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Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Oregon—Showers and thunder storms; warmer in the east and southwest portions except near the coast.

A TRENCHANT MESSAGE.

Under the caption of "The Mecca of the Vultures," the Oregonian of Monday last brought a message to this city that it were well for Astoria to heed. It was not palatable, of course, but that merely confirms the miserable truth of it and accentuates the necessity for instant and radical action in reversing the conditions that warranted the stricture.

We, of Astoria, must give deeper and more conscientious consideration to the moral status of the city, and act with communal unity and wisdom in raising the moral tone and tendency of the town until such animadversions as the one referred to will be undeserved.

Practically, we are no worse off, in this regard, than the metropolis and the ratio of criminal excess is, perhaps, really in favor of Astoria, but that which we have of the "vulture" class and its normal acts, is so rank and manifest by reason of the lack of territory in which to sequester it, that all attempts to deny, or disguise, it, are abortive and senseless.

The Oregonian very rarely makes such allusion to any of its neighbors over the state, however much it may take them to task on commercial and other predicates; and that it has singled us out, in dignified and trenchant terms, for rebuke, tells very plainly, the volume of adverse comment that must be abroad concerning us. It has not said this thing in mere wantonness or any desire to really injure the City of Astoria, but, we believe, rather in the spirit of friendly warning against permitting the ungenial record to run any farther to our definite hurt; and thus concluding, it is up to Astoria, her officers and her citizens, to see to it that instant and thorough remedies are applied to the situation as shall completely cleanse and heal the "sore spot."

THE CONSTITUTION FIRST.

In speaking of the anticipated litigation over the enforcement of the Port of Columbia law, which goes into effect under the code, on Friday next, the Oregonian makes the statement that in the event the contest shall end in the law being knocked out by the Supreme Court upon any given phase of unconstitutionality, the reservation lies with the people to revamp the edict by way of the initiative and referendum, and promises that that process will certainly be invoked if the law is not sustained in the appellate court; and, of course, knowing the overwhelming advantage the County of Multnomah would have in such case, rejoices in the surety of shoving the shameful scheme down the throats of Clatsop and Columbia counties, whether we want it or not.

But, anticipating just such matter as this, we have sought, and received, a measure of comfort from the head of the state's legal department, Attorney-General A. M. Crawford, who has had occasion to look up matters of identical interest lately, who declares, in unqualified terms, that the same primal requisite of constitutionality must attach to every law sought to be enacted by the people themselves through the referendum as is required at the hands of the legislature in the framing and passing of laws as the agents of the people in this behalf. Mr. Crawford believes this to be sound law and pure logic and intimated that the doctrine would be applied to every constitutional question reaching the courts of Oregon in the future, as some such check was imperative in guarding against the reckless invasion of the fundamental rights of the people even against their own misconception and



The Regulation Of Incorporated Capital.

By President JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN of Cornell University.

THE regulation of consolidated and INCORPORATED CAPITAL is likely to be the problem of American politics for the next few decades. No thoughtful man acquainted with the lessons of human history can survey the prospect which stretches before us without DEEP ANXIETY. It took a great civil war extending over four years, with a sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of lives and an expenditure of millions of money, to dispose of the constitutional issue on which American political parties formerly divided.

Now that the contest of our parties is waged over economic questions with corporations, indeed, in the foreground, but with the demand for A MORE EQUAL DISTRIBUTION of worldly goods in the distance and the specter of socialism hovering just beyond the horizon, what eye but the eye of Omniscience can divine whither and to what we are drifting!

Yet we cannot idly fold our hands or, like cowards, retreat. Whether we will or not, we MUST face and solve the politico-economic problems thrust upon us. But everything depends on THE WAY in which we attempt the task and THE SPIRIT in which we go about it. The safety of states lies in the wisdom, the justice, the moderation and the civic righteousness of their citizens.

