

THE OREGON DAILY JOURNAL

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FRANKNESS OF OFFICIALS.

One of the reasons that Mayor Williams has held himself closely to the hearts of the people is that he has always been known to speak frankly to them upon whatever question came up for consideration.

Mayor Williams' manner in office might serve as a valuable and correct lesson for all others who hold official positions here and elsewhere.

As in other large cities, Portland should have no star chamber methods. Star chamber methods have universally been productive of corruption.

When an official really desires to keep the details of his office from the people, he should be frank. Else, why does he desire to conceal?

It must be admitted that some estimable gentlemen in public life perform their official functions under cover of more or less secrecy.

Open the books. Unlock committee room doors. Invite the press and the people generally to be present. It will be well for the city, gentlemen.

LABOR AND VESTED RIGHTS.

The Spokesman-Review correctly withdraws the pension system of the railroads from the list of charities. It does not belong there.

Perhaps, a co-operative sharing in the current profits would better apply the principle herein referred to, but, in lieu of that, a system whereunder employees receive for life a percentage of what they had been receiving as wages while active does as a substitute.

This assertion necessarily involves a discussion of the proposition that a corporation or person conducting a great industrial establishment has right to do with it as it chooses, regardless of what any other person or persons may say.

And, until the economic philosophy of the world acknowledges this truth, will there be troubles and problems and struggles. Pension systems are based upon recognition of the truth, and co-operation, by far the more desirable of the two alternatives, is full and complete establishment of the obviously sound principles.

GUARD THAT CHARTER.

To the people of Portland and the members of the Legislative delegation from Multnomah County—guard that charter jealously, lest designing men wrest it from its plainly expressed meaning and spoil its best parts.

absolutely to be avoided, if possible. However, the Multnomah County delegation is pledged to a man to make that charter into law, and this they can do if they will.

SO KIND AND CONSIDERATE.

What is more beautiful than mercy well tempered, and what grander illustration of it than the following, part of an all-knowing editorial, from the Morning Tombstone:

The Oregonian will interpose no objection at this time either to Commissioner Hermann's retirement from the General Land Office or to his Senatorial candidacy.

Some one addicted to the habit of wearing out lead pencils and pens in scribbling professionally for a living writes as follows for a well known public print:

There are several remedies which may be adopted which would greatly reduce if not entirely remove the opportunities for a misuse of public funds. To begin with, a very clear and complete system of keeping public accounts should be adopted and should be uniform throughout the state, so that any person who familiarizes himself with the system would have no trouble in examining intelligently the books of any public official.

The accounts of every public official, no matter how good his social and business standing, should be examined by some state or county official at least once a year, and should be reported at the end of each term.

It is barely necessary to say that the statutes are now heavy with just such "remedies" as are contained in the above article and in most counties in Oregon about as much attention is given to respecting the regulations and requirements of the law, with the idea of lightening the burden on the taxpayer and protecting the public, as will be given to the article in question.

For instance, here in Multnomah County recently because of a deal between public office chair-warmers and a newspaper which makes a business of politics, the publication of the delinquent tax sales was put in that newspaper at its own price, when it should have been allotted to the lowest responsible bidder and fully \$1,500 or \$2,000 saved to the taxpayers.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the amount of an official bond should be greater than any amount of money the officer may have in his hands, but the fact is that some bonds have been for an amount much less than the amount in his hands.

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MARCONI WAS THE MAN.

Marconi generously gives credit to James Bowman Lindsay, the Scotch inventor, for being the pioneer in the science of wireless telegraphy.

Marconi has apparently perfected the method of transmitting intelligence through space without the media of wires and insulation. He has already established stations that have sent such messages, and has sent stocks and bonds of cable companies down on the market, and given the owners thereof an intimation that in time he would render their holdings worthless.

It is a generous act on Marconi's part to give due credit to Lindsay in this matter, but the world should hail Marconi as the man who accomplished the wonder, who made it possible to send human intelligence across the wide reaches of an ocean by means of wireless telegraphy.

