

The Oregonian

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be \$4,321,903.82, and the Consolidated Gas Company \$1,489,996.55. We have in Oregon many of these franchises, most of which are continually growing more valuable. They offer a means of raising revenue which will tend to equalization of taxes, give relief to real estate and casual rich people who have been concealing their wealth and constantly rolling it up, while paying little or nothing for support of the operations of government, to bear their fair share of the public obligations.

Our Legislature at the recent session passed an act for creation of a State Tax Commission, which is to consider the whole subject of taxation in this state and submit its report to the Legislature at the session—that of 1907. Undoubtedly this commission will go into consideration of this subject of taxing public franchises, since now there is no doubt of the validity of it.

THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS.

The newspaper that is backed up by banks is a mistake, and the banks that back a newspaper make a mistake. No newspaper yet ever was established with money, and banks and corporations that attempt to carry their purposes by publishing newspapers, always miss their object and suffer themselves, in consequence. A newspaper must exist for its own sake, or it is nothing. Banks and corporations have their legitimate field, but the newspaper is alien to it. It might strike every newspaper that has other purposes behind it than the one of giving the public news and information. The St. Paul Globe, J. J. Hill's paper, that succumbed recently, after publication during twenty-four years, is a type or example of all the class. The newspaper that the people trust must be devoted to the purposes of journalism, not to those of plutocratic and monopolistic endeavor.

And here let it be said that the Oregonian is not "squeezing" because it is "hurt." It isn't hurt at all. Its business, both in subscriptions and advertisements, is greater, far greater, than at any former period of its history. It is so, likewise, with the Evening Telegram. The columns of both papers show what they are doing. Yesterday the Oregonian printed 29,000 copies, and they were exhausted before a o'clock. It will print more on future Sundays. Today the Oregonian prints and will sell not less than 22,000 copies. The Evening Telegram printed and sold last Saturday, and will print and sell today, more than 25,000 copies. It is not necessary to go into details as to the advertising columns of the two newspapers. Every one can see for himself.

PARTISAN INSINCERITY.

Among the most insincere partisans in Oregon are the Democratic politicians who are saying there can be no party issue in the election of a Mayor of Portland. They say this only because they know their own party is a minority party here and can't elect a Mayor except on false pretense. Their candidate, Dr. Lane, nevertheless, as a Democrat, was nominated as a Democrat, and will be a Democratic Mayor if elected, just as George Chamberlain, elected under similar pretense of non-partisanship, is a Democratic Governor, from skin to bone, and from bone back to skin again.

A GOOD BEGINNING.

The portage railroad which was opened at Celilo Saturday will stand as an unparelleled feat for the protection of industrial development in the interior. Immediate returns commensurate with the expectations of some of the most optimistic promoters of the great work may not be realized, but a beginning which may some day lead to greater things has been made. As the switchback precedes the tunnel in facilitating the movement of traffic from one side of a mountain to the other, so the portage railroad precedes the canal in assisting traffic around the obstructions which Nature has placed in our waterways. But the temporary switchback is at the best only a makeshift. As an instrument for handling traffic where facilities have been missing, it is an important link in the chain pending completion of the permanent line through the tunnel.

RED TAPE AT A DISCOUNT.

The portage road is not a permanent part of our interior transportation system, but it is a most important feature of the preliminaries, and, so long as it exists, we can enjoy a feeling of commercial safety which might be threatened were the transportation lines between the producing districts of the inland Empire and the sea in the hands of a monopoly. The historic trip of the Mountain States Express, which carried a large number of people who have come into the three states since the old era of steamboating on the upper river, that the upper reaches of these streams are navigable. For long distances they present to the steamboatman an unobstructed channel, which can be navigated at all seasons of the year. The comparatively few obstructions which lie between the steamer and the open river are insurmountable or, at the most, very expensive to remove, and the awakening of interest in an open river, an effort will undoubtedly be made to interest the Government in the undertaking.

TAXATION OF PUBLIC FRANCHISES.

