

THE OREGON DAILY JOURNAL

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND

SIGNS OF A NEW ERA IN PORTLAND.

THE INVESTIGATIONS and discussions, the accusations, imputations and suspicions, now prevalent in regard to various pieces of work done under city supervision but paid for, or to be paid for, if at all, by property owners, are from any point of view disagreeable to most people, and some may regard them as needless. But there is another point of view...

Don't suppose, because there is more talk and investigation now than heretofore, because people are becoming more inquisitive if not suspicious, that all this jobbery complained of, even if all the complaints are well founded, is anything new in Portland. The jobbery and bleeding of the taxpayers have been going on more or less, generally more, all the time. One faction succeeded the other time and again, and each one tried to outdo the other in making the taxpayers foot their political bills—and succeeded. The only difference to the taxpayers between the machines was that the one in operation beat the one it had disabled in looting the taxpayers' pockets. And usually the controlling elements of the so-called Democrats were only playing second fiddle to one faction or the other, and trying to get in with the winners, in order to pick up a few crumbs from the loaf.

Well then, why were not these matters aired before? Why didn't people find out about the jobs and investigate them? Why all this furore now, for the first time?

Partly, because Portland has awakened up a good deal in many ways lately, due in some measure to the ingress of many men who have had their eyes opened in other cities. But principally because until lately Portland had no newspaper that had both the inclination and the courage to declare the truth, to tell the people what was going on, to awaken them at once to the situation and to a realization of their power.

If the people of this city are going to have anything like an honest government, and honest work done, they have got to fight for it. It will be a long if not a perpetual war. This is the first general engagement. But the object of the campaign is not to find out about Tanner creek sewer and the jobbery connected therewith; this is only one battle; the thing that must be done is to smash any political machine of whatever name or faction that attempts to do business. One of them is exactly like another, except that it is worse.

SENATOR MITCHELL AND THE SUBPOENA.

IT IS TRUE that Senator Mitchell cannot be forced to submit to a subpoena issued by the United States court at Portland requiring him to testify in the land fraud cases. He may, if he so desires, plead his senatorial privilege during the session of congress and the same is true of Congressman Binger Hermann. But Congress will be in recess during most of the time he will be required here and as it will be next to impossible to do much with the public business during the holiday season there will be little loss in this respect should he decide to come to Oregon.

As to what he should do under the circumstances Senator Mitchell is doubtless better qualified than most men to determine. He has had long experience in public affairs and no man should be better acquainted with the ethics governing all such matters. In one respect, however, it seems to us his friends are making a mistake and that is in supposing that the suspicion that any steps so far taken by the government will be construed into a covert attempt to link Senator Mitchell's name with the land fraud cases, will justify his refusal to respond to the subpoena. Public sentiment, we believe, has recently undergone a radical change with reference to these land fraud cases. The evidence recently submitted showed clearly two things, first, that there was

abundant ground for the charges so frequently made of jobbery in connection with the public lands, and secondly, an apparently honest determination upon the part of the government to prosecute those immediately within its reach and to strive to get to those, whoever they might be, who were for one cause or another temporarily beyond their reach.

This is a program with which no honest man can find fault. It is what many honest men long have called for. It is a program to which Senator Mitchell himself can reasonably interpose no objection. Even if he is satisfied that there is a personal motive back of the subpoena the wise course for him to pursue nevertheless is to come here and frankly testify to what the government asks. In this way he will effectually destroy the force of the whatever unfriendly campaign may have been undertaken against him and bring to confusion those who father it.

NOW, HERE'S A PLEA.

Puter, McKinley, Wolgamot, Emma Watson and Tarpley have all been found guilty of land frauds in Oregon. Puter, McKinley and Wolgamot are the principals, while Wolgamot and Tarpley were tools. These principals are self-styled importations from eastern states, and are not Oregon products. If we sift Oregon land frauds to the bottom we will find the skirts of the natives are clear of the charge of being conspirators against the government. The characters who have given to Oregon a bad name and a black eye in this regard belong to a scheming, speculative riff-raff from other states that would have been a credit to Oregon had they stayed at home.—Engene Register.

