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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND

IS THE ADMINISTRATION DOING ITS BEST FOR THE TAXPAYERS?

THE PRACTICAL MEN of affairs who head and control the city administration justify their defiance of law in permitting open gambling by the statement that the city needs the money derived from the partnership and that open gambling causes money to be freely spent, greatly to the benefit of those engaged in business.

Nevertheless and notwithstanding, it proposes to draw the line somewhere, to-wit: against the outside sport. It proposes to limit the business exclusively to the fortunate combinations now engaged in it and if necessary will use the whole force of the police department to carry out its edicts.

Now, accepting for the moment, this comfortable doctrine, is the administration doing the very best it can for the people? Let us admit, with the administration, that our sole purpose is to get what we can out of our resources, that we will throw moral questions to the dogs and go to building bridges with the money which we raise through ways hitherto considered devious and plainly in violation of the laws as they exist.

These are the expressions of one who, having left a good locality, perceives its good features magnified. But his statements, if colored and somewhat overblown, rest on substantial facts, and are in large measure true. The Clearwater valley, of which Lewiston is the central point, is one of splendid resources and magnificent possibilities. It should have, in the not far distant future, a population 10 times, even 20 times, that now inhabits that region.

But as to its transportation advantages, the enthusiast quoted is not clear or correct. Its products can be brought out by boats during a portion of the year, but if so they are bottled up on the upper Columbia river and have to be hauled down by rail at a monopoly railroad's rates. And while these rates have been much reduced during late years, they are yet twice what they would be if the river were opened above The Dalles.

On the other hand, they have the Northern Pacific railroad, by which products can be hauled out or merchandise in over an exceedingly tortuous course and heavy grades, and finally lifted half a mile to get over the Cascades, when the O. R. & N. could build an extension that would make a water-level road through to tidewater at Portland.

Even this road would soon double and treble the population and products of the Clearwater valley, but the O. R. & N. has so far refused to build it because that region, in defiance to all natural and commercial laws, is considered Northern Pacific territory.

But what is needed far more than the building of this extension, which nobody can force Mr. Harriman to do, is the opening of the Columbia. It is for this that the people of Idaho, as well as of Portland, and of all eastern Oregon and eastern Washington, should pull incessantly, and with all their might. If there is any possible means to make the government move in this matter, they ought to be used, diligently and persistently.

The Clearwater valley may not be quite as perfect a duplication of paradise as this man portrays it; there are regions as good in Oregon; but it is a country of great and varied resources; it is directly tributary, naturally, to Portland, and it is fairly shameful to see it lie thus half barred out from the world, while the government and the railroads are apparently alike indifferent to its situation, and the results of giving it an outlet.

A HANDICAPPED REGION.

FORMER Lewiston, Ida., man, who has lived elsewhere for awhile and is going to return, writes to the Lewiston Tribune as follows:

To my mind, the Lewiston valley is the inevitable providential Garden of Eden; the future heaven on earth, where the land is to flow with milk and honey. This is not merely a homesick idea, but is formed from a careful analysis of the Lewiston and Clearwater country in full; that is, it has an unequalled variety of resources—agricultural, horticultural, mineral, timber and livestock, with water in quantity, quality and distribution, and not only a possibility, but a probability, of an abundance of oil.

Further, the country has local marketing facilities, and then there is the open river and the inevitable greater railroad facilities.

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NO MONEY QUESTION NOW.

EVEN a universal affirmation of the gold standard would in no wise destroy or upset the quantitative theory of money. The gold standard may be safe and best now but this does not prove that it would have been safe or best, or even long possible, if the world's gold had decreased, or if it had not greatly increased. Admitting that under existing circumstances the free silver question, as discussed in 1896, is entirely out of sight, yet the demand for a gold standard, under all circumstances, and entirely regardless of the quantity of that material for use as money, is absurd. It is a sort of fetish worship.

