

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL

E. HOFER, Editor and Proprietor

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HAWLEY FOR THE LOCKS AND CANAL.

At the Coos Bay Development Congress Hawley came out strong for the west coast harbors and the free locks and canal at Oregon City.

He declared that congress would recognize projects where the state of Oregon had shown a disposition to help itself.

The people of Oregon have through two legislatures declared that they are willing to pay half the expense of making the locks and canal at Oregon City forever free.

Congressman Hawley and the whole Oregon delegation are strongly committed to make this project the first object of their solicitude.

The next session of congress will pass a large rivers and harbors bill and the locks and canal at Oregon City will be taken up and cared for.

It is understood that the present owners of the property, a large corporation in Philadelphia, while not fighting the proposition, are not really favorable to government ownership.

THE BATTLE FOR MOUNTAIN WATER.

Mountain water can only be secured for the state institutions and the Capital City by public ownership through the city of Salem.

While the state institutions need such a water supply more than the city does, the city alone has the police and bonding power to handle the project.

The final report of the committee to the city council will be made as soon as Governor Benson returns and the capital water commission is called together.

All the work of the city council committee has been carefully done, and the entire commission of citizens is composed of men of the highest character.

But let these gentlemen all realize that they have a big undertaking ahead of them.

But it is an undertaking that will stand as a monument when completed that will be a source of pride for all generations.

Let them realize that it will take the exercise of their best business and political ability to bring this about.

It will not be brought about without a struggle with the elements that oppose every big undertaking for the benefit of the people.

But the righteousness of the proposition will triumph and Salem as the proud Capital City of Oregon will get mountain water and public ownership of this great utility.

No great step of progress is ever made without sacrifices on the part of the best citizens and it will not be in this instance.

But the return will be a hundredfold in a greater city and state for all future generations.

THE PEOPLE OF OREGON HAVE GOT TO FIGHT.

Disgruntled politicians who cannot carry on all their petty personal schemes are seeking to destroy Oregon's standing and influence in the national government.

The whole effort of the old political regime is to destroy the standing and influence of Senators Bourne and Chamberlain with the Taft administration.

As the Oregonian did all in its power to ridicule and belittle U. S. Senator Simon as soon as he was elected, so it is doing today with both of our senators.

Will the people stand for that, and see Oregon dragged in the mire of petty personality to gratify a long-standing political grouch?

Who shall hold Taft's hat at Portland is the great living issue.

Senator Bourne is chairman of the subcommittee on all appropriations.

Senator Bourne has been recognized by the administration in more ways than one, but he shall be ignored in Oregon.

The recent turning down of Ormsby McHarg, who came out from Washington to defeat Chamberlain, shows that President Taft is with the people, and feminist the interests.

What an idiotic performance it was to send for a white-faced hanger-on of one of the departments to balk the will of the people of Oregon? But the Oregonian did it.

The Oregonian is systematically destroying the standing and influence of our United States senators at a time when the whole state needs their services very much.

Its first page cartoon today shows Oregon overflowing with

productive wealth but shy on population over a million, and what has brought this about?

Fighting every man of prominence has been its record.

Just such tactics of destroying the standing of every prominent public man in the whole history of the state is its record.

One now dead did escape, but he happened to be hired by the same corporations as the Oregonian.

Hence he enjoyed immunity, but the present senators who are not creatures paid by the Standard Oil crowd are to be reduced to cyphers in the estimation of the public.

The time has come for the people to fight the octopus methods of destroying every man who will not kneel at the shrine of the plutocracy.

When Taft comes to Oregon it makes little difference who hires a room for him or hands him out or into a carriage.

But let the people of Oregon show him that they are back of the men they have nominated and elected to the highest offices in the gift of the people of this state.

COAL WILL LAST FOR CENTURIES

It Is Estimated That There Is Enough Known to Be in Existence to Last 9000 Years.

