

EDITORIAL COMMENT AND TIMELY TOPICS

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

Practically an uneducated man, "a man brought out of the mine," as John Mitchell is described, he revealed himself an unprejudiced and dominant spirit. Bishop Potter declares his entire belief in John Mitchell's honesty and declared that workmen might well be proud of such a leader. Certainly the power to dominate without violence and injustice and to listen and deliberate without prejudice are two of the most essential qualifications of leadership. As for his familiarity with the mine he is only one of a multitude of leaders who were familiar with work done with the hands.

LOS ANGELES AND PORTLAND. THE TRAGEDY OF HEPPNER.

Communities, like individuals, are judged largely by appearances. "Strangers form their impressions of a city from those outward and visible signs which tell of good government or poor, of poverty or of affluence. It is by these standards that Portland will be judged by the thousands who visit her during the Lewis and Clark Fair. Comparisons will certainly be made with other cities of similar size, and if Portland falls short the judgment will be unfavorable.

In seeking to determine wherein the need for improvement chiefly lies it would be profitable to study the progress made by sister cities. For this purpose Los Angeles affords an excellent comparison. While it possesses many advantages which Portland does not enjoy, notably in the attractions which it offers to the great army of wealthy winter tourists from the East, it is nevertheless fruitful of suggestions by which we may profit. One of the most noteworthy traits of the Southern California metropolis is the public spirit of her citizens. It finds constant expression in public improvements and still more conspicuously in the systematic advertising of the city's resources, carried on upon a scale probably unequalled anywhere else in the country. It is by no means to be inferred that Los Angeles is a model city, or that her example is to be followed in all respects, but in many particulars she has made remarkable progress and is worthy of imitation.

The streets and sidewalks of Los Angeles are in striking contrast to those of our own city. For the most part they are in admirable condition. Visitors find a constant pleasure in riding and driving about the city. They are impressed at once with the cleanliness and good condition of the thoroughfares. Street signs are conspicuously placed on every corner so that the stranger can readily find his way about, and he is not compelled to trust to the information gained from some passer-by.

The Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles accomplishes marvels. Its membership embraces a thousand or more of the most prominent citizens and in every public movement for the advancement of the city's interests it takes a foremost part. It is at all times kept absolutely out of politics. Its achievements are written in the wonderful progress of Southern California during the past 10 years.

The hotels of Los Angeles probably surpass those of any other city of equal size in the West. In this respect Portland cannot expect to be a competitor, for the tide of tourist travel is at the maximum in Southern California and does not reach this part of the Coast in such volume. But our Southern sister may well serve to inspire a greater degree of enterprise among our wealthy citizens, who would find remunerative investment in the erection of the hotels which Portland so greatly needs.

No city in the West is more constantly on the alert to invite travel, to encourage investment by foreign capital, to secure conventions and transcontinental excursions, than is Los Angeles. The city is on the qui vive, quick to seize its opportunities, liberal and broad-minded in improving them.

Such is the spirit that Portland should develop.

With every step toward the betterment of our fair city, the civic pride of her people will bring increase. Improvement will breed added energy and energy will bring success.

The extent and the horror of the terrible tragedy at Heppner was scarcely exaggerated by the earlier reports, and the loss of life is appalling. The calamity is unparalleled in the history of the Northwest. Not Oregon alone, but the whole country has been shocked by the tidings of fearful destruction, of lives wiped out without a moment's warning and of towns swept away by the devouring torrent.

With that instant response to the cry of distress which is so characteristic of the American public, steps have already been taken for the relief of the survivors of the tragedy. Their destitution is pitiable. By far the greater part of them have been stripped of all their worldly possessions and now, numbered by the loss of friends, neighbors and relatives, they cry for help. None can be insensible to their appeal.

Relief is now being hurried to the stricken district. Generous donations of money, food and clothing are already on their way. More is needed and the value of relief will be trebled if it is forthcoming at once. Portland should be foremost in giving the needed aid and her people have already inaugurated liberal subscriptions.

To the survivors of the dread disaster the hearts of the people go out in deepest sympathy.

ROOSEVELT, THE DICTATOR.

According to the Republican press, "It is conceded" that Roosevelt will be the nominee of the party for President in 1904. It is also "conceded" that the party platform must be framed in accordance with his personal views, and that the chairman of the national committee must be chosen by him. As a further concession to our strong-willed President, it is now stated that his running mate, on the ticket must be named by him, the convention being merely allowed to ratify his choice. It is also "conceded" (by the Republican press) that Roosevelt will be elected. Under the circumstances it is hard to see any necessity for either a nominating convention or a popular election. The old-fashioned idea that the people decide for themselves who shall be their President might as well be abandoned.

