

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, Dec. 21, 1906.

A BLOW TO CIVILIZATION: The annual deficit in the Postal Department amounts to about \$15,000,000. It arises principally from two sources. The first is the franking privilege, by virtue of which the Government transports more than thousands of tons of mail free for Congressmen and other officials.

Large as the deficit is in the Postal Department, it is scandalous as its origin is in the people of the country do not in general resent it very bitterly. The benefits conferred by the postoffice are of such magnitude that they willingly overlook what seem like petty errors in its management and foot the bills without protest.

The only person whom the deficit greatly disturbs seems to be Mr. Madden, the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, who has apparently lost a great deal of sleep over the matter. The postal deficit has been his constant worry since he has been driven to devise a remedy for it. Does this remedy cut off the graft of Congressional pickers and stealers? Not at all. Does it infringe upon the swollen spoils of the postoffice? Not in the least.

Mr. Madden proposes to make the people meet the deficit by paying heavier postage on their newspapers and magazines. With true official pig-headedness Mr. Madden can imagine no remedy for the effects of graft except by opening the way to graft. He wishes to multiply the postage on periodicals by four.

The people who would feel this imposition most heavily are, of course, those who live in the city. They are very much dependent upon newspapers and magazines for knowledge of what is going on in the world and for their interest in life in general. They are already robbed by the express companies upon every article which they presume to purchase at a distance from their homes. Mr. Madden's scheme would still further restrict their opportunities and darken their lives. What with bad roads, the tyranny of the express companies and the constant threat of withdrawal of the postal privileges which they now possess, the lot of dwellers in the country is by no means enviable.

The plea that the present low rate of a cent a pound on periodicals aids many papers of low class to flourish is true enough; but the evil is comparatively trifling. It is not by any means certain that to raise the rates would injure the low-class periodicals as much as those of better character. The bad ones are and would remain very cheap; the good are and would remain very dear. There are farm journals of exceedingly doubtful character which can be had for 10 cents a year. Increasing the postal rates, as Mr. Madden proposes, would not necessarily raise their price to more than 25 cents a year. They would still come much cheaper than the good farm papers, whose price would be raised by at least as much and whose circulation would be curtailed vastly more. The simple fact is that any rise in postal rates is a blow to civilization and a blow to the rural civilization which advances with discouraging slowness and which yields most hopelessly to adverse circumstances.

Farmers have little to spend on literature of any sort. They are in general untrained to discriminate between the good and the worthless. The cheapest often appears to them to be the best, but their tendency to accept the worthless periodicals would not be lessened by increasing the cost of the better class, which, even as things are, often

seems prohibitive to them. It is a lamentable fact that the United States has had very few postal officials who appreciated the opportunities of their position. There is no department of the Government which can be so beneficial to the public; none which can do so much to advance the general intelligence and contribute so largely to the comfort and happiness of the people. It is extremely regrettable that the postoffice should be looked upon as a stepping-stone to other positions which seem to the politicians more desirable; that its usefulness should be menaced by the slightest official penuriousness. If it is desirable to reduce the postal deficit, and nobody can doubt that it is, there are many ways to do so without impairing the services of the department to the public. When the choice is fairly offered between cutting off the privileges of the people for which they pay and those of the grafters for which they do not pay, how can an honest official hesitate?

NO WOMEN IN SALOONS: The failure of the Council to pass the ordinance permitting music as a saloon attraction over the Mayor's veto settles the question for the time being at least, and, as far as now appears, permanently. Temperance people opposed it on the broad ground of its allurements to vice and the Mayor saw in it an entering wedge for the redemption of women to saloons. Five members of the Council are now convinced by the argument that music would draw young men into saloons who would not otherwise enter or patronize such places, or to abandon the alleged belief that good women could and had belonged to the saloon orchestra.

There were nine members, however, who supported the Mayor in his objections to the ordinance, and it went to the graveyard of many bad and some good laws, from whence it is not likely soon to be resurrected. The champions of public morals have scored in this city for months. The disfavor with which the ordinance was met was not confined to the ultra temperance element of the city, but was shared by thoughtful, reputable citizens generally. The ordinance is in support of the sentiment that women employed in any capacity in saloons increase the liability of lawlessness of which drinking to intoxication is the center and to which is attached many of the lower vices that debase mankind.

