

CANAL OPENING MAY CAUSE WOE TO WORKINGMEN

Cheap Labor and Closing of Factories Apt to Result From Incoming Hordes.

The Northwest, and particularly the State of Oregon, has heard a great deal lately about the Panama canal, and what its completion will accomplish for this section of the country. Plowing accounts of the expected influx of wealth and plenty have been printed, and various commercial organizations have shouted themselves hoarse telling of the benefits soon to accrue.

Maybe this is so. However, it is well to pause at this stage of the game and consider what will happen with the opening of the canal. The results may be briefly set forth as follows:

What Will Occur.

Trade with the East will be stimulated and a great mass of raw material and finished products will be shipped to the Pacific Coast by the all-water route, taking advantage of the cheap freight rates.

Direct trade with Europe will also be increased, and ocean liners from the Old World will call at our ports, bringing in more manufactured articles, and also carrying to the Pacific Coast a vast horde of immigrants.

Cheap passenger rates from the East will also prevail, and thousands of poor people from New York, Boston and other Atlantic Coast cities, drawn by the luring advertisements of the Northwest, will swarm to these shores on the canal liners.

What will this influx of material and immigrants mean to the Northwest, and what will it mean to Oregon in particular?

What Will Result.

It will mean, first of all, a cheapening and over-supply of labor. And secondly, it will mean the throttling of many manufacturing industries that are now being built up in the Beaver State.

European and Eastern immigration will bring to this State many thousands of people who have been unable to make a living in their homes, and who are there for seeking new fields of effort. While some of these people will be farmers and agricultural workers, the great mass of them will be mere unskilled laborers, who will be ready and willing to work for any wage that they can get.

These people will glut the local labor market, and will force wages down to even a lower point than they are at present. Not only will they thus imperil the livelihood of men and women now in Oregon, and drive them out of the State to more fertile fields in Washington and British Columbia; but they will also congregate in the cities, and force the establishment of slums. This will be of benefit primarily to the city property owner, for slum property pays better returns on the investment than any other kind. This will not aid Oregon at all, nor will it help the great mass of people now in this State.

Home Factories in Peril.

Nor will the importation at low freight rates of raw and manufactured products be all the blessing that it is now heralded. While the incoming of raw materials may not be an actual detriment, the importation of goods manufactured in the East and in Europe will compete with goods manufactured on the Coast. In many cases this competition will be so great that manufacturing establishments now established here will be unable to meet it, and will be forced out of business. Goods made in Eastern sweatshops and in foreign factories, where wages are low, will be sold here at a price that local makers cannot meet if they maintain their present wage scale. The result will be that much labor now employed will be forced out of work.

If there could be any guar-

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FOREIGNERS FEARED BY TIMID FOLK OF NEIGHBORING STATE.

The civic society of one of the nearby Washington cities complains that there are too many "foreigners" coming to the Northwest. According to the conclusions of this body of wise and patriotic savants, the "native American population which braved all dangers of pioneer life to settle and build up this finest part of the United States" is being forced to the wall and obliterated by "the great number of foreigners, particularly from the north of Europe, who are now flocking to the Pacific Coast and usurping the land purchased so dearly by our fathers and grandfathers."

"Them be beautiful sentiments, them be." But they serve also to bring to mind the fact that foreigners have had considerable to do with moulding the history of these United States, and with making the Northwest the land of prosperity and plenty that it is. The first folk to come to this neck of the woods did their utmost to drive out the real native population, and they have been doing it ever since. In fact, the plaint of the Washingtonians calls to mind the newspaper doggerel of some years ago, which is reprinted here for the benefit of these same folk.

"Who builds our railroads and canals,
But foreigners?
Who guides across the street the gals,
But foreigners?
Who in the caucus has the say,
But foreigners?
Who digs farms, cuts the hay,
And who discovered U. S. A.,
But foreigners?"

COFFEY SIGHTS NEW PERIL FOR OFFICE SEEKERS

If you try to get up a political argument with John B. Coffey these days you will find the "going" mighty hard. Mr. Coffey, who is police commissioner, and who is also a candidate for county clerk on the regular Republican ticket, will talk about his own chances all that you want to; but if you ask him anything about his opinions as to who will be president, senator or congressman, the astute John closes up tight as a clam. Mr. Coffey didn't used to be this way, but recently a great change has come over him, and this is the reason thereof.

Mr. Coffey has been reading the corrupt practices act, that wonderful document which points out the straight and narrow way for all aspiring politicians and office-holders in the great State of Oregon. And on page 25 of the 1912 pamphlet, Mr. Coffey has discovered a section which sets forth that any candidate for office who in any way agrees to support any other person in the hope of gaining votes or political prestige by such action shall be deemed guilty of violating the corrupt practices act, with all the dire penalties attached thereto.

Mr. Coffey wasn't sure about it at first, so he took it to a lawyer friend and got a real opinion. And the lawyer told John that he had the right hunch, and that hereafter he'd better hold his tongue about Taft, Roosevelt and Wilson. Hence the profound political quiet about the Coffey shop regarding things political. Incidentally those who know find in this section information of an unpleasant character for Daniel Kellaher, A. W. Lafferty and other candidates for office who have proclaimed loud and lustily their devotion to the Big Bull Moose.

