

THE GREAT PORTLAND PROBLEM OF THE LAW BRINGING OUT ASSORTMENT OF VIEWS

Questions Before City, State and National Governments Discussed by Various Writers Who Seek to Shed New Light on Situations.

PORTLAND IS STATE ASSET

Those Promoting Antagonistic Feeling Are Rebuked.

PORTLAND, Jan. 7.—(To the Editor)—There seems to be forming throughout the state a movement antagonistic to Portland. Before this goes farther it would be well for those behind this movement to consider that they are doing it well for them to stop, look and listen.

Portland, with its channel to the sea and low grade routes to the interior, is one of the greatest natural assets of the commonwealth of Oregon. It is a natural asset just as agricultural valleys are a natural asset, or timber is an asset, or coal, or oil, or mineral deposits. In fact, in permanency it may well outrank all but the first named. Timber may be cut away and disappear, mines and oil wells may be exhausted and abandoned, but a commercial city located at a natural vantage point will abide as long as fields produce and man remains to buy, to sell and to exchange.

The late General H. M. Chittenden in 1915 prepared a paper on "The Ports of the Pacific" which was read before a meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers in New York city, and may be found by those interested in the publication of transactions of that body for the year named. Speaking of Portland and the Columbia river, General Chittenden said:

Northward from San Francisco the first location of high strategic value is the Columbia river. It is a great waterway which breaks through the mountain barrier between the Pacific and the interior country. It is the only point in the United States territory where the great coast-hinterland waterway is completely traversed by a water-gate route. The main valley, for a distance of 75 miles, where its tributaries begin to spread out until they expand into a vast plain, giving arterial highways to a watershed of 250,000 square miles, is the Columbia river. It is a natural asset of the nation, and such as will survive all competition.

Portland, thus situated at an interstate crossroads, is supposed to be a city that it would have become supported by Oregon trade alone. This is the reason why it is the center of the state. It has given it a better and more diversified market. The recognition which Portland is bringing to the state is bringing recognition to Oregon that it would not otherwise receive. It gives it place among the galaxy of nations and a voice in the shaping of the nation's course which otherwise it would not have. Ours is a commercial state, and we pay the taxes and build the roads.

Great as are Portland's natural advantages, as General Chittenden has pointed out, it is not only through the efforts, labors and sacrifices of its people that it has become what it is today. It is an old saying to the effect that "God seldom makes for men anything which is not for their own good." It is cleared before they will produce; others have to be irrigated; others drained. So it is with Portland. The channel to the sea has to be opened and trade routes made to function to the upbuilding of the city. In this Portland has done well. It has taxed itself for years to open and maintain the channel to the sea, and its harbor, even when the prospect has been dim, and it has done so with a frequency and tonnage which is making of this a great world port. This is of advantage to the state and to the nation.

As the general manager of the Chamber of Commerce has pointed out, "Things are looking well for Portland now." Our overseas traffic is growing, while that of almost all other world ports is shrinking. On every hand one hears favorable comment on Portland's growth and future prospects. It requires no keen observer to deduce that the tide in the affairs of our state moves on to fortune" is at our doors.

Will the citizens of the state at large and of the city co-operate to embrace the opportunity, with vicissitudes and contentions come in to lead them to pass it up? There is a greater question than that of the fact at stake. Let that be settled on its merits, but let no animosities arise between city and state.

Those promoting antagonistic feeling are assuming a grave responsibility. The state at large has a great asset in the city of Portland.

H. A. HANDS.

TAX CONSPIRACY IS CHARGED

Levies in State Declared to Be Almost Unbearable.

ST. PAUL, Or., Jan. 1.—(To the Editor)—In the Oregonian, December 20, you attempt to answer me, and cast a doubt on my charge "that Portland wanted the exposition site in the spring rather than in November," and you ask if I saw any conspiracy against the taxpayers in the district primary law?

This question is a challenge that I gladly accept.

I will say that I see no conspiracy in the direct primary law, but I see it in those parties that have, and will do, to divert it from its purpose.

A quarter of a century ago the voters of this state became disgusted with the action of our legislators in response to a very insistent demand the initiative and referendum laws were passed, receiving 62,021 votes, only 646 being cast against it on June 2, 1902.

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My claim, that the taxpayers' bills have a better chance of winning in the spring than if held in November at a general election, is true.

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TUMULTY VIEW APPRECIATED

But True Picture of Wilson Not Given, Thinks Correspondent.

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