However unreasonable the attitude of the public mind may seem to be, it is nevertheless true that the people are apprehensive of the course the Oregon Legislature will pursue regarding measures of general interest to the state. The representatives of the people are not expected voluntarily to represent the interests of the people, and that they must be watched and urged and instructed. Though the effect of the ordinance may be of the state and from every walk of life, there is everywhere an assumption that they do not understand the needs of the people, and that in order to get remedial legislation the people must make demands and force them upon the attention of the lawmakers. It is assumed that the representatives of the people will be either in a passive state of mind or will be seeking self-interest or promoting other interests opposed to those of the public.

The attitude of the public mind toward the Legislature is deplorable, and yet, upon reflection, it is not so very extraordinary. It is not materially different from the attitude the ordinary employer maintains toward his employee. The legislators are in reality employed public servants. He, however, however much they may seem like masters at times. They receive no different treatment than is accorded the ordinary employe. The farmer who hires a hand does not trust him to do the work of the employer. He gives orders and sees that they are carried out. The builder who employs a carpenter does not rely upon either the intelligence or honesty of his employe, but keeps close watch to see that work is properly done. The merchant invests in an expensive cash register in order to prevent his clerks from "grafting." The railroad company keeps close tab on its employes for the same purpose. Why, then, should it be occasion for surprise if the people, who employ the legislators, do not repose unlimited confidence in them, but do some instructing and then keep watch to see that the work be faithfully performed?

Viewed from any standpoint, the feeling of the people that the Legislature is not a whole or a body to be trusted without reason and excuse. The people have much at stake. They are paying \$50,000 for the services of a Legislature for forty days, during which time the legislators will provide for the expenditure of something over \$2,000,000. Laws may be passed in which the people have an interest so extensive that \$2,000,000 would not measure their importance. The people are the employers. Have they not a right to be as exacting as the employer of service they are to receive from their employes?

INCREASING OUR FOREIGN MARKETS: One of the most interesting official reports of the many that have been rendered in the last few weeks by the heads of the various bureaus in Washington is that of John M. Carson, Chief of the Bureau of Manufactures of the Department of Commerce and Labor. While this is the youngest of the governmental departments, already through its efforts a wider field has been opened for the products of the country. Merchants have been awakened to the possibilities that lie in the interchange of products with other countries that have heretofore been practically unknown to our commerce. Agents for this bureau are now working in Mexico, in Cuba, in Canada and in Central and South America, and two agents have been assigned to China and Japan.

As an example of the work that has been accomplished in brief time, the increased market for cotton goods in the two countries named is cited. Agents working since the summer of last year in cotton goods in common use in China and Japan, and cutting them into small pieces, sent them to American manufacturers with explanatory notes. The result was that, instead of sending flimsy, grotesquely colored and badly designed fabrics, goods that meet the needs of the people in a common-sense way have been introduced among them and have already found favor.

The following resume of the cotton cloth trade in the report shows the advantage that has accrued to American manufacturers:

The cotton piece-goods trade of China is one of large extent and is constantly growing. For the year 1905 the value of such goods exported to China and Hong Kong by most British was \$48,625,000, a large proportion printed goods. For the cotton piece-goods exported to China from the United States was \$27,500,000, out of a total export for the year of \$41,320,000, and for the fiscal year 1906 we sold a total for the year of \$41,320,000. It is observed that the export of cotton cloth from Great Britain to China alone for 1905 was greater than those of the United States to all countries for that period.

In order to cover this wide and expanding field more fully the chief of the bureau asks that more men be put under his direction both as agents abroad and as a clerical staff in Washington. He cites the tardiness of the international bureau in furnishing statistics regarding tariff changes and other data necessary to prompt and successful work in his department, and refers to the help that is derived from consular reports, which would be of much greater value if through his bureau they could be furnished more quickly before manufacturers. The bureau, in brief, represents one of the most practical efforts through official sources toward making a market abroad for American goods; it seeks first of all to know what is wanted by the peoples who American goods and goods are ready and anxious to supply.