The reasonable and right declaration, extended to make it complete, is that the gold standard should be maintained, as long as thereby a sufficient volume of money can be maintained. That volume appears to be fairly sufficient now, and the prospect is that it will continue to be so for an indefinite time to come. But such was not the prospect, nor the fact, from 1893 to 1894. Not only was the amount of gold standard money in existence insufficient, but as a consequence of that fact a great portion of what was in existence was in hiding, being hoarded, and the consequence was an enormous and in millions of cases, a ruinous depreciation of property.

There is no money standard question now. There may not be again in a decade, or a generation, or a century. On the other hand there may be. Declaring for the gold standard now, henceforth and forever can do no harm; it is like a legislature passing a law including a declaration that it cannot be repealed or amended by any subsequent legislature. The money question will be attended to, or declared about, from time to time, as occasion may arise. There is no need to worry about the declaration in favor of the gold standard now, nor about the future position of parties on this subject. The future will take care of itself.

CLOUDBURSTS AND DROUTH.

AS WAS REMARKED awhile back, this is a freaky year meteorologically. While western Oregon is experiencing an unprecedented drouth for this time of year, eastern Oregon is being subjected to an almost continuous series of cloudbursts, occurring in several counties, and causing considerable damage in the aggregate, yet a very small comparative loss of crops or other property. The flood that overtook the little town of Mitchell was the worst in results; Heppner, that naturally was apprehensive, fortunately escaping with slight damage.

It is to be presumed that these abnormal conditions will change soon, but even if they continue for a while we can look at reports from other states and be thankful nevertheless that we live in Oregon instead of in one of them.

Small Change

Some people need a septic tank. Now will we have a continuous batch of Escopus babies?

When Parker did say something, it was interesting anyway. If Parker is elected, it will be Parker, not Hill, who will be president.

The show at St. Louis would not be complete without an occasional cyclone. The confetti nuisance will be abated some time; none too soon for most people.

If the Prohibition Swallow could fly, he might beat the others who are running. Behold the effect of example; see how President Roosevelt is keeping lately.

Uncle Grover can now enjoy his fishing, without worrying about the Democratic party.

"Parker and Prudence vs. Roosevelt and Recklessness," is the Buffalo Times' big news head.

Probably an ordinance limiting the speed of automobiles would not be much observed.

Bussell says in a Republican, but Chairman Cortelyou won't get a subscription out of him.

The rain and the shine will never be distributed, through any one year, exactly to suit anybody.

A Massachusetts prophet predicted the end of the world today or tomorrow, but nobody is worrying about it.

The Albany Democrat man was brought up only 20 miles from Judge Parker's residence, and thinks the candidate is all right.

Unless Judge Parker speaks up negatively, that notification committee will assume that silence gives consent, and make him a visit.

Ambassador Choate thinks the Fourth of July is largely a British institution. But that may be because he has become largely British himself.

The little squad of middle-of-the-road Populists are not likely to attract to them enough Bryan Democrats to change any state's vote.

Maybe Parker would rather be right according to his judgment than president. But he also would rather have a chance as a nominee than no chance.

If it takes Uncle Sam two years or more to build a little addition to a post-office building, how long would it take him to build a whole new, big building?

Packing house employees to the number of 40,000 are on a strike, but this is not likely to diminish the wide difference between the price on the hoof and in the pantry.

D. B. Hill says that nature has solved the money question. But the Republicans claim that nature when prolific and conducive to prosperity is an exclusively Republican asset.

The new vice-president of Mexico, who will be de facto president, is named Corral, and he expects to be able to hold fast all the political bronchos and steers of that country.

A Chicago man claims that he can make the head of a pin where the feet go, and vice versa. It might be well if he were feet at both ends, but the rest of humanity see no reason for a change.

The Mexicans don't make much fuss over electing a president. Diaz was recently re-elected unanimously, and as a matter of course. But when Diaz is destroyed, the Mexicans are going to do something in politics in Mexico.

Now that the smoke of battle has rolled away, as our esteemed country contemporary always says, the prospect begins to show up in favor of Parker giving Roosevelt a run for his money in several eastern states.

Poor Kansas City—Kan. and Mo.—every year lately, and sometimes two or three times a year, are flooded, and in them and a large region of tributary country great amounts of property are destroyed. The farmers along the Kaw and other streams in that region must be pretty thoroughly discouraged. They should come to Oregon.

