

EDITORIAL COMMENT AND TIMELY TOPICS

THE OREGON DAILY JOURNAL BY C. S. JACKSON

Oregon Journal

JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, Proprietors. Address: THE OREGON DAILY JOURNAL, Fifth and Yamhill Sts., Portland, Or. CITY OFFICIAL PAPER.

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

Entered at the Postoffice of Portland, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second-class matter. Postage for single copies—For an 8, 10, or 12-page paper, 1 cent; 16 to 28 pages, 3 cents; over 28 pages, 5 cents.

TELEPHONES:

Business Office—O. 200, Main 500; Columbia, 705. Editorial Rooms—Oregon Main 250.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Table with 2 columns: Terms by Carrier, Terms by Mail. Lists rates for Daily Journal, Semi-Weekly Journal, and Weekly Journal for various durations.

The Semi-Weekly Journal. The Weekly Journal. Remittances should be made by drafts, postal notes, express orders and small amounts are acceptable in one and two-cent postage stamps.

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

At the last nothing is very serious. Mortals give things an importance quite beyond their gravity. We shall slide out of this life into another; and the day of our death, like the day of our birth, will be shrouded in forgetfulness.

USE THE MONEY WISELY

The last Legislature appropriated the sum of \$50,000 for an Oregon exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition, the expenditure being entrusted to the State Board of Lewis and Clark Fair Commissioners.

Probably not more than half of the states in the Union will erect state buildings at the St. Louis Exposition, and the lowest estimated cost of any of the buildings thus far planned is that of Montana, which will cost \$18,000.

It is the contention of President Myers that it will be much wiser and much more productive of results to the state to secure headquarters in the heart of the city, and to establish there an auxiliary display of the fruits, grains, woods and other products of the state.

THE REFERENDUM DECISION.

In another column on this page appears an article relative to the recent Circuit Court decision invalidating the initiative and referendum amendment to the state constitution.

THE MANILA CABLE.

The completion of the cable between San Francisco and Manila, the last link in the telegraphic circuit of the earth, is one of the great triumphs of modern times.

THE REFERENDUM DECISION

The opinion of the four judges annulling the initiative and referendum amendment appears, upon close examination, to be unsound. The holding is that there were five amendments pending at the time this amendment was proposed.

Four amendments were proposed by the Legislature of 1893, which were agreed to but not submitted by the Legislature of 1895. Another amendment was proposed by the Legislature of 1895, but was not agreed to or submitted by the Legislature of 1897.

The five amendments had then lapsed. This will appear from the constitutional provision regulating amendments. It is as follows:

"Art. XVII. Section 1. Any amendment or amendments to this constitution may be proposed in either branch of the Legislative Assembly, and if the same shall be agreed to by a majority of all the members elected to each of the two houses, such proposed amendment or amendments shall, with the yeas and nays thereon be entered on their journals, and referred to the Legislative Assembly to be chosen at the next general election; and if in the Legislative Assembly so next chosen, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be agreed to by a majority of all the members elected to each house, then it shall be the duty of the Legislative Assembly to submit such amendment or amendments to the electors of the state, and cause the same to be published without delay at least four consecutive weeks in several newspapers published in this state, and if a majority of said electors shall ratify the same, such amendment or amendments shall become a part of the constitution."

It is clear that the four amendments proposed in 1893 could only be referred to the Legislature "chosen at the next general election," which was in June, 1894—that is, the one that convened in January, 1895.

The court held that the failure of the Legislature of 1895 to submit these four amendments left them indefinitely awaiting the action of every subsequent Legislature, and until submitted, forever prohibited the proposal of new amendments.

That provision prescribes the powers and duties of the Legislature "so next chosen." These are inseparable. It was to consider the amendment referred to it, and if in the Legislature "so next chosen" the amendment was agreed to, then "it shall be the duty of the Legislative Assembly to submit such amendment."

There were good reasons for this requirement. The people were to be permitted to pass on the question by electing the members of the second Legislature. The constitution was not to be amended without deliberate consideration.

This provision must be also construed in connection with the other provision prohibiting the proposal of new amendments while others are pending. The evident purpose was to require the proposed amendments to be disposed of by the second Legislature in order to clear the way for other proposals.

The other amendment stands on different ground. It was proposed in 1895, but was neither agreed to nor submitted by the Legislature chosen at the next regular election thereafter, that of 1897.

The court sees and seeks to meet that difficulty by holding that "no Legislature was ever chosen in 1896," that the persons elected "never met or organized any Legislative Assembly whatever, and therefore no Legislative Assembly was chosen in 1896."

The constitution provides that "the Senators shall be elected for four years and the Representatives for two years next after their election."

There has never been a day since the constitutional government was inaugurated when there has not been a Legislature. It is a co-ordinate and integral branch of the government, and cannot be suspended while the government lives.

The Journal means to give the side of the people a hearing in these columns. It is a great public question. No question can be greater than the right of a people to alter their organic law, and whether an unexampled unanimity to do so has proved "abortive."

THE HUMORIST.

"You mustn't cough so much, Willie," his mother said. "I can't help it, mamma," replied the little boy with the long golden curls.

