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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND

A SUNDAY ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL.

ON THE eleventh day of this month The Journal will be two years old. It is safe to say that during the last year no American newspaper has made greater proportionate strides in business, circulation or in influence.

As an established institution, the logical and unavoidable outcome is a Sunday morning issue. While a newspaper may only be printed six days a week, the news of the world goes on just the same for the full seven.

It is this stage that The Journal has reached. The demand for a Sunday morning issue of The Journal has become so widespread that it can no longer be resisted.

It was clearly demonstrated last week that more people are heartily tired of moving pictures and magic lantern scenes. A couple of nigger minstrels with a big bass fiddle and tootle tootle accompaniment shared the same fate.

There is evidently a very tough gang of youngsters in Sesside, who need severe repression. Several robberies occurred last week, according to the Sentinel.

There is a fact, strange enough, that the wealthier people of Chicago are the sinners. Other people might sin in the same way if they possessed smokestacks, but they don't.

Now, of all the popular delusions that ever found their way into the human brain none is so far from the truth as this so-called "traditional friendship" of Russia toward the United States.

Oregon Sidelights

Elijah Smith, once a great railroad magnate in Oregon, will spend the summer on Coos Bay.

The Moro correspondent of the Wasco news "expects some fine beef in town," a cow weighing 1,800 pounds was sold to a local butcher.

Several Oregon ranchmen are going into the mule raising business quite extensively. After a while Oregon may rival Missouri as a mule state.

Sesside doesn't depend altogether on its summer resort reputation. The Sentinel says more building is going on there than in any previous year.

Wallawa county has a settlement named Lovely. In the Willamette valley is one called Edenbowser. These will do to offset Starvout and Needy.

The Eugene Register stands up valiantly for Receiver Booth and Register DeWitt. In the natural, they nicely butter much of the Register's bread.

"Forty-nine Jimmy," a well-known old-time miner of Grant county, who for years was the only resident of the once booming Robinsonville camp, is dead, aged 79.

Four brothers named McMiller paid fines and costs aggregating \$130 for disturbing a dance and committing assault and battery at Alvillie, Gilliam county.

"During the past month," states the Joseph Herald, "the doctor has made no less than six trips to administer to the wants of as many patients."

"Monday was a busy day for the courts of Myrtle Creek," says a correspondent of the Roseburg Phaladeler.

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Oregon products are "getting" a reputation, as this item from the newsy Weston, Umatilla county, leader indicates.

A FLEXIBLE CHARTER.

Obedient in One Respect, But Defied to Protect Ourselves.

From the Salem Statesman. Mayor Williams of Portland declares that a late suggestion of some enterprising citizen of that city relating to the better disposition of its garbage is impracticable because of the added expense it would entail.

To those who have been reading the Portland papers for the past year, this suggestion that anything, no matter what, cannot be done there because of the city charter forming a barrier to it, is amusing in the extreme.

But if the same charter also says that certain things cannot be done, it is a little more serious. If those other things will agree to pay a monthly sum into the city treasury, then that prohibitive clause in the charter can be conveniently overlooked.

But if it prohibits a thing that will promise to pay money into the treasury if the prohibiting clause is overlooked, then it cannot be enforced. Everything and anything can be sacrificed for a full treasury.

Local Option. Lebanon, Or., Feb. 25.—To the Editor of The Journal: Good many of our readers in Lebanon are interested in the success of the local option bill and hope for your hearty support.

We know that the saloon element has raised a large sum of money to fight this measure and no doubt it will buy the support of the Oregonian and its "Evening Echo" but we hope better things of The Journal.

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GREAT TIMBER LAND FIGHT

(Washington Correspondence New York Herald.) The speculators are alarmed at the commission and the investigations now being made of their operations.

The timber and stone act became a law in 1878. In the 25 years this law has been on the statute books the United States government has sold about 4,000,000 acres of good timber for \$2.50 an acre.

The timber and stone act provides that 100 acres of land declared to be unfit for cultivation if the timber were removed, and valuable chiefly for the timber upon it, can be obtained by a citizen of the United States upon the payment of \$2.50 an acre for the same.

The first few years this law was in effect the land disposed of by the government averaged very little more than 10,000 acres and indeed, up to 1899, the segregation barely amounted to 50,000 acres a year.

There are now many prosecutions pending against men accused of juggling with forest reserve matters, and many sensational stories have been recently published which would indicate an enormous amount of fraud in connection therewith.

There is a widespread feeling of obtaining advance information from the land office at Washington as to the purpose of the interior department to withdraw a certain area as a forest reserve.

There is very little actual illegality to be found in the methods employed to take advantage of the forest reserve law. The abuse of this law arises from defects in the legislative enactments.

The result of this activity has been to cause a national scandal and give tremendous force to the recommendations for the repeal of the law.