WEEDS STOPPED TRAIN.

Edmore, Ia., Special in New York World. The Great Western railroad had the unique experience of having their fast passenger train stopped by heavy weeds on the track last night, and as a consequence the mail was delayed and passengers on the train bound for Cedar Falls failed to connect with the Chicago express for the east. A flourishing crop of weeds of all sizes so hindered the progress of the train that trainmen and passengers had to get out to cut a way through the dense mass of vegetation which had been growing so thickly for the heavy rains of the morning.

Forty passengers were hopping mad, and gave vent to their wrath by nervously counting ties while the undergrowth was being removed.

Everyday the engine smoothly till the engine suddenly gave a big jump and struck the first batch of the wet weeds, which completely hid all of the rails from view for quite a distance. The rails seemed as though greased, and the big drivers slid like a toboggan. Sounding the rails was useless. People at Hudson knew nothing of the growth of the weeds, and fearing that something terrible had happened to the train a crowd of citizens of the little town walked to the place where the train was cutting its way through.

TRANSMISSION OF POWER.

From the Haines Record. The work of transmitting power from the Rook Creek Power & Townsite company's plant to Baker City was inaugurated on Monday last. This fact marks the beginning of a new era in the commercial and domestic affairs of this section of Oregon. That electricity is destined to completely revolutionize the power and light supplying methods of the world is no longer a matter of doubt. What it may do remains for the scientific student of the future to reveal. This grand and modern enterprise, of which eastern Oregon is justly proud, is located but seven miles from the town of Haines and is destined to be of great benefit to the town, not only as a convenience in the way of supplying light and power for domestic and manufacturing purposes, but as a means also of bringing the town of Haines more prominently to the front, from which advantage much good will be sustained.



July 13.—We proceeded at sunrise with a fair wind from the south, and at two miles passed the mouth of a small river on the north called Big Tar. The channel from the mouth of the Missouri once ran into this river and formed an island called St. Joseph's; but the channel is now filled up and an island is added to the northern shore. Farther on to the south is situated an extensive plain covered with grass resembling timothy in its general appearance, except the seed which is like flaxseed, and also a number of grape vines. At 13 miles we passed an island on the north, above which is a large sand bar covered with willows; and at 20 1/2 miles stopped on a large sand bar in the middle of the river opposite a high handsome prairie which extends to the hills four or five miles distant, though near the bank the land is low and subject to be overflowed. This day was exceedingly pleasant, a storm of wind and rain from the N. E. E. last night, having cooled the air.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Why They Wanted a Change. Montavilla, Or., July 11.—To the Editor of the Journal—Believing it to be not always the proper thing to do to air one's troubles in the newspapers, or undesirable conditions existing in your schools; but at the same time the statements of G. E. Johnson, as published in your paper of June 30, were so utterly untrue and distorted that I would hardly recognize the same.

We therefore feel constrained to let the general public know the facts as they are, and not altogether original with me, but are held in common by all the gentlemen with whom I am personally acquainted in eastern Oregon, who are interested in the development of our mineral resources.

We are all aware of the fact that the legislature made a generous appropriation of the state's funds to aid the Lewis and Clark fair. We are deeply conscious of the fact that while there is no "infant industry" that is more deserving of protection than the poor prospector while nobly struggling to develop a prospect into a producing mine, there are no unscrupulous speculators so outrageously legislated out of existence.

Every producing mine in the United States was at one time simply a prospect, and there is no representative of the mining industry but will freely admit that every producing mine should be willing to bear its just burden of assessment, but every miner knows that the poor prospector who starts out with his pocket full of prospecting tools, if he has any faith in the efficiency of prayer, should devoutly pray before starting that he shall discover nothing worth locating, for the reason that the more he locates, the more he is a poorer man than he was before.

In the first place he must have a group of five or six claims before he can attract the attention of capital, and a few claims are not sufficient to cover the worth of work that must be done at once. Then he must take what he can get from greedy capital or "incorporate," and proceed to distribute a good thing around among small investors.

