

THE OREGON DAILY JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

G. S. JACKSON

PUBLISHED BY JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO.

JNO. F. CARROLL

Published every evening (except Sunday) and every Sunday morning at The Journal Building, Fifth and Yamhill streets, Portland, Oregon.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND

NO ONE SHOULD WANT HERMANN

BINGER HERMANN was the choice of very few people in the first district convention that nominated him for congress. He came out as the residuary legate in the fight of clashing ambitions. There were several men who wanted the congressional nomination. Each was individually strong but not quite strong enough to capture the nomination against the hearty and united opposition of those who had ambitions in the same direction. When noses were counted it was found that none of these could quite reach the nomination and no one would give in. Each one feared that if the other got the nomination he might become a fixture more or less indefinitely and thus thwart the ambitions of the others. None of them feared Hermann because with the record behind him they knew they could at any time defeat him for another nomination. In the event of the election of a Democrat he trusted to the heavy Republican majority to beat him, no matter what record he might make, when he came up for re-election. It was through this combination of circumstances that the nomination went to Hermann, whom nobody really wanted and when his record was so thoroughly well known to the politicians.

The president surely does not want him, for Hermann was one of the chief factors to throw discredit upon the Roosevelt administration. Besides that, Hermann offered to the president last year, when he was an honored visitor to the state and the guest of its people, the grossest insult that could be offered him. No one who was not dead to shame would have entered into the conspiracy of the photograph where the president was deliberately placed in a false attitude before the public and used as a tool to further Hermann's congressional aspirations.

The land department of the government does not want him because it knows how he prostituted his high office.

In their hearts members of the congressional delegation do not want him because they know how harmful to them and the interests of the state is his record at Washington. Only one of them has publicly said a word in his favor. That word was said by Senator Fulton and it is candidly admitted to have been very, very general in its character.

Why, then, should the people of his district want him? The only reason is that his election in June may help the president, who is not yet nominated, in November. It is clearly manifest that if the president had the naming of a congressman from Oregon the very last man he would select, for public, private and personal reasons, would be Binger Hermann. He cannot help but regard the election of Hermann as a reflection upon himself when in the interest of the public service and because of the scandal caused to his administration he summarily removed Hermann from office.

The people should not elect him because the election of a man who is under such grave charges, who has been disgraced by the national administration, who has been contemptuously ignored in the congressional committee appointments and who is utterly without prestige or credit at Washington, would not only be a reflection upon the people of Oregon, but detrimental to their material interests. If he should be indicted in November, and his indictment has already been recommended by a special agent of the land office as a result of an official investigation into his conduct, how humiliating it would be to every citizen of Oregon, but particularly to those citizens who, in the face of the facts, persisted in voting for him? By every rule of morals, from the standpoint of self interest and for the good of the state, Binger Hermann should be defeated by the Republicans of the first district.

JAPAN'S KINCHOW VICTORY.

THE JAPANESE are keeping up their reputation, and winning new laurels. The Russians have had weeks in which to bring down and smash their forces, if they had such overwhelming forces, to oppose the Japs, and yet after a few hours' hard fighting the little brown men took Kinchow by storm, and so have Port Arthur invested from the rear, and it is also reported, securely blockaded in front. Thus the Japs have secured a very large additional foothold in the Liau Tung peninsula, and can only be dislodged, or even their advance at will checked, by greatly superior forces.

The Russians seem to have superior forces, in number, in that portion of Manchuria, already, but the evidence so far is that they are far inferior as soldiers—something that the world would have laughed to scorn not many years ago. That these little brown men can actually badly beat the Russians and Cossacks, on land and sea, in strategy, in energy, in mobility and in valor, is a new thing under the sun. Yet so far it seems so.

The reasons are not far to seek. The Japs are intensely patriotic, are fighting for national life and liberty; they have been thoroughly educated, trained, drilled; they are

modern in ideas and equipment. The Russians are less so—in all these respects. Their style and system of government is against them and the common soldier is animated by no high patriotic motive.

Yet probably the war is only just begun. Russia has immense resources yet, and with enough men and money they may wear the Japs out. But the latter evidently intend not to rest or loiter, but to beat the Russians, if possible, before Russia, being a great body that must move slowly, has time to get itself together to act at the right time and place with the requisite overwhelming concentration of forces.

DOUBTLESS A RIGHTEOUS VERDICT.

