

# The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1909.

### NOT AN ALLEGORY, NOR A PARABLE; BUT JUST PLAIN NARRATIVE.

It may be true, as the Troy (N. Y.) Times remarks in a paragraph reprinted by The Oregonian today, that Oregon, when it became a state "had the wisdom" to insert in its Constitution a copy of that which states in New York. Some things are common in the Constitutions and laws of all our states. Nevertheless, the Constitution of Oregon, till our "arenic disintegration" began, was very nearly an exact copy of that which states in Indiana, adopted by that state in the year 1816. The first Constitution of Indiana, adopted in 1816, was found later to be a very crude and imperfect affair. It did not sufficiently provide for the various schemes and schemes; it allowed the establishment of a state bank and branches; it did not make it sufficiently clear that the state was not to lend its credit for promotion of paternalistic jobs, and these jobs constantly multiplied as the years passed. The state aid to transportation projects; the instrument was weak in its control of taxation and in a multitude of ways left too much discretion of the Legislature. By sad experience Indiana had discovered that her promoters and jobbers had put her in the hole, just as the same description of citizens of Oregon now are laboring for what they call "the welfare of the state," in similar lines. These last are only about three-quarters of a century behind the experience of Indiana.

It was to get herself out of difficulties into which the system now proposed in Oregon had plunged her that Indiana made the Constitution and people of Oregon so closely followed, but which now she asked to abandon. Hence Indiana's Constitution of 1816 established close, exact and even severe constitutional limitations. Oregon, six years later, copied it in all its essential features—more or less for word. But in Oregon this instrument is now called an "old foggy document," and it is declared the state "has outgrown," and the foundations have been so deeply cut away that any initiative which would vote at any time, may be abolished or superseded by a majority. But it is still good enough for Indiana, which though not "a great state" like Oregon—having only about five times our population and ten times our wealth and industry—still remains a state of importance, with rational and well-regulated government in spite of that "old foggy Constitution," our copy of which this progressive state of Oregon has so nearly obliterated.

There is a further tale told by Indiana and Oregon; rather, we should say the tale already partly told deserves amplification, for our enlightenment and instruction. Observe that Oregon, though she copied Indiana's second Constitution, is now proposing to return to her first one, from which that state was so glad to escape. Some years before Indiana framed her new Constitution she had embarked in an extended system of internal improvements, of which construction was the chief feature. The state was to employ its credit to assist or promote railroads, and it went in very deep. It sold or guaranteed bonds, just as Oregon now is asked to do. The calamity was prodigious. Even such of the roads or canals as were finished did not furnish the revenues that had been expected. Depend upon it, such undertakings by the state never will. After a struggle of years, during which the state was forced to default interest, it managed to effect a compromise with creditors, who took the lines over, and the state was left with a debt of \$7,725,262 on account of this business, without any property to pay it. Here was one great cause that made Indiana anxious to rid herself of a Constitution under which such things were permitted and to make a new one, under which this sort of business no longer would be possible. Indiana was by no means alone in this. Other states had had much of the same kind of "progressive development," which "promoters" in Oregon now are anxious our state shall imitate. But the example of Indiana, when our people were making the Constitution of Oregon, was just then a pregnant one, and Chester N. Terry, who had recently come from Indiana, and was made secretary of our constitutional convention, had chanced to bring with him a copy of Indiana's new Constitution, which was the basis, indeed almost the sole source, of the Constitution of Oregon.

Will it be said that Indiana then was a state far behind the importance of Oregon now? It was not. Indiana in 1816 had more than one million inhabitants and was industrially a great state. It was superior then to Illinois in population and wealth, and its one million of people were concentrated within an area comparatively small. Oregon now has no more than 600,000, dispersed over an area nearly three times as great as that of the whole state of Indiana. It is well for people to know what they are taking "out." Doubtless it may be told there were bad financiers in Indiana, and shall be assured that our own Mr. Teal, Mr. U'Ren, Mr. Wood, Brother Jackson, of the Journal, and the further long list of names which The Oregonian at this moment hasn't space to print, would do better with this business than those dull Hoosiers did. Yet perhaps we would

better not be too credulous. We might fall into danger. The Constitution of Indiana, which we copied, but now are trying to repudiate, is still the Constitution of Indiana and the key to her vast prosperity, while her old Constitution, which we are now trying to get back to and to adopt for ourselves, is the one which led her to financial ruin and from which she made enormous sacrifice to escape.

