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Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Oregon, Washington, Idaho,—
Rain.

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

The Portland press has declared, in a unified, composite expression, without variance of any kind, that representative government in Oregon is a farce. If one does not believe this let him but read Wednesday's issues of the Oregonian, Telegram and Journal; all, or any of them, will convince him beyond all doubt.

From their several accounts of the final passage of the Port of Columbia bill, and the "political" manipulations incident to that special pet of the Multnomah delegation, it will be seen, clearly, understandingly, that no measure of moment has been introduced at this session, that could stand upon its inherent merit or popular expediency; that the sum of legislation has been wrought by sheer force of barter among the men who have laid down the honest dignity of representative government and have taken up the code of shameless bargaining and intimidation. No man nor bill stands a ghost of showing in either house, until both have dove-tailed into one or more schemes, and the will of the people made subservient to the chosen plans and ambitions of a powerful few. This may be a successful doctrine of public business, but it is a dangerous and unhealthy basis to work upon; and, save that it is in perfect consonance with the codes now governing the commercial life and action of the nation; it would not be tolerated for a day by the people so baldly betrayed. It is among the brazen signs of the time, and its lesson will go unheeded, until the hour of decay and impotence shall assert itself, and the people find some potent alternative for the destructive course.

The Oregon legislature that sat idle and indifferent through its forty days of allotted time, a few years ago, on the senatorial deadlock, was infinitely the abler and cleaner body of the two, when its bull-dog silence and defiant inertia contributed not a jot to the public welfare, (unless it was in sparing the state in the insufferable success of a single dominant figure,) compared with this body, with its 600 measures, two-thirds of which, good and bad, die because of failure to connect with some rotten combination that might have ensured enactment. The principle is utterly bad and the history of its reaction will be written in terms of dishonor and failure, the deeper and more abhorrent in that they shall be without palliation.

UP TO THE GOVERNOR.

The Port of Columbia bill, fathered by Multnomah, cravenly sponsored by Columbia, and bitterly fought by Clatsop, is in the hands of Governor George E. Chamberlain.

The Governor of Oregon is today, one of the largest, as well as the most unique figure in current history. He is a master at the craft, and possessed of boundless ambition. He has done much of late, that qualifies him for the title of a "sane and safe" executive; and there is much speculation here and elsewhere, as to what he will do with the bill.

Whether he will be readily cajoled by the raw, cheap bid for his favor included in the amendment tacked on to the measure giving him the right of ap-

pointing five paltry commissioners; whether he will ignore the patent unconstitutionality of the bill in the face of the amendment adopted by the people of Oregon last summer, forbidding the creation of special commissioners by the legislature; whether he will pass up the law restricting county indebtedness to the sum of \$5,000, and permit Clatsop and Columbia each to assume a specific debt of, practically \$40,000, principal and interest, as embodied in this measure; whether he is so much a citizen of Multnomah that the claim of that county upon his loyalty shall transcend the claim of the people at large upon his loyalty and wisdom as governor; whether he will give his official sanction to a measure that confers upon a single county, a wider latitude of authority and action in the matters of pilotage and towage on the Columbia bar and river, than the State of Oregon, itself ever assumed or asserted; whether his legal acumen and administrative sense will endorse a bill that gives a single county the unlimited power to extend, expand and manipulate a franchise to the loss and detriment of another county unwillingly, helplessly in the thrall; whether he will, in the light of his future hopes for political preferment, do now, the injustice, the wrong, he can not right at any future day of his?

These are some of the things this people are pondering upon; and for the sake of freedom, the right of self government, in all its blessed gradations, it is hoped he may put his vetoing hand to this legislative crime, and show, once for all, he is such a governor as the community shall reply upon in all hazards!

ASTORIA IS UNAFAID.

If Portland is to have supreme control of the river and bar and do all that is requisite and necessary in those premises, under the new law passed by Multnomah, for Multnomah, let her take them, along with all the issues burdens and costs thereof; Astoria will not say her nay, until the times comes. Then she will say it in a fashion that means all that may lie in one small syllable.

Her answer will never be changed until the last court in the land has compelled it. The victory, and the onus of it, are Multnomah's; she wrought it; she may make the most of it; and it is likely to be a "most" of it terminable and exasperating proportions. There are more jokers than one in the Port of Columbia bill, as she will find before she has done with it.

There is a day coming when more than one State's one county is to dominate matters and men on the Columbia bar, and the success of a single coterie of commercial pirates at Portland, may suffer in its accounting with other than Oregon influences and powers.

There are two states holding eminent domain on the river and bars of the lordly Columbia, and the limit of appeal does not lie this side of the Capitol on the Potomac, the devil's sagacity of the Salem assembly to the contrary notwithstanding.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

"Sufficient unto the day, etc." Hello there! Multnomah!

Undoubtedly Mr. Hughes, Governor of New York, has everything, including the unsought services of some would-be press agents.

If Harry Lehr thinks he can involve us in war with Germany just to advertise the particular brand of champagne he handles, we shall be obliged to write him a polite note.

A Toledo doctor asserts in a large section of Sunday first page space that air and water are all the food we need. If we could only get the people who go to supper after the theatre with us to believe that.

