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ANIMUS, ALL THE SAME.

The summoning of United States Senator Charles W. Fulton, as a witness in the federal circuit court, in the Jones land-fraud trial, was not the simple thing it looked to be.

But there was an animus behind the subpoena that is as dirty as it was fruitless. There are certain people, alleged politicians, who have fairly itched to involve the Astoria man in the pending land-fraud cases and to besmirch him by intimation born of his slightest connection with the cases or the people at bar in the court.

When he wrote the land department at Washington asking that Jones' claims be expedited he believed in Jones. Jones had been county judge and county clerk of Lincoln county and stood well generally and the senator, as a servant of the people, put his name to letters and endorsements in that relation, as any other representative would do, as a friend and fellow citizen would do, who was in place to perform a signal service.

God be thanked there is one man in national life, from Oregon, whose mantle is not, and cannot be, tarnished.

POSTOFFICE FIGURES.

Preliminary figures on the operations of the postoffice department for the fiscal year ended June 30 shows that its business was greater in volume and its receipts larger by \$10,000,000 than in any year since the establishment of the government; the postage stamps, wrappers, envelopes, postal cards and other mailing devices disposed of during the year numbered 7,704,982,165 and they brought in a revenue of \$141,486,483; and the money-order transactions involved the handling of about \$1,000,000,000 of "other people's money"—an increase of 20 per cent from the previous year.

Surely, the United States government is "in business" fast enough, and this postal business would easily be profitable were it not for the rural free-delivery service, a branch of the department's activities that absorbs more money than all the profits derived from operating our New York postoffice and those of other large cities. Still, applications for the extension of this service get prompt attention and in most instances are granted; while New York City has to fight for every dollar that is granted her for the improvement of her postal service and too often loses her case. The purchase of a site for her new postoffice hasn't yet been completed after nearly four years of negotiation. The rural free-delivery service is at least a convenience to not a few people and a means of popular education as well; but it is a discouraging fact that profit-producing offices have to sustain it while they are themselves neglected. This is presumably one of the penalties that must be paid by greatness and success.

CHURCHES INVOLVED.

The church, like all other institutions to which men must contribute more, or less, regularly and largely, is beginning to feel the strain of tremendous competition that is rife in the civilized world

today, and is becoming less indispensable to men whose early training was interwoven with its precepts and whose moral natures were predicated upon its high code. Its influence is not ignored in a down-right fashion for the reason that few men are willing to admit they are absolutely weaned from the sacred prestige and power to which they owe so much, but there is a growing disposition to put it in the second or third place of personal consideration and make it subservient to the grosser and more exacting things of life, and this idea leads to the correlative proposition that the church must modernize itself; must keep pace with the strange and alluring facts and impressions that are projecting themselves into the lives and passions of men each succeeding day. It must put itself upon the plane of comradery that now inspires most of the organizations into which men are now grouping themselves for the purposes of common benefit, aid, comfort and amusement.

HE WHO FORGETS.

There is something semi-contemptible in the readiness of the ordinary man who attains to extraordinary wealth, to abandon the sphere of action in which his wealth was wrought, and fly to New York or some other great center, and devote his accumulations to the public and private treasuries of his new home place. It is all very well to say he seeks new and higher advantages for his family, broader schooling for his children and larger social influences for his woman-kind. That is not, pure and simple; if he remained in the place with which he was familiar to its last person and institution he would by careful direction of his money and affairs, rise to a point of influence and station impossible to him in the metropolis he flies to, and he could carry his family with him in the ascendancy he achieves; his boys and girls could be sent to the choicer schools and greater colleges, and return home to honors they never reach, ordinarily, in the crowded city to which they are taken as hostages to the Moloch of the Multitudes. If he were the right kind of a man he would not depart from the place and the companions to whom he owes everything, but would stay among them to prove his real worth and gratitude, and to help others along the same lines that led him to prosperity and the happiness that should go with it.

BAR COMES FIRST.

No matter what railroad comes down the north bank of the Columbia river; no matter what interest absorbs the one already on the south bank of the same great stream; no matter what ambitions the great city of Portland may have; no matter how long these big, portentous projects may be deferred; the paramount fact exists forever that they are dependent upon the channel of water traversing the bar of the Columbia river: Portland would be helpless with a 40 foot river and a 25 foot bar, and equally impotent with a 40 foot bar and a 25 foot river, while Astoria can, and will, live with either, and flourish abundantly with the latter. Ergo, for the great good of Oregon, Portland and Astoria, there must be a 40 foot bar and a 40 foot river. Astoria has a day in the court of development and the docket may be sounded sooner than some people think.

