

The Oregonian

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Portland, Monday, January 4, 1909.

PRUDENCE AND TRUTH.

The population neither of Portland, nor of Seattle, is any other city, is to be increased or made actually greater by persistent exaggeration. Such exaggeration is always harmful; for it leads to extravagance in many ways; and the time soon comes when the actual truth is known, bringing confusion and disappointment with it.

The Oregonian itself is a "boomer" and there is no business that more it strongly desires. It is not that it wants no misstatements; it wants truth now, and no disappointments hereafter. Besides—and this is the principal reason why The Oregonian has made its present protest—such exaggerations are used as a basis for support of all sorts of municipal projects, not only in current administration, including increase of the number and pay of officials, but for the burdening of the property of the city with a tremendous and excessive bonded debt.

We shall not make the population and wealth of Portland actually greater by extravagant "claims," but we shall by such policy multiply officials equally the number of officials. Officials of all departments are clamoring for "more money," on the basis of claim of a larger city than we have. Protest, on the side of prudence, of truth and of economy is on order. Truth is truth and always on the side of prudence, always to the point. Since The Oregonian's principal object is to check the effort for official waste and increase of the public debt, it knows the effort will obtain public appreciation and recognition, too, now or hereafter.

Two cities will not get ahead by "claiming" and lying against each other. Neither of them will. Portland and Seattle seem to be making bogies of each other. Here is the Seattle Times official making claim for its city of a population of 275,452. At the same time it tells us that the school population is 26,900. But Portland's school population exceeds 34,000. We are told, further, that Seattle's property valuation is \$17,000,000. But that of Portland is \$215,000,000. Does population bear any relation to either of these comparisons? Even though Seattle does make an extravagant estimate of her population, is that good reason why Portland should do the same?

Reason and sense and judgment and truth should still be factors in human affairs. And administration of public affairs should be business administration, not a political game. A county should not double up their debt, nor double the number of their officials and their salaries, on the basis of an imaginary population. Nor can any sensible owner of property think so.

RECORD YEAR IN BUILDING.

Portland's building record for the year just closed makes a remarkable showing. The figures place the number of permits issued at 4551, with a total valuation of \$10,411,951. This is an average of more than \$23,400 for every day in the year. Despite the magnitude of the figures, they do not fully represent the amount expended for building purposes in this city last year. Plumbing, plastering, heating, and other finishing contracts were very few in number, and the aggregate expenditure for this class of work would add a considerable increase to the total. The figures for 1908 were \$12,900,000 for the year. When it is considered that Portland entered the year 1908 under the financial cloud which enveloped the entire country in the closing months of 1907, the full significance of the figures is more apparent than ever.

The panic of 1907 came so suddenly that building undertakings already planned and financed were sufficient in number and volume to hold the permits up to very satisfactory figures until well into 1908. The worst of the slump was not over until April, when the decrease as compared with April, 1907, was more than \$540,000, and it was July before the pendulum swung the other way, and an increase instead of a decrease was noticeable. Comparison of the totals for the entire 12 months of 1908 with the 12 months of 1907 is, of course, accurate and fair, but it is easier to understand the phenomenal growth of the city at the present time by taking the figures of the first six months of 1907 and the last six months of 1908.

The six months from January to June inclusive, in 1907 showed the highest valuation of permits ever issued in this city in six months, the total being 2043 permits with a valuation of \$5,234,841. This figure was reached during the crest of the wave of prosperity which followed the Lewis and Clark fair; but so complete has been Portland's recovery from the panic of 1907 that the closing six months of 1908 showed totals of 2211 permits for \$5,234,841. The reason for this slight decrease in the total value, while there was an increase in the number of permits, was the heavy decline in the price of building materials and labor, as compared with the prices ruling while the boom was on in the first half of 1907.

The large number of business structures for which permits were issued in 1908, and which are now in various

stages of completion, are quite naturally the first to catch the eye of the newcomer and impress him with the growth of the city; but a slight study of the details of the more than \$10,000,000 worth of permits issued last year presents in the dwelling-house permits an even more striking evidence of the city's growth. These permits were 5448 in number, and the valuations was \$4,928,150, an average of a fraction less than \$2000 each. Dwellings costing an average of \$5000 each are not huddled close together, but, if they had been, and the average had been a new dwelling for every fifty-foot lot, these new dwellings last year would have covered 218 city blocks. It is extremely doubtful that they averaged five dwellings to the block, but at that figure more than 500 blocks of new territory were added to the "built-up" portion of the city.

