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The National Good Roads Association is now in session in annual convention at the Festival Hall, on the Lewis and Clark Exposition grounds, having begun its deliberations Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. There has not been and will not occur a gathering of men in Portland this summer that means as much to the progress and betterment of the whole country than this convention. The policy of the Association is committed to the improvement of the highways that open the resources of the great districts of our producing country at as little cost as possible and of the very best material obtainable in the section where the roads are to be improved. The leaders of the Association also favor the employment of convict labor upon such roads wherever practicable, thus solving the perplexing question of relieving the free workman from this damaging competition. It also solves the problem of what is to be done with idle prisoners. The trial has been made in some of the Southern and Eastern states to the satisfaction of the students of good roads. While the conditions may not be similarly as advantageous in some districts as in others for using all of the convicts on the highways, there is no reason why the worst of convicts cannot be utilized in the preparation of road materials, which is a big end of the work to be done. The good roads people are thoroughly in earnest and some interesting and valuable information will be released at this convention that every citizen in the city and state should hear. Like the question of interstate commerce, it will grow and keep growing until it is known at almost every fireside. And there is no other movement that will enrich us more and increase our comfort and happiness greater than the campaign for better roads emanating from the annual gatherings. No pains should be spared by the people of Portland to make the stay of the delegates a pleasant one.

W. W. Cotton has been selected by President Roosevelt to fill the federal bench for Oregon, made vacant by the death of Judge Bellinger. The worst that has been said against Mr. Cotton is that he is a corporation lawyer, having been for years the chief of the legal department of the O. R. & N. R. Co. This is not enough to condemn him. In fact, it is to his credit if he has served his employers faithfully and conscientiously without compromising his own good name, and it appears that this Mr. Cotton has not done. The federal judgeship is an appointment for life and it removes the man from all material interests but the law, and if he is a broad and honorable man he can rise above the environments of his former occupation. Before he served the corporation; now he will serve the people upon lines they have designated in their government. Mr. Cotton is entitled to the good wishes and respect of the whole people until such a time that he would prove an unfaithful servant, and such is not the reputation of the man.

Some of our coolie labor friends, including the Oregonian and Telegram, are deeply grieved because any

old Chinaman cannot call himself a merchant, student or tourist, and land upon our shores unmolested and stay as long as they please. While they are ostensibly championing the privileges of the merchant and student classes of the Asiatics, they fail to cover their purpose of meaning the common laborer, too. But let us take the business element of the Chinese nation for an example—a fitting one, which occurred in San Francisco a few days ago. A large property owner declared that a Japanese contractor had offered to erect a large building for \$5000 less than a white contractor could do the work. The Japanese offered to put up a good bond guaranteeing the workmanship and completion of the building. The owner of the prospective building concluded, however, that he would rather pay the extra \$5000 to the white contractor because it would give employment to white labor.

Mayor Dunne on Monday will ask the city council to authorize the commissioner of public works to advertise for bids to construct and fully equip 100 miles of street railway to be operated for and by the city of Chicago. The Democratic members of the local transportation committee have promised the mayor that they will support his recommendation on the floor of the council chamber. The mayor desires that the construction of municipal street railways shall begin just as soon as the validity of the certificates issued under the Mueller law, from the sale of which the money to finance the street railways is to come, has been determined by the state supreme court.

Over at Vancouver, B. C., the other day a big railroad contractor dropped into the city and started a poker game at the "club" that simply outdone the cads and society sports. On the same day twenty-five men, who could not well have lost more than a dollar apiece, were fined \$25 and costs each for gambling in a downtown resort. Vancouver hasn't a monopoly of this kind of business, for it has been known to exist on this side of the line, and it has been whispered in private beer circles that similar occurrences have happened on a smaller scale in Portland. But it can hardly be possible that such discrimination is allowed to exist in Oregon's metropolis.

C. W. Post, the newly chosen head of the National Manufacturers' Association (Citizens' Alliance), has a record in the Twenty-second Annual Report of the Michigan Bureau of Labor, page 274, which he and the members of the association ought to feel proud of. The report says that Miss Burton, factory inspector for the state of Michigan, was compelled to order better sanitary regulations in the C. W. Post Battle Creek Postum Cereal shop. Miss Burton discovered an unwholesome condition prevailing there, that even menaced the health of the underpaid employees.

Supreme Justice W. B. Hooker of New York state is to be impeached because he has corrupted the trust and sacred duties of his office. He has been discovered to be wantonly dishonest, so much so that even his former staunch supporters have turned against him. The time is near at hand when the prerequisite of the bench must be a man of unquestionable integrity, high moral standard and an extensive knowledge of law. The bench is the safeguard of our government, and the fact is becoming more appreciated by the layman from day to day.

The attempt to besmirch the good name of John P. Sharkey by a delegation of his enemies has proved a vain effort. The committee selected by the City Council to investigate the charges have finished their labors and report that they find no shadow of wrong against the man. Even the principal of the persecution admitted that there was not sufficient evidence to prove that Mr. Sharkey had been unfaithful to the trust imposed in him by the people, and his oath of office. His detractors should now rest content.