SOME SEATTLE HERESY: It is with, we hope, pardonable pride that The Oregonian calls attention to a belated acknowledgment of the merits of its teachings on the coal tariff question. For years we have labored long and earnestly in an endeavor to convince the Seattle and Tacoma newspapers that, on the whole, the greatest good to the greatest number, the burden of a tariff duty on coal should be removed in order that thousands of consumers could reap the advantage which now goes wholly to the coal barons, in whose interest the protective tariff is maintained. Numerous articles in these columns for many years past have brought down on our heads a large amount of abuse and derision and accusations of lack of patriotism.

Our great and good friend, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, could see in the removal of the coal duty nothing but financial ruin for the State of Washington, with probable intense suffering among all the inhabitants thereof. Other Puget Sound papers were of the same opinion. It was a general belief that the removal of the coal duty would be a blow to the State of Washington, and that the coal barons would be ruined. It is a curious thing that the coal barons, who are so anxious to have the coal duty removed, should be so afraid of the removal of the coal duty. It is a curious thing that the coal barons, who are so anxious to have the coal duty removed, should be so afraid of the removal of the coal duty.

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With what evidence has this car shortage developed into a National question. If this winter's legislation, ignoring abstract justice, shall take retaliatory shape, the offending corporation may find the blame on their own shoulders. Some one ought to start another Christmas fund for the relief of the unemployed. It is not a bad idea to have a fund for the relief of the unemployed. It is not a bad idea to have a fund for the relief of the unemployed.

Charges against General Penning in connection with his social and domestic life in the Philippines are exceedingly discreditable to his standing as a man and a military officer. The lawless relation with the Mindanao woman was a disgrace to his military career. It was a disgrace to his military career. It was a disgrace to his military career.

It is not likely that Mr. Hearst's friend, the Hon. Charles F. Murphy, will be employed to watch the ballot-boxes of life insurance companies' policy-holders or to count the votes. Actor James O'Neill is right. Any play where there are so many millions involved as in the "Count of Monte Cristo" is out of place on the 10-20-30-cent circuit.

The Nebraska woman who married her husband for the third time must have got all there is in it, as she is again seeking a divorce. Institutions that care for orphaned children appeal strongly at this season to Portland's charity. Let them be generously remembered.

The splendor of novelty will be given to vaudeville by L. E. Hicks, who is to give a monologue on "How It Feels to Be Buried for a Week." It is time for Sagittarius to take a week off.

WHY ROOSEVELT IS STRONG: People Know That He is Both Honest and Fearless. We don't suppose that anybody, Republican or Democrat, questions that President Roosevelt is the most "popular" man in the United States. Our own opinion is that if it had not been for his enormous "popularity" the Republican party would have lost the House of Representatives in the Congressional elections last month. The public was determined to give him its backing up in the second half of this administration, and committed to this purpose of a Republican Congress in support of the Roosevelt programme. It waived other considerations except in rare cases like that of a Wadsworth, beaten in New York, a Babcock in Wisconsin, etc.

Within the last few weeks President Roosevelt has done several things any of which the conventional political leader would regard as fatal to the "popularity" of a man in public life. Perhaps any one of them would have shot the ordinary leader into the limbo of retirement. One might mention the appointment of Cortelyou, an offense to the policy-holders of the United States and to others who hold that trust funds of any sort should be protected from the hands of the dischargers of three companies of colored infantry in disgrace because the many innocent members of the troops would not or could not tell who the few guilty ones were. Or the very emphatic stand against the Californians in the matter of the Japanese in the public schools, when undoubtedly American parents in all the states sympathize with the attitude assumed by the Pacific Coast.

Yet we believe that if Mr. Roosevelt were to be run again for President he would be triumphantly elected. We believe that he could carry the Pacific Coast, where the sentiment against Asiatics is both strong and sincere; that he could carry New York, where the balance of voting power to determine elections rests with the so-called laboring classes, which have just given to a demagogic candidate for Governor in a year that was not Presidential—and it was at this man that the President struck straight from the shoulder in his message; that he could carry Ohio and Indiana and other states, where the negro vote wins for the Republican party.