The Legislature of Oregon will not adjourn its next session without having passed an act to impose special taxes on public franchises in the state, rated already at millions of value, but paying nothing. At present the only payment the owners of these franchises make is on small valuations of the physical property which is their outward manifestation. The vastly more valuable, for which in most cases, perhaps in all cases in our state, nothing has been paid, is left untaxed. It was due to Theodore Roosevelt, who as Governor of New York, urged the Legislature of that state to act, and who has by his persistent efforts and recommendations through that body, that this important subject has been advanced to the status it now occupies. The corporations stubbornly fought it through the higher courts of that state; then took it up to the Supreme Court of the United States. Unpaid taxes, with interest and penalties, which now must be paid, exceed \$55,000,000. The act, in its present form, The Manhattan Railway Company alone must

traillation of power. The successors of the present management may be less broad-minded in their views regarding an open river, and we must be protected against a changing policy which might prove disastrous to our inland development. It may be many years before the desirability of the traffic such as to enable us to utilize to the best advantage this great water highway, but no time should be lost in placing it in the best possible condition for use whenever a threatened restriction on our transportation facilities demands its employment.

WHERE IS THE POLICY-HOLDER AT?

There are no doubt many Jimmy Hydes in the life insurance business; but the activities and influence of that gifted young person have been observed with grave and growing concern by every policy-holder in every company and association of thatsoever description. There are said to be 35,000,000 life insurance policies in force in the United States, so that almost all citizens have an immediate interest in safeguarding in all possible ways the whole system, whether mutual, beneficiary, fraternal, or what not. The unseemly row in the Equitable has served to bring back to the public the startling fact that as a brakeman on a gravel train, and a good brakeman he was. He was also a good train conductor shortly afterwards, and as he moved up, his record as train-dispatcher and as division superintendent met with the approval of his superiors. The position he now holds, next to that of General Manager O'Brien, is the most important one in the Harriman system in this territory. The people of this big Northwest have a good many grievances against the Harriman system, but there is nothing but admiration for the high-class graduates of the Harriman school who have grown up in our midst, and demonstrated most effectually that merit, industry and strict attention to business will not work wonders for the penniless brakeman, as well as the pampered son of a millionaire.

A main element in the contest today is the fight of the common people against plutocracy, against canting moralists, against holler-than-thou reformers. We have here also a small residuum of the Puritanism of 150 years ago. It is yoked up with plutocracy—not that plutocracy cares for it, but it is willing to enlist any sort and every sort of moralism for its purpose. The modern world has outrun old Puritanism and self-righteousness, still the dregs of both remain, here and there. At present in Portland there is a union of the whole with plutocracy. Everybody sees it and knows it, and understands it. Pretense of self-righteousness, against the morality of the plain common people—though backed by moralists, who have taken it every day in sight and have their drawers out for more, is not convincing. Deliver us all from this rancid holler-than-thou pretension, with its everlasting greed and monopolistic background!

In nearly every one of the proposed amendments to the charter of the city there is a scheme or game. Some special interest is behind each. The "Joker" is there. Take the proposal for the addition of 15 per cent penalty to all assessments for improvements, which are not paid within 90 days. There is no occasion for the voters of Portland to make such gift to the contractor for street and other improvements. Hitherto the charter never has had such provision, and severe penalties now are provided for failure to pay assessments. This proposed amendment has been carefully drawn by the contractors, with the intent that they may get 15 per cent penalty. The property-owner may be wholly willing to pay, but under the system may not have notice. You may depend that they who devise these amendments have some job in them.

A correspondent of The Oregonian, noting what has been said about the necessity of legislation for the taxation of the stock of the state, writes: "The statutes of this state make no taxes taxable the same as other property and every County Assessor should consider it as much his duty to assess that class of property or other interests, as he does by any species of property, tangible or intangible, which can be the object of purchase and sale, should be assessed and taxed. Every owner of real estate, which is assessed by valuation, thereby places an unjust proportion of the tax burden upon the property that is properly assessed."

The purpose of the amendment to permit the Consolidated Railway Company to occupy additional tracks in the city has been explained fully by The Oregonian heretofore, together with the effect or consequences, should the amendment be adopted. It would extend the franchise of the monopoly and add value to the millions already "absorbed." It is not surprising that the so-called taxpayers' league, which has been formed for the purpose, should recommend this proposition to the voters. Property to the extent of how many millions are to be given to this corporation? Let us add that there are taxpayers in Portland who are not members of this small but select league.

