

Watkins' Observations

Editor Times: There are those who insist that some of the public acts of the Governor are utterly indefensible and unwarranted from a legal point of view.

However, that is not saying they are lawless, or that they believe the Governor is entirely sincere or unselfish or that he always pursues the right course or that he always follows out that which he undertakes to its legitimate conclusion.

There appears to be a suspicion, as I fancy there always is to a greater or lesser extent among the folks, that the criminal laws of the state in many cases are not properly enforced; that there is more or less favoritism and partiality; that there are different laws for different men on the same subject.

Now the Governor apparently tries to do things, whatever his motive. Perhaps he don't always succeed in the fashion most approved, but anyway he makes a stab at some things that appear to the public to be wrong.

He does something other than wag his jaw and that takes with the populace. The people demand results. They are looking for officials who do things and not peddlers of flap-doodle and frescoers of ozone.

When an apparent wrong is righted or a thing is done that necessarily ought to be done, it would seem the folks are not bothering very much about the means whereby the thing is accomplished. They appear to see the ultimate result and forget the rest.

For instance: The Isthmian canal is an accomplished fact, yet our garrulous Secretary of State and a few other sensitive souls pretend to be shocked at the methods used whereby we obtained concessions in that locality. The canal is a public necessity. It will ensure to the benefit of all mankind from now to eternity.

The grafters, the jayhawkers and the sure thing men have been relegated to Class B and we have the canal.

We are now ready to talk it over and pay the fiddler if need be, but we are not lying awake nights nursing any lacerated conscience or pining over any sins. The fact is, we feel pretty sassy and are not disposed to apologize.

To obtain public ends without thought as to the means used may be and possibly is all wrong; it may be positively wicked, but it is human and the way it is.

There are a lot of beautiful theories that are not worth three beans in actual practice.

On the whole, the Governor understands most of us all right; he is not half as foolish as he seems. There is method in his brand of madness and, if I am not in error, this fact may be fully demonstrated at the next election.

Anyway, this is the way the matter presents itself to an old resident of the clam flats.

GEORGE WATKINS.

BRIDGES ARE PROGRESSING.

Twenty-nine Steel Structures Between Eugene and Coos Bay.

The Eugene Guard says: G. Willard, of the bridge building firm of McCreary & Willard, of Spokane, has returned from a trip to Seattle and went out to the work on the Willamette Pacific. Mr. Willard says there are to be 29 steel bridges between Eugene and Coos Bay, the largest of which will be across the Umpqua River.

This structure will consist of seven 200-foot spans. The work on this bridge has not been begun. "The bridge company has completed only four bridges as yet, each 100 feet long. Four more similar bridges are to be finished after which there will be nothing further done until about the first of June."

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