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PORTLAND'S CRYING NEEDS.

The Journal, in presenting the arguments for the special session of the Legislature, has shown repeatedly that the interests of the entire state call for its calling. Governor Geer would do what would redound to the good of the state if he issued the call.

It is not competent for him to consider also the crying needs of Portland, in addition to the consideration of issues relative to the general benefits that would accrue to the commonwealth? Is this city not entitled to a hearing, with its population of 120,000, more than one-fourth of the population of the state? From the standpoint of the tax-payers, is not the demand of more than one-fourth of the tax-paying power of the state deserving of being deferred to some extent?

It is safe to say that were every member of the Legislature to come here and be shown over the city, with opportunity to inspect the conditions existing, the members of the Assembly would join in the request to the governor to call the extra session.

Disregarding for the moment the general considerations in the premises, look at Portland under the present charter. Witness the inadequacy of the authority over property and the impossibility of effecting improvements. See the bridges rotten and unsafe on every hand. See the streets that are disgraceful in the extreme. Learn the tax-levying powers and realize that if the new charter be not made law prior to the regular meeting of the Legislature, the city will be powerless to cure many of the existing evils for a whole year later.

Are these things of no importance to the remainder of the state? Is it not true that Portland's advancement is in a sense the advancement of the entire state? As Oregon goes along the roadway of progress, must not Portland be in the procession, with tangible evidence to new-comers that this is a country wherein there is life and movement and growth?

If Portland be unable to accomplish so many needed progressive movements, will it not to a large extent retard the progress of the entire state?

These be things that must be considered by the people of the state. It is not a time for petty jealousy of the largest city of the commonwealth, a jealousy that from time immemorial has always been an element in state politics.

The Journal believes that Portland's claims should be considered by Governor Geer. He should not ignore the crying needs of a community that includes more than one-fourth of the state's population.

FIRST BALLOT OR NEVER

The Washington Senatorial election offers an interesting speculation. Levi Ankeny seems to have secured more than 50 votes in the Legislative Assembly, and it is to be expected that he will be elected on the first ballot next January. There is always a possible slip between the cup of political power and the lip that fain would sup it.

Presume a case: Let it develop that Mr. Ankeny have not a majority upon the first ballot. There could easily be a combination of the opposing members who would incline towards Mr. Ankeny and who would have been elected as anti-railroad representatives. This combination could stipulate that Ankeny must support the railroad commission bill before receiving votes from other Republicans to prevent a deadlock. For Ankeny to agree to such a program would forfeit his railroad support, who would have been elected to see that a railroad man went to the Senate.

It may be a case of "first ballot or never," although The Journal believes that the indications are that Mr. Ankeny will be elected Senator to succeed George Turner, and elected upon the first ballot.

"LEST WE FORGET! LEST WE FORGET!"

Our cartoonist has portrayed elsewhere his impressions of the rotten bridge situation. He was by force of habit moved to look upon the scene as tinged with more or less of humor, but to the more seriously inclined person his ideas have awakened thoughtful consideration of evils that exist and that are not being corrected.

The bridges are not the only decrepit things in Portland. Were we strangers here we would find evidence of a state of affairs that would impress us with thoughts very different from those that move a cartoonist to comics. We would find a city growing, yet struggling with its own impetuous progress, but alas! chained down by conventionalities.

Is Portland to be known outside of Oregon and Oregon to be known through the energy of Portland? Not if the city intends to surrender itself to the whims and caprices of a favored few and ignore in its public prints conditions that will steadily but surely drift toward commercial retirement. There is no use in mincing words. The man who sees existing evils and refuses to protest against them is certainly a very poor class of citizen. Sin is a disease, said Brownkin, and the curing of it lies with the people. Portland is not more immoral than other cities of its population. It only sins against itself. It hides its light under a bushel and calmly waits for improvements and business to come to it.

Procrastination is not a good running mate for clean streets and scientific government. While the business portion of the city has grown, the decayed remains of a dead generation continually remind us that there is lack of municipal spirit somewhere. The Charter seems to be at fault and a special session may be a timely and effective aid. However, individual effort is the strongest weapon in the hands of honest citizens. If we must build up the broken bridges, pave the muddy streets and make solid the crumbling sidewalks of resident districts, this must be done by concerted action of those loyal Portland people who love their city and their state.

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REPUBLICANS RESPONSIBLE.

Oregon has a Republican governor, a Republican Senate, a Republican House of Representatives. The state government is now Republican, with consequent complete control by the representatives of that party. Everything that might be done at a special session would be referable to the decisions of those who were elected by that party.

It is apparent, therefore, that the Republican party is responsible for the giving or refusing of relief in the several important matters that are so powerfully pressing for attention at this time.

The fate of the Lewis and Clark Fair, of the Portland charter bill, of the flat salary law so far as it concerns complete application to all of the state officers, of the initiative and referendum, rests with the Republican party. If there be relief, there will be relief because the Republican party determines to give it. If there be no relief, it will be because the Republican party refuses it.

Are the claims of individual members of the Republican party to be regarded as prime desiderata? Shall they operate to prevent fair and prompt consideration of the paramount issues that confront the people?

The Journal ventures to suggest that it is of vastly more importance that the interests of the state and of the largest city in the state are entitled to consideration before the interests of some one candidate.

Governor Geer may accomplish a stroke of statesmanship by appealing to the Legislature, demanding indeed, that it assemble and take up the questions that are pressing for settlement, and then adjourn.

It is admitted that he has no legal or constitutional power to limit the action of the Legislature to the questions he may submit for consideration. But there is a law higher than specific statute or even than organic law—the needs of the people who support the government, and for whom the government is instituted. That higher law Governor Geer should respect just now. He should make it incumbent upon the members of the Legislature and upon the candidates for Senator to agree to assist in solving the problems now demanding patriotic attention from all who love the state.

It is no time for quibbling. It is a time for plain speaking. Governor Geer is chief executive of the people of Oregon. He is presumed to exercise the power vested in his office in a manner to conserve the good of the entire state, regardless of how it may help or hurt any one candidate for any office.

Failure to call the special session will be interpreted by many as tantamount to consent that wishes of himself or other candidates for high offices are paramount in his mind to the wishes of thousands of the people who are the sources of the power he now wields.

It is up to the Republican party of Oregon to prove that it is not a mere machine to do the will of a few men, but is an organization that operates to do that which makes for the good of the greatest number.

PEACH GROWING.

We hear much of the phenomenal success of men, who, with capital and great organizing ability, go into some enterprise on a large scale. Too seldom do we hear of the equally gratifying success of the man of moderate means. The good peach grower, however, whether his acres are many or few, is an exceptional man. He is alert, thorough, guided, determined to succeed, and an expert salesman. He handles a risky crop. It is a perishable product and must be sold quickly. The market is fickle, which means that he must take every advantage of its moods and must tempt his customer by natty packages and gain his confidence by sterling honesty—Country Life in America.

DYNASTIES OF ENGLAND.

The dynasties of England since the conquest are Norman, four kings; Angevine, eight kings; house of Lancaster, three kings; house of York, three kings; Tudor, three kings and two queens; Stuart, four sovereigns; house of Orange, William III., and his wife Mary, conjointly; house of Hanover, six sovereigns, from George I. to Victoria, house of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the present king.

A CHOKER.

"I don't see, after his disgraceful embarrassment from the bank, how young Sprigley can hold his head up in society," said the man who lives next door to "You don't?" put in the man who lives next door to the man who lives next door to "Why, he can't help it. Look at that collar."

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