He finds that to do this he must make his capitalization so large that to induce a secretary of state, who draws about \$20,000 per annum for doing services worth probably \$1,500, to issue him a license, he must contribute liberally to this stupendous graft by paying the corporation tax that some obscure fisherman saw fit to inflict on the impecunious prospector as a price to prevent him from opening up any more mines in this state.

A glance over the sickly list of corporations that are from time to time reported by our high salaried secretary of state with the capitalizations, the most cases resembles 30 cents, is enough to make the mining congress that is about to meet in Portland wish they had selected some other state in which mining was not so appreciated in which to hold their annual meeting.

But laying aside the outrage that was imposed on non-producing mines, the mining industry has been suffering with the unequal distribution of the state's funds, a very unreasonable proportion of which has been drawn from this industry, to see how and in what respect the mining industry is to be benefited at the great fair. We note that an appropriation of \$500 per county has been allotted to such counties as have been already taxed to a standstill, as an inducement to stand another graft about the amount of \$100,000, by gathering "all the resources of the county."

This would no doubt be ample for gathering a few kegs of butter and a few kegs of fat, and some other articles whose main products are these articles, with now and then a "brawny statesman," but even supposing some backwoods county court should, after having collected the taxes, and after paying a rate of taxes, be allowed and deceived into having their own money offered back to them as an inducement to "come again" and stand up for a second plucking, how far would it go in the way of making a "mineral exhibit" from such counties as Baker, Union or Grant?

Any well informed mining man knows that a creditable display of the gold, silver, copper and miscellaneous ores of this state would place Oregon well up in the front rank as a mineral producer, and that to make such a display not less than \$50,000 should be placed on paper hands and judiciously expended.

In making such collection, and although I have been watching carefully for some announcement of an appropriation of the same funds at the hands of the commissioners, we will comment on a topical comment from the press of the state, it begins to look to me as if all that is in store for the mining industry is to pay their taxes and say nothing about representation.

I do not know how my brothers of the State Miners' association regard these matters, but it seems to me that it is about time that we "speak right out in meetings."

R. S. MCCORMACK.

DURATION OF A DREAM.

From the Liverpool Post. How long does a dream last? To the dreamer it sometimes seems to endure for hours, and the general impression is that dreams continue for minutes at least, while the fact is that the longest dream appears to be confined within a solitary second, even though the events of it may impress the dreamer for days.

"The other day," said a doctor, "I called to see a patient, and much to my satisfaction I found him sleeping soundly. By his bed, I felt his pulse without disturbing him, and waited for him to awaken. After a few minutes a dealer's cart, with discordant ringing bells, turned into the street, and as their first tones reached me the patient opened his eyes."

"Doctor," he said, "I'm glad to see you, and awfully glad that you awake me, for I have been tortured by a most distressing dream that must have lasted for several hours. I dreamed that I was sick as I am, and that my boy came into the room with a string of most horrible sounding bells and rang them in my ears, while I hadn't the power to move or speak to him. I suffered tortures for what seemed to be an interminable time, and I'm so glad you awake me."

"The ringing of those bells for one second had caused all of that dream, and just at the waking moment."

R. S. MCCORMACK.

UTILISING WATER.

From the Burns Times-Herald. While there is every indication of an enormous hay crop this season, we learn that on the lower land and in the vicinity of the lakes high water will prevent cutting many acres that in recent seasons have been harvested. The hay crop in general will be much larger than in the past two seasons, however, and it is not too late to provide for the surplus. The advantage of a storage reservoir that would prevent the flood water from interfering with the crops on the lower lands. People should study this matter and be ready at the proper time to all co-operate with the government.

Oregon Sidelights

Tillamook county has a lively good roads club.

Oregon's hot spells are always brief, but dry spells not always.

Pendleton Methodists will build a new pressed-brick \$20,000 church.

Freewater is out of debt, and several buildings are going up there.

More cloudbursts. Is Oregon becoming Oklahoma or Kansas?

Yacquina Bay yearly becomes a greater favorite as a summer resort.

The three mills of Woodville, Jackson county, turn out 60,000 feet a day.