Members of congress from the states most interested have viewed the situation with indifference, or even gone so far as to state their belief that it was a good way for their constituents to make a few dollars on the side by exercising their citizenship rights and injuring themselves for the benefit of some individual or corporation engaged in getting a reserve supply of timber for their mills for sale at a great profit within a few years.

Recent disclosures have shown that notwithstanding the ease with which individuals can be obtained to utilize their rights, some corporations have even gone so far as to bribe officers of the local land offices to insert the names of dummies in the necessary blanks and affidavits and transmit these papers to Washington as bona fide applications for timber lands.

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Small Change

The wrong thing never pays, in the long run. Then why not organize a Chamberlain club?

The rain that fell in February can't fall again. Two things to do soon—pay taxes and register.

Rockefeller has taken to skating; he so loves to cut ice. Homebuyers to C. Guy Wakefield et al. "We're from Missouri!"

Many Oregon statesmen would jump at the chance to go to congress at half the salary. War item from the Sciò News: "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dobrikovitsky, a son."

Still the "literary fella" disagree; so we read Korea and Corea, Tokio and Tokyo. The most successful dentist is the one with the best "pull."—Atlanta Journal. Yes, if he advertises.

We may need gum boots in some localities in Oregon, but we don't have to wrestle with ice-jams and snow-plows. What a great number of "good men" will come to the surface this spring, anxious to become devoted servants of the people.

Mr. Grover Cleveland "stands no show" in the south any more; it has been discovered that he, too, lunched with a negro. Yes, the Russian government has always been friendly to this country. But this fact does not relieve our government of its duty to remain strictly neutral.

The Washington state Republicans are to hold their convention nearly six months before the election. What a lot of "good men" politicians there will be over there by next November! A scientific observer predicts a late, cold spring. "We wish it were possible to refer to 'the late cold weather.'"—Chicago Tribune. This is a sample of eastern remarks that have no applicability on this coast.

With the mercury dropping 6, 8 or 10 degrees below zero every night the advent of spring seems far off.—St. Paul Pioneer Press. Showing that good many Minnesotans are coming to Oregon. Still another big mill in prospect on the Peninsula waterfront. The Portmouth-St. Johns region is going to become noted for large manufacturing establishments. Every one that springs into existence helps to attract others.

All the counties of Oregon will doubtless make an exhibit at the Lewis and Clark exposition, and to decide which will be the prettiest and most perfect one among a lot of babies. The Japs made a worse failure in their blockading attempt than Hobson did at Santiago, and that was not a very brilliant success, except in putting the old tub Merrimac, that had been bought at a price several times its value, out of sight.

The O. W. P. & Ry. company has done and is doing a great development work in the territory in which it is operating. If it and the General Electric company serve the people who must deal with them reasonably and well, there will be no loud call for "public ownership" in this particular. Attorney Bentley of Baker City declares that he "will force District Attorney Sam White to meet the issues on the Monroe Doctrine, that is, the physical power of the United States, has saved the new world from this competition, which in fact by narrowing the field only intensifies it in Africa and Asia. Most of the spectacular history of the world in the last few decades has turned on this fierce international rivalry to seize territory, resulting in extreme bitterness, animosity and conflict of interest.

This, in large part, is the basis of England's alliance with Japan, and of that of France with Russia. Let England and France join in the war and no human power can prevent its spread to Germany, Austria and nearly every other European nation of consequence. It would rip up from the very bottom all the compromises and delicate adjustments which have been made for decades as to the partition and absorption of the larger part of Africa and much of Asia. This stake would be nothing less than a complete re-adjustment of the world's balance of power, a new world of the world, after a world-wide convulsion, the like of which has not been seen for generations.

This portentous possibility suddenly raised by the war between Japan and Russia, may well cause the world to look on and forward with profound anxiety. "Forget yourself and be a gentleman," may not be a new phrase, but it is a good one to paste in somebody's hat—maybe your own.

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SPEAKING OF "TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP"

COUNT CASSINI, Russia's accredited ambassador at Washington, has turned up once more with a long interview on the same old subject of Adam-zad's warm friendship toward the people of the United States.

He deprecates the feeling among the people of America should be of such painful unfriendliness toward "peace-loving" Russia, and he indulges in an effort to make the world believe that all this is due entirely to "the constant unfriendly feeling expressed in many American newspapers against Russia, which, so far as Russia can see, are without cause."

Now, of all the popular delusions that ever found their way into the human brain none is so far from the truth as this so-called "traditional friendship" of Russia toward the United States. Never has Russia been a friend to these United States, not even during the civil war, when it turned up with some of its old tubs in the American waters, waiting for a chance for spoils in case the fortunes of war should turn against the perpetuation of the Union.

