee of five be appointed to act as a standing committee to provide an outfit for the viewers appointed, and also to receive their report---and if favorable, to receive the names of those who might volunteer to cut the road, and also to receive contributions of money and provisions for the support of those working. The meeting appointed REV. B. CLOSE, A. W. MOORE, E. SYLVESTER, JAS. HURD, and JOHN ALEXANDER.

REV. B. CLOSE proposed that the same committee notify the citizens of other counties of the result of the meeting, and solicit their co-operation.

The committee of arrangements requested subscriptions to defray the expenses of the surveying party, and from those assembled raised the sum of \$128.

After earnest and able speeches from several of the gentlemen present, the meeting adjourned.

W. W. PLUMB, Chm'n,
A. W. MOORE, Sec'y.

June 4, 1853, Page.
THE COLUMBIAN

JOHN EDGAR, WHITFIELD KIRTLEY, E. J. ALLEN, AND GEO. SHAZER left on Monday last, in pursuance of the object of the public meeting held in this place on the 21st ult., to view out a road to Walla-walla. With all our

hearts we wish them a complete triumph over every obstacle; and such is our confidence in them, that if they do not succeed in finding a practicable route, we shall be sorely disappointed in the viewers and the country.

We shall lay the report of these gentlemen before our readers at the earliest possible moment after their return.

Mr. A. W. MOORE requests us to state that the committee appointed to receive contributions, &c., by the meeting on the 21st ult., are now ready to receive the names of those who may wish to volunteer their services to assist in opening the road across the mountains; also whatever money and provisions our citizens may wish to contribute to that object. The committee are REV. BENJ. CLOSE, A. W. MOORE, E. SYLVESTER, JAS. HURD, and JOHN ALEXANDER.

June 18, 1853, Page.
THE COLUMBIAN

Road to Walla-Walla. Prepare for the Immigrants.

The volunteer party from this vicinity, in search of a route across the Cascade mountains, have now been out two weeks, and it is ardently hoped their efforts have proved successful. If they have found or should find their way through, so that Capt. McClellan, by following them, may meet the expedition from the States, under Gov. Stevens, we have good reason to expect a large proportion of the immigrants of this year will commence taking shelter with us in September next. We have confidence that the people will come, and that our highest hopes will be realized. However, an important duty devolves upon us, and we perform it to-day by saying to our whole community, sell not one dollar's worth of provisions to be exported from the country – husband well all your resources---take good care of what you raise---save straw, and all else upon which man or beast can subsist, that you may be prepared to extend a true, substantial, and thrice hearty welcome to the way-worn new comers, who, in pursuance of our example of thoughtfulness and feeling, will in their turn contribute to the comfort of those who may come among us hereafter. “A word to the wise is sufficient.”

July 2, 1853, Page 2, Column 2.
THE COLUMBIAN

THE EXPLORING PARTY – We publish to-day a very favorable report made by the party who undertook the exploration of a road to Walla-walla. It speaks sufficiently for itself, and we commend it to the attention of the public. Much praise is due to these gentlemen who, at a great sacrifice of their time and means,

have thus satisfactorily performed their important part. That they are eminently entitled to great credit from the entire community none will or can deny. Messrs, SHAZER and ALLEN brought in the report, coming through in five days without Indian guides, and Messrs. EDGAR and KIRTLEY remain to do some necessary work towards blazing the way, &c. They may be expected shortly, with a final report, which we shall be glad to lay before our readers.

July 2, 1853, Page 2, Column 4.
THE COLUMBIAN

Report of the Cascade Road Exploring Party.
NEAR YAKIMA VALLEY, June 18, 1853.

To Messrs Moore, Hurd and others---

In accordance with the instructions given through you, as a committee of arrangements, by the citizens of Washington territory, to us as a committee to view out a practicable wagon road from Puget Sound across the Cascade mountains---having crossed from the Yelm prairie to Yakima valley, by a trail some 25 miles north of Mount rainier – we now lay before you the result of our observations.

We supposed when leaving Olympia that the most feasible route would be that described by Mr. Blanchet in his journal of 1848, but upon reaching John Edgar's we were assured by the Indians that the trail was then impassable on account of snow, and that the trail spoken of above was the only feasible one.