Russia, the power which Napoleon could not destroy or overcome, by direct attack, in the early part of the last century, is now humiliated and completely overcome by Japan, which a century ago was not thought of as a power. There is a difference between conditions when a nation fights in the heart of her territory and when she fights on a remote frontier. Napoleon in 1812 had to go too far from home. Russia, in 1905, goes too far from home. Only to an extent, and within limits, can man, or can a nation, triumph over physical obstacles or conditions.

One amendment to the charter that, for special reasons, ought to carry is that which proposes decrease of the amount and therefore of the cost of city advertising. On this amendment every elector, as it seems to The Oregonian, ought to vote "yes."

A pack of wolves may pull down a horse, or other noble animal. It often has been done. Turning a metaphor, will that happen today? We think not. Yet the fury has been equal to that of a pack of wolves. Russia says she is going to build a great and mighty fleet. What for? For Japan to destroy? The fleet on paper, or on water, that can't fight, is nothing. It may drown helpless sailors.

OREGON OZONE.

When red-head matches formed a trust that people couldn't buck. The public heard it with disgust. And all the matches struck. No match made since—combine-enough. To make a patriot tick—For though this trust we kick and cuff. The pins are sure to stick. James Russell Lowell once said that the essentials of an after-dinner speech are the quotation, the platitude and the joke. He forgot the gag.

Truly the Lord is on the side of the bravest battalions and the boldest squadrons. Japan has wiped up the earth with Russia and scattered the remains in the sea, and now the sea has given up a new island to add to Japanese territory. A volcanic island, described as being 340 feet high and three miles in circumference, has reared itself in Japanese waters. It is not so very big, but it will do as a site for an observation station, and as it happens to be among the Volcano Islands, it may provide its own pyrotechnics.

One should not consider himself a competent linguist until he is able to pronounce "Estadillo." No doubt President Loubet is glad to get King Alfonso out of his hands, but there are others in Paris who sometimes find King Alfonso's holding three or four kings a desirable holding.

The secretary of the Paine Memorial Association forgot to provide the annual worth for the gravestone of Thomas Paine on Memorial day, but the American people who know history as they should be written have not forgotten to honor Thomas Paine as a mighty factor in the achievement of independence. If Paine had had a few flowers before his death, it is just possible that his immortal worth would be able to endure more patiently the execrations of the unworldly.

Mr. Robbins, of Old Town, Me., who made a strenuous fight in the East against the payment of preposterous gas bills, has instructed his attorney to open a similar campaign in the interest of the people of Seattle. Most of us have supposed that Seattle folk use only hot air.

Down in Tennessee a man has been fined \$20 for snoring in church. This is right and proper. A church is not a lodging-house. When a man accepts a free pew he has no right to mistake the cushions for a mattress. Churches are intended as places for spiritual awakening, not as inns of physical relaxation. Furthermore, it is positively ungentlemanly for a person to snore in a church, even though he goes to sleep without malice aforethought. A man who snores should be careful in selecting his sleeping places. He should engage apartments for the summer or a summer home. The best advice one can offer on this point is that the sleeper confine his mouth exclusively to the purpose of mastication and conversation, using his nose for inhalation and exhalation.

A Head for Bargains.

A Portland woman bought one of those ill-favored chignons. It was a bargain, marked down from \$12. When she looked in it she felt so happy over her bargain that she just let herself loose. The corner of a bureau caught her head as she was falling, after both the rollers split off. The doctor charged \$5 for sewing up her head—cut rate.

Her husband hurried home from the office, summoned by telephone, and looked at the patient's head, then he looked at the wrecked rocking-chair. "It's a great head for bargains you've got," he remarked.

In Memory Land. I wander far, I wander free. Down winding ways of Used-to-be; With lovely phantoms hand in hand; I rove the meads of Memory Land; My reverent footsteps softly tread The grasses waving 'er the dead, And they are with me once again, Living and loving me as then.

In Memory Land my soul somehow Forsook the unromantic Now. To walk again in the happy way Of the departed yesterday; To tread the paths of fragrant hopes, The velvet green of sunny slopes, And climb the unfading heights To Gardens of the Lost Delights.

