

The Oregonian

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WHAT THE STATES WANT.

A correspondent states The Oregonian to define the Western idea of conservation as opposed to the Federal policy, or Pinchotism, so-called.

The writer of the letter can probably do no better than read the Salt Lake address of Governor Hay, of Washington, printed on Friday.

The conference of Governors, which appeared yesterday. It would seem, too, that careful perusal of this paper during the last several months ought to have made clear to this correspondent or anyone the just attitude of the states against the Government.

The states of the West, which have most at stake in operation of the latter-day scheme of conservation, intend also, if possible, to have something to say about what shall be done with the public lands.

They have only lately awakened to the tremendous blight Pinchotism has placed and will continue to place on their development.

They have found that the wholesale withdrawal of mighty areas of the public domain has retarded settlement, discouraged immigration and increased the hold of monopoly upon the timber areas and power sites without the reserved space.

They have found that the radical Pinchot policy operating in Washington has devalued the value of the Weyerhaeuser holdings in the gigantic sum of \$100,000,000.

The great timber barons are highly favorable to Pinchotism. The less available timber there is for the public the higher value, of course, they are able to place on their possessions.

Under the Federal conservation scheme one-third of Oregon, two-thirds of Idaho, a fourth of Washington and large parts of Colorado, Wyoming and other Western states have been withdrawn from settlement.

Water-power sites have been made inaccessible. The Government has taken to hold Western people from the resources of public lands within their borders. It puts over them a lot of salaried agents sent out from the theoretical and impracticable centers of the East.

It denies the public the right to pass through the reserves without sanction. They cannot make homes on the land nor obtain timber, water power or minerals.

acts are more often under observation. Probably in all these states superior and more efficient laws for fire prevention must be enacted.

The next question coming up is what set of sets of timber-owners can be justly charged with the duty and cost of forest protection against fire? Who are these owners?

Timber lands in forest reserves, as well as in unalien Government land outside reserves, continue in the National ownership; in the former case so long as reservations continue, in the latter case until passed into possession and ownership of the private citizen under general laws.

In both cases the plan: To guard and conserve the timber within necessary and reasonable limits of expense, as trustee for the property of the nation and of the future citizen-owner.

But fires stretch to and from these Government lands from the destruction of property of private ownership. How shall such lands be guarded or fires extinguished? The organization and control of such efforts should surely be that of the state.

Here enter two considerations. The state owes protection to her citizens, especially when damage to one destroys the property of another.

It seems plain that the basis of taxation for fire protection should be the value of each individual ownership. The immense worth of standing timber, if rightly computed, would easily pay a tax for fire protection.

The charge on each district would naturally rise with the value of the timber therein and the larger fund be available for greater needs.

THE DISTRESSED PESSIMIST.

It must be very distressing to the few pessimists who have been predicting a slump in Portland to note that the eighth month of the year is drawing to a close with bank clearings, building permits, postoffice receipts, etc., still breaking records, and no sign of a relapse visible.

But one other city of Portland's class in the United States made a heavier gain in bank clearings last week. The neighboring period, and postoffice receipts showed a gain of nearly 10 per cent over August last year, although at that time the city was crowded with visitors who came West to the Seattle Exposition.

These interesting figures have been printed in detail and are only mentioned this time to give credit to the foundation for any pessimistic preachings. Yet the cry of the pessimist is heard, and has some effect. Many a solvent bank has been driven into insolvency by just such unfounded and unwarranted discussion as seems to afford pleasure to the chronic pessimist.

where there is comradeship among the pickers, where adequate provisions have been made for their comfort, and where prudent moral supervision is exercised over the young people among them, who find in the hop harvest a September outing, at once remunerative and enjoyable.

The occasional tragedy and the too frequent scandal that have found excuse for occurring in the unsupervised associations in the hopyards of boys and girls whose emotions are a most unsafe guide, lend their weight to the end that these sorrowful incidents of past years be not repeated.

It is well to remember in this connection that girls and boys at what is sometimes characterized as the fool age, or more euphemistically as the impressionable age, are neither more nor less than the most unimpaired and the way or that accord with environment, or to restrain or the lack of it.

Let them go to the hopyards, enjoy the outing, and earn money for their school books and winter clothing. But go with them, parents or duly constituted caretakers, to the end that their activities be productive of much more harm than good.

COMPETITIVE FARMERS' UNIONS.

