

THE DAILY GAZETTE-TIMES

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N. R. MOORE Editor
CHAS. L. SPRINGER, Business Mgr.

Good roads meetings in various parts of the state should be better attended. A good road past any farm enhances its value more than it costs. When our farmers get next to their job they will build more and better roads and assess the cost in a great degree to the idle land speculator.

In Corvallis efforts are being made under the new charter to get the city council to condemn a lot of unsightly buildings and shacks that are a menace to the safety of the better and newer constructions, as well as retarding the development of the town. Are not many towns in Oregon thus afflicted with ruins because both public opinion and the local assessors deal leniently with their owners and severely with the property owners who build and beautify?—Portland Press.

If when the local papers report the prices at which the land for parks, public buildings, waterfront, or other public purposes is offered the governing bodies they would also report the prices at which the properties are assessed for, the public might have some valuable information to reflect upon. It would also be interesting and instructive to report what use these owners are making of such sites and land to give them such values. What have the owners done to make the values they ask the public to pay so handsomely for?

LEGAL HONESTY.

John D. Rockefeller is quoted in one of the Sunday papers as having said:

"When a man has accumulated a sum of money within the law, that is to say in a legally honest way, the people no longer have any right to share in the earnings resulting from that accumulation."

It is a striking characteristic of a man of strict personal morality that he has never been able to see the difference between legal honesty and moral honesty. It is also to Mr. Rockefeller's credit that he defines the methods whereby the Standard Oil combination and all which it implies were created as being "legally honest." They were certainly morally indefensible.

Here is the remarkable case of a man who is a good husband and father, benevolent along large lines, personally humane, pious rather than religious, in many ways a most desirable citizen; who yet cannot see that there is anything morally wrong in an action which the law does not punish. It would be impossible, moreover, to make Mr. Rockefeller see the difference, and that not from any forwardness or prejudice on his part, but from a kind of moral myopia which

blinds him to facts most of us find self-evident.

It is probable that the law does not directly influence, sanction or control more than five per cent of the action of a man's life. They are apart from the law and beyond its reach. The law can not make a man moral or even honest, and he may break the rules of morality and honesty in many ways without coming within reach of a statute.

But Mr. Rockefeller says that the people have no right to share in the earnings of "legally honest" accumulations. It will astonish that worthy gentleman to hear it, but this is flat footed anarchy. The accumulation was made with the sanction and under the protection of the people. It could not have been even "legally honest" save that society made it legally possible. So far from owing nothing to the people, Mr. Rockefeller owes everything, after a fair deduction for his very fine brains and administrative ability. This is not Socialism. It is the practical working law of good morals in the relation of society to the individual and the reciprocal obligation of the individual to society.

It is curious that the richer a man gets the more he hates paying taxes. Mr. Rockefeller does not want to pay an income tax. No doubt he would not be the richest man in America now if he had not made it his rule through life to ray out as little of that kind of money as possible. This is all his argument really amounts to, but we are indebted to it for a curious piece of self-revelation. It shows us a sincere desire to do well, accompanied by a moral conception hardly more than embryonic.—The Wall Street Journal.

Oregon has vast natural resources which have been bottled up and are being bottled up by speculators. Our water power alone is worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and has been largely grabbed by agents of foreign corporations. All honor to the men who are endeavoring to conserve the natural wealth remaining for the use of the people of Oregon. However, we may be compelled to go further and reach a hand out for the restoration to the people of the gifts of the common Father. President Roosevelt pointed out how to restore the water power to the public domain, when he advocated levying a tax upon it whether used or unused. No trust could pay even 50 cents a horse-power per month, as suggested by Roosevelt, and retain idle ten times what they made use of in productive energy.

JUST BOOSTS For The Outsider.

It's something to have a state school with 1500 students. Not only is there intellectual activity but 1500 students cause something like a \$200,000 yearly cash activity.

Nine churches and thirteen religious organizations will appeal to those who desire moral surroundings. It is particularly pleasing to note that with all this religious activity, there is nothing "long-faced" about it. All of the ministers can smile and none are preaching the people into either hell or heaven. They are trying to point the way to a sane and joyous life here. That's a relief from some situations and will appeal to those tired of fanaticism.

This city is located on one of the most beautiful rivers in the West—the Willamette. Corvallis people do not know just how beautiful this river really is, and what a delight it could become—but newcomers used to the sluggish, muddy "cricks" of

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the East readily acknowledge that the Willamette is a charmer. And there's Mary's River, smaller, but not less beautiful.