But suppose, for the sake of argument, that we concede to Russia her claim of her good intentions in American waters—what of it? Does that dispose of Russia's actions since that memorable war and up to this date? Those who are familiar with Russian affairs as they actually exist in Russia, those who know how the United States is regarded and spoken of by Russia in its own dominions; those who know of the constant complaints made by United States representatives to Russia regarding the brutal treatment accorded them by "the bear that looks like a man"; those who have read the late consular reports from the far east wherein the story of discrimination is told in unmistakable terms—to all those this so-called "traditional friendship" of Russia is altogether too silly for any consideration.

Only in 1896, less than eight years ago, Minister Breckinridge—who had neither reaper nor mower to sell—in his report to the United States government, complained that Prince Lobanoff's official transactions with him lacked in ordinary courtesy. February 15th last the department of commerce and labor issued a report of United States Consul Miller in which he gives a fair representation of Russia's "traditional friendship."

Believe it possible that so deliberate a discrimination should have been carried on by a "friendly" power without an unmistakable protest or retaliation on the part of the United States. And the strange part of it is that, while the discriminator is constantly harping of the "traditional friendship" toward the United States, "not a single American citizen or progressive business house" is to be found in so active a trade city as Harbin.

GOOD MEN'S CONSCIENCES DORMANT.

UNDER the head, "Conscienceless Nuisances," the Chicago Record-Herald says: "Chicago has too many citizens whose consciences reach no higher than the tops of their smokestacks. They may be really respectable people up to that fixed limit, but beyond it they are vile. The worst of it is that they are forever flaunting the sooty banner of their shame where all can see."

"It is a fact, strange enough, that the wealthier people of Chicago are the sinners. Other people might sin in the same way if they possessed smokestacks, but they don't, so they are out of it. One would think that these wealthy sinners would reach the heights of conscience through civic pride, if in no other way."

These remarks have reference to the smoke nuisance in the big windy city, and are no doubt justified by the facts; but do not worse nuisances, far greater evils, exist not only in Chicago, but in smaller cities, even in Portland, because of the "conscienceless" mixture of acquisitiveness and apathy exhibited by many respectable and well-to-do citizens?

How many of our "best citizens" or those regarded generally as fair types if not perfect models of good citizenship, lift or cause to be lifted a finger from season to season, from year to year, to clean their otherwise vacant lots and blocks, increasing rapidly in value through others' toil and enterprise, of noxious and noxious weeds, that are a nuisance to neighbors and pedestrians? Nay, how many of our most worthy and moral citizens, as popularly estimated, derive a portion of their income from the rent of buildings for vicious and criminal purposes? And how many, what proportion of them, would take an active and open part in any practical attempt to cleanse the city of the festering vice of gambling, and other gross evils?

If men who at least thus negatively indorse and encourage such evils are not totally "conscienceless," their consciences are surely girded by avariciousness and numbed by moral apathy as to the true duties of "the best citizens" in civic life.

A lot of awakened consciences as to "good men's" duty to the community in which they live would soon make Portland a far cleaner, purer and in all respects better city. Even to political friends. And if elected the office-seeker can discover either success or defeat of his own aspirations by an examination of conscience.

W. R. McGARRY.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

National and Local Politics. Portland, Or., March 2.—To the Editor of The Journal:—The action of the Ohio Democracy in the Twenty-ninth congressional district yesterday is significant.

The open declaration of the "conservative" Democracy in favor of W. R. Hearst is only another manifestation of his acceptability in communities where Jeffersonian principles predominate. This Hearst sentiment is not a little thing. In every state in the Union where I have personally spoken with men of acknowledged conservatism, Hearst stands for safety in business and purity in government. His name terrorizes only two classes—the curious crowd of stock manipulators and the place-hunting Democrat.

Now, I don't know Mr. Hearst. But I do know Wall Street and La Salle street. And I do know that in both places Mr. Hearst is regarded sound in his attitude against over-capitalization and the financial over-crowding of those acquaintance aggregations of promoters known as trusts. In fact, it was from information collected by Hearst that many financial institutions in New York, Chicago and elsewhere received the hint which prevented their annihilation in the fearful liquidation of last year. These

institutions do not fear Mr. Hearst. Nor do the depositors of savings banks or any one engaged in legitimate business. And while such people are not so clamorous in print as the promotive element, their influence is more effective and diversified. And it is from this source that the first public impulse in forcing Hearst's candidacy into an active movement.

Now, this is not an unaccountable thing. It is in the very nature of business to look for safety in popularity. This is usually gained by courage and honesty. And as the known attitude of Hearst upon every public question could be foretold by this moral test, his popularity grew and will continue to grow in response to the very natural moral impulses of the public who find their own pronounced notions of right and wrong so well reflected in his editorial utterances.

Movements originating thus are spontaneous and irresistible. The Ohio Democracy will find numerous imitators in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, New York and elsewhere. Hearst clubs are springing up everywhere, and even in this state the Hearst club has made its appearance. Many more will follow, and it is only a question of days when shrewd political opportunists will be quietly co-operating with that determined eastern Democracy in favor of Mr. Hearst.