While the people in the large Eastern cities are sweltering in heat and some of them stricken to death, the people of Portland are comfortably pursuing the even tenor of their ways, sleeping soundly at night under bedcovers and refreshing their vision with an occasional glance at the snow-clad peaks of the Cascade range during the day. Plenty to eat and

wear, and a little savings besides. In addition to the natural advantages of our beloved state what more do we need to make us happy?

Mayor Schmitz has signed the ordinance which appropriates the money necessary for the city of San Francisco to take over and operate the Geary street line. The Golden Gate City is crowding the progressive city of Chicago for first place in showing the people of this country how to successfully operate and maintain public utilities. They do things in San Francisco that cannot be outdone, even in Chicago.

From the press reports the indications point to a dissolution of the teamsters' strike in Chicago at an early date. The building trades have withdrawn their support from the strikers for alleged ingratitude on the part of the teamsters for taking work belonging to the building trades for less than the scale of wages. Substantial support from other quarters has also been withdrawn and a spirit of discontent spread in the ranks of the teamsters. President Shea has been charged with perfidy and dishonesty and the power of negotiating a settlement has been taken out of his hands and placed with a committee with full power to act. The employers believe that they have the battle won and refuse to concede a point. They even demand that the teamsters discard their union buttons and renounce their organization before they will be given a place to work. The grand jury is investigating charges against labor leaders and prominent business men for conspiracy and corruption, and it is said that some startling exposures will be made. It is best to suspend judgment in the premises until the charges are proven, should the evidence be sufficient. Telegraphic reports are not always reliable, especially where it is prejudicial to organized labor, for it seems that the Associated Press has made a studied effort to give labor unions the worst of it in nearly all of its news reports. Should the charges against the labor leaders and their business allies be sustained in court by conclusive proof there is no penalty too severe to fit the crime of plunging the thousands of men, women, and little children into destitution and poverty.

GRAFT BECOMING A DISEASE.

Gov. Folk of Missouri so Declares and Suggests a Remedy.

"The fight against graft is one of the greatest issues before the nation today," says Joseph W. Folk, governor of Missouri. "Graft lies at the bottom of the worst governmental evils. Monopolies which control necessities of life and exact unjust prices from the people are the greatest of all grafters. I believe it is possible to get at corruption everywhere in the country."

"The manufacturer who gets undue tariff protection has what may be termed a graft. The monopoly which controls necessities of life and exacts unjust prices from the people has a graft. Those who profit by such privileges are in morals just as much grafters as those who bribe city or state officials to grant improper franchises."

"It is this enlargement of the scheme of graft that makes the unjust monopolies more odious. They differ from the petty, vulgar combinations only in size. Their methods of corruption may not be so direct, but they are equally hurtful."

"The remedy is exposure and punishment; punishment when it is possible, but exposure always. The men who grant unjust privileges, who help to build up the great monopolies, do so at the expense of the people. They should be taught by the people that it is bad politics."

"The growing independence of the American press, the tendency to support officials in the struggle with political corruption regardless of party, is a proof that the country is arousing itself to the bribery question. I believe that the press should be left as free as possible. When it tells the truth it is all-powerful. When it lies it can do little harm. The people are getting more independent and more intelligent every day, and are showing an increasing capacity for distinguishing the true from the false. A newspaper attack can do little harm to any man unless it is based upon the truth."

"The prosecutor who undertakes to fight boodle and booting should close his eyes to politics. There is no politics in boodle. The booters are

friends everywhere. They work unaided. They use a party name simply for concealment or protection. They rely upon the indifference of honest citizens. That is one of the weak points in the struggle for honest government. Men who are proud of their riotism neglect to vote. Yet, attempt to take away the man's right to vote and he will go out on the field and die in defense of it. But, while he has the right to vote, he does not seem to realize that it is his business to see that government is free from corruption."

"The more I see of the people the more faith I have in the intelligence of the average American citizen. I am convinced that no corrupt combination can be formed of sufficient strength or cunning to withstand public sentiment when once it is aroused. The trouble is that the corruptionist, the booters, all over the country have a sort of masonic bond of sympathy, working shoulder to shoulder, while honest citizens are divided. But when once the public conscience is aroused the result is irresistible. The thing to do is to get at the facts and to relentlessly expose. The public is quick to respond to and support the facts. Once establish the fact of corruption and the public will do the rest."

NATURAL CONSEQUENCE.

There was a boy and he refused
To run away from school,
Because, he said, this little man,
It was against the rule—
He had no legs.

There was a woman, so they say,
Who loved not war and strife;
She went her way and never spoke
A cross word in her life—
But she was dumb.

Another woman would refuse
To gossip to give ear;
And every tale of scandal, she
Refused point blank to hear—
For she was deaf.

There is a man who never drinks
Nor smokes nor chews nor swears;
Nor does he gamble in the least
And shuns all sinful snares—
He's paralyzed.

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