The Oregonian opposes this whole scheme, on the high ground of the public welfare. It opposes the scheme because it is the champion of the many against the few. The Teal postage business is exactly a business of this kind. Under cover or profession of regard for the interests of the people the state is led into a partnership through which a few persons make or expect to make money by taxation of all the rest; that is, the state furnishes most of the money and the promoters and managers take the profit. You, always with professions of distinction and laborious service to the public. Of this sort of thing there are as many "exterior forms and varieties of outward accoutrement" as there are types of "promoters," but never was a state so rich in this sort of business, nor ever will it be, without having to foot the bill.

### THE PEST OF HAZING.

Rigorous formal discipline, strong college traditions and hazing form a triplet which is often seen complete in the institutions of learning. The United States military and naval academies enjoy a more indefinable discipline than any other schools in the country, and their courses of study have yielded less to the modern elective system. Moreover, there are no other schools where tradition and custom are as ineluctable as it is at West Point and Annapolis. Accordingly, hazing makes more trouble at these schools than it does anywhere else. Compared with Harvard, both Yale and Princeton are notably reactionary in spirit. It is interesting to remark also that they have more hazing. In fact, hazing is one method of keeping traditions alive. It breaks in the new student to the old ways. College faculties make a great show of disapproving it, but, remembering how it flourishes, one need not take the matter so seriously. Faculties in particular which set a high value on tradition and the "good old college spirit" do not in their secret hearts dislike hazing. They are only too ready to stamp it out, at least only half-heartedly.

Scientific schools are not much troubled with the pest. Neither are those state universities where engineering and sociological studies predominate. Ann Arbor has had a good deal of rioting in the course of its history, but not much hazing. It bothered the University of Wisconsin in the early days, but nothing has been heard of it there of late. At the University of Minnesota it has been a classical sport for some years. These schools are all strongly scientific. The schools are all located in towns of considerable importance, which may have something to do with their immunity from the hazing scourge. The fact is that students who betake themselves to scientific studies have not the time nor the inclination to intrude upon the rights of others. The whole spirit of these studies is one of sturdy individual freedom.

But when all is said, the only way to get hazing in colleges where the classical spirit is still strong is to go to the class system. As long as any institution clings to the old-fashioned freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes, with one yearly graduation day, we may assume without any great chance of error, that it is not prepared to make much of a sacrifice to get rid of hazing.

### PORTLAND MAKING NEW RECORDS.

February, the shortest month of the year, makes a remarkably fine showing in all lines of commercial and industrial activity. With but twenty-three business days in the month, real estate transfers reached a total of \$2,063,338, an average of about \$90,000 per day, while building permits made a new record for the month, with a total of more than \$1,300,000, the highest in any month of the year. Bank clearings for the month were more than \$3,000,000 in excess of those for February, 1908, although a record-breaking movement of wheat in February, 1908, ran the figures well below the average for that month. Portland has now set a new record also in development where the ordinary obstacles which in her youth could retard progress are no longer effective. The city is being swept on to greatness by that reaching the most remote districts of the state.

The substantial nature of this growth is shown to the best possible advantage in the character of the building operations, especially in residential enterprise. For this class of buildings 111 permits were granted in February, and the total valuation was \$239,525, an average of more than \$3,000 each, with the valuations given in every case being much lower than the actual cost of the building. Four permits for reinforced concrete structures, issued at a valuation of \$445,350, give an excellent idea of the substantial nature of the business structures going up. Portland is growing rapidly than ever, because the entire territory tributary to this city is growing. No less than three sawmills, which will be among the largest on the Pacific Coast, are now under construction or have effected all arrangements for building, at points along the Columbia River below Portland. Around these mills will spring up small colonies and towns, and these, like other colonies and towns, will all be tributary to Portland.

