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Opening of the Cascade Locks / Morning Oregonian

Stock#: 32051
Map Maker: Portland Oregonian / Routledge
Date: 1896
Place: Portland, Oregon
Color: Color
Condition: VG-
Size: 15.5 x 21 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare color full page illustration (front and back) celebrating the opening of the Cascade Locks on the Columbia River, in Oregon.

During the 1850s and 1860s, entrepreneurs had developed a rail portage on the river (which was necessary to circumvent the Cascade Rapids), which became part of a transportation monopoly owned by the Oregon Steam Navigation Company (OSN). OSN controlled the portages at the Cascades and between The Dalles and Celilo Falls, as well as all steamboats on the river.

The US Congress authorized a project to build a canal and locks at the Cascade Rapids in 1876. The charge was to support "open-river" navigation on the Columbia between Portland and the agricultural lands of eastern Oregon and Washington. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began work on the project in 1878; but difficult working conditions, changing engineering plans, and erratic congressional appropriations delayed opening the canal and locks until November 1896.

Detailed Condition:

Upper left corner detached. Several repaired tears and abrasions, which have been repaired on the back side of the image (just below The City of Dalles)