We believe this because we are sure that the American people have an unshaken confidence in Mr. Roosevelt's sincerity of purpose, his devotion to the ideals of the American people, his courage to do anything which appeals to him as the thing for him to do. He may be impulsive; they remember that he is not afraid. He may make mistakes; they are certain he is honest. He may be wrong; they are convinced he would never commit any act unless he thought he was right.

AMEND NATURALIZATION LAW: Committee Would Deprive Expatriated Americans of Citizenship. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Recommendations for changes in the naturalization, expatriation and passport laws and regulations of the United States were submitted to Congress today by a special commission designated by the State Department in accordance with a request from the House committee on foreign affairs. The committee consisted of Dr. David Jayne Hill, United States Minister to The Netherlands, and James B. Scott, solicitor, and Gaillard Hunt, chief of the passport bureau of the State Department.

Now the Bullfrog Clubs. Defeated the Re-election of Congressman Landis of Indiana. WASHINGTON Dispatch to the Detroit (Mich.) Journal. Indiana Congressman Vouch for the state of Indiana in the election of Frederick Landis, of the Eleventh Indiana District, was defeated for re-election to the 60th Congress by disgraced housewives. Mrs. Alice Roosevelt-Longworth was the cause.

Coast Members Off to Panama. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Members of the Pacific Coast delegation, who are going to the Isthmus of Panama to investigate labor conditions there, left Washington today, and will sail from New York tomorrow.

New Washington Postmasters. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The President today nominated the following Postmasters: Washington—W. B. Crammattie, Aberdeen; C. A. Gwinn, Garfield.

Andy is Right. Staid and conservative Republican papers all over the land are attacking the venerable policy so dear to Republican hearts, the sacred tariff, and are clamoring for its revision. They maintain that it is a refuge for the trusts and one of the chief causes for present-day trust monopoly. During the recent election many "stand-pat" Congressmen were defeated, one of the most notable ones being McClary, of Minnesota. Two years ago the writer of this article explained to a bunch of Minnesota farmers how it was that American manufacturers could sell farm machinery cheaper abroad than at home. The explanation was that the American farmer would have nothing but the very latest improved machines, and the surplus, old pattern machines would be sold to the foreign farmer at a lower price. Fiat Fiat! Evidently the farmers of Minnesota have gotten weary of such sophistry. The signs of the times are everywhere indicating that if the Republican party desires to remain in power, those sacred tariff schedules must be greatly modified in many respects.

A Bachelor's Christmas Trials. New York Mail. This Christmas is a dreary time, and I am not alone in saying so. I sit and sigh, and sigh, and sigh. And try to think what I can buy. There's Ethel, with her dainty air, And Sarah of the golden hair, And six others I must try to meet, With smile and bow and something "sweet." I feel that I am worn and old, As cares and troubles doth unfold, And time is passing so fast, I wish I could get on my feet. As on a Ward Christmas time we drift, If they could be content as I, With socks or new half-dollar tie, I know that I might live again, With less to make my heart out brain.

RESOLVE. As Christmas comes next year, I'll dodge it, don't you ever fear, And this my resolution made, I want get no plain and staid, One who will don her harness; fearless be, And do the "bargain-counter rush" for me.

Objects to Land Lotteries. Mann Would Make Lucky Settlers Actually Settle on Claim. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—After being in session three-quarters of an hour today, the House adjourned until January 2, 1907. Empty desks greeted the Speaker when the House convened, and the desire to get away for the holidays was superior to the inclination for business. Monday at Wyoming succeeded in passing the bill extending to May 15, 1907, the time in which entries may be made for settlement on the Shoshone Indian reservation. Then Payne of New York called up his resolution relating to the distribution of the President's annual message to the several committees in accordance with a custom that has existed since the foundation of the Government.