June 5th, we left Yelm prairie and crossing Nisqually river and traveling principally through prairie, struck Puyallup river some three miles above where the old road crosses. Here the road will leave the trail, and striking up a small stream to the right, cross White river some 4 miles above the crossing of the old road – follows up the valley of White river until it reaches Greenwater, and leaving White water, leads up the valley of Greenwater until it strikes the trail again at the base of the mountains. Here it will lead up a kanyon to the left of the trail, and rising the mountain and finding no very difficult hills, descends by a gentle slope to Ahnepash river, the first stream flowing into the Columbia east of the Cascade range. Follows the valley of this stream to where it empties into Bumping river, and leaving it strikes up a valley to the left leading on to the dividing ridge between Drift and Yakima rivers. From which ridge to Walla-walla the country is open prairie.

Knowing that it is necessary to make our report as soon as possible, we have resolved at this point to separate, and two of us return immediately to Olympia, leaving the others to follow after, blazing out the road; and having procured good Indian guides, probably make some material improvements upon the route mentioned. At the time of their return we will make out a report in

detail for your further satisfaction. We would only say at present that we deem the road so feasible that we consider it unnecessary to survey any other trail, knowing that the time for the completion of the road in time for the immigration of '53 is already brief enough. The whole distance will probably be about 80 miles from Muck river to the dividing ridge above mentioned.

With our limited time for observation, this route is the only one we can follow so as to avoid the high ill of Puallep, and so we were unable to bring into line any portion of the road already cut. The whole of the proposed route is well watered and affords very good grass. The valley of White river contains many most beautiful and rich prairies---and the summit of the mountain being almost a continual chain of prairies.

We lay the above condensed report before you, until such time as the return survey will enable us to enter more fully into detail.

JOHN EDGAR,
WHITFIELD KIRTLEY,
EDWARD J. ALLEN,
GEORGE SHAZER.

July 9, 1853, Page.
THE COLUMBIAN

ROAD MEETING---A meeting was held pursuant to call on the 4th inst., to take into consideration the report of the exploring party, &c., but adjourned till to-day. The proceedings in full of both meetings will appear in our next.

July 16, 1853, Page .
THE COLUMBIAN

Cascade Road Meeting.

At a meeting of the citizens of Olympia and its vicinity, on Saturday, July 9th, 1853, to hear the report of the committee which had been appointed at the previous meeting to confer with Capt. McClellan, in reference to the opening a road across the Cascade Mountains, B. F. Yantes was called to the chair, and U. F. Hicks was appointed Secretary.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Capt. McClellan had not arrived and consequently the committee had no report to make, and suggested that the citizens proceed at once to open said road.

The meeting was addressed by several gentlemen, all in favor of the speedy completion of the Road.

On motion, it was

Resolved---That we, the citizens of Washington territory, proceed at once to open a wagon road across the Cascade Mountains in time for the present immigration.

On motion of Dr. Johnson, the original committee, consisting of Messrs. Close, Hurd, Alexander and Sylvester, were continued as a committee of arrangements, to attend to the circulation of subscription papers and the collecting and forwarding of provisions, implements, &c, &c, for the benefit of those engaged in the labor.

On motion, five more names were added to said committee, whereupon the house appointed the following gentlemen: Messrs. E. J. Allen, B. F. Yantes, Whitfield Kirtley, Wm. Packwood and B. F. Shaw.

Several suggestions were offered, all tending to put the road through, and the meeting manifested a lively interest in the cause.

On motion, the Editor of the *Columbian* was requested to publish the proceedings.

On motion, adjourned *sine die*.

B. F. YANTES, PRES.

E.U. HICKS, SECRETARY.

July 23, 1853, Page 2, Column 2

The Columbian

GOOD BOYS.---Messrs. Weld & Hurd of the "Olympia Bakery and Beef Market," subscribed one hundred dollars to the Cascade Road Fund. Why don't our merchants, one and all, 'see it' and go a hundred 'better.'

July 23, 1853

The Columbian

The Cascade Road

Operations have now fairly commenced. On Tuesday last Messrs. Whitfield Kirtley, Edwin Marsh, Nelson Sargeant, Paul Ruddell, Edward Miller, J. W. Fouts, John L. Perkins, Isaac M. Brown, James Alverson, Nathaniel G. Stewart, William Carpenter, and Mr. Clyne, started from this place for the Yakima, to begin at that end of the route and work westwardly.

