

J. Mc Bride
1870

St Helens, Oreg.
Feb 3d 1870.

Genl

Joel Palmer

Dear Sir.

It was with some surprise that I heard you had gone into, what is usually called, the Astoria R.R. enterprise. Supposing from your genl knowledge of the Geography, & Topography, of our State, that you had taken a very wild & improper step for the real good of the State. And being confident that you were patriotic, I knew that you must be deceived in your estimate of the different points for a Commercial City, & home market for the State.

But being informed by
Mr Giltner, who saw you
at Portland, that you had
not, heretofore, any knowledge
of "Columbia City" on this river,
the eligibility & beauty of the
city site, the depth and width
of the water, the ease with
which it can be approached
by R.R., and every other way,
&c &c, but that you had recently
become somewhat posted on
these matters, I take the liberty
of writing you hastily.

We ask you to come down
and see this acornlike river,
our city site, and its great
advantages.

Portland is so envious
at our place, that no pains
are spared to keep the facts
from being known. and
now, the property holders

are doing all in their power,
for the Astoria R R as
against this place.

And now, if Judge W
can prevent it, as I suppose
he can, we shall get no
grant of land; while Asto-
ria is almost sure of a
grant by his efforts. And
altho, he is positively instructed
by a memorial in our favor,
by the State legislature, yet,
he will not here. This is
my opinion of the Hon Judge,
and we shall see, what we
shall see.

Knowing the extreme
envy & Jealousy of Portland, I
did not apply to any of their
papers, through which ^{to} set the
facts of the eligibility ^{of the city site} and
advantages of this, as a location
before the people; but I

did apply to S A Clark
of Salem. He promptly
refused; stating that it
would give too much offe-
nse to Portland.

Then, supposing the "Pacific
Blade" being a west side
paper, and ours being a west
side measure - though not
opposing the east side, but
the editor refused to publish
my essays. Altho, I offered
no other place on the globe,
but simply pointed out
some facts, in the advocacy
over over.

It's hard that even the
editors, on the west side will
not allow the ^{natural} resources, the
most of our part of the state
to be published. I had been
of opinion that it was the
intent and business of a news
paper in a new & undeveloped
country, to give to the public
all possible information of
commercial sites, improvements,
& the various local advantages.

please write me when

I have gone in person and
viewed every locality within
the limits of our State, that
seemed to have any merits,
as a commercial point, where
we could have ocean steam
navigation, and I give my
preference to this, as so far
superior, that there is no
comparisson at all.

And but for this conviction,
I should not have been
here. Many in Portland say
that if we get a R.R. here, that
the property in P. will be worth
comparitively nothing, and
that it would soon become
populous with ovels & hats.

They say that this would so
over shadow it, it would be
no longer a commercial City.
Ocean Steamers can come here,
with perfect ease & safety;

The true policy of the state
is, to select the most suitable
place for a commercial city
for the state, and concentrate
all the R.R.s in that direction.
This would give us some
50, or ~~100,000~~ one hundred
thousand inhabitants in it
within the course of time,
and then the state would
have a home market for
every thing produced, and
also a foreign commerce.
Then we could get full price
for our produce; now we
send it out of our state, &
get about half its real
value. Californians get
just about double what
we do. Portland never
can become a com. city; Astoria
never can become a com.
city. Nature has marked out
this place, and in my opinion
it is the only ^{place} in this state and
instead of aiding other states and
territories, we should help ourselves
to a com city, and a home market.
Yours truly
Geo. Palmer. { Jas. McNeill