IF THESE FAIL US, THE DOOM OF OUR REPUBLIC IS WRITTEN IN THE HISTORY OF ROME.

In all the vast and varied panorama of the history of mankind I know nothing so full of interest AND INSTRUCTION for this generation of American people as the later days of the Roman republic—the century of the Gracchi, of Marius and Sulla, of Crassus and Cato, of Pompey and Julius Caesar.

When the older Gracchus appeared on the scene, Rome was still a republic which had undergone transformation from the earlier city-state, with its centuries of courage, civic virtue and GREAT ACHIEVEMENT. Rome had become a world power and was bearing the responsibilities and the burdens of empire.

Her population was no longer a race of farmers; her citizens left the soil and crowded into the cities. The blood of the native stock had become diluted with a foreign strain. The state itself was distracted by a contest between the popular Comitia and a senatorial oligarchy in which each claimed and strove to secure SUPREME SOVEREIGNTY.

Unhappily for Rome, a self constituted savior of society appeared who had eyes to see that the times were out of joint and conceit to believe that he was born to set them right. He was a man of impulsive temperament, who brooked no opposition to his will and who could not even appreciate a SINCERE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION in an honest opponent.

Vain, self confident, reckless, autocratic, he was also THOROUGHLY HONEST and deeply persuaded of his own good intentions. And, as fate would have it, he possessed the gift of eloquent speech. This man, who thought himself foreordained by the gods to be the regenerator of Rome, was Tiberius Gracchus.

His reforms resulted in riot and massacre, in which the reformer himself miserably perished. But his policy of confiscation without compensation launched the state upon a century of civil war and ruthless proscription, which ended in the overthrow of the republic and the soulless despotism of the Caesars.

Thus ended the first historic attempt of political parties to solve great economic problems. Yet Tiberius Gracchus is not to be blamed for recognizing and facing these problems.

THE AGRARIAN QUESTION, INVOLVING THE PROPER RELATIONS OF THE SMALL CULTIVATORS AND THE BIG CAPITALISTS, HAD TO BE FOUGHT OUT IN THE ROMES OF THAT DAY AS THE RELATIONS OF PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS TO CONSUMERS AND THE PUBLIC MUST BE SETTLED HERE AND NOW.

The historical results would have been entirely different had not Tiberius Gracchus lacked a just sense of reality, a knowledge of business and a perception of the dominance of NATURAL LAW in the sequence of economic phenomena and had he not injected into a grave and complex question of Roman politics a personality of boundless self confidence, equally impatient of opposition and incapable of JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION and consideration.

misapplication of the great power that lies in their hands.

The Oregonian and the Portland sponsors of the Port of Columbia law may make the most of this warning. There is more to come and none of it bears cheerful significance for the authors of the bunko bill, when, by the way, the Oregonian, has not, as yet, dared to give explicit editorial countenance.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

In his forced retirement from the stage Richard Mansfield takes with him the country's wishes for his speedy recovery.

Now is a good time for the farmer to unload on the speculator.

They had to call in the police almost to suppress the violence in the uprising of the wheat market in Chicago yesterday. Enthusiasm is bred of bad as well as good news.

An uptown club, of New York, with 300 members, has ordered 300 little gyroscopes. If that isn't a mark of level head it will mean level heads in future.

Again, the man who lays in enough wheat at this price to last him several years may find himself confronted by sunny weather from now on.

It is observed that the heated controversy about germs in ice has lost all interest.

The anthracite man doesn't look so bad these days.

SHORT TALKS BY L. T. COOPER. LACK OF ENERGY.

No man or woman can be successful or happy if they lack energy. If they get up in the morning dreading the day ahead they will accomplish very little. A great many people are this way. The cause is lack of vitality. Vitality or energy is the power to go and keep on going without becoming more than healthily tired. It comes from a perfectly working system just as power comes from a perfectly working engine. If you lack this power something is out of order. Test to one it's your stomach.



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