While concessions are so much in order it might be well to concede a little to the American prejudice in favor of popular government and not proclaim so openly that it is a mere form. Mr. Roosevelt's methods savor too much of a Central American republic, where the President is as absolute as an emperor.

Because Rear Admiral Coghlan dumped into the sea \$40,000 worth of gunpowder from the cruiser Olympia, an expert investigation having shown that the explosive had deteriorated so seriously as to threaten the safety of the vessel, he is to be censured by the Navy Department for wasting government property. It is interesting to speculate upon the probable action of the department in case the powder had been allowed to remain in the Olympia's magazines and an explosion had sent her to the bottom.

"Lucky" Baldwin's proposed City of Arcadia, which is to be established in Southern California, is apparently to be the same sort of a paradise that Bremerton was in the days when it was running "wide open." An Arcadia for sports is for other people perilously near the popular conception of the infernal regions.

The Englishman who started a butterfly farm is a pioneer in this field of industry, though several imitators have sprung up in France. If butterflies become money-makers we shall have to revise all those old proverbs so disparaging to their talents for business.

Brownell believes that the office should seek the man and that is why he is so earnestly trying to keep out of the way of the District Attorneyship.

THE MOST DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE CITIZEN

(Continued from Yesterday's Paper.)

Mrs. Cleveland is much more active in village affairs than her distinguished husband. No social nor philanthropic movement is considered complete without her assistance. "I tell you she is a natural-born leader, she is," said an enthusiastic shopkeeper. Mrs. Cleveland is almost as fresh looking and fully as charming as when she became a White House bride and won the heart of the nation. It can easily be seen that she is the chief executive of the household and not merely the idle queen of her domestic realm.

Mrs. Cleveland is an expert amateur photographer, though she has not gone so far in the art as to develop and print her own photos.

But the real rulers of Westland have not yet been mentioned. They are four in number, and their names are Ruth, Esther, Marion and Richard Folsom, otherwise known as Dick. All are handsome, healthy, bright children, and the girls have the reputation of being the best mannered children in the town.

Ruth, who was welcomed 11 years ago as "Baby Ruth," has grown into a stately and thoughtful young girl, very ambitious to succeed in all her studies.

Esther, who is the only child of a President born in the White House, is two years younger. Ruth and Esther attend a private school kept by a sister of one of the college professors, in a quaint green cottage not far from Westland. Sara Morgan, the daughter of one of J. P. Morgan's nephews, the Armour and the Van Dyke children also attend this old-fashioned school. The two younger children learn their lessons at home, though Master Dick is not being pushed very strenuously along the path of knowledge just at present, being a great deal more concerned in the activities of the stable and "The Farm."

There is a pony in the stable that is a very popular friend of the children. She is harnessed to a pretty tan dog-cart on fine afternoons and driven up and down the shaded streets of the town, the nurse generally accompanying the children to prevent accident.

Richard, who was born at Westland, is now five years old—a sweet-natured, hardy, little fellow very much attached to his father. He can always be seen around the house or grounds dressed in a red sweater and short corduroy trousers. He very seldom has a hat on his short yellow curls. He likes nothing better than to take hold of his father's hand and walk down town, expecting, no doubt, that a half-way house will be made of some toy or candy store.

Possibly one of the reasons why Mr. Cleveland chose Princeton as the home of his retirement was because he is a Jerseyite by birth. It was in the village of Caldwell, 35 miles from Princeton, that he first saw the light of day. Near the close of his last presidential term Mr. Cleveland was invited to speak at a university celebration in Princeton and Mrs. Cleveland accompanied him. He, as well as Mrs. Cleveland, was so pleased with the quiet restfulness of the place, with its spirit of learning and refinement, with its historic associations and its simpler ways of life, that they readily agreed it was an ideal spot for a home.

As usual, Mr. Cleveland and his family will remain in Princeton until the closing exercises of the university, which begin on June 9. After that they will make their summer home at Gray Gables on their 45-acre estate at Buzzard's Bay.

NEW YORK'S GREAT MUSEUM.

General Louis P. di Censor, director of the Metropolitan Museum of New York, says of that institution:

"Popular interest has been aroused to such an extent that no less than 14,000 persons now visit our Metropolitan Museum of Art every Sunday. Doubtless seven out of ten come from motives of curiosity, but there is a marked growth of appreciation that is exceedingly gratifying.

