

Oregon City Enterprise

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CANADA AND THE CANAL

A larger part of the British ministry concerning the Panama Canal tolls is perhaps explained by the energy displayed in railway building in western Canada. For many months past, double tracking extensions, and the displacement of lighter with heavier steel rails westward from the great wheat fields of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan have marked an anxiety to get more perfect running arrangements to Vancouver by the time, or soon after, when the canal shall be opened to navigation. The Canadians are vitally interested not only in the proposed regulation discriminating in favor of United States coasting vessels, but also, if not equally, in that provision denying the use of the canal to vessels owned in part or in whole by transcontinental railway lines. The Canadians have gone on record as opposing our reciprocities. No doubt they are even more strongly opposed to our discriminations.

Sir Edward Grey seems to touch but lightly upon this phase of the controversy; but it is, in all probability, the gravamen of his entire dispute with us. The proposed discrimination could hardly militate against British commerce per se, anywhere else than along our western coast. It could not take effect anywhere along eastern or western coasts of South or Central America, or in western Canadian ports. No doubt there has been a protest in England against the acceptance of the regulation, and such a protest would naturally be echoed by the other commercial nations of Europe, all of which have a common interest. It would seem, in making our national property their international property, without the payment of a price of any kind. But there is no commercial or maritime nation in Europe with such a vital interest in the abrogation of the rule as the Canadians undoubtedly have.

Any such interest, wherever located, is without standing in equity or precedent. The British position denies the soundness of long recognized and accepted principles of action in fixing the obligations of private owners of property designated and intended for public purposes. In fact, the rules and regulations guaranteeing equality of service and rates can be taken as applying only to foreign vessels. A railway corporation leasing any part of its lines to another company invariably reserves privileges to itself as to rights of way for designated trains, and adjusts its time and running schedules to its own uses more than it does to the uses of the lessee, which must adjust itself to the lessor's convenience. To push the British position to its reducio ad absurdum, it would deny the United States the right to discriminate in its own defense in the use of the canal in time of war. Sir Edward Grey evidently sees this weakness in his reasoning, and seeks to get away from it by formally conceding our right in forty, as to which, he says, no protest will be offered. Really, a process against fortification of our property on the isthmus would be little more tenable than one which protests against a discrimination in rails in favor of American ships paying only in the American coast trade. We invite Sir Edward to feel the insecurity of his premises and conclusions, and we suspect that the pressure which has placed him in such a weak position is more colonial than domestic.

DIMICK'S BILL WOULD AID NEXT GENERATION

Lock Clackamas County, Oregon's representative in the state senate, has introduced a bill which is of the utmost importance to all persons interested in eugenics. The bill, if

enacted into a law, unquestionably would be of great aid to Oregon, although for the nonce, we know of no state that has a finer or sturdier people. But it is just as well to keep the race up to the highest standard as we unhesitatingly endorse the measure introduced by Senator Dimick, which provides that no marriage license shall be issued in the state unless it is accompanied by a certificate from a practicing physician at least 12 hours prior to the proposed ceremony, and that the man is physically fit to enter into such marriage. Natural selection plays an important part in the human race, and with lower animals, Darwin proved that through selection by human beings many animal species were improved almost one hundredfold within a few years. For instance he took ordinary pigeons and by careful selection within an incredible short time produced the fantails, the pouters and other fancy stock. He worked almost as great wonders with chickens and other fowls; however, it would be impossible with the human race to make matings such as would bring the best results, because human beings, for the most part, will mate as they see fit. The idea Senator Dimick has in mind is to prevent a deterioration of the race through marriage of persons diseased physically or mentally. If his bill becomes a law, and the law is enforced, there is little doubt that the number of imbeciles would be greatly lessened as a result. And there is little doubt that the number of persons inheriting organic diseases would be greatly lessened. Senator Dimick is working on a scientific hypothesis, which in the lower order of animals has been demonstrated repeatedly. The Enterprise hasn't the slightest doubt that with careful selection of mates in the human family and with careful attention to offspring, pedigree such as the world has never known would be produced.

TAX LIST BILL IS BELIEVED SAFE

Information received from Salem is that there is little likelihood the bill introduced by Representative Schneidau seeking the repeal of the measure passed in 1911, providing for the publication of delinquent tax lists, will become a law. In fact, it is reported Mr. Schneidau has little hope of his measure being passed, and admits that he introduced it at the request of a friend. When asked the identity of the friend the Clackamas County Representative said he was E. F. Riley, of the Clackamas Title Company, with offices in the Chamber of Commerce, Portland. It is possible that Mr. Riley being interested in the abstract business and having considerable to do with tax titles might be benefited indirectly through the abrogation of the measure providing for the publication of delinquents. But Mr. Riley's gain would be so small compared to the damage to others that his argument, if he intends to make one, should be of little avail. The publication of delinquent tax lists has from time immemorial been regarded as almost a necessity in the various states of the union. It is a service to the various counties in that it aids collections. Many persons, upon seeing their names on the lists, make haste to pay the amount due for fear their credit might suffer. Other persons, interested in a large number of tracts, learn from the lists that they unintentionally failed to pay the taxes on certain tracts. The fault was not with them at all, and surely they should have the benefit of knowing of their arrearages. It is necessary, in order that they avoid the possibility of having clouds on their titles.