It is interesting to note, in the big building move on the peninsula and below St. John, at Linnton and other suburbs of Portland. The record year of 1908 began under adverse circumstances. The new year begins with the most flattering outlook that year ever enjoyed, and with the large amount of construction work already planned and financed, it is practically a certainty that 1909 will excel all previous records in building operations to an even greater extent than 1908 distanced all former efforts.

INEFFICIENT AND IDLE MEN.

It is seldom, in a new country like the Pacific Northwest, that men who want to work have excuse for being "out of a job" for any length of time. But forecast is necessary, and men of forecast can usually secure themselves continuous employment. If men would not leave one place till assured of another, few would ever find it necessary to be idle. The wise man, who must live by his labor, does not cut himself out of the employment market by the chance of getting something else when he may want it. Men of families, as a rule, do not do this. They realize they must do their best to keep the children fed and clothed. So it is, as Francis Bacon said, that the thrif, self-denial and intense farming methods that are a necessity in the Old World, they have made success where even the frugal, hard-working Yankees have been unable to hold their own.

The Pacific Coast States offer unlimited opportunities, for with only a fraction of the effort that is necessary in order to wrest a living from the worn-out soil of New England, they can soon become independent in Oregon and Washington. With a direct steamship service by way of the Panama Canal, European immigrants could be landed at Pacific Coast ports at a cost not materially greater than that incurred in reaching New York.

The steamship companies making the low rates of freight and building up this new country, and as a reward would secure a large traffic at profitable rates on European-bound cargoes of freight as well as on passengers who would much prefer going direct by steamer to Washington. With a direct steamship service by way of the Panama Canal, European immigrants could be landed at Pacific Coast ports at a cost not materially greater than that incurred in reaching New York.

THE HEAD-COSGROVE DEAL. We have from Olympia some details of the famous understanding—now clearly a misunderstanding—as to state patronage between Governor Mead and Governor-elect Cosgrove; but we shall probably have to worry about the facts until a report is forthcoming from Paso Robles. Governor Mead, it seems, made a deal with his invalid successor by which he (Mead) was to name certain Cosgrove partisans to office, but when the time came for the present incumbent to deliver the goods, he had a few of his own friends to care for, and he decided that Cosgrove's friends might wait.

It is all no great matter except as the little controversy throws light on the extraordinary situation in Washington affairs. Mead was Governor, and was beaten for re-nomination and re-election by Cosgrove; then Cosgrove was taken sick, and went to California apparently in a dying condition. Mead, supposing that as incumbent he would hold on indefinitely, and desiring that Cosgrove enter into no plan or scheme to turn over the office to Lieutenant-Governor Hay, arranged to placate Cosgrove element by carrying out certain Cosgrove plans. But now, almost Cosgrove is getting well, or at least well enough to assume office at or near the time his term of office is to begin, and Mead's enthusiastic endeavors to help along Cosgrove's ends grow cold as the prospect of his illness Cosgrove's shoes wears.

Governor-elect Cosgrove has lately proposed, it seems, to take the oath of office at Paso Robles, if he should be unable to go to Olympia. Desirable as it may be from the standpoint of the state's pride and welfare that he should do so, it is, possibly as possible, Mead would be justified in refusing to turn over the office of Governor until his successor, duly qualified, should come to Olympia. It is certainly not seemly that a Governor-elect should be sworn in and attempt to take office at Paso Robles, or in any other place outside of Washington or its capital, and The Oregonian thinks it would likewise be unconstitutional. Governor-elect Cosgrove should make every effort consistent with a prudent regard for his health and safety to be at Olympia on January 11, the date of inauguration, or very soon thereafter; and there would then be no objection to an arrangement to turn the office over to the Governor as acting Governor, which indeed was once before done in Washington in 1831, when Governor Ferry went to California for his health and Lieutenant-Governor Laughton became Governor ad interim.

