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POSTAL ADVANCEMENT.

The Postal Progress League has started a series of monthly meetings in this city to advocate "the immediate advancement of the postoffice," says the New York Commercial. Its secretary announces that he has received letters from many prominent business men approving and praising its campaign to secure the election of a congress pledged to postal reform. The Central New York Farmers' Club recently adopted resolutions demanding postal improvement at once. In other states also the farmers, as well as the town and city business communities, are beginning to show their interest in this subject. All these things are so many hopeful signs that the improvement of the United States postoffice department is bound to come. Public recognition of the insufficiency of the department to meet existing needs is more widespread than ever—and an enlightened public opinion in this country is ever the first great step in the direction of reform.

There is no department of the public service today so badly in need of betterment—indeed, of thoroughgoing reform—as is the postoffice. A writer in a recent number of The World's Work magazine said that the scandals in the department, bad as they have been, sink into insignificance beside the inadequacy of the postal service. And that is perfectly true. There has been no appreciable improvement in the postoffice department in a dozen years. In some respects, indeed, there has been a retrogression. Its methods are in many things obsolete and outworn. The charges for most kinds of mail matter are too high, and yet they are not high enough to meet the enormous expense of maintaining the department—which is today probably the biggest bankrupt in the world. According to the postmaster-general's report for 1903, the excess of his expenditures over his total receipts from all sources was \$4,560,044.73. Still more startling is his statement that this deficit shows an increase over that for 1902 of \$1,622,394.92. But that is not all. Expenses of the postoffice department charged to the treasury department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903, were \$1,439,498.87—an increase over 1902 of \$385,849.08. Thus the grand total loss to the government caused by the postoffice department last year was \$5,999,543.60, which was an increase of nearly two millions (\$1,978,244) over the loss of the preceding year. And the United States is the only large nation in the world whose postal service is conducted at a loss!

But despite the millions that it costs, the service is grossly incompetent. In a city like New York many possible modern facilities for quicker, safer, better delivery are not availed of. Deliveries are slow. Congestion is frequent. Losses of letters or valuable packages are of daily occurrence. Quarters are for the most part too small and cramped. The department goes lumbering along like its heavy, old-fashioned wagons drawn by poor, emaciated, old nags that look about ready for the "bone-yard." One can oftentimes send a letter to Philadelphia more quickly than from The Bronx to Wall street. And this is the department at its best. In the country at large there are said to be no less than 75,000 towns and villages without any postal service at all!

The advocates of postal advancement urge that the extension of the free delivery service is an imperative need, and that the cost of the foreign mail service should be reduced. Former Postmaster-General Thomas L. James pointed out in 1885 that a daily mail service was needed between London and New York and that the rate of ocean postage should be 2 cents a letter. If that was needed 19 years ago, they say, it is more urgently demanded now. Then, these men say, when these paramount reforms have been secured let us have cheaper internal letter postage—the reduction of first-class matter to one cent an ounce.

THE NEW ERA FOR OREGON.

Portland Journal: Any observant person who has lived long, or even not very long, in Oregon can see unmistakable signs of a new era for this state, one of unprecedented development, of unparalleled advancement. This new era is already upon

us, is already begun, but only begun. The convention of the new State Development League, now in session here, is a consequence of this beginning, as well, as we hope, a cause of or a large factor in the future onward and upward movement. Development of resources, lying all about us rawly, in many-million-fold volume and value, if worked on and with; the men and money to do this work; the ways and means to get it started and carry it on a little—it will then carry itself on—these are the interesting questions in Oregon. They are "in the air." They must not only be there, but down on and in the ground.

This development will come, is coming, has already nicely if so far feebly begun, in many ways. Here are some of the things to be accomplished:

First, an open river, to secure which the portage road, then the canal, must be constructed.

Second, making Oregon known throughout the east, and inducing the right kind of immigration—people with brawn, brains and cash.

Third, a general, urgent, influential pressure brought upon large land-holders to break up their tracts and sell them in small tracts at reasonable prices to homeseekers. Make them see that this would benefit them; that one-quarter of their big tract would thus soon be made worth as much as the whole is now, while they would have several thousand dollars to the good besides.

Fourth, electric roads. From Portland to Hillsboro and Forest Grove; to Salem, Albany and Eugene—and from these points to others. Get moneyed men to look at the country, at the situation, at what has been done, is being done, can be done. We must "show them" first. We must do something ourselves. We must "fly with our own wings." We must prove our faith by our works. We must talk in terms of cash. Unless this spirit prevails—and it is already aroused—the work of the development league will be largely in vain.

Fifth, development of mines, not only of gold but of coal, and other minerals, of which there is a great variety in Oregon; but particularly, the Nehalem coal fields. The road has been built in talk and hot air for many years. It is about time strenuous efforts were made to make a reality of it.

Sixth, irrigation and water rights. These comprise in themselves a very large and pregnant subject, and in regard to the latter at least, the next legislature has important work to do.