Today Mr. E. J. Allen and twelve or fifteen others will leave Steilacoom to commence at the westward extremity and work eastwardly. Stout hearts and willing hands have taken hold, and there is not a doubt but that the road will be passable for wagons in twenty-five days. Towards defraying the expense of constructing the road, it is hoped that King, Island, Jefferson, Lewis and Pacific counties will contribute as liberally as Thurston and Pierce have done.

We repeat our advice to the farmers, to husband well their crops, take care of everything, and provide as much shelter as possible. It will all be needed when the immigrants arrive.

July 30, 1853, Page 2
The Columbian

Good Cheer!---We learn that Major Larned, U.S.A. Commanding Fort Steilacoom, has dispatched an Express to Capt. McClellan, requesting that that officer to spare a part of his force to assist in opening the people's road to Walla-walla.---Thank you Major.

July 30, 1853, Page 2, Column 1
The Columbian

The Cascade Road.

GENUINE LIBERALITY.---Captain Lafayette Balch, the enterprising proprietor of Steilacoom, has contributed one hundred dollars in money towards the road to Walla-Walla. To each and every man who started from that neighborhood to work on the road, Capt. Balch gives a lot in the town of Steilacoom. He is security to the United States Government for a number of mules, pack saddles, and other articles needed by the men. He furnished the outfit for the company who started from that place with Mr. E. J. Allen, at just what the articles cost in San Francisco. We also learn that Capt. B. proposes to contribute more money, provided the cost of completing the road should exceed the amount raised for the purpose. Capt. B. liberality is worthy of commendation, for which we hope the future may bring him in return a golden harvest; and in all matters of public enterprise that may offer hereafter, we would suggest to those who have the wherewith, that it may be to their advantage to imitate the capital example set them by Captain Balch.

August 6, 1853, Page 2, column 2.
The Columbian

The Cascade Road---Cheering News.

We learn from a gentleman who has just come in from the White river region, that he met the party under the direction of E. J. Allen on Friday, 29th utl. They were all in fine spirits and felt confident that the road would be opened by the last part of this month, if not sooner. He spoke of the White river country as being a choice portion of our Territory, and commends in the highest terms its beauty and fertility. We venture the opinion that ere long an enterprising and intelligent population will make there a delightful scene of substantial thrift and most rapturous loveliness.

From a note from Mr. Allen to A. W. Moore we have been permitted to glean that "the party are getting along well, have cleared out the old cut road for about six miles, have viewed out a road to escape the three worst hills on the whole route, which being heavily timbered, has been fired and will be opened on the return. The party consists of eighteen good men, and all are getting along finely. I have heard from Mr. Kirtley, he is going it like fire; and from Capt. McClellan, across the mountains. The Indians say he is coming through on this route."

We must conclude that the road will, without doubt, be soon completed, and as those engaged in doing the work have called for funds, it is hoped that those of our citizens who have subscribed, will lose no time in paying over to some member of the committee. We are assured that the friends of the road will require no further invitation. Think only for a moment of the benefits you can confer upon the immigration and the Territory, and the sure enhancement of the value of your property, and then -- "call at the Captain's office and settle."

August 6, 1853, Page 2, column 2.
The Columbian

Oregon Alarmed.---False Reports.---A gentleman just from Oregon tells us the people of that Territory are both frightened and enraged at the certainty of an immigrant road being opened to the Sound from Walla-walla. We presume he means the piratical speculators, the voracious sharks that play about Portland and the Dalles.---They have sent out reports to the immigrants saying that merely the eastern entrance to the Sound has been opened, and that our plan is to get them started in this direction and then make them cut their way through. What a burlesque! How false, utterly false.

August 13, 1853, Page 2
The Columbian

The Cascade Road---The Immigration---Washington Ahead---Oregon in Despair.

We have satisfying intelligence to communicate, that our road party working eastwardly are succeeding beyond all expectation. A note from Mr. E. J. Allen to A. W. Moore, Esq. dated August 7th, "Away up White River," says: "We are going [to] it like fire, making good time---doing much better than I expected." We gather from the note that up to the date thereof, the one party had opened TWENTY-SIX MILES of road. This is admirable, and will, we thin, be crowned with complete success. Nothing has been heard of Mr. Kirtley, but we hope that his progress westwardly has been at such a rate s will enable both parties to meet somewhere near the centre of the work next week, and announce to each other the entire completion thereof." This will of course be the result, as the entire route was previously viewed with great exactness, from one extremity to the other, by the very men now superintending the construction of the road. Prepare then, say we, prepare ye men of Washington to throw up your hats and huzzah most lustily! We are triumphing o're the tyranny and envy of an elder sister, from whose eager clutches we have recently been delivered and whose greedy jealousy follows and pursues us e'en unto the very goal of our success. This disposition she manifests under cover of a pretended suavity. A heavy heart and bitter spirit are encased within the form that bows with such obsequiousness, whilst we leave her in the distance and move onward and upward in our course.