With about forty-seven lodges, more or less, those fraternally inclined can find an abiding place with little difficulty. Corvallis has more lodges to the square inch than any other town in the U. S. or Kentucky. And they are all flourishing. Thus are the brethren cared for.

Corvallis has as congenial people as there are on earth. No one is so busy money-making that he hasn't time to be pleasant and courteous. It's worth while to locate in a city peopled with pure-breds.

Benton county, of which Corvallis is the county seat, won the blue ribbon and cash prize at the Oregon State Fair two years in succession—1907-08—for the best general display of grain, grasses, fruit, vegetables, etc. That ought to be convincing to a few.

Big Easterners Liked Oregon

(Continued from page one)

A careful study of the proceedings of this association from the time of its organization, will

show that, while attention has been given at different times to various questions of immediate interest, the basic fundamental idea has been to develop a system of education that should really prepare for life in the truest and most complete sense of the term, whatever the vocations or professions contemplated.

The convention at Portland was in every way successful. Most of the addresses were upon subjects of present interest and tended to crystallize sentiment upon a number of very important matters of policy in connection with the work of the institutions represented. The subjects upon which definite action was taken related to the organization of the different agencies for extension work, such as farmers' institutes, itinerant schools, correspondence courses and the introduction of industrial work into the elementary and high schools. The general sentiment of the delegates regarding the convention was expressed by President Soule, of Georgia, in the statement that of all the conventions of the association he had attended during the last seven years, the one at Portland this year was by far the most successful.

Opinion of Oregon.

Notwithstanding the potency of these organizations in shaping

educational policy and in promoting agricultural and industrial development generally, what the people of the state are no doubt most interested in knowing at this time are the impressions received by the visitors regarding the state and its possibilities. It is natural that the people in a comparatively new state in the extreme West should be interested in knowing what is thought of them and their country by people from the older, wealthier and more thickly populated states. For, whatever might be said about the West's freedom from tradition, and its progressiveness and characteristic optimism, we still are wont to look to the East for leadership, not only in art and letters and medicine and law, but also in finance and manufacturing and agriculture.

Expected Much of Them.

We are interested in the development of the state. We have great and varied resources, but they are largely yet undeveloped. To fully utilize these resources we need more capital, more people, improved and extended transportation facilities. We looked forward, therefore, with great anticipation to the conventions at Portland. They would bring to the state a large number of the most prominent men in the country engaged in promoting industrial education and industrial development. Many of these men have spent a lifetime in studying the economic problems of this and other countries. From them it was expected that we could get suggestions that would be helpful to us in conserving and utilizing our resources and in developing our industries.

But more than all, with our unbounded faith in the great Northwest and in its possibilities, we were anxious to be visited by experts whose judgment regarding conditions here would not be questioned. If favorably impressed, the influence of these people upon returning to their several states would be of incomparable value in directing young men who are seeking opportunities for investment and home-building. That the delegates and visitors to the convention at Portland were favorably impressed cannot be questioned.

Amazed of Everything.

A large number of those who came from Eastern and New England States had never visited the Northwest or the Pacific Coast; and, as stated by President Silvester, of Maryland, they were amazed at the great expanse of territory, the fertility and productiveness of the soil, the immensity of the lumber and fishing industries, the beauty of the cities, and, more than all, with the democratic, broadminded spirit of the people.

Regarding the opportunities for investment and home-building, the comparisons were all favorable to the West. Among the things most admired by the visitors are the ideal climatic conditions here and the long growing season, the efficiency of the organizations of the fruitgrowers of the state, the eagerness on the part of the people to get information and to follow up-to-date scientific methods in their work. As stated by Dean Davenport, of Illinois, "the people of the East lack the progressiveness of the Westerners, and it is more difficult to get the Easterners to break away from some of the old-fashioned methods of doing things."

People Count for Everything.

While visiting the Hood River and Willamette Valleys, several expressed the idea that they had never before been so impressed with the extent to which the "value of lands depends upon the people living on them." They attributed the success achieved in growing apples and other fruits to the ideal conditions of soil and climate and to the thrift and education of the people.

That the leadership of the West,

in some matters, at least, relating to agricultural development, is being recognized, is shown by the fact that Illinois is now sending two experts to Oregon to make an exhaustive study of our system of apple-raising; and that students from several of the largest eastern states are arranging to enter the Oregon Agricultural College for special work along certain lines of agriculture.

All in all, the impressions received by the visitors were most favorable indeed. They were profuse in their expressions of appreciation of the cordiality with which the people received them and the generous provision that had been made for their entertainment. They were profoundly impressed with Oregon's progressive spirit, great resources and splendid opportunities.

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