THE DUNBAR FEE DECISION. There seems to be some misconception as to the point of law decided by the Oregon Supreme Court in the Dunbar case, which was dismissed by that tribunal last Tuesday. Former Secretary of State Dunbar has been quoted as saying that the court decided that he had a right to the money collected by him as fees. That is not correct. The court did not pass upon that question, but left it for determination in future litigation. What the court did decide was that, even if the fees were illegally collected, the state has no right to recover them, since they were not paid by the state, but were paid by individuals. Whether

they were, in fact, collected illegally was not decided, though this was the issue out of which the suit arose. The case, therefore, decided upon a side issue—the question whether the state is the proper party to recover the money. The real question, whether Dunbar should repay, is farther from solution than ever, for the result has been dismissed, and only by the bringing of another suit can the question be again presented.

PANAMA CANAL BENEFITS.

A decidedly important feature of the Panama Canal that until now has attracted little or no attention on the Pacific Coast is the possibilities it will offer for colonizing the farming regions of the Pacific Coast with European agriculturians. The opportunities for an immense traffic of this nature have not escaped the watchful eyes of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company. A San Francisco dispatch says that agents of the big German line have already been in consultation with the Department of Immigration concerning facilities for handling large crowds of immigrants to the Bay City. The advantages of business of this character are many and great.

The crying need of the Pacific Coast States for years has been more people—not of the kind that crowd into the cities and intensify the urban life—but good hard-working agriculturians who are indifferent to urban life, walking delegates or any other of the unprofitable factors and features of city life. Immigrants of this kind have been pouring into the Pacific seaboard cities for years; but very few of them ever get as far west as Chicago, the distance being so great that they are unable to attempt it when they first come to the country. For the most part, they are men of comfortable thought that perhaps—just perhaps—"Mistah Johnson" might pick that bunch of knuckles which adorns his long arm, like a sugar cane, and then arrange it so that by no possible future move any black man could ever regain it. "Noble, self-sacrificing Mr. Johnson. And it all seems so easy. Yet there is that uncomfortable thought that perhaps—just perhaps—"Mistah Johnson" might pick that bunch of knuckles which adorns his long arm, like a sugar cane, and then arrange it so that by no possible future move any black man could ever regain it.

Mr. James J. Corbett has expressed a willingness to fight "Mistah Johnson," who recently became champion bruiser of the world by reason of the poor foot-work and inability of Mr. Burns to land on the Johnson features. "I will fight him if Jeffries won't," says Corbett, "not because I aim to fight a black man, but to wrest the title back and then arrange it so that by no possible future move any black man could ever regain it." "Noble, self-sacrificing Mr. Johnson. And it all seems so easy. Yet there is that uncomfortable thought that perhaps—just perhaps—"Mistah Johnson" might pick that bunch of knuckles which adorns his long arm, like a sugar cane, and then arrange it so that by no possible future move any black man could ever regain it.

A Los Angeles thief stole 100 tons of coal between 11 o'clock P. M. and 4 A. M. the following morning. In view of the weather reports that have been making up recently from the sun in southern California, it was probably the most valuable commodity in Los Angeles. Climate, which is the principal stock-in-trade in the City of Angels, may be all right to sell to the tourists, but its heating qualities are being taken up by the coal thieves. The steamship companies making the low rates of freight and building up this new country, and as a reward would secure a large traffic at profitable rates on European-bound cargoes of freight as well as on passengers who would much prefer going direct by steamer to Washington. With a direct steamship service by way of the Panama Canal, European immigrants could be landed at Pacific Coast ports at a cost not materially greater than that incurred in reaching New York.

THE ANGEL IN THE HUMAN HEART. The impulse of humanity denominated by Whittier "the angel of the human heart" sleeps lightly—so lightly that a shock of disaster, whether it breaks upon the sunny shores of the Mediterranean or upon the western border of the American continent, awakens it into instant life and action. Through its impulse the world, full-handed, comes to save, or if this, by the magnitude of the disaster is impossible, to bury the dead and bring succor to the living. The hungry are fed, the shelterless are housed, the wounded and the sick are ministered unto and the dead are laid away by the impulse that guides the angel's hand.