People who are worrying about the coal hills they will have to pay in the coming winter should cease their troubling and turn their sympathies to those who will have that problem to meet 100 years from now.

Those are the folks that will have the real troubles, for, according to the geological survey, the coal supply of the country will be mighty near gone just about that time. Unless some "just as good" fuel is discovered in the meantime, coal will indeed deserve its title of "black diamond" and all the present jokes about looking the precious stuff up to a safe will come true.

To be exact, Kenny Gannett, of the geological survey, estimates that the easily accessible coal now in the ground will be exhausted about the year 2048, and all coal ten years later.

Of course, there are some "ifs" and "ands" connected with this prophecy. It is supposed that there are 3,147,000,000 tons of coal still in the ground, two-thirds of which is easily obtainable. During the last century only about one-third of one per cent of the supply has been taken out. Two years ago, or in 1907, 430,000,000 tons were mined, more than in any previous year.

But you can't tell what will be the rate of production in succeeding years. It is bound to increase as the population grows. Then there's the exports. Even now European countries are not looking more and more to the United States for their coal supply, and unless coal exports are prohibited by legislation, the production in this country will increase beyond the demands for home consumption.

On the other hand powerful influences will come to bear upon coal production, which favors lengthening the life of the supply. Improved methods in the utilization of coal, increasing the efficiency per ton, may act as a factor in reducing coal consumption, and improving mining methods should likewise reduce the current rate of waste. That waste amounts now to about one ton for every two tons marketed.

The development of water power will prolong the life of the coal supply. It is estimated that 20,000,000 horse power are going to waste in our streams today, most of which can and will be utilized, replacing coal. If all the latent water power in the country were harnessed within the next 20 years, Mr. Gannett calculates that it would probably prolong the life of the coal supply by 90 years. And if economics in mining and handling coal can be improved so as to save all waste within the next 20 years, the coal supply would last 20 years longer. But, with these things taken into consideration, and under the most favorable conditions, it will be seen that this authority predicts that the last ton of coal will have been exhausted by the year 2144.

Pretty early in the next century, therefore, it may be expected that people will be saving lumps of coal just as they are now doing the original St. claudius gold mines or the Lincoln pennies.

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Dr. H. Fletcher

AUGUST 31, 1909.

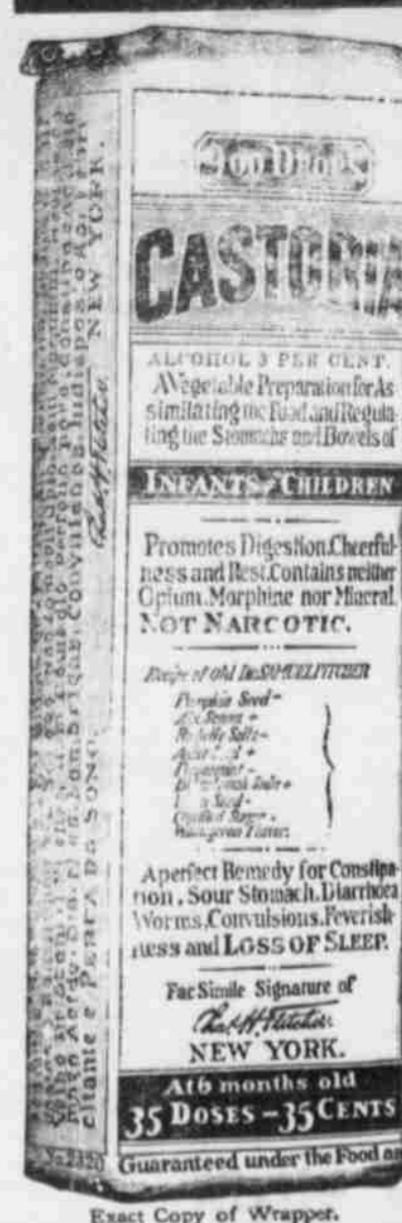
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