AFTER a comparatively brief trial, considering the nature of the case, Norman Williams has been convicted of murder in the first degree for the killing of two women, mother and daughter, the latter of whom he had wronged by marrying her when he had a living wife, and whom he meant to defraud of her home-stead. The motive shown was greater than such as have prompted many murders; Williams' stories of his actions in connection with his last appearance in company with the women were contradictory and manifestly untrue, and that he killed them the public generally, as well as the Wasco county jury, has no doubt.

The instruction of Judge Bradshaw as to the corpus delicti was strongly against the prisoner, but was in accordance with common sense and, it is supposed, with modern, rather than with medieval law. If it is upheld by the state supreme court, it will serve as a precedent in criminal jurisprudence, though such cases as this are very rare.

There would ordinarily have been much force in Mr. McGinn's plea, and recital of numerous cases, that many persons have mysteriously disappeared, and reappeared after years, or perhaps not at all, but who were not murdered, although in some of them men have been accused and even convicted of their murder. A jury must exercise great care here. But this was not an ordinary case, that of a man, nor even of one woman; but of two women, one an old woman, the other her daughter, married, as she supposed, and with property; women of quiet, ordinarily regular lives, who disappeared after starting out, on a night journey in a lonely country with a man known never to have committed various crimes. The jury could not believe that this was a case of mysterious disappearance, that somehow, sometime, might be explained on any other theory than that of the prisoner's guilt.

Then there was the hair, corresponding to theirs, and probably drops of their blood, found on this man's place. As to the blood, little weight could be attached to the expert's testimony; but the hair was convincing, eloquent, and damaging testimony; especially when the defendant's former explanations concerning it were shown to be false. As in the celebrated Webster case, and as in the Durrant case, though in the latter the bodies were found, the conviction was due largely to the failure of the defense to put forward any explanation, rendering any theory but that of guilty reasonable or even possible.

The court, the jury, the prosecuting attorney, and these who aided him, and Mr. McGinn himself, who resorted to no delaying technicalities, though defending his client vigorously, all merit commendation for the ability, the promptness, and the fairness with which this case has been conducted, leading to a just verdict and judgment. In some places the trial would have consumed weeks, with less probability of a just outcome.

THE HISTORY OF TODAY.

"THE DAILY NEWSPAPER," said Henry Watterson in a recent address to an assembly of newspaper men in St. Louis, "is the history of yesterday." This may be true of morning papers, and to some extent of evening papers in the eastern portion of the country, but the evening paper, particularly on the Pacific coast, is the history not of yesterday but of today. The history of the world is mostly made in the day-time, and during business hours, and by the time the Pacific coast evening newspaper goes to press that history is made, closed, in news centers all the way from St. Paul and St. Louis to London, Paris, and Berlin. The more important news of the morning paper is largely a repetition or at best an elaboration of the news told in the evening paper 12 hours before.

Readers want yesterday's news today, but today's news today, but they want only the more important and interesting news, crisply and succinctly told, not columns of yesterday's news published in a morning paper, long, dreary padded accounts of trivial affairs inserted merely to make a showing of space filling. The Journal presents the important features every evening, not of yesterday's, but of today's history.

MONUMENTAL FALSEHOOD.

Strong Denial of a Published Sensational Story.

From the Weston Leader.

One cannot overlook and club to death such a cruel, bald and miserable lie as was given wings by some newsman in Pendleton and appeared recently in the Oregonian, the Oregon Daily Journal, and the Spokesman-Review under a Weston date line. As well try to catch a fox with a tortoise as to pursue this nimble slander with the truth. The mischief is done—untold mischief to the Weston's fair fame, to its Normal school, to its brickyard.

But the Leader can and will condemn the dishonorable and contemptible practice of irresponsible non-resident correspondents who weave from some silly tale the fabric of a lie like this and send it broadcast. The lasting damage of a community of whose affairs they have no knowledge and for whose welfare they have no concern.

Now for the truth, although the truth is hopelessly distasteful. There is no sign of a "bitter truth" and factional fight dividing the faculty of the Weston Normal school. Instead, the faculty members are working in perfect accord. No party of men, supposed to be employees of the Weston brickyard, assaulted President French with hen fruit of questionable age. Nobody here has ever assaulted President French, or threatened to assault him, with hen fruit or in any other manner.