Here, where nature has done her utmost wonders, in praise of which all unprejudiced men are everywhere shouting aloud, and where destiny has evidently determined that the Queen of Empire on the Pacific shall be enthroned, our every effort in the cause of advancement is victorious to our heart's content. Our lot being cast in such a land, and in the midst of such an auspicious state of things, is cause for mutual and general congratulation and rejoicing,

Fortune favors us, and our star is in the ascendant.---Ere the ides of October, the advance portion of the great column of immigration will be resting from their toilsome pilgrimage on the hospitable shores of Puget sound, where delicious and healthful breezes fanning across the broad bosom of Old Ocean, will give sweet restoration to their exhausted frames.

The immense mass of the human cloud will then be rolling itself into the comfortable quarters prepared for them along the highways and by-ways, and in all the inhabited nooks and corners in the Territory. Of course we shall all be well prepared to receive them with sincere encouragement into comfortable homes, and to furnish through the winter and spring an abundant subsistence of wholesome provisions for men, women, children, and stock.

We hope the advice we gave two months ago, to prepare for the immigration has been adopted.---Worse than criminal will be those, if any, who have neglected so important a matter. Open your hearts, your houses, your larders, your granaries, your barns, and your broad pastures.

The immigrants will pay you with money and labor, and their hearts will leap within them to express their deep sense of true gratitude. This is and will be

our true picture, from which we for a moment glance aside ere concluding, to give our readers the benefit of a glimpse at what is going on in Oregon.

Whilst we are now more confident than ever, the people of Oregon are in utter despondency. Their efforts are all fruitless, and then plans only to be laughed at. Many of them thought the humbug hue and cry about "gold on the Santiam" would induce us all to abandon our homes and rush towards Salem. But no: the men of Washington are made of sterner stuff.

Next comes the information that they have sent a report abroad upon the plains, saying that "merely the eastern entrance on the route to the sound has been opened, and that our plan is to get the immigration started in this direction, and then make them cut their way through."

This invention is too ridiculous to be regarded in any other light than a piece of silly sport. We place it on the same shelf with those old yarns about sandy deserts, mud mountains, &c., &c., and give the following from the Salem "Statesman" of the 26th ult., which will show plainly the defeat of all their hopes for the present year.

No Go. We announced last week on the authority of a citizen of one of the counties above, that the new immigrant road was open. It seems he was mistaken and the announcement premature. Mr. Garrison, Indian Agent, returned with his party a few days since, being unable to get through. They penetrated the summit of the Cascades, finding snow in some places ten or fifteen feet deep. Mr. G. thinks a road may be constructed there, but not in time for the immigration of this season. He reports that the party which started out to pilot in immigrants failed to get through.

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The Columbian

The Cascade Road Again

Mr. Kirtley and party have ended their task and returned to Olympia. We are informed by some of them that they opened the road from the eastern extremity to the summit of the mountains, and that Mr. Nelson Sargent has gone forward to meet the immigration and conduct them in.

Mr. Allen's party will soon have their work completed from the western extremity to the same summit. Mr. A.W. Moore will go upon the road in a few days with a party of men to give the finishing touch to the whole job.

August 27, 1853, Page 2, Column 3
The Columbian

We have nothing further from the Cascade road. Mr. Moore has gone out and we shall probably hear from him before issuing our next paper. We expect soon to hear something of Capt. McCLELLAN'S progress.

September 10, 1853, Page 2, Column 2

The Columbian

LIEUT. H. C. HODGES, who has been at Fort Steilacoom for the last few days collecting provisions, &c., for the surveying party under Capt. G. B. McCLELLAN, left on the morning of the 6th inst. on his return to the mountains. He reports that Capt. McCLELLAN was pushing his reconnaissance in a northerly direction on the east of the Cascade range, and would most probably find a favorable pass through the mountains between the headwaters of the main Yakima on the east and those of the Snoqualamy on the west side of Mt. Rainier.