"Many of our wealthy men have developed from being mere buyers of works of art and have become lovers of art and even connoisseurs in many instances. The persistent rumors that our American art buyers are deceived by European dealers are in nearly every instance unfounded. Some of the best art critics and experts are now located on this side of the Atlantic, and it may be taken for granted that no large sum is ever expended upon works of art without first securing the advice of those who are the most competent to express an opinion.

"Our Metropolitan Museum is today rated by some art critics as the fifth and by others as the fourth greatest in the world. The only collections that equal ours are those at the Vatican, the Louvre, the British Museum and the Berlin Museum.

"We have 18 acres of land in Central Park, giving us room to expand to eight times our present size; and such has been the generosity of our public-spirited citizens that I have no doubt that we shall eventually have the largest and the richest museum in the world.

"As yet our American art is imitative. Our art workers model their creations after some European ideal. We have all the defects of a young country, which nothing but years will remove.

"But the rank and file in this country are superior in intelligence to those of any other land. They are educated. By means of the newspapers they keep in touch with the progress of the world. It is no exaggeration to say that what Europe takes 500 years to learn America can learn in 50 or less."

HINTS FOR CAMPING.

In the World's Work for June Dan Beard gives some pointers on the preparations to be made for a vacation in the woods.

Make bags with draw-strings for everything you need. Have them of different materials—oiled silk for your tooth-brush, cotton-flannel for your fish reels and chinks of different colors for comb and brush, fly hooks and other articles.

Use waterproof canvas clothing and provision bags instead of trunks. You can get them for from 75 cents to \$1.50 apiece, with a dollar extra for a lock if you want one. They have double tops and edges strongly bound with linen braid, and vary in size from two feet by nine inches to three feet by eighteen inches.

Let each member of the party have a good jack-knife, a pocket compass, a rubber drinking cup and a waterproof matchbox, made of two ammunition shells of different sizes, fitting snugly over each other.

Take a small bag of wire nails, several waterproof canvas pads, an ax weighing at least three pounds, some lanterns, preferably of the folding aluminum kind, in bags; a small leather medicine case, with screw-top bottle of simple medicines, court plaster, surgeon's plaster, etc., and a bag of needles, thread, common pins and safety pins. If there are ladies along, don't forget a lot of hairpins.

Wear old soft felt or cloth hats—not straw.

Have woolen clothes, with khaki for hot weather; avoid corduroy, and in the woods wear long trousers, with a slit at the bottom to allow them to button tight around the ankles. Leave knickerbockers for the golf grounds or other bugless and thornless resorts.

Don't rely too much on your guns and rods for a living—take plenty of provisions.

GORMAN.

As a Senator of the United States, the great monopolistic combinations, especially the sugar and oil trusts, had no more devoted friend and supporter in Congress than Mr. Gorman, and there are few "vested interests" in the country that would not secretly, if not openly, lend him their assistance. He is a Democrat, but there is no advocate of a high protective tariff who could intelligently oppose him. He should find favor in Wall street and wherever the trust-breaking policy of President Roosevelt is held in disfavor. It was Mr. Gorman and Senator Quay who so shaped certain schedules of the Wilson tariff, notably those affecting sugar, in the interests of the sordid high protectionists, as to oblige President Cleveland to refuse to sign the bill and to let it become law without his signature.

But unless all signs of the times be unreliable no Democratic candidate for the Presidency can defeat Roosevelt, and similarly no Democrat can carry New York against him. The representatives of the trusts, of any and all "vested interests," are financially powerful, and could swell to great proportions an anti-Roosevelt campaign fund, but in any contest fought out to a conclusion at the polls between them and "the plain people" of the country, they and their campaign fund would cut but a sorry figure. The plain people have the votes, and they do not forget nor fail to appreciate that in fighting his winning fight against the trusts and "vested interests" President Roosevelt fought the plain people's battles, and they love him for doing it and for the enemies he made by doing it.—Philadelphia Ledger.

THE CURIOUS GOOSEFISH.

There has just been placed in the aquarium a fine specimen of a curious fish, caught outside of Sandy Hook. It is brown in color, flat-shaped, with a flexible spike lying close to its back, and looking like its spinal column.

As the fish lies on the bottom of the sea, its color and a fringe-like tuft of sea moss, which runs around its body, conceal from the other fish this live object lying in wait for prey. Its method of capturing other fish is to raise the long spike with the moss-like fringe on its end, and, holding it forward in its mouth, to wave it in such a manner as to attract other fish. As they try to gather in this peculiar bait, they are swallowed by this curious fish with a mouth which extends clear across the flat head and back on each side.