Mount Pelee emits smoke and lava and the fair city of St. Pierre is entombed in his fiery gorge. Before the tottering walls have ceased to fall or the molten stream has lost itself, hissing and writhing, in the sea, vessels sailing with the wind are driven into the hand of the angel upon the helm—stared for the devastated city. San Francisco is shaken to her very foundations and riotous flames leap high, as in ghoulish glaze at their conquest over her, but while they still rage, the power unchecked, the awakened angel is on the wing bearing relief from the four quarters of the globe. Enceladus moves uneasily in his living tomb, Southern Italy trembles and aways upon her rocky foundations and the fatal earthquake is washing to the earth. Scarcely has the walls of the smitten people risen upon the troubled air before the ships of commerce and of war, forming a mighty relief squadron, move under the guidance of the awakened angel and relief comes leading over the waves, bearing such healing as she may to those still within reach of her magic touch.

It does not take the reverberating echoes of a mighty convulsion of Nature to awaken the angel in the human breast. With a word of response when Chicago and Baltimore shriveled in the hot distress of great conflagrations, and when Johnston and Galveston were devastated by on-rushing waters. When the stress is mighty the response is correspondingly far-reaching. When it is less the awakened angel does not withhold its hand, but promptly ministers to the lesser needs of those who cry it is sure to hear.

A GOOD LAW. It is cheering to begin the New Year with the assurance that the Federal food and drugs act has been a success. Dr. H. W. Wiley, of the Department of Agriculture, says so, and he is the man who has been chiefly instrumental in enforcing the act. Indeed his activity has centered the wrath of the adulterators upon his head, and if he remains his favor another year it will not be by their favor. Still Dr. Wiley says the act has improved the morals of those who deal in food and drugs. What they sell is purer, tastes better and is more nutritious than the stuff we used to get before Congress interfered with their right to do business in their own way. This result ought to be satisfactory all round. No decent merchant wishes to poison people even if he makes money by it. The next natural step in regulating the food trade is to make all labels

tell the exact truth. In the long run veracious labels must be better for buyer and seller both. Roosevelt of late has become the object of much savage criticism, even in quarters where he once received adulation. Such changes are not uncommon. It is an old remark that he who builds on the vulgar heart has a habitation giddy and unsure. But Roosevelt, it is probable, will not have harder luck than Washington. The Aurora was a newspaper published at Philadelphia. William Duane was its editor; Jefferson was its mentor and inspiration. On the day after Washington retired from the Presidency the Aurora said: "The man who is the source of all the misfortunes of our country is this day reduced to a level with his fellow-citizens, and is no longer possessed of power to multiply evils upon the United States. Every heart, in unison with freedom, ought to beat high with exultation that the name of Washington ceases from this day to give currency to political iniquity and to legalize corruption." That was pretty stiff, wasn't it? Duane was one of the editors through whom Jefferson had been prompting attacks on Washington for years. Roosevelt is not likely to fare worse than Washington did.

One Busy Newspaper Man. Jefferson Review. The Review editor owns a fine Shepherd dog that we want to give to a party looking for a whole lot of trouble. We have only had him a few months, but he's cost \$2 license, two subscribers' scrap, and more precincts to hear from. Apply for the beast when Mrs. Review is not at home, and thereby avoid more trouble.

Never Too Old to Learn. Phlox (Wash. Cor. Pendleton Tribune). Fairview public school has a pupil in attendance whose age is 64 years. That is Joseph Schmidt. He is learning to pronounce the English alphabet. Mrs. Schmidt is a resident of the last four weeks. Mr. Schmidt is a successful bachelor farmer and old pioneer of this locality.

Wholesale Matrimony. Hood River Glacier. A triple wedding in the family of R. D. Dashiell is to take place at Cedonia, Wash., for New Year's eve, in which two sons and a daughter of a pioneer rancher will be among the principals. The names of the couples are George Dashiell and Miss Walker, of Waverly; Robert Dashiell and Miss Myra, of Cedonia; and Clark Dashiell and Sydney Singletary, of Kettle Falls. The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. William Carter. The Dashiell family crossed the plains in an early day from Indiana to Oregon and later moved to the Columbia River valley, in Stevens County. Miss Walker is a resident of Waverly. Miss Singletary is a resident of Kettle Falls.