Under the corrupt practices act any candidate who announces that he is for Roosevelt or Taft or anybody else is liable to get

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The Man on the Corner

"I see George is doing it again," said The Man on the Corner, as he read that one of our prominent citizens was espousing the cause of the technically dead, wounded and surviving soldiers of the Oregon National Guard who mutinied in the recent army maneuvers. "Well, George is always doing something, and usually he's doing it for the under dog."

"George is fond of the under-dog. He wouldn't be a good Irishman if he wasn't. And by the same token he would be a



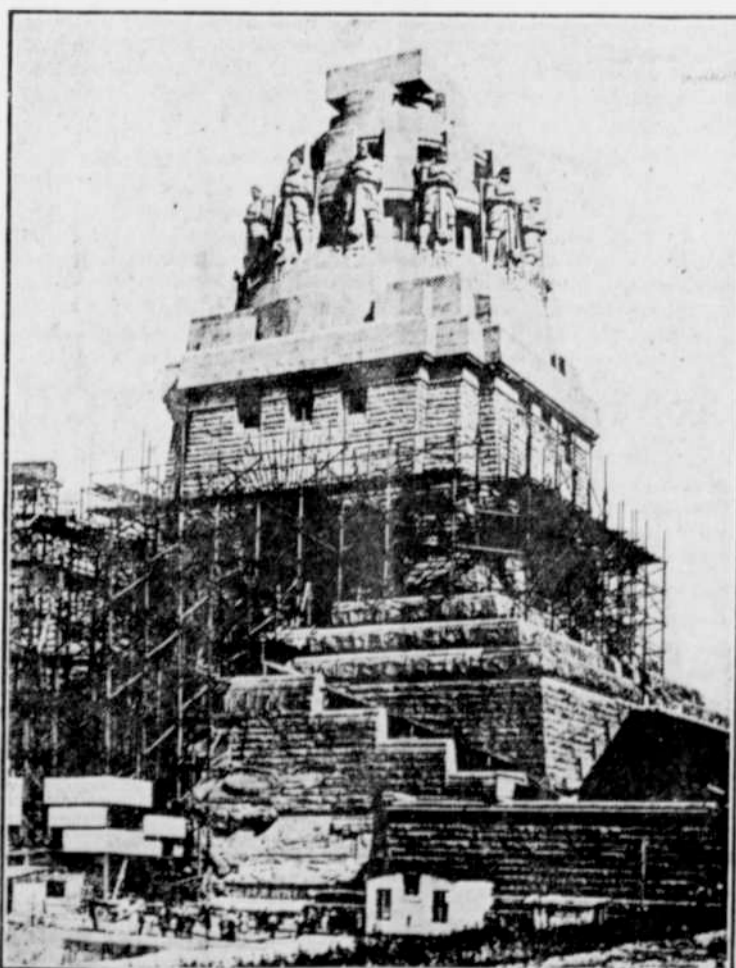
good Irishman if he didn't get awful mad about it. George can get madder quicker over less than any man I know. But his madness doesn't last long, and when he gets over it he is ready to talk sense and reason. And he has a lot of that in his make-up, and realize that the Oregon soldiers ought to have obeyed orders, no matter how tired or peevish they might have been; just as he would have obeyed orders at Olongpatong if his captain had ordered him to take a corporal's guard and raid a Cholo campmeeting.

"Be that as it may, I like George just because he's so human. George will give a fellow who's up against it two bits, and think he's lucky to get the chance to do it; and the next minute he'll try to tear a slot telephone out of the wall because he can't get his nickel back when Central says the line is busy. George doesn't like to be imposed upon; he wants the world to treat him as squarely as he treats it, and he doesn't ask any favors, either. In fact, George is about the best Irishman I've met, and as I'm half-Irish meself, that is saying a whole lot.

"George says he is going to run for commissioner under the new charter, if it goes through. And he says he wants to be commissioner of police and public safety. He told me all about it the other day, and nearly batted my head off when I winked at him. George said he wanted to get that job so he could institute a lot of reforms down at the hooshgow, which is what he and I call the place where they keep policemen and prisoners on almost an equal footing. One of the ideas George had was to put the cops in cool uniforms in summertime; another was to treat them like human beings and not ask them to pound the streets all day or all night, and then sit in the courtroom all day, waiting for some lawyer to get back from the corner where he went to get a drink. George actually thinks a policeman ought to see his family once in a while, and that he ought to get six hours sleep a day, whether he needs it or not.

"I hope George gets the job. I know he'll make good if he gets it. He'll make good in any job. He's got enough energy for three men, and when he doesn't get mad, he's got enough sense for four average men. And when he gets mad it is usually because he thinks somebody is being abused, and because he wants to set things right. George is just about the type of man that Portland needs, and Portland needs George where he can do things on his own responsibility. George has done quite a lot for Portland since he's been at the city hall, only most of the credit has gone somewhere else. Give George a real job, and I'll bet my shirt he'll make a noise that will sound good to all of us."