Always when men achieve a great triumph of science or mechanics comes another to claim precedence or to belittle the accomplishments of the legitimate discoverer by attributing all of the glory to those who lived before him.

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Mary Andrews has been made pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton, O. A paragrapher suggests that this indicates that there are no married men on the board of trustees or perhaps none connected with that church. If there were, they would have seen to it that Mary Andrews did not get that pastorage. They would

WITH A WOMAN IN MANILA.

Mrs. Bartlett Sinclair was at the Portland Hotel today, on her way from Manila to her old home at Bonners Ferry, Idaho. As the wife of Provincial Protector of the Rizal Province, she has had an exceptional opportunity to study life in the Islands, and get behind the scenes during the Government moves to improve things at the Islands.

The Rizal Province comprises a district near Manila about as large as Idaho. Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair made their home in an old Spanish house in Pasig, about seven miles up the river of the same name. Most of the time Mrs. Sinclair was the only American woman there. Only there were three others—two teachers and a doctor's wife.

Of late, the cholera scare is about all one can get, as the disease has been raging in certain provinces. All fresh fruits are taboo. Even the one fresh vegetable of the Islands—onions—is forbidden. A few Irish potatoes are brought in, and are not impossible when baked, but everything else, even to sweet potatoes, must come in cans.

Life in Manila was an experience Mrs. Sinclair was glad to have, but which she would hardly care to repeat. On reaching there in March she encountered five months of extreme heat. When the rainy season came she was really disappointed not to have a taste of a real downpour, with a mild typhoon or so, but this year was without anything of the kind.

American women and the climate unbearable, unless they learn early how useless it is to worry about anything. Servants never do anything as one wishes. To keep cool, the ladies go about all day in evening gowns. Prices are very high in the Islands, and most uncertain. Every few months the Mexican dollar declines in value.

The teacher's position is not an enviable one, by any means. For some reason, they are rather held in contempt. But the Filipinos are learning with wonderful swiftness. The Americans are dropping the study of Spanish, as they find it is not necessary, as the servants and clerks are becoming so proficient in English.

Manila felicitations. One of the most amusing things she found to do was visiting the East India stores and the funny old junk shops of the Chinese. She brought 1,500 pounds of old curios home with her and left as much more for Mr. Sinclair to bring in the spring.

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OPINIONS OF OTHER EDITORS.

As Idaho Prospector. Lewiston Tribune: A sensation has been caused at Wardner by little Lizzie Shuck, scarcely 15 years of age, who seems to have the power of telling the past, present and future.

James Shannon, president of the Silver Cliff Copper Mining Company, of Wallace, called upon the girl some weeks ago, and has since followed her direction to discover the lead. He is enthusiastic over the results.

Pilot Rock Record: It is authoritatively stated that there is no vacant land in Oregon that is better adapted for farming, stockraising, dairying and fruit-growing, and much of it is covered with the finest timber.

discriminative people. The "Shore Acres" company will give a special New Year's matinee tomorrow at 2:15 o'clock.

The Reliance football team and the team of the Multnomah Club will occupy the upper boxes at the Marquam Grand tomorrow night. They are their great game on Multnomah field.

"Irish Pawnbrokers" Matinee Tomorrow. At Cordray's, Sullivan, Mack and Trumbull and the remainder of the company have been entertaining the people nicely with plenty of laughter-provoking comedy of the light kind.

The people are being entertained at the new Fredericksburg Vaudeville, in order of amusement, something different from that which has been seen at that playhouse in the past.

"Alabama" at The Baker. Next week's attraction at The Baker Theatre, starting with the usual Sunday matinee, will be the Neill Stock Company in that splendid southern play by Augustus Thomas, "Alabama."

"Sandy Bottom" at Cordray's. In these days when the mind of the theatrical man seems to run to farce, froth and horse-play, to the theatre-going folks that still cling to the idea that the stage has a mission in the world and that it should have merit in a dramatic production, such a play as "Sandy Bottom" is refreshing.

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