Lieut. H., in coming from Capt. McCLELLAN'S camp to the Sound, followed principally the new immigrant road recently opened by the united efforts of our citizens. He thinks it now practicable for ox teams, though of course susceptible of much improvement. He has been authorized to offer equivalent to three hundred dollars to any one who, within two months, will successfully pioneer a train of ten wagons across the mountains.

We are gratified to learn that Major LARNED, commanding Fort Steilacoom, holds himself in readiness to render every suitable assistance from his post, the moment the immigrants should require it. No news as yet from GOV. STEVENS.

September 24, 1853, Page 2

The Columbian

The Cascade Road

By Mr. E. J. Allen who came in a few days since, we have advices from our Washington Territory road across the Cascade Mountains. We can only give a brief account in this number, but by next week we hope to be able to lay before our readers, a full description of the entire route from the pen of a gentleman who has worked hard and faithfully on the road, and can speak from actual observation.

The road is finished from the Umatilla to within 15 miles of Nisqually Plains, and in all probability will be entirely thro' to Puget Sound within the next two weeks. The road is a good one, crosses but few hills, and has plenty of water and grass all along it. There is good grazing on the eastern of the Cascade range, and on the very summit there are thousands of acres of rich green grass – the very place where none would be expected---and there is no laurel or other

poisonous shrub, to injure stock---It is about three days travel from the summit of the Mountains to White River prairies, a magnificent spot, covered with luxuriant grass and well watered. The road follows an old Indian trail which has been travelled by them for years The greatest elevation of the road is about 5000 feet, and will be free from snow until late in the season.

Lieut. Hodges, from Capt. McClellan's party, passed over the road and highly approved of it.

Mr. Moore has gone on to the Umatilla to await the arrival of Gov. Stevens, and pilot him through the new route.

An Indian reported Mr. Sargent to be on the way through with a train of sixty wagons. We hope this may prove true.

The White river country is represented to be the garden of the territory, and some of the men at work on the road, have taken claims there. It is capable of settlement to the base of the mountains.

All praise is due to those men who have so faithfully adhered to, and labored so earnestly for, the accomplishment of this great public work. They have overcome all obstacles, and worked the road through. It is now the duty of the citizens of the territory, to reward these men liberally. The road is, as we said before, a great public work -- is of great value and importance to the whole territory -- and each and every section of the country will be benefited by it. It is only just, therefore, that every one should contribute towards defraying its cost. Remember, "the laborer is worthy of his hire."

Mr. Allen has lost his house and some \$2000 worth of timber by fire, while out on this road, hard at work.

The following are the names of those now at work on the road; A. C. Berge, Thomas Dixon, Ephriam Allyn, Jas. Henry Allyn, George Githers, John Walker, John H. Mills, R. S. Moore, R. Forman, Ed. Crofts, Jas. Boise, Robert Patterson, Edward Miller, Edward P. Wallace, Lewis Wallace, Jas R. Smith, John Barrow, Jas. Meeks.

October 1, 1853, Page 2, Column 1.

The Columbian

In reply to the above question we would say that the road to Walla Walla is complete from that point to within a few miles of PUGET SOUND, and will be finished entirely through in a few days. As to the description of country through which it passes, we would refer "Anxious Inquirers" to our last week's issue, and to the communication of MR. ALLEN in to-day's paper.---This gentleman has been engaged upon this road for a length of time---is thoroughly acquainted with it from actual observation---and is a gentleman whose statements may be relied upon. His testimony is corroborated by all that have been upon the road, and we can safely assert that our PEOPLE'S ROAD across the Cascade mountains is as

good, if not far better, than any other over said range. There is now luxuriant green grass all along the road---on the tops of the mountains and down in the valleys---no laurel or poisonous plants---abundance of water---and from the base of the mountains on this side to PUGET SOUND, the road passes through sections of some as fine agricultural country as the territory can boast. A train of sixty wagons are now on the way through the new route, and as for camping places, an immigrant can hardly go amiss.

October 1, 1853, Page 2.
The Columbian

THE PEOPLE'S ROAD

Arrival of the first Immigrant

SEVENTY WAGONS COMING

Discovery of Gold mines

&c. &c. &c.