OREGON IN CONGRESS.

One of the weightiest problems in Oregon politics just now is to know who are to be in congress with United States Senator Charles W. Fulton? He is good for a huge task; this is admitted on all sides. But he is not superhuman and the men holding the congressional prerogative from Oregon just now, aside from the senator named, will not have the weight and prestige they once enjoyed with the committee on appropriations. There is a grave juncture here, and the state and her uncompleted and un-initiated projects for internal improvement, must suffer without the larger representation. Perhaps, there is no precedent governing the situation, to its relief; perhaps, if there was, Governor Chamberlain would avoid it, or at the best, so employ it as to nullify the effect desired; perhaps—; well it is up to Mr. Fulton, so be it. His the glory, and Astoria's, the reflex renown.

There is something wrong with the ozone up in Washington. A minister in that state takes exception to the practice of ministers receiving discounts on dry goods and groceries. In a mild way he also objects to ministers receiving half fare permits on railways. Lives in Seattle, too, mind you.

Seattle is making its annual move to annex Ballard. The citizens of Ballard will have a word or two to say about the question later on.

The Astorian 75 cents per month.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The bed of the strikebreaker is not always of the most pleasant character. On Monday night a gang of non-union switchmen spent the night in a box car in the Grand Trunk yards at Elsdon, near Chicago. Owing to the sympathy of the residents of the place for the striking switchmen the non-union men were refused food and lodging and to cap the climax even the saloons refused admittance to them.

The suite of offices in the Flatiron building in New York that had been fitted up for Messrs. Alexander, Hyde and Tarbell at a cost of \$100,000 will be abandoned as it has been decided that they are a little too elaborate for poor life insurance men. Of course the investigation that is now going on had nothing to do with the conclusion reached by Hyde et al.

The lady managers of the St. Louis exposition, through Mrs. Daniel Manning, president, will endeavor to induce congress to appropriate enough money to print the report of the body. The chairman of the house committee on printing is opposed to expending any money on the report. What a hateful old thing Representative Charles Landis, the chairman, is. Can't he see that the people are lying awake night to secure a copy of the report.

Governor Dineen of Illinois will not take any hand in the insurance investigation that is now going on in New York, saying that he does not see how any state except New York can take a hand in the investigation. The stand taken by the governor shows that he is not looking for the same kind of notoriety that Lawson is fishing for.

Dr. Theodore Zinske, a German professor of chemistry, is real angry. To a Chicago newspaper he stated that he was "treated like a Chinaman," in this country, forced to pay \$2 before he could get across the border to visit Seattle. He neglects to say what seeing Seattle cost him, but if he got off at \$2 he is entitled to an aluminum medal.

President Roosevelt has been elected a vice president of the Public School Athletic league, because of the interest he has taken in the work.

John W. Gates, the multi-millionaire, has left Chicago and taken up his residence in New York. The man who desires to offer congratulations will scratch his head for awhile before extending the same to either city.

Tuff Eaton is the name of a man running a restaurant in Wrangell, Alaska, and those who have patronized the place say that there is something in a name after all.

One hundred and thirteen indictments have been returned against Dougherty, the Peoria school superintendent, and it is probable that when the district attorney is through with him the total number will be swelled to 200. His crooked transactions extended over a period of 20 years. If the same precautions were taken in public offices that are used to safeguard the interests of corporations Dougherty would have reached the end of his rope years ago.

A Portland man claimed that he was robbed of \$1.50 by a negress at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and it took him six hours after the robbery was committed before he could find a policeman. Beats all what a fuss some people will make over such trifles.

Notwithstanding the strong pressure brought to bear on Charles E. Hughes to accept the republican nomination for mayor of New York, he has declined to be a candidate for the office. His reason for declining is that it would interrupt his conduct of the insurance inquiry. The nomination was regarded as a bait offered by the large financial interests to sidetrack him from the investigation. He regards his work as inquisitor of far greater importance to the public than it could be as mayor of New York.

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