

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1905. A LEADING SUBJECT. Taxation of franchises is no longer to be overlooked in Oregon.

Oregon cannot longer ignore the policy of taxation of corporate franchises. They are the most valuable of property. It is the franchise, granted by the state, that gives the value which has been so recently in Portland for so great a sum.

The greatest properties today in Portland are these corporate franchises. In this little city these properties, which have cost the exploiters nothing at all but the trouble of making charters and working Legislatures, and interchange of traffic with Common Councils and other city officials, are selling for millions upon millions. Greatest of get-rich-quick schemes ever pushed in Oregon are these.

The assessor takes notice of this species of property and of its value. He calls on the District Attorney for an opinion, and that official holds that these corporate franchises are properties, and should be taxed. After the recent sale he could come to no other conclusion.

DECEIVING THE BLIND GODDESS. That there has been a miscarriage of justice in the Santa Fe rebate case is plain. The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, of which Paul Morton was vice-president for a period of nearly two years, directly violated the provisions of the Elkins law by returning to the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company heavy rebate on all of the coal shipped by the company over the Santa Fe lines.

WHAT IS A FRANCHISE? If The Oregonian possessed a franchise it would be very rich that franchise should be assessed for taxation at its value. But The Oregonian has no franchise. Its owners have no franchise.

When an effort was made two or three years ago in the Legislature to treat the Associated Press as a franchise monopoly, The Oregonian explained at length and in detail the nature and character of the Associated Press, showed that it had no public rights, no rights derived from the public, was not a monopoly, made no profit, had no revenues, paid no dividends, but simply was a club composed of newspapers which exchanged news with each other, and that each member of the club or group of members hired the telegraph companies to carry their news.

scription which presupposes a grant—a privilege of a public nature conferred on individuals by grant from government. The Associated Press has nothing whatever from government or from the public. It is simply an association of persons engaged in the publication of newspapers, who assist each other by collection and exchange of news. The field in which they operate is open to all who choose to enter it.

Hence there is nothing in equity or in justice or in the laws of the land requiring it to share the joint product of the activity and enterprise of its members with any person or persons not of the association, nor ever will be. Equally certain it is that there is nothing in the nature of franchise about it.

REPORTING THE MITCHELL TRIAL.

The purpose of The Oregonian in printing from day to day a complete stenographic report of the Mitchell trial is to place all proceedings and all the facts in possession of the public. The trial is in itself an event of great moment. The series of occurrences leading up to the present climax has attracted immense attention not only in Oregon, but throughout the United States.

The casual reader of The Oregonian does not, perhaps, understand the enormous labor involved in this undertaking on its part. Take the issue of yesterday, for example. The stenographic report alone occupied nineteen columns of closely-set matter (nonpareil), or somewhat more than 26,000 words.

By common consent it is admitted that the new chairman of the Equitable has gone to work in the right way by setting the best experts obtainable to work to ascertain facts—as to the actual amount and value of the assets, the liabilities, and as to recent management, and its influence on each and all of the foregoing items.

Disappointed flags, whether on school-houses, public buildings, stores or dwellings should be replaced with new bunting. This is a season when Portland should not show neglect. And speaking of flags, the one that surmounts the 300-foot staff is too small.

Refused Their Money. Sam Her, a schoolkeeper who had kept a place at Buxton, England, and died the other day, would give workmen only one drink on payday till they had been home. He used to say: "You must go home and give your wife your wages. You may then come back and have another drink when you have washed yourself and brushed up." The English workman does not clean up before leaving his workshop.

to the attempted shifting of the blame are very keenly put in the following language: The evils with which we are now confronted are corporate in name, but individual in fact. Guilt is always personal. So long as an officer can hide behind his corporation, no vindication is effective, with the Government searches out the guilty men and makes corporate wrong-doing mean personal punishment and dishonor, the laws will be enforced.

DEATH ON A FAST TRAIN. The terrible disaster which snuffed out more than a score of lives on the Twentieth Century Limited will, for a time, cause the more timid travelers to take passage on slower trains. If it is proven, as charged, however, that the accident was due to an open switch, it is not clear that much, if any, of the blame for the disaster can be charged up against the high speed of the train.

Parmalee's bus line has carried millions of people across the City of Chicago, where for years the owner of the line had practically a monopoly of the business of the railroads and hotels. Having this monopoly, Parmalee naturally at times charged a dollar for a 50-cent ride, and by industry and frugality accumulated a fortune of \$400,000.

CHAMBERLAIN AND BELLOWS AT PORTLAND. Chamberlains and bellows at Portland hotels are hereby informed that if they will keep their eyes wide open next week they may learn something greatly to their advantage. The members of the National Editorial Association are coming.

LONG NEWSPAPER SERVICE. St. Louis Globe Democrat. St. Louis Globe Democrat. Henry R. Davis in the various capacities from carrier up to business manager, has been part of the Providence Journal for that length of time, and that paper has issued a book telling of it.