Mr. Aikin [This would be either John or Glen Aiken], the first immigrant by the PEOPLE'S ROAD, reached this place on Monday last, via Steilacoom. He left his train of 35 wagons on the Wenas river under the charge of Mr. N. Sargent, and came into procure flour---his party being nearly, if not entirely without. Mr. Allen at once dispatched 300 lbs. from the camp of the workmen on the road, near Puyallup river. By this commendable promptness on the part of Mr. A., the train will be enabled to hold out until the ample supplies sent out from this place reaches them. So soon as it was known in this place that the immigrants were short of provisions, Col. Simmons, and others, took active measures to send out relief, and Mr. Aikin was enabled to leave for his train the next morning with 1000 lbs. of flour, onions, etc. The following persons accompanied him from this place to render assistance, viz: B. Gordon, T. Bush, J. Kindred, M. Jones. On the day previous, O. Cushman and W. Sargent left this place to meet the immigration and lend their assistance in getting through.

Mr. Aikin reports sixty or seventy wagons as certainly coming the new route, and having crossed the Columbia river for that purpose. They are determined to come in through the new road at all hazards, rather than follow the old one into Oregon.

Gold has been discovered near the road, by Capt. McClellan's party. Also copper and brimstone, both in large quantities,---Full particulars will be found in the annexed letters from our attentive correspondent, Mr. Allen.

STEILACOOM, Sept. 26th, 1853.

FRIEND SMITH;

This will be handed to you by Mr. Aiken, the first emigrant who has crossed upon the "Puget Sound Emigrant Road." He left a train of 35 wagons upon the Wenas River, and reports 60 in all as having crossed the Columbia.

Some of them are out of flour, and he brings in a letter addressed to M. T. Simmons, praying the Washingtonians to send out relief to them. I have sent out from our camp on the Puyallup 300 lbs. flour, and have come to Steilacoom to pack out more for our own use---The train is under the guidance of Nelson Sargent.

Capt. McClellan's company discovered gold upon the Yenass. Some of his men told Mr. Moore that with a "long tom" they could wash out \$4 per day.

CAPT. McCLELLAN REPORTS NO PASS BETWEEN OUR ROUTE AND VANCOUVER THAT IS PRACTICABLE FOR A WAGON ROAD, and has in part accepted our work, subject to the approval of Gov. Stevens.

There has been as yet no snow upon the mountain, and will not be probably for some time. There is only about ten miles of the whole route upon which snow lays to any depth even in mid-winter.

The first opening of the road through our heavy fir timber, however great the amount of labor expended, must necessarily leave it a rough road; but this year's travel, and the work which next year will be given to it as a military road, will probably make it the best road of its length in the two territories.

We will b through this week, having completed the western portion of the road. I leave to-day with pack animals, and will be at the camp on Puyallup to-night.

Yours,
EDWARD J. ALLEN.

PUGET SOUND EMIGRANT ROAD,
September 5th, 1853.

FRIEND McELROY;

You will by this time have almost forgotten my promise to write you a line occasionally, telling you of our progress upon the road. I have managed now and then to have you learn our where-about, but have never written directly, for this obvious reason; knowing that our party have been detained upon the road much longer than was anticipated, in consequence of having to cut farther than was expected, I was fearful that we would not be through in season, and so refrained from writing lest I should say more than after events would justify. From where I write this morning, the shadow from the mountain side falls upon my paper, and as the terminus of our work lies some few miles from its base, I feel confident that this end of our route will be completely finished. We will probably turn back to White river within a week. Before crossing White river for the last time, we have some three miles of road to finish, in which we put fire as we came out. This will bring us out upon Tanalquot prairie, and from there we strike the old cut road leading out towards "Muck."

I am much better satisfied with the route than when I started, though as you may recollect I was not a little sanguine then. It will make an excellent road, and all who travel over it speak highly of it. I had the pleasure a week or so ago to see Lieutenant Hodges, who has gone in to Steilacoom to pack out provisions for Capt. McClellan, who is now camped near the Yakima. The lieutenant speaks in the highest terms of our road, and of its superiority over all other passes yet seen by them. We have but one really bad hill, down the mountain side, which is with our limited time and means for improving, without doubt a bad place, but can be made with but little outlay very good. It is not, however, to be compared with "Laurel Hill" upon the other route, and it rests upon its own merits alone, as it has not like Laurel Hill, infinitude of others to back it. I only regret that we cannot remain long enough to make it as complete as we would wish, and so made the whole road so excellent, that the idea of crossing the Cascade range would be no longer as heretofore a bug bear, and a terror to the toil worn emigrant. The grass also is much better than was anticipated. The prairies upon the summit are now waving with luxuriant growth of grass, amid which I have noticed timothy and clover. There is no laurel upon the whole route, neither (as far as I can ascertain) any poisonous plant to injure cattle, and this, to those who have crossed the southern Cascade road and have lost animals thereby, will be an item of no small importance. On the whole, the people of Washington Territory will have reason to be proud of their "people's road."

