

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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THE EASTERN PROGRESSIVE.

While in Portland last Friday we attended a dinner at the Oregon hotel given in honor of Miss Alice Carpenter, a very bright and capable Yankee girl from the extreme east, who had been sent to this coast to espouse Progressive doctrine. That she is the proper lady for such an undertaking even Judge Morrow of Multnomah does not doubt, nor could anyone have such doubts who heard her.

But it struck us that the Eastern Progressive is hardly aware of the progressiveness of the western states, regardless of political party. The extreme easterners have been plodding under the galling yoke of party fealty for so long they cannot conceive of political freedom. They hope for it but they do not recognize it when they encounter it.

To mention politics east of the Missouri river means to refer to Champ Clarke, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Penrose, Mr. Crane or their kind. These men are political leaders of their different parties east of the Kansas-Nebraska line. Not so in the west. No political boss out here, and those who think they are leaders soon awaken to the fact that leadership is in the hands of the masses, not in individuals.

Throughout Miss Carpenter's talk she paid deep reverence to party, but it struck us that portion of her talk was almost wasted. For out in this big western country where is there a man who "votes the ticket" anymore? The names of political parties are only used to secure nominations because no one has discovered a process as yet whereby nominees could get on the ticket unless some sort of a headline was used. Once the primary is over there is no more party name, and there never is no political party in Oregon—only a name, that's all.

If a man attempted to make a speech and urge others to vote the straight ticket suspicion would at once arise that the sack had been sent from the east, and a few of the baser citizens would make a diligent search

to find the storage place of that sack. If a speaker should urge upon the public to vote for a single candidate because that candidate was a "regular" party nominee the independent Oregon spirit would arise at once and the audience in chorus would likely shout "we vote for men not parties." These are the things that Miss Carpenter does not understand and few, if any of the people of the east understand them.

When primary time rolls around we will have the different labels, and among them will be the Progressive label, but it will mean no more than any other party label in so far as Progressives voting for their candidates. Last year Colonel Roosevelt polled a great vote in Oregon, but the remainder of the Progressive ticket only made a good showing. All of which indicates Oregon has passed the "party" days. There are no parties in this state and there will be no political parties here for some time to come, possibly never again.

The people are voting as they want to vote, regardless of advice of anyone. It is more or less of an experiment, we admit, but it will work out all right after we get through the nursing period which has to follow the adoption of any new system.

WHEN A TRUST IS "DISSOLVED"

The Standard Oil company has been "dissolved" by the supreme court, but this year its earnings will approximate \$100,000,000 as compared to \$80,000,000 last year. This is an increase of 20 per cent, certainly sufficient to compensate the company for the humiliation of having been declared a trust and forced "to separate into its constituent parts."

Within the year the company increased the price of gasoline from 11 to 18 cents a gallon and kerosene from 6 to 8 cents. As all of the various units into which the monopoly is supposed to have been split acquiesced in the increase and enforced it on consumers, the "competition" which the dissolution order was expected to bring about seems as far away as ever.

The day is surely coming when the Roosevelt suggestion that the government maintain a commission to supervise and control interstate corporations as the Interstate Commerce commission now does interstate railroads will be made a definite issue. The piling up of profits at the expense of the general public by monopolies, "dissolved" or undissolved, can not go on forever. Half the industrial discontent which breaks loose in strikes and lockouts is due to the fact that workmen cannot understand why wages should be low when their employers, the big corporations, are accumulating profits that enable the heads to live on a scale that would have astonished kings of a few hundred years ago. The salaried class, separated from the wage workers only by a technical difference, find incomes more than ever inadequate to meet the rising cost of living, but at the same time must look on and see the industries in which they are employed declaring dividends that gives heavy stockholders every luxury. Ten per cent would be an ample re-

turn on the capital stock of the Standard Oil company. It collected \$50,000,000 more last year. Why could not some of this go back to the public which creates the value, either in the form of higher wages and salaries to employees or in the form of lower prices to the farmers who need gasoline for their stationary engines and kerosene for their lamps?

NEW PUBLIC SERVICE LAW.

Pennsylvania has named a public service commission of seven members and has adopted an entirely new law, abolishing the old state railroad commission. There are many commendable features about the new law, which gives the commission of seven much more power than the old railroad commission ever possessed. The latter could recommend only, while the new commission has powers to compel compliance with its orders.

The law gives the commission authority over 25 lines of industry in public service, including railroad, electric railroad, gas, electric light, stage line, express, pipe line, baggage transfer, ferry, turnpike, bridge, wharf, telegraph, telephone, heat, water, refrigerator, sewage and municipal corporations. The law contains most of the far-reaching and drastic features of the public utilities laws of other states, recently adopted, including provisions regulating the issue of stocks and bonds by public service companies. The commission has exclusive jurisdiction over the construction, relocation and abolition of grade crossings, the expenses to be borne by the public service companies, the municipalities benefited and the state, in proportions the commission deems equitable.