The House passed the resolution and adjourned at 12:45 P. M. A hundred members waited to extend the Speaker's greeting to Speaker Cannon. While the Shoshone reservation bill was under consideration, Mann of Illinois objected to the practice of Congress, or rather the Interior Department, of opening Indian reservations under the lottery system. It seemed to him that the men who drew the prizes should be compelled to settle on the lands. He was not seriously doubted whether the entries on these lands contemplated their retention, but believed that they hoped rather to make money out of their holdings, while the real settlers were placed at a disadvantage. He served notice that he would object to the extension of time in any reservation opening, insisting that the framers of a measure would have to take climatic considerations into account.

More Second-Class Matter. Considerable space is devoted in the report to second-class matter. The aggregate amount of second-class matter mailed at the pound rate and free of postage during the year was 708,183,623 pounds, an increase of more than 45,000,000 pounds over the previous year. After discussing the work of the congressional committee appointed to consider second-class matter, Mr. Madden says it is proposed to meet the situation by a rate of 4 cents per pound on second-class matter. He says that what is needed is an up-to-date law that can be enforced, a law of which the terms and limitations will be plain to publishers, to postmasters and to the department.

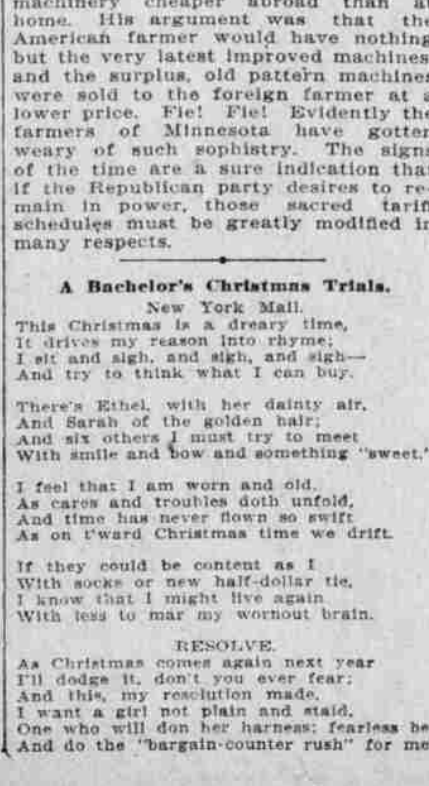
Compromise on Ship Subsidy Means Victory for Middle West Over Shipbuilding Trust. CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Washington says: There is no doubt now that systematic efforts are being made in the House of Representatives to pass a compromise ship subsidy act. There is a belief that after the holidays, when the members of the House have home and have come back fresh from their constituents, there will be a majority among Republicans, and much more confidence in the compromise ship subsidy measure, which will go before the country as an attempt to establish lines of steamers to various countries with the appropriation entirely to specific lines of steamers running to ports in countries where there is a prospect of increase of American trade. Everything in the way of a general subsidy on the coastwise trade of ships is being abandoned. There are to be no payments for mere tonnage, no donations to the shipyards of Pennsylvania and Maine, no such thing as the creation of new or irregular steamships designed almost solely to earn subsidies, instead of dividends based on legitimate freight charges.

United States Consumes Over Half World's Production. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The United States will consume more than one-half of the world's production, and the enormous growth in the importations is attributed to the popularity of the bicycle and automobile, coupled with the increased use of electricity. The statement says the indications seem to justify the belief that the Philippine and Hawaiian Islands are capable of producing large quantities of this article as a result of this Government's estimate of nurseries in those possessions for the distribution of rubber plants for use of rubber plantations.

Troops Sent Against Chinese Rebels. NANKING, China, Dec. 20.—About 2000 Chinese soldiers from Nanking, armed with modern weapons, trained by European officers and accompanied by batteries of field artillery, have proceeded to the front to meet the rebels in the Ping Kiang district. General Hale, commander of the troops, left this city yesterday.

King Oscar Recovering. STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Dec. 20.—King Oscar continues to make good progress toward recovery.

ANDY IS RIGHT. "WAIT A MINUTE I'M HERE."



THE SUBJECT OF WEALTH DISTRIBUTION WILL NOT DOWN.—ANDREW CARNEGIE IN A SPEECH DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF COLOSSAL FORTUNES.