Green Doctor Knows His Business. Rabbittown Cor. The Dalles Optimist. Our new doctor had a case of appendicitis the other day, the victim being a sheepherder. He came into town and told his appendicitis had sum forin substance into it, he thought the man would sheep dip, wanted dock to operate onto it. But when dock found out that the fellow only had a dollar 55 dock told him to leave up his munny until he got ten \$5 and then he would pronounce it appendicitis, but that it was not considered professional for to pronounce that man with only 10 seventy-five had the appendicitis. In such a weakened condition of a man's finances nothing worse than the belly ache could be wrong with him.

Some White Champions Still Left. Portland Advocate. Why do some of the old has-been white sports and prizefighters and their sympathizers kick so hard because Jack Johnson, a colored man, is the heavyweight prizefighter of the world? Why begrudge the negro race that little mark of distinction when they think that so many champions? For instance, the champion grafter, the champion dynamiter, the champion safebreaker, the champion liar, the champion hold-up man, the champion thief, with all the army of champions, why begrudge the colored race a big champion prize-fighter? But what you do—we have got it, and you will have to do some tall fighting to take it from us. That's all.

"Republicans and Democrat the Same." Allentown, Pa. Dispatch. When applicants for naturalization were called up before Judge Fretter that Frank Konz, an Austrian, was first presented. "How many political parties are there?" asked the Judge. "Two," Konz replied. "What are their names?" "Republican and Democrat." "What is the difference between these parties?" "There is no difference at all, Your Honor; no difference at all." "You'll pass," said the Court. And Prothonotary Plummer administered the oath.

Costs Cuba \$5,000,000. Baltimore News. It cost Cuba a little more than \$5,000,000 to be pacified by an American Army, and Uncle Sam is going to collect very cent of the cost. Possibly the expense of going on a jambores may finally persuade the dons to get a steady job and stick to it.

Not Sportama, "But Great for Golf." Washington, D. C. Dispatch. Ambassador Gifford to the German Ambassador to the United States, says he is not a sportama, but "is great for Golf." A FEW SQUIDS. "So your son is now a soldier, hey, Uncle Ben?" says, "he's done just the marlinous career," says the Baltimore American. Cleverton (who has hired a taximeter cab to propose in)—"Say 'ye, darling," Miss Calumet—"Give me time to think," says Cleverton; "but not in here!" Consider the expense!—"Lifelong misunderstanding—I had to leave my last situation because the missus said they were going to leave the kid in the school, but I'll have any service about the place."—"Punch."

Farmer Greene—"Did John Meddler's son get married?"—"Yes, farmer Jones."—"Was it I don't like her say." "I know that, but she's a real home body."—"Was she selected as a juror on a murder trial?"—"Judge." The priesthood was held responsible for the rise of the Nile. "Ye answered Senator Sorghum. We have heard all that. Now let's hear from the people merely take credit for prosperity on general principles."—"Washington Star." "Yes, Senator. Don't you know Senator? That's my little five terrier my wife has."—"Conkly."—"What that they are purp? Isn't that rather silly?"—"Lodjany."—"Oh, I don't know; you see, had he nothing without his hair?"—"Philadelphia Press." The Mother—"My little boy was rude, I know. He should be severely punished."—"Stranger."—"Don't mention it, madam. It is better that he should be spoiled than that his young wife should be smothered by the thought that he is different from all other American children."—"Life."

LIFE IN THE OREGON COUNTRY

Unlucky Geese. North Ajax Cor. Condon Globe. P. Workinger made a lucky shot and bagged six wild geese just in time for Christmas.

Grand Free Gift Distribution, Perhaps. Rainier Review. We hope during the coming year that we will be all so prosperous that our readers a gold watch for Christmas.

Light Wanted. Brownsville Times. If the lazy, lousy, low-down candidate for the Penitentiary who stole a lantern from Harry Parke's buggy Sunday night will return same to this office he will be suitably rewarded.

Find the Horn; You'll See the Notches. Corvallis Times. Frank Brown produced the evidence and Induced Clerk Moses to give him \$2 for killing a coyote. The notches on this coyote's horn indicated that he had slaughtered 50 lambs. Every time a coyote kills a lamb he always cuts a notch in his horn.