According to a Walla Walla dispatch in The Oregonian yesterday, the officials of the farmers' unions of Oregon, Washington and Idaho have asked for a conference with the traffic officials of the three transcontinental railroads with a view of securing a lower rate on wheat to Eastern points.

The inland Empire farmers are of opinion that the present rate of 39 cents per bushel is too high and believe that, if it were to be reduced, they could ship wheat into the coast in less than the most profitable short. Just how much of that 30-cent rate would have to be deducted in order to admit of the diversion of wheat from its usual route to the west's markets is uncertain.

It is possible, however, if the railroads would haul it East at no higher rate than it hauls West, that the coast Eastern cereal might be worked. Quite naturally an invasion of the Eastern wheatgrowers' field by the North Pacific growers would not be relished by the growers who find a market in Missouri River territory.

The large movement should reach very breaker of any other Pacific coast Eastern cereal might be worked. Quite naturally an invasion of the Eastern wheatgrowers' field by the North Pacific growers would not be relished by the growers who find a market in Missouri River territory.

THE SITUATION OFFERS SOME INTERESTING POINTS ON THE ETHICS OF THE FARMERS' UNION. There are two points of view. Wheat is high in the East, because the crop is short. Eastern members of the farmers' union naturally desire to take advantage of strength in the statistical position, but, if their Western brethren are successful in securing lower freights all of the advantage which they now possess will be nullified.

Light upon Mars.

The condition of things upon the planet Mars continues to excite controversy among the astronomers. Since the unsatisfactory outcome of their predictions concerning the late lamented comet, these savants have not been so forward as they were formerly in making positive statements about the unknowable.

being so low that the profit, if there was any, must have been small indeed. The Kumeric is one of the largest freighters that ever entered the Columbia River, but the quest for cargo is so keen that her agents have already announced that a sister ship will soon be placed on berth here to load a part cargo at rates no higher than were paid on the Kumeric.

There is keen competition for cargo confined to the great liners of the Kumeric type. Nearly every tramp steamer that enters the river for lumber shifts to from two to four ports in picking a cargo, although each change involves extra expense in addition to the time lost.

This abundance of tonnage, which makes low rates and keen competition in accommodating the shippers, is not a local condition. It is worldwide in its extent, and demonstrates in the most effectual manner that our foreign trade is not suffering in the slightest degree by any lack of ocean transportation facilities.

Sympathy is certainly the due of the woman who applied for divorce in Oregon City a few days ago, after enduring the hard life of which she made complaint before the court for full forty-nine years.

The Oregonian should think twice before it urges county or local prohibition. It is not a step which seems to be too large to be satisfactory. This has been the case in Union County. In the rural districts prohibition could have been a blessing, but the tide of the law is running against it.

There would seem to be no valid reason why owners of automobiles who drive their own machines should be excused from taking the examination prescribed for licensed chauffeurs. No driver, man or woman, whether he or she owns the automobile or not, should be permitted through private arrangement to manage and control of the machine, to place life on the public streets or highways in jeopardy.

What Makes Home.

I would not like to settle down within my old armchair. And take my ease, with empty knees—I want to keep my feet on the ground. I want, with everything I have, how incomplete 'twould be. Unless I had a girl or lad. To share it all with me.

Where Baby Is.

I used to meet him on the road, right close to every day. And "Wish I was where baby is," this drummer man would say. He smiled and winked and waved with us place of Portland's size that does more to stop the annual deficit?

As the campaign progresses, the chasm doesn't seem to grow so narrow that Taft and the Colonel can clasp hands across it.

Oh, what will Teddy do, you say? Oh, what will Teddy do, you say? Oh, what will Teddy do, you say? Oh, what will Teddy do, you say?

TOPICAL VERSE

A Cup of Good Coffee.

You may talk about your claret, your ales and your wines. And your champagne the table adorn.

The fizz of the fountain I yearn not to hear. The sherbet or collage I ever am scorn.

Milady Nicotine and I. Milady Nicotine and I have called it off. Our love is dead.

His wife's gone to the country. He sings in accents light. Of pastimes gay throughout the day.

He simply goes on working. Like any other man. When day is gone he sits out on the fire.

Love (In a Parenthesis). (John K. LeBaron in Smart Set) In our little boat We drift and float.

What Makes Home. I would not like to settle down within my old armchair. And take my ease, with empty knees.

Where Baby Is. I used to meet him on the road, right close to every day. And "Wish I was where baby is," this drummer man would say.

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