

EDITORIAL COMMENT AND TIMELY TOPICS



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THE JOURNAL, P. O. Box 121, Portland, Oregon.

It is easy enough to be pleasant, When life flows on like a song, But the man worth while Is the man that will smile...

THE PORT OF PORTLAND A PARTISAN POSTOFFICE COMMISSION.

The contest for the control of the Port of Portland seems to be based entirely upon the question of political expediency and what it will do, or can be made to do for politics as a business, and not particularly in the interest of the port and the people who are expected to carry the burden now and during the years to come.

In any line of business enterprise, where new men were to be selected to associate with the older heads in its conduct, it would not be expected that the new men would be preferred for the executive positions, particularly if the fitness of the older members was specifically recognized, as in the case under consideration.

It is self-evident that the people of this city who are permitting themselves to be taxed every year to raise vast sums for the improvement of the river, will not view with any degree of satisfaction the possibility of this body being used for political purposes, and there are many citizens who are now beginning to take the view that this is the cause of the contest.

A fellow named Cowgill, at Baker City, who makes his living by fawning on railroad magnates—these are the words in which the Oregonian editorially describes the man who was the chief agent of the railroads in the effort to invoke the referendum against the portage road, and who, at that time, was given all the space he wanted in the columns of our contemporary.

The waiters' strike in Chicago has resulted in the formation of an Anti-tipping League, whose members are pledged to refrain from giving tips to employees in hotels and restaurants. This unexpected retaliation has caused some long faces among the strikers.

A PARTISAN POSTOFFICE

The postoffice investigation has brought to light two significant facts: First, that there has been wholesale corruption among some of the higher officials of the department, and second, that the patronage of the department has been used for political purposes on a very large scale.

While the sensational feature of the disclosures thus far made is the boondoggling and grafting on the part of postal officials, this is perhaps in fact less serious than the discovery that the whole department is permeated with politics.

The evils of a partisan postoffice are even greater than the corruption which has been discovered among postal officials. The latter may be graduated with comparative ease, but to cleanse the department from politics is a far greater task.

It is interesting to observe how closely European governments observe the utterances of the American press. Nothing could be more significant of the growing power of this country in the affairs of the world.

The dispatches from Martinique, reporting the renewed activity of Mont Pelee, suggests that the volcano is growing jealous of the recent prominence given by the newspapers to the Mississippi.

FAMOUS SERMON FROM THE BIBLE.

BRIDLE THE TONGUE. (A Little Member, but a Powerful Instrument of Much Good and Great Harm.)

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall Receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same IS A PERFECT MAN.

ONE MAN'S GOOD WORK.

For upward of six weeks a low-voiced, quiet-mannered man has sat at the desk in the big room in the northwest corner of the fourth floor of the Postoffice Department Building, at Washington, D. C.

Young Fosnes attracted the attention of William Windom, then the central figure in Minnesota public life, through whose influence he was appointed a special agent in the pension bureau.

At the beginning of the first McKinley administration, back in 1897, Joseph L. Bristow was made Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General.

The methods pursued by Fosnes strongly attracted Bristow. They were like his own in many respects, and he therefore pushed Fosnes to the front in order to test his ability in an executive position.

Mr. Fosnes returned from Cuba somewhat broken in health, the result of an attack of yellow fever, and was ordered by his doctors to a bracing climate.

It is impossible for any man to be true to himself by deceiving others.—Chicago Record-Herald.

THE SOCIALISTIC WAVE

The Commercial West, the well-known Minneapolis publication, contained in a recent issue the following interesting comment on "Socialism:" "The irritations in connection with the coal strike naturally caused a great many people to be quickly converted to the Socialistic plan of government operation of the coal mines.

"England during the last few years, has been experimenting with various Socialistic schemes, but the experiments, though interesting, will hardly inspire in the American people a desire to do likewise.

"The London Times has lately been publishing a series of articles showing the extravagance and waste of the various municipal-owned propositions of England. It shows how the little City of Cardiff, for instance, has conducted various enterprises capitalized at £235,631.

"The strident whistle and the clanging bell, The noise of gongs, the rush of motored things Are but the prophet voices which foretell A time when Thought may use unfettered wings.

THE "FUNNY" NEWSPAPER MEN. A crystal stream, All swiftly flowing, A big shade tree Above it growing, A bank of green, A jug of rye, A bed of mint, A place to lie, An old tin cup, A chunk of ice, An hour of ease And paradise.

First Kid—Is he in love wid her? Second Kid—Sure. I seen him gib her all de whole core of a apple.—St. Louis Star.

WON'T HELP SOCIALIST ARGUMENT. Recent developments in the postoffice department serve to remind the advocates of government control of transportation and production industries that they never have been able to bolster their argument by any reference to the one business which the government does control, the postal business.

Old Rose—Young man, I have graduated from the school of experience. Young one—From the result, I would be willing to bet that it was a night school.—Princeton Tiger.

TALLEST GERMAN SOLDIER.

The German army is celebrated for the remarkable average height of its soldiers, but very few, if any, can come within six inches of the altitude of the tallest one in all the many branches of the German army.

SILKS MADE BY A FISH. Silk is obtained from the shellfish known as the pinna, which is found in the Mediterranean. This shellfish has the power of spinning a viscid silk which in Sicily is made into a regular and very handsome fabric.

HIS REMEDY. Recently a hotelkeeper of Nyitra in Hungary, was informed by his guests that it was impossible for them to sleep on account of the concerts which were kept up in the lower part of the building until a very late hour.

THE CYNICAL REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR. There is no reward for lost love, because nobody wants its return. The birds that fly the strongest don't have the finest plumage.

THE HARDER LOT. White Horse—I hate to eat dry hay. Brown Horse—Cheer up. Think of the poor people who have to eat health food.—Chicago Daily News.