Oh, far and fair as radiant dreams Out to the silver shine of streams; That flow through flowery ways afar; Where Youth and Faith and Fortune are; And fair and far as mountains kissed With rosy lips of morning mist, The kindly water, soft and steady, And the plains of Memory Land.

Robertus Still a Possibility. Augusta (Ga.) Herald. If Theodore Roosevelt persists in his present course, if he continues to wage war against official corruption, if he continues to fight corporate greed; if he persists in being the President of the people, it is highly probable that he may be a candidate of any party for the Presidency of the United States four years hence, but how about the people? They may insist that Theodore Roosevelt be carried into the White House, and in such an event Theodore Roosevelt could not decline. Just at present Theodore Roosevelt is neither a Republican nor Democratic President, measured by party standards. He is, however, progressing along lines that will win for him the admiration and commendation of the people, which, if irrefragable behind a man Roosevelt's individuality, brain and courage, would be irresistible in American politics.

Southern Pacific Men Here. James F. Fee, passenger traffic manager of the Southern Pacific from San Francisco, accompanied by 14 of his assistants and district passenger agents from California reached Portland last night from Tacoma and will be in the city for several days to attend the Exposition and look over the town.

Mr. Fee and his party left San Francisco several days ago and have been on the extended tour of the Northwest. They have visited Seattle, Tacoma and other Washington cities and will make long visit in Portland before returning to their homes in California. Mr. Fee is taking his agents on the trip in order to acquaint them with the conditions of the Northwest, that they will be able to do better work in booming the Exposition during the rest of the summer.

CHEERED AT LA GRANDE.

LA GRANDE, Or., June 4.—(Special.)—Vice-President Fairbanks and his party passed here today on the delayed eastbound train and were met at the station by President William Miller, of the Commercial Club, and a number of citizens. Had it been generally known that the distinguished party was on the train, a much larger number of persons would have been at the station to receive it. Mr. Fairbanks was given a general introduction to those present by Mr. Miller, and shook hands with many, but owing to the brief time the train remained at the station, did not have time to greet all.

The Vice-President expressed himself as being much pleased with Oregon, and said he thought it was a great country. He made a brief speech from the rear-end of his car in which he asked a number of questions regarding this city and the products of the valley, when J. W. Knowles, who was among the number present, answered "the products of this valley are principally Republican."

Mr. Fairbanks replied: "That is good, and the next best thing to produce is a good Democrat, but the best of all is a good American citizen." After a few more pleasant remarks, the train pulled out, followed by hearty cheers from the crowd.

ENGINEERS ACTIVE ON SNAKE.

O. R. & N. Co. Has Two Parties Above Riparian. LEWISTON, Idaho, June 4.—(Special.)—Parties arriving here tonight on the steamer Snake report that O. R. & N. engineers are active along Snake River. Two parties came up from the river, one of 11 men under Engineer Ketterling, and one of 13 men under Engineer Klippel. The former outfit was landed at Diamond Creek, with a large amount of supplies, and will work both ways along the river from that point. Engineer Klippel and party are at Almeta and will also divide and work both ways. It is reported that material for the dam at Riparian within a day or two which will be used in putting in switches and temporary track to carry supplies to points along the Snake river, but the amount of work to be done is not stated.

Down in Tennessee a man has been fined \$20 for snoring in church. This is right and proper. A church is not a lodging-house. When a man accepts a free pew he has no right to mistake the cushions for a mattress. Churches are intended as places for spiritual awakening, not as inns of physical relaxation. Furthermore, it is positively ungentlemanly for a person to snore in a church, even though he goes to sleep without malice aforethought. A man who snores should be careful in selecting his sleeping places. He should engage apartments for the summer or a summer home. The best advice one can offer on this point is that the sleeper confine his mouth exclusively to the purpose of mastication and conversation, using his nose for inhalation and exhalation.

Meets Death at Marshfield. MARCHFIELD, Or., June 4.—(Special.)—Joseph Patino, a fireman on the steamer Breakwater, was drowned here last night. The Breakwater arrived here yesterday from San Francisco and was in the Sprucebrook boom when steam was blown down and tubes cleaned, the work being finished about 11 P. M. Patino, being warm and dirty, decided to take a shower. He went over the side of the ship, and in a minute or two he was heard to yell and splash in the water, and then went down, never to rise. It is supposed he was taken with a heart attack. The body has been dragging for his body, but up to this afternoon has been unsuccessful.