In gathering headway in this movement toward commercial greatness, we have at last attained a momentum which nothing short of a world-wide commercial cataclysm can check! In no previous season in the history of the city has the outlook been so bright as in the Spring of 1909.

### HOW THE COLUMBIA IS LOSING.

Ten years ago, in February, 1899, the steamer fleet entering the Columbia River consisted of nine vessels of 9611 tons net register. Five years ago, for the same month, the arrivals were 22 vessels of 19,703 tons. In February, 1909, the arrivals were 115 steamers of 51,837 tons net register, and with a carrying capacity of more than 100,000 tons. The greatest part of this growth has been in the coasting trade, but there have been substantial gains in the foreign business.

### THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS.

Like the interesting young woman in the poem, Congress "must go to rest with its work undone." Not that the session just about to close has been wholly fruitless. Although spending money without much thought where it is to come from has been the principal occupation of our representatives and Senators, still they have done some things of a little useful work between whiles. Nobody will find fault with the appropriation of \$500,000 for the Italian earthquake sufferers, and yet the sum is so inappropriately large that it looks suspiciously like a play to the gallery rather than genuine charity. If a considerable fraction of this splendid gift could be employed in buying out the absentee landlords who in the long run do more harm than earthquakes in Southern Italy and Sicily, one would regard the matter with more complacency. Congress has also done well in hampering the interstate rum traffic though the hampering is not likely to prove very severe. The shipment of liquor into prohibition districts in Southern California has been a nuisance for years, and has in some localities completely thwarted the will of the people. Congress has provided that these parcels must be plainly marked with the contents and the consignee's name. This does not seem to be a very rigorous provision, but it will in fact restrict the traffic which thrives upon secrecy.

Among the negative virtues of the present Congress there may be included its possible failure to pass the notorious ship subsidy bill, which maintained a serpentine existence in committee, and out of it from the beginning of each session to the end. It is a curious circumstance that both Mr. Aldrich and his successor favor this measure, which is a very unparliamentary thing, and has no reason for passage except the greed of a few millionaires. We may learn from this that nobody is infallible, and that even the most well-meaning public officials are not always wise. History proves clearly and emphatically that ship subsidies never have promoted shipbuilding or ocean trade, but our statesmen still think that they will do miracles for our merchant marine. The experience of mankind elsewhere has lessons for us. In the way of the contents and the consignee's name, one who seeks diligently to find out things else good to say about the departed Congress the billion dollar appropriations stand like a lion. Still, while this is in truth a large sum to spend, it is not so large as to impress, one has to admit that governments everywhere have grown to be most expensive luxuries, and ours is no worse than the rest of them. The world over taxes are eating up the substance of the population, and nobody seems to see any way to relief. With us there is the same story to tell in state, county and city. Our rulers of every degree demand more and more money. The question where it is to come from begins to be really important. We begin to think that the benighted populations of Europe must forever envy us our freedom from a military establishment. Not having very many soldiers to support our government would always be an expensive luxury. Thus we dreamed in our deluded delusions. Now we realize, to our grief, that we omitted to take account of pensions when we wove our fond visions of light taxes.

There is more than one person puzzled to know by what constitutional or legal right the State of Oregon can justify itself for going into partnership with the Teal Transportation Company. Nice thing for members of the Teal Company, since the state supplies most of the capital and pays the interest, but is the state keeping its hands clean with decency and good faith within its just power? Is it the body of its people to support such a partnership for emolument of private individuals?

Those enthusiastic Seattle boosters are advertising their Exposition as the only "World's Fair" that ever "opened on time." The point, of course, lies in the "world's" fair. The Portland Exposition, from the Seattle point of view, was only a dinky little show. It is not so, but it is something worth something. The fact is that the Seattle's while not open to its full extent, as Portland did, but close it amid universal acclaim, as Portland also did.

Rev. W. G. Elliot warns us not to worry about the possibility of the world's destruction 14 years hence. Knowledge of the approaching calamity becomes certain. Chaos would result from the very knowledge, he says. It would. So would chaos of mind come in all probability to anyone from knowledge of what is going to happen to him in the ensuing 14 years.