President French has never on any occasion said that "no one but hoboes worked in the brickyard." If there are degrees in malicious falsehood, the most damnable lie of all is this: "What provoked him to make this remark was a Jangle in the faculty in which a woman teacher charged the president with unkind remarks about her keeping company with a young man who worked in the brickyard." One is lost in amazement at this stupid slander, which has not the slightest shadow of foundation.

In this fight the people of Weston are taking an active part, and the lines

SHOULD KEEP ON MOVING.

From Grants Pass Journal.

That there is some virtue extant in the city of Portland is made evident by the vigorous way in which the liquor license committee recently pledged itself in the presence of half a thousand spectators to support an ordinance abolishing the closed box, in both saloons and restaurants—an institution which was characterized by one member as "the foulest blot upon the city." This is a move in the right direction. The influential citizens and officials of Portland should keep on moving. Laying aside the questions of morality and sentiment, the matter of a clean city should appeal to the people of Portland as a business proposition. The light in which the city will stand before the eyes of visitors next year means much for Portland and to the state, and inasmuch as we will all be "wiped up" by the throng according to the moral status of that place, the better class of citizens have a right to demand, and should see that they have, a certain degree of decency in the metropolis.

THOSE GOLF GIRLS.

From the New York Press.

The comical golf girl of the city, with her straight front, elevated Grecian bend, French heels, pompadour hair, and marquisian shirt waist, just now occupies the center of space. She starts out with a giraffin stride, and rolls her sleeves up to her armpits as she makes for the links. She looks to me as if she is going out to do a day's washing.

RECIPROCITY IN IOWA.

From the Chicago News.

Exactness are the conditions imposed upon the politician in a presidential year. The latest prominent partisan to feel the constraint of political necessity is Governor Cummins, one of the original exponents of the "Iowa Idea." Governor Cummins has been an eloquent and outspoken champion of the principle of reciprocity, not only as an essential feature of the tariff system, but as a means of restricting the inordinate growth of oppressive trade combinations. So recently as last January he was making speeches condemning the "let-well-enough-alone" policy and declaring that "only the dead can stand pat."

Alas for personal convictions when the propeller thereof is exposed to the exigencies of a presidential campaign! In the state convention at Des Moines the Iowa Republicans adopted a platform which is a perfect expression of the stand-patter's faith. There is not a word about reciprocity treaties nor a word about trade relations with Canada. The view that we can have reciprocity in non-competitive articles, as the platform dismises, is a subject with a single curt sentence, "We favor reciprocity in non-competitive products only." Just what that means has been stated with commendable lucidity by Governor Cummins himself. "The view that we can have reciprocity in non-competitive articles," he said in a speech last January, "hardly rises to the dignity of a delusion."

It is quite probable that, having established their "regularity" by accepting the stand-patter's platform, the progressive Republicans of Iowa will think much the same as they did before. The issue is to be smothered for a time, but not definitely abandoned. That they are in the hopeless minority, however, and that the ruling elements in the Republican party at large have no idea of following the policy which President McKinley urged in his Buffalo speech, has been pretty conclusively shown.

Small Change

The air a balmy fragrance breathes.

Good weather for excursions and picnics.

A unanimous legislature politically is not good for any state.

It is good weather for painting, and painting is a good thing to do.

A good man would rather go fishing than to a political "rally."

How would Chairman Frank Baker do for vice-president? He has quite a stock.

The trouble with some of Mr. Hermann's denials is that they are not true.

The graves will be profusely and beautifully decorated tomorrow and Monday.

It will be suspected before long that Pension Commissioner Ware can neither resign nor write poetry.

It is supposed that Grover Cleveland is preparing his farewell address before going fishing for the summer.

Chief Hunt's frequent lectures seem to be needed, but they also seem to be less effectual than might be desired.

Oregon needs good roads and portions of it irrigation, for more than she needs to put or keep any party in power.

Governor Cummins of Iowa once declared that "only the dead can stand pat," and now he is among the dead.

Next Monday is Decoration day, and the succeeding Monday is election day, after which having can be attended to.

The professional or business man about whom a personal is printed in a town he is visiting is invariably "prominent."

We hear a great deal about the servant girl problem, but the servant girl's idea of it is that it is the mistress problem.

There are yet some old-fashioned and obstinate people whom the leaders of fashion will never prevail upon to wear loud tan shoes.