

THE OREGON DAILY JOURNAL

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND

THE INVESTIGATION MUST COME.

IF ANY irregular transaction in the city engineer's office should arouse what might otherwise be considered disproportionate suspicion surely no one is to blame for it but the city engineer himself.

In the matter of stuffing the payrolls, something that has already twice excited suspicion, more than enough has been developed to warrant the most rigid and searching investigation not only of what may have been done but the methods of returning the time checks and the provisions made to safeguard the public interests.

AN EASY WAY TO DO IT.

IT IS ESTIMATED that half a million dollars will be needed to establish new rural mail delivery routes as fast as they are recommended the coming year.

At the same time all of this could be accomplished without placing any additional burdens upon the public. It could be done by shearing away some of the profits which now accrue to the railway companies for carrying the mails.

But it is a matter of general agreement that the government pays entirely too much to the carrying companies. Congress should see to it that the cost is radically lowered.

GROWTH OF PACIFIC COAST CITIES.

EIGHT MILLION, five hundred and twenty-five thousand, one hundred and twenty-nine dollars—this is the sum spent in building operations in San Francisco during the first half of the present year—from January to July inclusive.

During the first six months of 1904 there was spent in building operations in San Francisco \$1,380,000 more than during the corresponding period in 1903.

These figures tell eloquently of the growth and prosperity of that city during the past few years. One reason for San Francisco's rapid and wonderful growth during this period is one not entirely creditable to the general government, nor pleasing to the people of this city and state; for in the matter of Philippine supplies

San Francisco, and in a less degree Seattle, have been favored and given large margins of profit, while Portland has been snubbed or neglected.

We cannot show such a great building record as that above narrated, yet the end-of-the-year records will show a very large and fine growth in Portland also—perhaps as much, in proportion to size, as that of San Francisco.

Indeed, it will not take Portland very many years, at its present rate of growth, to overtake San Francisco, and become the largest and most important Pacific coast city.

A CHANCE WHICH SHOULD NOT BE LOST.

THE SALEM PAPERS are freely expressing themselves in favor of a big state fair and the liberal concessions that go with it.

But 1905 is a year when Oregon cannot afford to scatter; it must concentrate if it expects to get the very best results from what it has to show.

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Small Change

The killers are out of date. St. Louis, how do you feel?

How proud we are oflinger! December is all right, too, in Oregon.

Yes, let's have a big state fair, too. And Colorado is in the union yet!

Next year will be a great one in Oregon. Oh, for a big, courageous, wide-awake mayor!

Many eyes are on Portland. Let's be worthy. Oh, what a comedy Fairbanks' tariff reform will be!

Can't there be a trial without the handwriting expert? Really, Mr. Mayor, what do you think of the city engineer?

Look at the tariff being reformed by the friends of the trusts. The beef trust, if anybody asks you, is still in business and prospering.

The stand-patters are not quite sure whether they are standing pat or not. What is this we read of people starving in a Mueh district? Breakfast-food mush, perhaps.

What is the next legislature going to do about those shamefully excessive salaries of certain state officials? R. E. Ormsby writes to the Oregonian that he is at Salem. But is he in the right place at Salem, or vicinity?

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Horse and Cattle Rustlers

From the Monument Enterprise. The officers have been scouring the country in the vicinity of Long creek the past week in search of the horse-rustlers. They have been making a general raid on the semi-organized bands of horse-thieves who have been operating on the ranges of northern Grant for a number of years.

The rustlers are men and boys who own a saddle-horse and outfit but very little other property, and they are almost continually present at every roundup and claim all the stray horses and always come in for a large portion of the colts, and make a practice of rushing a range hand to horses through the country in the night. These rustlers are suspected and usually pretty well known to the officers and settlers in the communities where they operate, but their methods of concealment are so smooth that it is difficult, and usually impossible, to get sufficient evidence against them to convict any of the gang.

Really, Mr. Mayor, what do you think of the city engineer? Look at the tariff being reformed by the friends of the trusts. The beef trust, if anybody asks you, is still in business and prospering.

Indeed, it will not take Portland very many years, at its present rate of growth, to overtake San Francisco, and become the largest and most important Pacific coast city.

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Oregon Sidelights

No more China pheasants, legally. Lots of ducks, up country, if you go after 'em.

Woodburn is going to improve—much, and right off. Eighteen tons an acre of alfalfa—in Oregon. True business.

Gone out of business: The nickel-in-the-slot telephone—many Democrats. That's right. It's a fraud.

Dolph item in Tillamook Herald: Irving Hill's blooded bear dogs are nearly dead from the effects of salmon poison, but as Irving is exercising great medical skill in doctoring them it is still possible to overcome the poison.

The Dalles Chronicle: As another evidence of good times which make our people in eastern Oregon prosperous and fat, we would cite the following advertisement handed us for publication: "Wanted a pleasant room on second floor, facing south, by a single gentleman with a bay window."

Tangent correspondence of Albany Democrat: Farmers say that at least three fourths of the grain raising land has been seeded this fall which will leave a small spring crop to be put in, provided the winter is favorable.

Prairie City Miner: It is estimated that the Rivalley flour mill will grind 10,000 bushels of wheat this fall. This will necessitate a continuous run until the first of the year. One dollar per bushel is the price offered at the mill, and the flour is superior to any in the market and takes preference with the purchaser. The mill will make a longer run of last year than has been made for several years, and the prospects are an increased acreage.