It would be an unfortunate occurrence indeed, but it is quite clear that if some law-abiding citizen, peacefully engaged in his lawful mate, should be aroused from his slumbers by the moral suasion, and in the excitement he should pull his pistol from under his pillow and shoot some one, there would be great difficulty about a conviction.

Even if all claims of "reduction of freight rates" are true—but they are not true, because the comparisons are judged—why should the taxpayers of Oregon be forced to put up money in the neighborly pockets of Washington and Idaho who get higher prices?

Only two more days of strenuous life and Roosevelt, after twenty years' service as public man, will take the honorable title of American citizen at large. It is reasonably certain that, for the remainder of this year, there will be small friction between the offices of Governor and Secretary of State. Queer, but just at this moment Oregon is out of a "political" job. But that it is a "political" job, he here, and George will soon be there. Mr. Pratt would make good a just claim to being the universal friend of Oregon, if he would become a bear on the flour market. In the end the Southern Pacific would be money in pocket if it actually gave its Oregon lands to bona fide settlers. A more appropriate name for Mayor Lane's hyper-officious plain-clothes men would be the Peeping Tom squad.

### FOLLY OF STATE OWNERSHIP.

Spokane Review. Oregon's constitution may be defective, but it contains one sound bulwark that needs to be defended against demolition—the prohibition of the building of railroads. It is proposed by ill-informed, reckless or adventurous spirits to cut away this section of the constitution, with a view to putting the state at the work of building needed railroads which Harriman apparently will not construct.

If needs be, Oregon would "better bear those ills it has than fly to others that it knows not of." National ownership of railroads has been measurably a success in Europe, but ventures of that nature by undeveloped states of the Union stand practically as an unbroken record of failure and disaster. The Spokane Review believes that there is no exception to this record where states have attempted to project railroads into new and undeveloped territory.

The undertaking would be rash and futile, though there were positive knowledge that no new railroads would be built by private capital in Oregon within the next quarter of a century. But railroad development cannot much longer be retarded in Eastern and Central Oregon. Harriman cannot maintain forever his dog-in-the-manger policy toward the building of railroads. He must build railroads in there, and that soon, or rivals will do it. He has no right of pre-emption. The Hill interests are now on the edge of that undeveloped region; the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul is not distant; the Northwestern system is now building the Rocky Mountains, and the influx of immigration and capital into the country north of the Columbia will surely settle and develop south into Eastern and Central Oregon.

The mistakes that have been wrought by the desert lands of Wenatchee, North Yakima, Lewiston and the Boise City to be repeated in the arid and semi-arid sections of Oregon. The possibilities are too vast, the rewards are too enticing, much longer to be overlooked or neglected. It is not probable that the voters of Oregon will resist the temptation to vote to the folly of bonding their state to build railroads into a sparsely settled empire, under the delusion that it would punish Harriman. The end of that business would be Harriman picking up some state-owned railroads from the bargain counter.

### CLEAR DUTY OF A NEWSPAPER.

Not Only to Print News, but to Expose Wrongdoings. From an Opinion by Justice Guy, of New York.

The law jealously guards the good repute of all persons in their private character and in their business or profession, and the right of each private citizen to conduct or to profess the business or profession in which they are engaged they have themselves forfeited such good repute. But the law is not engaged in the rehabilitation of reputations, or in throwing the mantle of respectability and good repute around those who deliberately engage in practices in violation of law and follow pursuits which are subversive of decency and good morals.

The defendant was engaged in the publication of a newspaper not merely for the purpose of giving the public with the additional purpose of holding a high standard of public decency and morals in the community, and it is not merely its duty, but its duty, in connection with a public and official proceeding of the kind in question, to publish truthfully so much of the facts and details of news, as to hold a high standard of public decency and morals in the community, and it is not merely its duty, but its duty, in connection with a public and official proceeding of the kind in question, to publish truthfully so much of the facts and details of news, as to hold a high standard of public decency and morals in the community, and it is not merely its duty, but its duty, in connection with a public and official proceeding of the kind in question, to publish truthfully so much of the facts and details of news, as to hold a high standard of public decency and morals in the community, and it is 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