The bill passed in 1911 provides that in counties with populations of 10,000 or more the two county papers having the largest circulations shall publish the delinquent tax lists, the maximum cost not to exceed the fixed rate for local notices. It was not until all phases of the subject had been carefully considered that the bill was passed by the Legislature, and, as much as its operation has been of benefit to the County and many taxpayers as well, it is not conceivable that the present Legislature will give the measure its death blow. The cost of publication is borne by the property advertised.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

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So far as we know the millworkers are satisfied. We are no championing their cause, because it is not necessary, even if we were able to do so. They have demonstrated they are able to take care of themselves but we believe the men in the mills are satisfied, and if not we believe they are perfectly able to take care of themselves without risking their livelihood upon a measure of legislation which might be a law today and might be varied under an avalanche of the votes of the people at the next election. The millworkers, if they wish to have the initiative as a weapon of protection—and it has been our experience that anything that hardwears good law-abiding citizens have asked of the people who have got for the nation. This are the bone and sinew of the community, and being the bone and sinew of the community they are pretty apt to know what they want. Are the millworkers dissatisfied with their hours? If they are why did the 700 employees of one mill, without a dissenting vote, January 1 demanded the manager because he gave them an opportunity through a bonus system to increase their wages? And why did these thrifty, hardworking men command that manager because he had installed the best machinery? And why did they say they appreciated his looking out for their interests? There is a lot of tomfoolery about fixing hours of labor. An honest industries representative of the people in the halls of the Oregon Legislature, no doubt works twelve or fifteen hours a day.

Why doesn't the manager keep when his brother is as well off as you? It would be ludicrous if the millworkers would try to fix your hours of labor at eight hours a day. The CASE OF WIL- LIAM ROCKEFELLER

William Rockefeller, father of William Rockefeller, Jr., has served as a subpoena, commanding his presence before the Pritz House committee as witness, before he can be held as advised of his summoning. Nobody doubts that he is thoroughly advised of that fact. It is knowledge of that fact which has forced him to remain under cover during all the inclemency weather and has now, in spite of his sheltered life, brought on a severe attack of laryngitis. Still according to a legal fiction, which is well worth preserving, Mr. Rockefeller doesn't know that a subpoena has been issued for him in the only legal way in which a witness can be made to know it through service.

This is a form and action of the law which is well worth keeping. Because, whatever the law and the case against a very wealthy man, who undoubtedly agrees of how wealth has been manipulated in this country, for the enrichment of an inner circle of plutocrats at the expense of every body else, the immunity of Rockefeller may, at any time, be used by any honest man to serve the ends of justice or defeat the ends of injustice.

Avoiding service can, and we know has been done, to defeat money, and to save the weak from the strong. No man can have mixed much to the life of this midcontinent, still comparatively rude and crude, in "the making," without gaining knowledge of how grim silence has been held by many men who would have come from nothing but the danger of incurring a good friend or a good cause.

CLACKAMAS GAINS IN FRUIT GROWING

The report of the

Clackamas County

in less than ten years has advanced

in the production of fruit from

the twentieth to the fourth

decade in the state should be gratifying to our horticulturists and land

owners. It reveals the great possi-

bilities here for growing fruit and

should be an incentive for the plant-

ing of many more orchards. It has

always been inconceivable to us why

more fruit was not grown in this

county when on the other side of

Mount Hood conditions are so

much more favorable than here is

grown the prime fruit of the world.

But the report indicates that the

Clackamas County residents are be-

coming alive to the great opportunity

before them and eventually the com-

pany may become a rival of Hood Riv-

er.

The recent meetings conducted by O. E. Freytag, county fruit inspector, and fruit experts representing the state, in various parts of the county, will have a splendid effect in stimulat-

ing the planting and proper car-

ing of orchards. They explained the

benefits of pruning and gave lessons

regarding the combating of pests

and diseases. With proper care in

the selection of trees, proper atten-

tion after planting and proper han-

dling for marketing there is

no reason why Clackamas County

should not advance to at least sec-

ond place in fruit production.

COMMERCIAL CLUB DOES GREAT WORK

Another year started—the

sixth in the history of the history of

Oregon City's growth, for until the

Commercial Club was organized there

was not a city on the coast which

neglected its opportunities worse than

this. Five years have elapsed and

the sixth started, each one showing

a better record, until now we are

known from the Atlantic around the

globe and look again as one of the

most progressive spots of opportunity

in the Western hemisphere for the

man with little means, big ambitions

and a desire to work. May the Com-

mercial Club live long and continue

to prosper.

Gilbert L. Hedges, in his address at

the banquet of the Congregational

Brotherhood Tuesday evening, said

that man should be compelled to

work 12 hours a day. The types

made it appear that Mr. Hedges said

he believed men should not be re-

quired to work longer than 12 hours

a day. He believes in reducing the

hours of working men in factories.

Under the peculiar system prevail-

ing in New York a citizen buys police

protection just as he buys any other

commodity, and it is subject to the

same fluctuations—that is, it keeps

getting higher and higher.

Democratic congressmen are about

to hold tariff hearings. They should

open each session by reading the con-

stitution which their platform asserts,

territorial protection. This claim should

not be denied or dropped.

As the Panams said in their possess-

ion, it is not easy to understand why

the shares of our canal are not part

of our countrywide property.

THE FORUM OF THE PEOPLE

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

OREGON CITY, Jan. 13.—(Editor of

the Enterprise)—In answer to your

inquiry as to St. Valentine, we give

you pleasure to say that as all know

the day on which the Saint is honored

is February the fourteenth. In

this year of grace it falls upon Friday.

According to the discipline of the

Anglican Catholic and the Roman

Catholic Church, every Friday in the

year is a day of abstinence unless

Christmas falls upon it or a special

day is observed by the ecclesiastical

authorities. This year it also occurs

on the 14th of February.

Chicago now began to breathe

again, having been closed for

over a week by ice and snow