There are other plans and projects and needs to be helped along, and made realities—a railroad through central Oregon, a railroad over to Coos bay, closer water communication and commercial relations with coast points, particularly Coos bay and Tillamook bay—and other matters, quite enough to engage the constant and earnest attention of a development league 100,000 strong for months and years to come.

Let the slogan throughout all Oregon, from the sinuous Snake to the mightily pulsing Pacific, from the magnificent Columbia to the storm-breeding Siskiyou, be A Greater Oregon—a twice, thrice, five times, ten times Greater Oregon.

The new era is born, but an infant must be nourished. We must not abandon this one to be kept punily alive in an incubator.

The whole number of members of the Japanese diet is 379, and of them seven are Christians, including one Baptist, two Congregationalists and four Methodists. The Christian representation is thus in a minority of 1 to 54, but it is influential beyond that proportion. In the population at large there is, roughly speaking, only one Christian in ten thousand—a little leaven in a great mass, but its effect is visible and recognized even by those who are not nominally Christians. In old Japan Shintoism, Buddhism and Confucianism all encouraged absolutism and feudalism, while constitutional government, representative institutions and local self-government are fruits of Christian civilization. It is favored by a good many who make no open profession of it, and is particularly valued as an instrument of social and moral reforms. It has a long road to travel in that country before it satisfies the desires of its propagandists, but the road is open, and there is no opposition worth speaking of, but rather a spirit of receptivity and encouragement.

Eight years ago the democratic candidate for president declared that toiling humanity was crushed under "a cross of gold." Statistics show that "toiling humanity" has piled up a little matter of \$2,600,000,000 in gold money in the country's savings banks.

We are now promised that the democratic party is to be made a "compact, fighting organization," but no victory was ever won by an army whose leaders sulked in their tents or carried knives for use upon each other.

"Hard to Die in Portland" is a headline which appears in the Journal, which might have added that it's also a hard place in which to live.

It is funny how an American workman loses his hearing in the presence of calamity shouters as soon as he opens a bank account.

THE MODERN WAY

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HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS

BUSINESS WITH ORGANIZATION.

New York Pays \$16,000,000 to Philadelphia Without Flurry.
Philadelphia Ledger.

The manner in which the recent loan of \$16,000,000, furnished by bankers in New York and Boston, was placed on deposit to the credit of the city in some 60 banking institutions in Philadelphia, without the transfer of \$1 of actual money, is an example of modern financial organization beyond the ready understanding of those whose ideas on "the volume of currency" and other elements of finance are still based on the experience of the country store. There was a time when the negotiation of a city loan involved the bringing to the city treasury, or its agent, of large sums of cash, which had been drawn out of bank or brought from other cities for the purpose, and the reconveyance of this cash to the same or other banks, with all the dangers of loss in transit and the inconvenience and disturbance resulting from the temporary withdrawal of all this money from other uses. Today the whole business is performed by a few pieces of paper and a settlement on the books of the clearing house.

Aside from the original due bill for \$800,000, or 5 per cent on the amount of the loan, which accompanied the bid, the whole of this loan was paid to the city treasurer in a clearing house due bill of the Fourth Street National bank. This he deposited in the bank most convenient to him, which thereupon issued its due bills to the various designated depositories, distributing the amount among them in a prescribed proportion. The Fourth Street National bank had in the meanwhile received from various other banks their bills of exchange on New York, approximating the sum due from the New York syndicate, which it forwarded to its correspondent in New York, to be entered to the credit of the Philadelphia banks against the credits of the banks representing the syndicate in New York. The New York clearing house adjusted these accounts, as the Philadelphia clearing house had balanced the accounts of the home banks, and thus the payment of \$16,000,000 from New York to Philadelphia was completed without the physical disturbance of a single penny.

Pressed Chicken.

Single, clean and disjoint a good sized fowl, cover it with cold water and simmer slowly until the flesh drops from the bones. When half done season highly with salt, pepper, celery salt and one small onion stuck with cloves. When the chicken is perfectly tender remove all the skin and bone and shred the meat into good sized pieces. Boil two or three eggs hard, cool and cut in thin slices. Remove all fat from the chicken gravy and boil down to about a cupful. Moisten the meat with this, then pack in layers in a well buttered mold, arranging slices of egg on each layer. Cover with a plate, set a weight on it and stand in a cold place until the next day.

Special Excursions to St. Louis.

August 8, 9 and 10, September 5, 6 and 7, and October 3, 4 and 5 are the remaining dates upon which tickets will be sold at the reduced rates to the St. Louis Fair. These rates apply over the Denver and Rio Grande and Missouri Pacific. For the patrons of these roads special excursion cars will be run through from Portland and St. Louis without change.

See the many points of interest about the Mormon capital and take a ride through Nature's picture gallery.

During the closing months travel to the fair will be very heavy. If you contemplate going write W. C. McBride, general agent at Portland for the Denver and Rio Grande, for particulars of these excursions.

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