A Hawaiian dispatch mentions as a sign of war the fact that Japanese house servants have become impudent. Evidently some first class causes of war with various nations have been overlooked in the past.

From the cheerful opinions so candidly expressed by counsel in the Shaw case during the week-end interim, we have no difficulty in forming the conclusion that the accused will be set free if he is not convicted.

The Jewish students of Columbia College have organized for the purpose of "fostering the Jewish spirit" in the university. Isn't it rather superfluous to foster any spirit other than single minded patriotism in our colleges.

There will be some raw exposures in this man's country, when James J. Hill gets in down here with his elevators and big grain ships and wants a forty-foot channel on the bar, with

E. H. Harriman and his Port of Columbia Commission assuring the government and the people that such an improvement is neither needed nor wanted.

David R. Francis' testimony that Senator Bailey of Texas would not take pay for service to an oil company, but accepted a loan from its president, reminds us of an old, almost-forgotten story of "the devil beating about the bush."

Least it be thought strange it is so difficult to find great statesmen to represent Rhode Island and New Jersey in the Senate, it must be remembered they have to be looked for in New Jersey and Rhode Island.

The people of Astoria and Clatsop are grateful to the good citizens who left their own private business interests to go to Salem in her public behalf, against the Port of Columbia bill; and proud of their clean and manly fight, even if it was a losing one.

Having made himself solid with the railroad and transportation companies, the trust interests of Oregon, and the County of Multnomah, Speaker Frank Davey may now go into training for Congress.

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody good." They say that Dan Welch is in line for appointment to the Clatsop commissionership for the Port of Columbia.

Among Chairman Burton's allowances is \$178,000 for Mystic river, Great Salt pond, Woodbridge creek, Nanticoke river, Scuppernon river, Winaw bay and Skidaway narrows. The lake-to-gulf channel gets nothing, but money is poured lavishly into the ratholes around the pork barrel.

In the judgment of many oracular politicians, Secretary Root stands no show for the presidential nomination next year, for the reason that he has no personal magnetism. To obviate this difficulty, why not choose a magnetic fellow for vice president and elect a statesman to the higher place?

Champ Clark points to Chairman Burton as a republican production. Mr. Clark ought to know that the democrats in Mr. Burton's district omit a nomination against him. His system of partiality to the eastern route to the sea suits the democrats of that locality so well that they make it unanimous for Burton.

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ONE RIGID LAW IN OPERATION

HOW CONGRESS KEEP CASES ON DEPARTMENTAL EXTRAVAGANCE—ONLY ONE LAW KEPT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—After several attempts, Congress finally succeeded in enacting a law that heads of the various departments were compelled to obey. Up to a year ago Congress would appropriate such amounts of money for the departments as it believed wise and the Secretaries went calmly on spending the difference between what they had asked for and what they got and reporting these amounts to Congress as deficiencies. This, in practice, meant legislation by the executive branch of the government instead of the legislative, as the Constitution provided.

Two years ago, at the instance of Chairman Tawney of the House committee on appropriations a proviso was put in the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill making it an offense properly punishable for any official to create a deficiency or spend a dollar that was not properly authorized, save in the case of an emergency, and what was an emergency was rigidly defined by the law. Last year Congress was required to appropriate something over \$33,000,000 on account of these executive deficiencies, as the new law did not become operative until the beginning of the fiscal year July 1, 1906. This year the same deficiency appropriation bill will carry only one and a half millions of dollars.

The officials have been asked how it was that they kept within the appropriations when they had never done so before. In each case reply was made that they dared not go beyond what Congress allowed under the form in which the statute was enacted. This simple little proviso, therefore, has saved the country over thirty millions of dollars, every dollar of which represents an expenditure deemed necessary by extravagant secretaries, but which Congress did not think necessary. Chairman Tawney has carefully examined each item of the one and a half millions deficiency that has been reported and every dollar of it comes within what Congress has decreed may be a legitimate deficiency. This indicates that laws can be framed with which absolute compliance must be had, and the tendency now is to tie up the money budgets so that the heads of departments cannot exercise their discretion, for Congress has found that executive discretion vested in secretaries is not a money saving method of transaction the public business.

The Philippine tariff bill, which seeks to establish a form of free trade between this country and the islands, passed by the House and pigeon-holed in the Senate committee, remains there regardless of the insistence of the President and Secretary Taft. The immigration bill is deadlocked in conference between the two Houses. The bill providing for the modification of the criminal laws of the United States has been ready for action in the House and Senate for weeks, but it cannot be taken up. Ship subsidy, passed by the Senate, has finally been reported to the House, but there is little chance that it can be passed, and if passed, in its present shape, it is not likely to be acceptable to the Senate. A recent effort has been made to give renewed life to some proposition looking to currency reform, but if action is had on this it will prove a marked exception to the general rule of procedure during a short session. There is no danger that any of the supply bills will fail, but there is abundant reason to believe that nothing else will receive favorable action. The fight over these rejected measures will be gone over again in the Sixtieth Congress and some of them, probably, will become laws then.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy a Favorite.

"We prefer Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to any other for our children," says Mr. L. J. Woodbury of Twining, Mich. "It has always done the work for us in hard colds and croup, and we take pleasure in recommending it." For sale by Frank Hart and leading druggists.

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