YANKEE INVETRENESS. In a little Massachusetts town lives a man who for two causes enjoys deathless local fame. For one thing, he is the only native of the World's Champion Endavor Convention at Washington five years ago, but has just found enduring fame, being chosen now as one of the hymns in the new "Hymns of Worth."

STAGE FARMER. Grinnard Barrett—Hamfatter has just bought a farm. E. Forest Frost—Does he know anything about farming? Grinnard Barrett—Lord, yes! Why he played in "The Old Homestead" and "Way Down East" for years.

MILES UNDER THE SPOT LIGHT. Pittsburgh Dispatch. General Mills' campaign for Governor of Massachusetts will enable the Nation and world to see the long-standing charge that he is a politician.

THE OREGON OZONE. A Ballad of Butter. Mary had a little goat; It followed her to school; Little Mary didn't know; Was dead against the rule.

gations for National "effective supervision" over "great insurance corporations which do an interstate business." The comparative word "great" should not govern a question of this kind. The report of Superintendent Hendricks, of the State Insurance Department of New York, published on the same day as the President's letter to Mr. Morton, is good evidence that a state officer like the Equitable, and there are some greater. The other ground for the President's suggestion seems to be the term "interstate" as applied to life insurance business.

One of the unfathomable mysteries of commerce lies in the fact that when a 10-cent cigar becomes "the best seller in the world" its quality declines to the 5-cent grade. Miss Adelaide Clifford, an actress in De Wolf Hopper's "Wana" company, has won a verdict of \$300 for damages received while she was walking the ties on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad.

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When that little goat had been in school an hour, about, After having butted in, Why, then it butted out.

The public is informed through the columns of an enterprising horticultural journal that the raised bottom in the strawberry box is a decided advantage in protecting the top layer of berries in the box beneath, and does not exist merely for the purpose of enabling the dealer to palm off a short box on the buyer.

MISS ADELAIDE CLIFFORD, an actress in De Wolf Hopper's "Wana" company, has won a verdict of \$300 for damages received while she was walking the ties on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. The evidence showed that Miss Clifford was not counting ties in the time-honored manner of the peripatetic Thespian hitting the tie with her hand as she walked along the track to reach a station after the trainmen informed her that the train was not going farther. Nevertheless, the verdict should send a thrill of hopeful anticipation through the surging breast of the lean and hungry Chasus, the melancholy Hamlet and the jolly Second Grave-Digger, who heretofore have faced the future with a shrug and have entertained grave doubts as to whether their soles could stand the strain.

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HOW ASSOCIATED PRESS WORKS FOR NEWS. Announcement from New York of Pope Leo's Death a World "Beat" on First Magnitude—Lightning Moves for Supremacy—Points on Censorship.

Melville E. Stone in July Century. On the afternoon of September 8, 1901, worn out by a long period of exacting labor, I set out for Philadelphia, with the purpose of spending a few days at Atlantic City. When I reached the Broad-Street Station in the Quaker City, I was startled by a number of policemen crying my name. I stepped up to one, who pointed to a boy with an urgent message for me. President McKinley had been shot at Buffalo, and my presence was required at our Philadelphia office at once.

The illness and death of the late Pope constituted another event which called for news gathering ability of a high order. Preparations had been made long in advance to greet the Vatican, each of the Italian officials and with the authorities at the Vatican, all looking to the establishment of relations of such importance to the government as to justify the papal representative in foreign countries. This was done as a gracious act of courtesy to the church.

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"Number of missing bond. (Signed) Montefiore." This bore on its face no reference to the death of the Pontiff, and would be transmitted. The blank was to be filled with the hour and moment of the Pope's death, reversed. That is, if he died at 1:30 the message would read: "Melrose, New York, Number of missing bond, 22 (Signed) Montefiore."

When finally the Pope died, although his bed was completely surrounded by burning candles an attendant hurried from the room into an ante-room and called a candle to pass before the tips of the dying flames. It was determined whether he still breathed. This was the signal for another attack, who stepped to the telephone and announced to our correspondent two miles away, that the Pope was dead. Unfortunately the hour of his death was four minutes past 4, so that whichever way it was written, it showed directly or the reverse, it was 4:04.

Nevertheless the figures were inserted in the blank in the bulletin which had been prepared. It was filed with the telegraph company, and it came through to New York in exactly nine minutes from the moment of death. It was relayed at Hartford and the London terminal of the French Cable Company in New York, whence it came to our office on a short wire. The receiving operator there shouted the news to the operating room of the Associated Press, and every man on every key on every circuit out of New York flashed the announcement that the Pope had died at four minutes past 4. The New York Times was the first to announce within eleven minutes after its occurrence.

Seven hundred newspapers, representing every conceivable view of every public question, sit in judgment upon the Associated Press dispatches. A representative and impartial service would arouse a storm of indignation which would overwhelm any administration.

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