By some error the list of men working upon the road was mislaid before reaching you. I copy it again for you the more readily now, because of their unwavering perseverance in adhering to the road despite of all discouragements and disappointments, coming out as they did with the view of remaining one month, and the prospect now looming out large of consuming two.

(The names we gave last week.)

The greater part of these have taken claims upon the White river prairies, where I have seen the most desirable farming lands probably in Washington Territory, combining good soil with a reasonable vicinity to good markets upon the Sound. The greater portion of the men working upon the road depend upon their labor for their subsistence, and have now the prospect before them of the rainy season coming in, and no provision made by them for winter. It is not asking too much of our citizens, to request through your paper that those who delayed giving before, because doubtful that the road would be completed, now to give liberally to enable the men who have worked upon the road so faithfully, to receive at least a small portion of their wages immediately, so that they may be able to await Legislative or other action for the forthcoming of the balance.

To-morrow Mr. Moore sets out for Walla Walla, to endeavor, if not too late to turn the emigration, to bring in the first train which has ever entered Washington Territory by the People's Road. I should be but little surprised if Governor Stevens made his "entree" by the new route. Mr. Winthrop passed some ten days ago on his way to the States via Salt Lake.

I have some curious specimens to show you upon my return: some copper ore, pure brimstone, and something *almost* coal---the two former in large quantities---the latter with considerable "klonass" attached to it.

I have a doubtful way of sending these few lines to you, but hope they will come safely to hand, and so remain

Yours Respectfully
EDWARD J. ALLEN.

October 8, 1853 Page 2, Column 1
The Columbian

Great Mass Meeting.

The citizens of Washington territory are requested to meet in Olympia, en mass, on SATURDAY, October 15th, 1853, to celebrate the arrival of the FIRST immigrant train over the People's road. Keep the ball in motion, and let every one come and join in giving them such a welcome as only Washington Territory can give.

October 8, 1853 Page 2, Column 1
The Columbian

THE PEOPLE'S ROAD.---The "Cascade Road Committee" desire all those who subscribed to this road to come forward with the amount of their subscriptions, at an early day as possible, so that the committee may be enabled to make a final report to the mass meeting, to be held in Olympia on the 15th inst.

Those who have not heretofore subscribed anything, ought now to do so. The road is now a reality -- A FIXED FACT---THIRTY FIVE WAGONS HAVE PASSED OVER IT---and you are as much benefited by it as anyone else, and now is the time to reward the untiring perseverance and industry of those men who have accomplished the GREAT WORK.

October 8, 1853 Page 3, Column 1
The Columbian

Tribute to Edward J. Allen, Esq.

It is with unfeigned pleasure that we give place to the following card handed us by the men who were engaged upon the western extremity of the Cascade Road, and the compliment paid Mr. Allen is no less sincere than deserved.

Steilacom, October 3rd, 1853.

We the undersigned laborers on the western extremity of the WASHINGTON TERRITORY EMIGRANT ROAD, hereby tender to Capt. E. J. Allen our most sincere thanks for his gentlemanly conduct, manly exertions for our comfort, and perseverance in the prosecution and completion of an enterprise which must ever reflect credit upon its projectors---among whom, we are happy to say that Mr. Allen has not a little distinguished himself by his zeal, energy and unremitting efforts, under circumstances very discouraging attending so long a trip, and the difficulty of sustaining friendly feelings and unity among men that had no provision made for the winter, and consuming more time than was expected when they went out.

E. S. Moore,
Jesse Boyes,
James H. Allyn,
John H. Mills,
Robert Pattison,
Ephriam Allerd,
Edward P. Wallace,
Edward Miller,
Lewis K. Wallace
Robert Forn,
Edward Crafts
James Mix,
Thomas Dixon
John Walker,
Joseph R. Smith.

The following are the names of those now at work on the road did not sign the card; A. C. Berge, Jas. Henry Allyn, George Githers, John Walker, R. S. Moore, John Barrow, Jas. Meeks.

October 15, 1853 Page 2, Column 1
The Columbian

LIBERALITY. — Mr. JOHN M. CHAPMAN, proprietor of Steilacoom city, has given a town lot to each of the men who worked on the western section of the "Washington Territory Emigrant Road."

