

# OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE.

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### Will Prosperity Continue?

Will prosperity continue? That is the question with which industry in the United States faces a new year after a twelvemonth of prosperity unparalleled—a twelvemonth in which practically every branch of business and manufacture showed an increase over any previous year; when business failures—in spite of thousands of new enterprises—amounted to only eight-tenths of one per cent; when the railroads could not carry the products of farm and factory so great was its volume; when wages were increased as well as prices; when the home demand for materials was so "insatiable" (as Bradstreet puts it) that the volume of exports for a time was checked, while producers labored to supply the unprecedented needs for domestic use and internal development.

Will prosperity continue? Cautious answers to the question have been given by the majority of the daily papers of the United States. In the January 1st issue many of them present the views of local business men of prominence. The New York Evening Post perhaps has collected the largest amount of such data. In a fifteen-page supplement it presents extended reviews of the situation from financial correspondents in Paris, London, Berlin, Therold, Ont., Chicago, Kansas City, Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburg and Seattle, and gives besides answers to a series of questions sent to bankers, financiers, and professors in economics throughout the country. "We think," says the Post in its editorial summary, "that the reader of these financial reviews will rise from his survey of the situation with a feeling of optimism." The Post, however, points out that in these articles there is perceptible one "note of uncertainty"—"doubt over the manner in which American industry has been exploited by American capital." Still, it is held that in general our prosperity "rests upon realities," and while "the penalty which follows recklessness in the use of capital may not even yet have been fully visited upon that part of the community guilty of such excesses," yet "such an inevitable reckoning... will but develop in clear light the real resources of American industry and finance." The conclusions of the Post are confirmed on all sides. The New York Times thinks that "the conditions now existing and the forces now operative promise to carry us prosperously through the greater part of the year." The Tribune, speaking broadly of affairs industrial and social, says that "where men faced the first day of 1902 with anxiety and misgivings, or at best with feeble hope, they face the opening of 1903 with confidence and exultation." The Herald, taking a more sober view of speculation, declares that there has been "too much borrowing, and credit is so seriously inflated that a shock of any kind which would cause a sudden demand for the redemption of these credits might have unfortunate consequences." In general, however, the tone of comment the country over is such that an answer to the question, Will prosperity continue? if based upon it, would be in the affirmative.

AN examination of the text of the papal bull on the Philippines which has been received in Washington should dissipate all fears as to any serious trouble between the government and the Roman Catholic church. After a description of the development under the old regime the following significant passage occurs:

But the fortune of war which changed the civil government of the country has involved changes in the spiritual government also. For with the cessation of Spanish rule the right of patronage of the Spanish kings has also ceased, and the church has come into greater liberty, with the just partition of its rights from those of the civil government.

This actually sounds like an expression of gratification over the change, and it certainly implies an unreserved acceptance of such a status as is accorded to the church in this country. We may expect, therefore, that the future policy of the church government will be determined largely by the traditions and experience of the American church and the advice of prelates. The connection with Spain, it appears, is severed absolutely. The head of the Philippines hierarchy will be the archbishop of Manila, and the members of monastic orders will be responsible to the executive bishops of their dioceses, who have the jurisdiction which formerly belonged to the superiors of the orders. Hence, although the problem of the friars and their property is not wholly solved as yet, the tenor of the document indicates very clearly that its

difficulties have been greatly reduced during the last year.

THE election of Senator Brownell as President of the senate is in a small way a recognition of this county. Clackamas County has had little at the hands of the state for years. Brownell's election was in a sense a sitting down on Jack Mathews and his methods of running the Republican machine in this state. There are many divergent interests in politics and especially so in Republican politics of Oregon but most of the leaders united against Mathews and were for Brownell. It may seem strange that Mitchell and Simon would unite on anything but not only did they both support Brownell but they were aided by Bourne, Fulton and Geer. In other words, none of the leaders wanted Jack Mathews to organize either house and in this they have succeeded as Smith was his man for president of the senate and Eddy for speaker of the house. Fulton probably gets the best of the organization as Brownell is friendly to him and Harris was distinctly a Fulton candidate and a bright, capable man, whose friends are glad to see him to the front. As politics go Brownell was entitled to the place he asked for as he has made three hard fights for the senate, has taken a prominent part in the senatorial election held while he was a member of the senate and deserves this recognition. We congratulate him on his success.

IN the death of Hon. Thos. H. Tongue, not only his congressional district but the state and coast lose a valuable man in Congress. He had reached that point in Congressional experience that made him of distinct value to the state, especially will this be felt on committees. His place on the river and harbor committee alone has been worth much to the state. Among some of his notable achievements was the Indian War Veterans Pension Bill and the Crater Lake National Park. He has also at all times worked for the improvement of the Columbia river and it had been due to his efforts as much as anyone's that Oregon got as much as she did for this work. Mr. Tongue also did much for irrigation and better mail facilities for the state. He was a man of strong convictions, firmness, and active in the interests of his state to the point of aggressiveness. He was strongly devoted to the interests of the state, felt the responsibility of his position and with tact and judgment labored for his district and constituents. Oregon will miss him from the halls of Congress and can not hope to replace him with a man as useful at once. No new man can do the work that Thos. H. Tongue was doing for the state of Oregon.

IT is said that the beet sugar men are modifying their hostility toward reciprocity, but that this has caused a renewed energy on the part of the Louisiana cane growers. If the hopes of the former are justified, however, the antagonism of the latter should seek another object than the cane growers of Cuba. Their peril does not lie without the country, in Cuba, Hawaii, the Philippines or any tropical lands, but is here, where tariffs, without differentials, cannot ward it off. American beet is apparently the true enemy of American cane. It is to come down to 2 cents, it is to fill this market and to proceed on its ruthless way to conquer markets abroad. Blesing Cuba will have an unprecedented hemorrhage when this world destroyer gets into full action, and the miserable plantations of Louisiana will resolve themselves into the original bayous once more. If the planters are to be saved a law should be passed making it a crime to raise beets except for pickles.

THERE are attempts being made in the legislature to change the method of raising the school fund by making it a per capita tax. Some are advocating making it as high as \$8 a pupil. This would nearly double the school fund in this county and it is doubtful if the people would be willing to tax themselves even for so laudable a purpose as the schools to this extent. Some advocate the raising of the tax from 5 to 6 mills. We believe that the people generally are inclined to liberally support the schools, but whether any additional tax by the state should be levied is questionable. It might be that the best plan will be for each district to decide this for themselves, but the strong friends of the schools and those that want the schools to get more funds say that the districts, and especially the outlying ones, will never vote the additional tax if it is left to them.

SENATOR MARSTERS is insisting that the appropriation to the Lewis and Clark Fair be submitted to the people under the initiative and referendum. Senator Marsters will find that there are many people that agree with him in this matter. As it is the people who will have to pay the tax, they should have a voice in saying how much if any tax they care to pay for this purpose. A half million of dollars is quite a sum of money and we believe it would pay the state to expend it; there are many who do not. We do think that Senator Marsters is right in letting the people pass on this matter. If they vote the tax they will pay it much more cheerfully than they will if they have no voice in the matter.

DAVID B. HILL wants patent medicine makers to quit using his portrait for advertising purposes. This is an entirely reasonable demand. The patent medicine people, as well as others, should refrain from doing violence to the dead.

QUAY positively denies that he is going to resign either as senator or boss of Pennsylvania. Evidently Quay has no desire to make this a glad new year for other people.

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