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WHY PURCHASE THIS BLOCK

Objection to One Feature of Modjeski Bridge Plan. PORTLAND, Jan. 3.—(To the Editor)—I have noted the numerous newspaper publications about the proposed new bridge which many of the East Siders wish built across the river, beginning at Broadway as the east approach, with the western terminus somewhere about Seventh and Johnson streets, near the railroad depot. All of which "looks good to me" with one exception, as follows: The report published embodying the address of Ralph Modjeski, as well as a sketch purporting to be made by him, advises the city to purchase the block bounded by Johnson, Irving, Sixth and Seventh streets as a stopping or starting place for the approach to the bridge, which, by the sketch, after crossing the river, runs almost due southward to the proposed striking Seventh street, which it then follows due south about three blocks, or to Seventh and Johnson streets, where Mr. Modjeski, instead of allowing the road to continue by easy and straight grade up Seventh street, turns the approach at right angles on to the block he advises the city to purchase. From whence traffic must again turn at right angles up Sixth street. To the writer there appears no reason under the sun for diversion of the traffic from an straight line up Seventh street to the proposed angled block, unless it is to provide a resting-place for pedestrians and teams before beginning that body-and-soul-altering run to continue by easy and straight grade up Seventh street, turns the approach at right angles on to the block he advises the city to purchase. From whence traffic must again turn at right angles up Sixth street. To the writer there appears no reason under the sun for diversion of the traffic from an straight line up Seventh street to the proposed angled block, unless it is to provide a resting-place for pedestrians and teams before beginning that body-and-soul-altering run to continue by easy and straight grade up Seventh street, turns the approach at right angles on to the block he advises the city to purchase. From whence traffic must again turn at right angles up Sixth street.

Carrie Nation recently made the statement that next to whisky, tea is the worst drink in the world. Evidently Carrie never tried putting absinthe in her beer.

The doctors say that woman's hobby will be "lousy" than ever next summer. The purpose is evidently to make it unnecessary when a man reaches a street crossing, to observe the signboard, "Stop, Look and Listen."

One divorce to six marriages was the record of Portland in 1908. The New York record is one to five. Portland will have to do better if she wants to keep up with the march of progress.

"Death Valley Scotty" says he's going to enlist in the Marines. It's all right for him to tell that to them, but the rest of us who know Scotty, insist on being shown.

It seems that Portland will have to worry along without Evangelist "Billy" Sunday. Still there are a number of other good shows scheduled for the winter.

The dismissal of Yuan Shi Kai by the new Chinese regime indicates that the hand of Most Honorable Friend Nippon has lost none of its cunning.

In view of Judge Taft's well-known gastronomic reputation, that statesman promises to eat his way into the hearts of his Southern countrymen at the forthcoming "possum and yam banquet" which the people of Atlanta are to tender him.

I am pained to observe that Calvin Heilig neglected to attend his regular weekly theater last night.

The heroic work of King Victor and Queen Helena at stricken Messina proves that the designation "nobility" is not a misnomer in Italy, at least.

Pronunciation of "Suite." PORTLAND, Dec. 25.—(To the Editor)—A says "suite," pertaining to apartments, is pronounced as "sue," pertaining to clothing. B says it is pronounced "sweet." A says "sweet" is a pronunciation used merely for effects, etc., and is not proper. Which is correct? H. C. J.

B is correct. Best usage demands the French pronunciation, "sweet."

SILHOUETTES

BY ARTHUR A. GREENE. WHERE are the resolutions of yesterday? My idea of the latest man in the world is the fellow who plays chess in the afternoon.

My one claim to fame is that I've a friend in Naples, where the press dispatches come from.

A Chicago capitalist and his bride are to take their honeymoon trip in a balloon. Many people find themselves "up in the air" shortly after marriage.

Elbert Hubbard at long intervals says something worth while. He tells the story that recently he was lecturing before 100 attentive females of a state insane asylum, when one old woman came screaming down the aisle waving her arms frantically. "My God! I can't stand this nonsense any longer," she said the superintendent, "is the first sign she has shown of returning sanity?"

New York has a hospital for sick fish, patronized presumably by anglers.

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