Every public service company must furnish and maintain service in all respects "just, reasonable, adequate and practically sufficient of the accommodation and safety of its patrons, its employees and the public, and in conformity with such reasonable regulations or orders as may be made by the commission."

Changes in tariffs can be made only after 30 days' notice to the commission and the public. The commission is empowered to determine whether the contemplated changes are reasonable and may allow or deny the company the right to make them. Every public utility is entitled to the full enjoyment and exercise of all its rights, powers and privileges lawfully possessed when the act was signed.

A corporation, except it be a street railway, may extend its service through a municipality without the consent of the municipality to reach some more distant point, but the commission has the power to order connections one with another.

The signing and attestation of unauthorized stocks and bonds by the officers of a public service company, or the assenting to such issue by the directors, is punishable by fine and imprisonment.

A Petoskey, Michigan man struck whiskey while boring for oil. Here's what's left of this week's salary on a bet that the land about Petoskey will be as full of holes in a week as a nickel loaf of baker's bread.

Further extensions and changes of parcel post are contemplated by the government. Must be preparing to send cannon to Mexico under the frank privilege.

A wild goose hit a San Francisco rancher in the neck and cured him of paralysis. The Californians probably attribute the cure to the climate.

Some men drink with the same speed they run their automobiles. Hence the great loss to the insurance companies.

It isn't hard for a man to keep young if he's petted at home.

Communication.

To the Editor of the Observer:
 La Grande's first real fire in a three story building has passed into history. Who will say that witnessed this fire that thousands of dollars could not have been saved the owners of that stock had the city provided the chief of the fire department with a few long ladders that might have reached at least to the second story windows. As it was he was provided with one lone ladder attached to the hose truck. In times gone by there were several ladders and a ladder

You Are Cordially Invited to

Visit Our Exclusive

Millinery Dept.

and inspect the first showing of

"GAGE BROS." and "LYMAN'S"

Tailored Street Hats

"FOR AUTUMN AND WINTER"

West
 THE QUALITY STORE



truck. (Now consigned to the bone pile.) The ladders have been loaned, borrowed or stolen and are no more.

Any fool can find fault. It isn't time now to find fault. The remedy: Suppose the city invest a few dollars in, say three or four good ladders, and store them in the fire chief's department to be taken out in case of fire only. Should the Foley hotel or some other three story building catch fire some night and the guests be made to reach the fire escapes, one long ladder might save several human beings. An

extension ladder on a truck you say? Yes, they are the thing, but this city is broke and is hardly ready for such things yet.

NOTICE.

If you are going to build or want some carpenter work of any sort done, don't fail to see Joe Horstman—always ready for business. Leave your orders at B. B. Nutter's or at the Snodgrass Grocery.

NOTICE.

There will be a special meeting of stockholders of La Grande Fruit association at the office of C. A. Ramsey in La Grande, September 15th, at 10 o'clock a. m.

L. B. MOE,
 Secretary.
 F. H. TATMAN,
 Vice President.

WANTED—Pole wood. Call Red 482.
 9-10 4t.

The Test of Time

Time determines whether the policies under which a bank is operated are safe.

This bank has been in business twenty-six years.

It has grown steadily until it has become one of the strongest and most prosperous financial institutions in the West.

The soundness of its policies is attested by the long list of conservative business men who transact their business here; also by an earned surplus of \$130,000.00, the work of time and the result of conservative management.

This bank has facilities for taking care of more high grade business and offers its services to those who appreciate the best in banking.

La Grande National Bank
 La Grande, Oregon

Capital, \$100,000.00 Surplus, \$130,000.00 Resources, 1,100,000.00

DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
 UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.

WHY?

Do Some People Always Get Ahead?
FOUR REASON
 That Seem to Answer Most Cases.

REASON ONE---

Their word is always good. Their note is always paid. Their friends always speak a good word for them.

REASON TWO---

They use good judgment and observe things as they really are

REASON THREE---

These people live in La Grande; buy their goods in La Grande. They work in La Grande and invest their savings in La Grande.

REASON FOUR---

Their investments in La Grande are always under their own control and in consequence their returns are always satisfactory. They are not misled by the far away illusions, knowing that La Grande offers greater opportunities for investment than any place in the Northwest.

Are You Among the Wise Ones?

The choicest of all Real Estate Bargains are found at the

La Grande Investment Company

SEE THEM

New Quarters Old Land Office 1113 Adams Av