Some Hood River people are talking of experimenting with sugar beets.

The Headlight complains that open gambling is again afflicting Tillamook.

The Albany Democrat thinks a good outing is to stay at home and get out of the rut.

There were so many cherries around Stayton, and \$200,000, that many went to waste.

In Grants Pass a factory for the manufacture of mining candlestick just patented is to be started.

Grasshoppers are so numerous in parts of Morrow county that farmers gather them by sackful and feed them to hogs.

The Elk City Vim is talking of a trolley line between that place at the head of navigation on Yacquina Bay, and the Willamette valley.

Floods did considerable damage in spots in several eastern Oregon counties last week, but the Willamette valley is still rainless. It will get a soaking anon.

A man looking for a cow in brush near Eugene, found instead a young baby, that had almost perished for want of sustenance. Its mother must be a tough creature.

At the Springbrook cannery 75,000 cans of fine cherries have been put up, and now berries are being handled. About 60 people are employed, mostly women and children.

It is estimated that it takes two fawn daily to feed a full grown panther, though he may miss a meal some days. Panther hunting would be a useful if not a profitable occupation.

Away up near Glendale, Douglas county is a poultry ranch where ducks are principally raised for the Portland market. And think of all the duck country—most of the year—near by.

"At Needy, on the Fourth, Clarence Green had his thumb and several fingers blown off by a bomb firecracker that he held in his hand, and hereafter he will be in favor of a "game" Fourth.

War against sheep has broken out in Umatilla county, 47 of a band being killed and the rest scattered. It is a pity that such miscreants cannot be lodged in the penitentiary where they belong.

It is suggested that the high prices received for wool will result in further overstocking the ranges, and so increasing hostilities between sheepmen and others. Good and evil are usually somewhat blended.

The marshal of Olex was quicker with a revolver than a drunken and fighting negro at a dance was with a favorite weapon, and the consequence was that there was a dead colored man in less than a minute.

Ice made in the Corvallis ice factory is shipped to all points westward on the C. & E. railroad, also to some points east, and to Dallas, Independence, Month and other far north as North Yamhill. It is quite a large and important industry.

A Hood River justice of the peace, when asked upon by a couple who desired to be married, perhaps shrewdly siding up the intended groom, sent them to a minister, who performed the ceremony, after which the young man asked him what the charge was. "Whatever you think it is worth," said the preacher. "Well, replied the groom, 'I'll wait six months and let you know.'"

Advice to the Lovelorn

BY HEATHER FAIRFAX.

Dear Miss Fairfax: Will you kindly enlighten my mind as to what course I should take to avoid the trouble I am about to put before you? I am a young man 18 years old, and work in a downtown office. I happen to have a young lady on either side of me, and I feel quite annoyed at times trying to please both. They are a frivolous lot, and persist in teasing me. They are both desperately in love with me, and I think them very charming. Now, what I want to know is how I can avoid loving them both. You will help a poor chap by giving your advice through The Journal columns, please. MISERABLE MIKE.

You can't avoid loving both, but you must not let either fall in love with you, because you would then be a cause of grief. You must not cause anybody to grieve.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am a married woman. I will be married three years in this month. I was only a girl when I married. My parents were dead, and some one dared me to do it. I never loved my husband, but he loved me, and I try so hard to make him think I love him. I am very unhappy, and it is killing me. Would you advise me to tell him I do not love him? I hate to have him on account of my baby.

No. Try to love him. You must not be lenient to yourself. You have done wrong and must suffer for it. You owe it both to your husband and your child. I am sorry for you, but I know that I am right, and you will be thankful if you do. Be bright and cheerful. Living for others brings a sure reward.

Dear Miss Fairfax: Not long ago I was going down the street and accidentally dropped my purse. A young gentleman about 18 saved me the trouble of stooping for it and kindly handed it to me. Now whenever I see him, he always speaks to me. Do you think I do right by speaking, as we were never introduced? But I hate to pass by him without saying, for fear he might think me rude. I am only 17 and would appreciate your advice very much.

ANXIOUS. It is not rude in a woman to refuse to talk with a young man if she does not care to. It is her privilege.