October 15, 1853 Page 2, Column 1
The Columbian

The Great Mass Meeting

This meeting will convene at 1 o'clock P. M. this day, Saturday, in the hall over the store of Parker, Colier & Co.

October 15, 1853 Page 2, Column 2

The Columbian

Arrival of Immigrants

Our attentive friend, Capt. E. J. ALLEN informs us that eleven wagons have reached the shores of Puget Sound over the Washington Territory Emigrant road. The following are the names of the immigrants so far as learned John W Lane and wife, Samuel Ray, W. Ray, Henry Mitchell, H. Rockenfield, James Barr, J. A. Sperry, J. Longmire, wife and five children, William Clafland, Evan Watts, E.A. Light, wife and child, J. J. Ragan, William Kincaid, wife and six children, William McCreary, Isaac Woolery, wife and three children, Peter Judson, wife and two children, G. Miller and John Neson---total 46.

The immigrants bring 62 head of working cattle, 20 cows, and 7 American mares – all in very good order after so long a journey. The immigrants are well pleased at their safe arrival and represent the road as much better than they expected to find it.

We are happy to learn that the supplies forwarded to their relief, reached them in time to prevent suffering. The 300 pounds of flour dispatched by Mr. Allen reached the train just as the last pound they had was being cooked. They are deeply impressed with the liberality displayed toward them by the citizens of the territory, and are grateful therefore.

October 22, 1853, Page 2, Column 3

The Columbian

THE IMMIGRATION.---The streets [of Steilacoom] yesterday were well filled with Immigrant wagons and stock. The Immigration seems to be in good condition. The people are in good health and the stock looks well considering its long journey.---*Ibid.*

October 22, 1853, Page 2, Column 3

The Columbian

A CARD.

The undersigned arrived at Steilacoom yesterday, from a long and tedious journey across the "plains." By the citizens of that place, one and all, they have been hospitably received and kindly entertained, and in the public manner they beg to return their grateful acknowledgments and thanks.

Signed---John B. Moyer, William M. Kincaid, William Claflin, Isaac Woolery, Evan Watts, James Longmire, E. A. Light, A. Gotzan, Henry Mitchell, William Ray, Aaron Rockenfield, Samuel Ray, James Barr, John W. Lane, John Neson, Norman Kilborn.

October 22, 1853, Page 2, Column 3
The Columbian

MR. EDITOR:---The people of Steilacoom had the great pleasure yesterday, of receiving and entertaining, a party of immigrants just arrived by the new road opened by Capt. Allen and party. They are all in good health, and have a respectable amount of stock, in good condition. They are somewhat disappointed in the quality of the greater portion of the soil, but at the same time determined to become permanent settlers and contented men.

I venture to predict that there is not a man of the party who will say in two years from this time, (whatever may be his disappointment now,) that he experiences any serious regrets at the step he has taken, or that he would change his new condition in Washington Territory, for the one that he formerly occupied in the western states.

October 22, 1853 Page 2, Column 1
The Columbian

We see that Mr. Nelson Sarjent has reached home again. He went out as far as Burnt river to meet his father and family, who were on the way to the territory. To Mr. N. S. belongs the honor of having piloted the pioneer train of wagons over the new route.

November 19, 1853, Page 2, Column 1
The Columbian

A party of immigrants reached Steilacoom City a few days since, having come through the new route. Owing to the lateness of the season, they were caught in the snow before getting out of the mountains and suffered severely. Fortunately assistance sent out from Fort Steilacoom reached them in time to prevent actual starvation.

November 12, 1853, Page 2, Column 1

The Columbian

We believe the State's papers are republishing from the COLUMBIAN, the proceedings of the public meetings held by our citizens to adopt measures for opening the WASHINGTON TERRITORY EMIGRANT ROAD. They will no doubt give equally as extensive circulation to the news of the safe arrival of the pioneer train of wagons over said road, and we may safely calculate upon a very large influx of population next season. let them come; there's room enough for all.

November, 1853, Page

The Columbian

We are pleased to learn that the principal part, if not all of the immigration by the "Washington Territory Emigrant Road," have either taken claims, or obtained employment at good wages; and it will be no less a gratification for their friends in the States to know of their comfortable arrangements for the winter, than a matter of pride to us that this pioneer immigration to the territory direct have fared so well. They have abundant reason to be thankful.