Sumpter Miner: The train bands on the Sumpter railway passengers are being flung over from Tipton yesterday. A big black tailed deer in the timber, and the boys who carry a Japanese naval arsenal in the baggage car opened fire without hitting the animal. An excited passenger jumped off the train and gave chase. It is said the woods are full of deer now, but the train doesn't wait for hunters. When the engineer sights an animal he blows the whistle.

Woodburn Independent: Supervisor Charles McKee of Monitor precinct has made a report to the county court showing that \$1,990 worth of county work has been done on the Monitor road during the past season. Labor to the amount of \$600 was done in hauling gravel and \$250 worth of volunteer work in cutting down the grade of the Boulder hills, the county donating \$250. The Monitor people and live supervisor are to be highly commended for the good showing made with but little financial assistance from the county.

John Day News: F. L. McCallum, who made a trip into the Greenhorns last week, viewing the young city of the name and transacting business on the way, returned home Thursday night. He reports the mining industry as far more prosperous than the newspaper accounts had led him to believe, and that many good mines are running full blast. Other properties are deep sinking on some of the veins, and altogether the amount of work under way is most gratifying surprise to him. He thinks the future of that mining section is assured.

Tillamook Herald: The survey of the new water system is now practically completed and it is reported that the direct line from the city to the point of intake is five and three quarters miles. This is a complete surprise in itself as nearly everyone expected it to be not less than seven miles to the point where the intake is to be placed. The engineer's report on estimate, etc., will be made as soon as Mr. Chase completes it and hands it over to the council. Owing to the inclement weather and very short days it has been a very tedious job. The report is anxiously awaited by every one.

Footnotes. "We can trace many of our sins to Adam," said the breakfast philosopher, "but there is one that we cannot."

"What may that be?" asked the hat clerk. "Walking around with hands in our pockets."

The Play

People who remained away from the Marquam last evening, because of the unsatisfactory title of the bill—"Who's Brown?"—missed what is really the most amusing farce witnessed in Portland this season. A company of talented players, headed by William Morris, presented it.

"Who's Brown?" is one of the plays produced in New York by the stock company at Proctor's Fifth Avenue theatre. Paul McAllister was the leading man, and it was, in a way, a continuous performance—two shows daily. (I mention this to see if some of the vaudeville lovers cannot be induced to attend the Marquam tonight.)

The story is of a man who gets into the car of a Ferris wheel—in London—with another man's wife, and at about the moment their car reaches the highest point, a break in the machinery occurs. The wheel stops. They are compelled to spend the night in mid-air. The rest of the plot principally concerns their efforts to explain the all-night absence, respectively, to wife and husband. The complications are interesting, but the farce would assuredly fall in the hands of less capable people.

Mr. Morris, who in olden days played with Frohman's Empire company in San Francisco as "Men and Women" and "The Lost Paradise," and with such stars as Georgia Cayvan and Maude Adams, is a capital light comedian, as well as a romantic actor. His work in "Who's Brown" has been his versatility beyond question. As Mrs. Tempest, Miss Margaret Drew was thoroughly charming. Her gown was magnificent and she sings how to wear a husband. Carr Hastings, who plays Mrs. Brown, is a pleasing figure, but her dialect is far-removed from Cockney, which it is supposed to be. Brown, the hair dresser, is in the hands of Tom Maguire, who has his faults, but most of them might be overlooked if he would pay closer attention to his wardrobe.

The final performance of "Who's Brown?" will be given tonight.

RACE WHITNEY.

BRIGGS' FIRST THANKSGIVING.

A year ago there were no Thanksgiving services at Irigton, for the very good and sufficient reason that there was no Irigton. The site was here, then known as Stokes, and about half a dozen of us "pioneers" were here and we had a jolly dinner, and something wet, and a good cigar, the services being presided over by Gung-Yick, that versatile oriental who serves Mexican man's palate so well that he can prepare more or less of a picnic than there are flies on a yaller' pup.

But no such word as Irigton had then appeared in any gazetteer or lexicon, and in fact it had not even been thought of by the same man who coined it. The length of a year depends upon the point of view: the record of a year can be viewed by the minds of those who have helped make it almost as much as the same man who coined it. The record that makes the record of a new town then comes to those who are helping in the growth and development every day a new duty, every hour a new struggle, at every turn a new challenge, heartier and discouraging, and in the battle the weak falter, the pessimists faint and only the optimists survive to reap the reward.

And our reward lies in the fact that here on the sands that were always considered worthless, on a plain that was always considered barren—in a portion of Oregon which other sections of the state have regarded as a waste and abandoned they would a plague—on such a spot we have founded and builded a town, and its foundations are sure and permanent and its growth is rapid and its progress is a month's march have brought together, comfortably housed and domiciled, a population of 350 happy and contented and prosperous people, equaling in intelligence, and all that goes to make up a good community, any like number of souls in any town in the land.

As Thanksgiving day 1903 dawned upon us we had not more than four small patches of partially improved land and a few buildings, but we had a heart and stout the heart and sturdy the mire that could look beyond that dawn a year hence and see our lovely Irigton of today, with her hundred buildings and 75 acres of land wholly or partially under cultivation.