Johnny—Pa, what is the law of supply and demand the papers tell about? Wise Pa—It is a universal law, my son, that when a man is well supplied with this world's goods, he demands more.—Boston Transcript.

Ned—Yes, I've resolved to give betting and drinking and all—Fred—Huh! You'll never keep that resolution. Ned—I'll bet you the drinks I do.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Biggs—Some scoundrel on the West Side passed himself off as me and swindled a grocer out of \$10. Diggs—Passed himself off as you? Why, the villain must have been lost to all sense of shame.—Chicago Daily News.

Skidmore—I made a pretty good bargain today. I sold our sideboard for \$20. Barring—A good bargain? Why, you told me the price of it to you was \$50. Skidmore—Yes; that's all right; but I've never paid for it, you see.—Boston Transcript.

"Say," demanded the ugly individual, suddenly appearing from a dark alley, "what time is it?" "You're just two minutes late," replied the Chicagoan. "That other gentleman you see running away has my watch."—Philadelphia Press.

TOLERATION.

She was an exacting Philadelphia young woman, and before she would promise to marry him he had to answer a great many questions relating to his past life. He thought he had given her a very fair account of himself, but just when the wedding ceremony was about to take place he remembered an omission and, fearing reproach, he whispered in her ear: "Mary, there is one thing I have not told you yet. I am a Universalist. Does it matter, love?" "No, I guess not, dear," said the bride, serenely. "I am a somnambulist."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Pears lak de devil is hard ter down." "Yes. Fast ez one feller floors him, 'nuther one helps him up en hollers 'Pollee!'"

AROUND THE CORRIDORS

Two young female Siwashes meandered into the lobby of the Hotel Perkins yesterday evening just to take big look. The surroundings seemed to please them, for they continued to linger there a while.

J. K. Jordan, a formerly-of-Wisconsin lumber man, but now looking through Oregon's tall timbers, was last evening reading the account of the suicide of E. V. Shick.

John Beaton of Baldwin, Kan., traveling salesman for a Chicago trunk factory, has been in this city during the past few days. While he says that he did not enjoy the Oregon mist quite as well as he would Web-foot sunshine, still he said it was heavenly compared with the rains that flooded the Sunflower State several weeks ago.

James Cooper, banker and hop-grower, of Independence was in the city yesterday, attending to some business matters. "The hop crop in our section of the state will be nearly as large as it was last year," said Mr. Cooper.

"Astoria's ninth annual regatta to be held August 19, 20 and 21, is going to be one of the most successful events of that character ever given on the Pacific Coast," says C. V. Brown, chairman of the committee which has the big celebration in charge.

Editor Journal: I have been reading the letters every day published in The Journal, and take a great interest in them. As this is the year for all kinds of white and delicate shades of summer material, I would like to ask some woman who has had experience in washing silks and white material to give her woman friends some suggestions for laundering at home.

THE LETTER BOX

Editor Journal: I am a subscriber of The Journal and take great interest in your paper. I would like to ask you whether there is any one in Portland who has a purchasing agency for people in the country.

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"I say, Jones, that's the third umbrella you've taken from our office. I wouldn't be an ass if I were you. 'By Jove! Smith, that's the first true thing I've heard you say for a long time.'"—Columbia Jester.

Tricks and treachery are the practice of fools who have not wit enough to be honest.—Franklin.

Kisses between women are mere formalities.

The Kaiser's sudden friendship for



America suggests that he has seen the handwriting on the wall.

The reports of Fourth of July casualties suggest that President Roosevelt should



have included the national holiday among the agencies leading to race suicide.

The skyrockets that didn't go up on the



Fourth are probably only waiting for a clear evening.

JUST FOR FUN.

Smythe (calling on Browne)—What on earth are you doing walking around in that suit of armor?

Browne—I'm getting ready for the Fourth. I promised to help my boys celebrate this year, and as they do it a little strenuously I thought it would be safer to have some sort of protection.—Baltimore American.

Hope springs eternal in the human breast. In politics its influence is plain; The man who has by office once been blest Hopes on for more and never works again.—Washington Star.

Emily—You don't mean to say you failed to pass your exams again this year? Maud—Yes, failed again.

Emily—What was the trouble this time? Maud—Why, they asked the same questions they did last year.—Columbia Jester.

"All that education does for some folks," said Uncle Eben, "is to learn 'em a few mo' words to talk foolishness wit.'"—Washington Star.

Papa—Dear me, Mary, whatever are you going to do with all these trunks? Two, four, six, twelve of them. You can't fill more than one. Mamma—I know it, my dear; but we must make a decent appearance on arriving at the hotel.—New Yorker.

A MARK TWAIN STORY. When Mark Twain was a young and struggling newspaper writer in San Francisco, a lady of his acquaintance saw him one day with a cigar box under his arm, looking in a shop window. "Mr. Clemens," she said, "I always see you with a cigar box under your arm. I am afraid you are smoking too much." "It isn't that," said Mark; "I'm moving again!"—New York Times.

A railway collision is the typical bump of destruction.