Fishermen call this curious specimen the "greedy-gut," the "all-mouth" and the "goosefish," because it is one of the few fish that can come to the surface and catch a duck. It has a sort of cold-storage plant, where it is able to keep its food for several days before masticating it.—Newspaper Enterprise Association.

"So, you want to see the government owning everything?"
"I do," answered Mr. Sirius Barker. "I'm tired of paying taxes."

HARNEY COUNTY IRRIGATION

(By Paul De Laney.)

BURNS, Or., June 11.—The government is hard at work on the Harney Valley irrigation project and the appearances are that \$75,240 acres of the best land now lying idle in Harney Valley will be reclaimed so soon as the slow, but certain process of the government can accomplish it. A party of surveyors from the geological department of government, consisting of nine men, began work about the first of June and are surveying, staking and mapping the bed and dam of the contemplated reservoir that is to hold the water which is to supply thousands of people, and start and keep vegetation growing on nearly 300,000 acres of ground. Around an oblong circle, 15 miles in length and five miles in width white flags float in the breeze at intervals on the mountain sides, indicating the high water mark of the contemplated water basin.

A valley now containing a population of about 50 persons, where beautiful meadows grow, and cattle and horses range, is to be converted into a vast sea of water which is to hold up and populate a vast territory 30 miles below, the growth of which now consists of sagebrush and the population of which is principally jackrabbits and sagehens. A territory larger than many counties and almost as large as many states is thus to be reclaimed under the new irrigation law.

As a reservoir site and a territory to be reclaimed no better selections could be made. At no other point in Oregon could so large a reservoir be constructed at so small a cost, and at no other point in Oregon could so vast and rich a territory have been found in one body to be reclaimed at so low a cost. A level plain of rich soil, stretching out so far as the eye can see, that only needs water to bring from it anything that will grow; and that, too, in abundance. A natural basin 30 miles away surrounded by rock-ribbed mountains at every point save one, where by the construction of a few feet of wall enough water can be restrained to be used when needed to turn the arid valley below into a vast garden. The people of Burns claim that nature did the initiatory work and that it only needed a few finishing touches by the government to complete the job.

Silvies Valley, about five by fifteen miles, through which the Silvies River flows from the mountains beyond, is 400 feet above the level of Harney Valley 30 miles to the south. It is already a complete basin with only one outlet and through this outlet, a deep canyon on the south, the Silvies River flows on down to Harney Valley and into Malheur and Harney lakes. On every side save the outlet named, rocks and mountains extend high above the valley. By building a dam across the canyon the valley may be converted into a sea. There are two sites for dams; the site for the upper dam will require a wall 450 feet at the base and 1,050 feet at the top at a 60-foot level. The lower dam would only have to be 250 feet at the base and 450 feet at the top for the same level. With either of these dams the water would cover an area, as a basin, of 7,980 acres with capacity of 175,000 acre-feet.

In addition to nature's bounteous provisions she has placed right at the site of the two dams stone and timber, a sufficient quantity to build a dozen such dams, and has given a solid rock foundation upon which to begin the building of the dams. Then for a distance of 30 miles runs a canyon direct to Harney Valley through which the water may be conveyed to the land to be reclaimed.

The land to be reclaimed lies out south of Burns, the first point of which to be reached by the water from the reservoir being situated in the Northwest corner of Harney Valley and lying at the very door of Burns. Then on south to the mountains, that loom up smoky and dim in the distance, lies the at present unoccupied lands which are to be reclaimed. They foot up a grand total of 275,240 acres. Of these there are 19,000 acres of Indian allotment land; Carey selections, approved, 9,000 acres; Carey selections, not approved, 65,000 acres; road land, 44,000 acres; appropriated lands, 35,000 acres; vacant lands, 42,340 acres. The vacant lands and Indian allotments which come practically under the same head and which are subject to acquisition under the government land laws, give a total of 126,240 acres.

The present work by the government is on the same ground already surveyed and mapped out by local enterprise. When the irrigation association met at Portland last November a request was made of the representatives of different sections of Eastern Oregon to furnish plats and data as to what they had in their respective sections. In this work Harney County was in the lead. All other counties in Eastern Oregon yielded the palm to her, though she had several close competitors. In this work it is proper to mention the untiring efforts of five prominent citizens of Burns. These men knew what they had. They had been studying the problem for years. They knew what wealth was hidden in the dry, but fertile soil of certain portions of Harney Valley. They realized that a great section of country was lying in waste, which with water thrown upon

it would bring to this country a good citizenship and support it; a section that would make itself known to the outside world if it only had the opportunity. These men, backed by their local friends, met together and organized an aggressive campaign. They knew what they had and determined to "show" it to those interested in irrigation, and also to the representatives of the government at Washington.