Roberts Commands the Ferry. TACOMA, Wash., June 4.—(Special.)—Captain W. H. Roberts, who was yesterday assistant inspector of life-saving stations for the 12th district, has been assigned by the Treasury Department to the command of the State ferry of this cutter Commodore Perry. He left Tacoma this afternoon for Seattle, where the ferry is now lying, and will assume immediate command of the vessel. According to instructions received he will sail for Alaska Wednesday, where the revenue cutter is being sent in the interests of the revenue service of the Government.

Double Tragedy at a Dance. ORAN, Mo., June 4.—Harry Burton, 25 years of age, shot and killed his sister-in-law, Miss Franka Clark, aged 17, at a dance last night, ten miles north of here, at Rockwell, and then committed suicide by shooting. The girl's refusal to dance with him prompted the tragedy.

PASSPORTS FOR THE HEBREWS. State Department Informed of Proposed Russian Law. WASHINGTON, June 4.—Acting Secretary Loomis, of the State Department, has been informed by the Russian Legation in St. Petersburg of the provisions of the proposed new law in Russia under which all American passports, including those for citizens of the Hebrew race, will be recognized there. This information is confirmatory of the press dispatches of a week ago, which announced the approval by the Council of the Empire of the recommended law, which included universal recognition of foreign passports.

THE DAY'S DEATH RECORD. Peter L. Kimberley. CHICAGO, June 4.—Peter L. Kimberley, prominent throughout the United States and Canada, died here today of apoplexy.

Lincoln Declines Offer. WILL NOT BE CHAIRMAN OF THE EQUIVOCAL DIRECTORS. CHICAGO, June 4.—Robert T. Lincoln, of this city, was asked tonight if he would accept the office of chairman of the Equivocal Directors of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, should the position be offered to him. In reply Mr. Lincoln said that under no circumstances would he accept the office.

Solution Seems at Hand. NEW YORK, June 4.—Samuel Untermeyer, counsel for Vice President Hyde, of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, made a statement tonight, in which he declared that a solution of the troubles in the society seemed near at hand.

Bodies Remain in Cave-in. MONTROSE, Colo., June 4.—Although it is certain that dead bodies are still buried beneath the debris of the cave-in at the Gunnison irrigation tunnel, which gave way last Tuesday, the work of clearing away the wreckage has been practically abandoned until something is done to prevent further slides. The ground has loosened and the dirt falls into the tunnel as fast as the bottom of the pile is taken away.

Honors Retiring American Minister. COPENHAGEN, June 4.—Crown Prince Frederik has honored L. F. Swenson, the retiring American Minister, and Mrs. Swenson with a long visit, as they will leave for the United States before his royal highness returns from his summer vacation.

New York Lawmakers Rest. ALBANY, N. Y., June 4.—The lawmaking business of New York State for the regular session of 1906 came to an end tonight with the new laws added to the statute book by 49 yeas and 33 nays.

NEW HOME FOR GADEVILLE.

SPOKANE, Wash., June 4.—(Special.)—Senator George Turner has completed the details for a new block which he intends building on the corner of Howard street and First avenue. The structure will cost \$100,000. The south half, fronting on Howard street, 70x100, will be built for a theater, and the remainder for store and offices. It is expected that the new building will be completed by November 1.

A lease of the theater will be made to the Columbia Theater Company, which was organized Saturday, with Moses Oppenheimer, George M. Decher and John Cusumini as incorporators. The new playhouse will be constructed along most modern lines and will be given to the Columbia Theater, which is also a Conditine house, will be manager of the new house, which will probably be called the Grand, the general name of Mr. Conditine's theater in San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and other coast cities. The Grand in this city will be affiliated for booking purposes with the circuit with which Mr. Conditine and Hon. "Tim" Sullivan are now associated, embracing San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Portland, Astoria, Tacoma, Seattle, Bellingham, Vancouver, Victoria, Butte, Helena and other cities where similar theaters