Huge Monument That Will Mark Leipzig Battlefield



STATE EXECUTIVE'S SEARCH FOR CRIME REGARDED AS JOKE.

Governor West, who has for the past six weeks or so threatened to "purify" Portland, is reported to have no less than nine secret service agents from his own bureau busy in the city uncovering evidence of our wickedness. It is quite possible that the state executive has nine men looking around; and it is well within the bounds of likelihood that they may be finding things worth seeing. However, it is extremely doubtful if they are discovering any general saturnalia of vice, such as some pseudo-reformers would have it believed exists here.

People who have lived in Portland some little time—folks who came here in an ox-cart before the railroads were running—say that never before has Portland been so "tame". There is practically no gambling going on, save that in clubs that are supposed to be well-governed. Our dancehalls are carefully watched over by Mrs. Baldwin, of the Department of Public Safety for Young Women. And Portland has less of the commercial evil than many a town far smaller in size. The police force is proving itself effective, and the bold highwayman and the despicable thief does not flourish to any great extent within the confines of the city.

Yet the Governor says he is coming in to put the lid on tight. Outside the city Sheriff Stevens has put the soft pedal upon the roadhouses to such an extent that drivers of livery automobiles say there is no money in the business any more. In fact, peace and quiet reign supreme in most quarters where once there was mirth and questionable joy unconfined.

CAPTAIN KELLER PROVES HIMSELF WORTHY OF RANK

The mysteries of civil service rules having now made it possible once again to hold an examination for eligibles for the position of Captain of Police, certain writers in the daily press have dipped their pens afresh into the vitriolic ink which they so profoundly love, and have sent forth panegyrics informing the public that the administration is planning magic to get one Joseph F. Keller a full-fledged commander. The wrath of the mighty scribes falls upon Keller apparently because it is the desire of Mayor Rushtlight to make him a captain.

Keller is now acting captain of the second night relief, and as such has proved himself an efficient and active officer. His relief is composed of men who seem imbued with a spirit of energy and co-operation; and during the time that they have been under his command they have accomplished many things to their especial credit. No noteworthy crimes have been committed while they have been guarding the city, and such crimes as have operated have been summarily captured. During the trying weeks of the Rose Festival and the Elks' Reunion, the men of this relief bore the brunt of the hard work downtown as well as performing their regular duties and asked no extra recompense for this service.

It is but fair to suppose that this relief has made the record that it has because of the inspiration of Keller's leadership. Captain Keller himself has ever been ready to do even more than he has asked his men to do; and in times of danger he has been the one to take the lead. In short, Keller's activity has always been of the inspiring kind; and quite regardless of weather or his own personal feelings, he is ever to be found upon the scene of action. Behavior such as this is the kind most valuable in a commanding officer of a police relief.

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MORALS OF CITY SAFEGUARDED BY BUSINESS FOLKS

PAUL WESSINGER SOUNDS KEYNOTE IN TALK TO COUNCIL — WEST PLAYS POLITICS.

Governor West's threatened invasion of the city, the report of the vice commission, and Sheriff Stevens' orders to the keepers of all roadhouses to obey city hours and to stop all "rough" tactics have all come pretty close together. And added to these things is Councilman Daly's request that the breweries and other similar interests file with the city officials at once a list of all leases that they control, so that the public may have a further insight into the real conditions that prevail.

Aside from Governor West's "grand-stand play," The Times has no fault to find with this quickening of the moral conscience of the community. This paper believes that it will do no harm for the city to know just what places are leased and aided by breweries. In fact, the breweries themselves are not averse to giving this information, for it releases them from blame when trouble arises in places with which they have no connection.

At the recent Council meeting when this matter came up Mr. Paul Wessinger, head of the Weinhard Brewery, told of his reasons for cancelling his license and connection with the notorious Yeon Building Rathskeller. Mr. Wessinger said that he didn't care to have business relations with any place that was violating the law, for the trouble sure to result was a detriment to his concern.

"I dislike such notoriety; it hurts my business," said Mr. Wessinger to the councilmen. "In taking away the Yeon license I acted in good faith, just as any sensible business man would do in an effort to protect the public and his business."

Mr. Wessinger's attitude is the attitude of the great mass of Portland business men. They do not want to be connected in any way with forms of indecent activity. They do not want to be identified with any business that casts discredit upon the city, for such discredit reacts on them. That is why Portland is such a clean city as it is today—because the great mass of people demand that it be decent.

Touching on Governor West, The Times thinks he has become befuddled in his desire to cast discredit upon Sheriff Stevens, whom he fears as a possible destroyer of the state machine that he has built up. Sheriff Stevens has kept the district outside of Portland clean, and he has done his part in keeping Portland free from certain evils. The blame for the things the vice commission found does not rest with Sheriff Stevens, it rests with that paragon of personal virtue, Captain Slover, acting chief of police.

And incidentally it is quite possible that the investigators of the vice commission, like the investigators employed by the May grand jury, discovered a number of things that were not true. It is said that many of the disreputable houses "discovered" by them existed only on a list evolved by one Paddy Maher, one time county detective.