Immediately after the meeting at Portland they employed a surveyor and placed him in the field. Although the snow was several feet deep at that time of the year, the work was pushed through from early until late, and within the space of 60 days, the allotted time, a full report was made, giving data and maps that showed the merits of the Harney County system for irrigation. The association acted slowly. The Burns "five" became impatient. They began a series of communications with the authorities at Washington. This resulted in having J. W. Whistler, of the United States geological department sent to Burns. He soon grasped the situation and upon his report the surveying party was sent out and it is still at work here. Besides making plats and surveying the country adjacent to the site, this party is also taking a systematic measurement of all of the water in the entire country. Water gauges have been placed in the streams and lakes and will be kept there and a record regularly taken until the government will be thoroughly informed as to the exact amount of water in this section and how to use it.

The reservoir will not be built with an escape water gate, as is the custom, but the site is so well favored by nature and dam-building is so easy that a dam of sufficient height and strength will be built to restrain all of the water that flows into the reservoir until it is needed. By this means the vast area of country to be reclaimed will be amply supplied throughout the dry season.

The men of Burns who have taken so much interest in bringing the project forward, are: I. S. Geer, N. U. Carpenter, Dalton Biggs, Morris Fitzgerald and William Farre. They have not only given their time but their money to the work, and they are now delighted that the prospects look prosperous.

The great obstacle that they have met has been the argument of outsiders that "nothing would grow" in Harney Valley; that it was useless to put water on land at a great expense that will not produce proper results. But a few of the enterprising citizens of Burns have already demonstrated the falsity of this statement. They came here under the general idea that nothing would grow except native meadow hay. Newcomers also came with this idea. It has been stated so often by outsiders that the people generally unacquainted with the situation conscientiously believe that nothing will grow here. A visit to the homes of I. S. Geer, H. T. Thompson, John R. Robinson and a score of others in Burns will refute this idea at once. Or if one still doubts, a drive through Harney Valley will dispel the most sceptical ideas on this point.

All of the harder fruits, and nearly every fruit grown in Oregon may be found yielding extraordinary results in the town of Burns. The vegetables here equal both in production and quality any grown elsewhere in the world. Harney Valley promises to rival the famous Hood River country in the production of strawberries; these are no longer experiments; the living evidence is presented to the visitor every day.

Then grain and alfalfa thrive here, even without irrigation, to a large yield. Crops have been harvested by a number engaged in the business for a number of years with satisfactory results. With water, these products will reach enormous proportions along with the other products of the country. The soil is here. The climate is here. The natural advantages are here. Give the people of Harney County water through the present contemplated plan, and the railroad transportation facilities that must soon follow, and she will be one of the most progressive and prosperous sections of the country "where rolls the Oregon."

It may be well, however, to state that the plans of the government have not reached that point where there is a sufficient certainty to justify a rush into the country. Harney County has her advantages already and there is room for many more enterprising, earnest, home-seeking citizens, but a wild rush into the country by those expecting to take advantage of the present prospects under the government plan of irrigation, and grow rich "quick," would doubtless prove disappointing. The government works slowly. It changes its mind. The present work is only experimental. It may be a number of years before anything is done, provided the government decides to carry on the work. Everything, however, points favorably to the conclusion that the project will be carried out, and when the lands are once thrown open for settlement it will then be ample time for those seeking homes to file their claims.

A rush at this time would prove disappointing.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RHETORIC.

Under a budding lilac bush, whose white petals dabbled in his heart's blood, young Roy C. Butler in a fit of despondency cut the thread of his life with a pistol bullet in City Park yesterday afternoon.—Denver News.

Says the Ram's Horn: On the edge of a small river in the County of Cavan, in Ireland, there is—or used to be—a stone with the following inscription cut upon it, no doubt intended for the information of strangers traveling that way: "N. B.—When this stone is out of sight, it is not safe to ford the river!"

"PINCH" THEM.

Ordinarily get-rich-quick swindling is under the ban of the law, but the swindler who capitalizes wind and water as an "industrial" stock is regarded as an astute financier. Why make fish of one and flesh of the other?—Chicago Chronicle.

STILL PRINTING CARTOONS.

For papers duly muzzled the dailies of Pennsylvania manage to create a tremendous volume of sound.—Tacoma Ledger.

Some men impress us as being too good to be true.