WE ARE NOT quite so sure of all this. Some of these people came to Oregon to do business because the timber lands were here. A great amount of these lands are in Lane county, where the Register is published, and two of its very good friends have been on guard in the Roseburg land office. In whose possession are those lands now, and how did they get there? The "11-7" base so far considered would cover only an insignificant patch.

Another great and good friend of the Register, an Oregon man for many years, was officially on guard in the national capital, was at the very head of the public land department, the man on whom the government had a right to rely, on whom it must rely. And yet all these frauds, proved, known or suspected, went through under his nose or rather behind and above it.

And doubtless there are others. Oregon people as a whole are very good people, as humanity goes, but we imagine very much like the people of "eastern states." Oregon will be a better state if the rascals are exposed and punished than if they are shielded. And as to that, several of those already convicted had been in Oregon a good while. We can't consider them "importations."

MORE SEWER REPORTS.

EVEN AS MINIMIZED in the report of Mayor Williams' engineers it is still quite evident that there was full warrant for the scandalous charges which have arisen over the Tanner creek sewer. On the other hand the report of the practical men leaves the whole affair in worse shape than it was in after the original report was presented. It shows up a really dreadful condition of affairs which once again brings the public face to face with the proposition of the responsibility of the city engineer's office as distinct from the penalty which should be imposed upon a defaulting contractor.

These last reports will vastly strengthen the case against the contractors and will make the call more and more insistent upon the proper officials to take all the steps which the case calls for. No one can longer be in doubt as to the facts in the case. They are made quite evident. Being apparent it should be demonstrated to the public that recreant contractors will get their just due while at the same time connivance or indifference to the rights of property owners who are called upon to foot the bills should receive all the attention they so richly merit.

The executive board has rescinded its acceptance of the contract. That is a step in the right direction but there are other steps to be taken and the officials directly concerned should not hesitate to take them.

Small Change

Still the gamblers' road is rocky.

Fair prospects grow brighter daily.

Talk about holdup men—think of Santa Claus.

Keepers of the viler dens ought to be frozen out of business.

What's the use of Hermann coming? His memory is defective.

This is especially the season of the year to remember the poor.

Tom Lawson is having more fun lately than a cage of monkeys.

Lawson has taught the big gamblers and lamb-sheerers a new trick.

Nogi seems to be trying to make a wide-open town of Port Arthur.

"Amalgamated" has discovered that Lawson can do something beside write frenzied articles.

Governor-elect Douglas to President Roosevelt: You attend to your business, and I will attend to mine.

Nobody has a better right to cackle than the American hen. But the roosters do altogether too much crowing.

Mrs. Chadwick weeps. But let her think what a high old time she had for many years. Few women have so much fun if they live ever so long.

Johnny Walker is an interesting and not an easy problem. Couldn't a home be found for him with some mountain family who have no neighbor within 20 miles?

Now that a lot of Denver Democrats have been sent to jail for election frauds, the next step for reform should be to send a lot of Republicans equally guilty also to jail.

Smoot is an officer in a certain church which other churches don't like, but he hasn't been accused nor—so far as we have heard—suspected of engaging in stealing the people's land.

Steamers on the upper Columbia next year will be a reminder to many of old times in Oregon. They were pretty good, happy old times, too; but these new times are different, and also good.

A Portland lawyer who acted as attorney for both parties in a divorce suit can collect no fee at all. If he had done only half the work he might have collected \$40 or more. What sort of justice is this?

As adjutant-general of Massachusetts General Miles will not be quite as big a military man as he was as ranking major-general of the United States, but he has been Amalgamated at as fine a uniform as Uncle Sam ever did.

Standard Oil magnates cared nothing about Lawson's talking and writing; but when he has Amalgamated at the cost of a few millions they are likely to give him a little serious attention. They were not afraid of his hard words or his tufts of grass, but rocks are another matter.

Hon. Napoleon Davis has for several years been a horny-handed farmer of Fairview, and is now master of the local school. Young men, look at this as an example of opportunities to rise in the world. A few years ago that man was boss of the Portland police department, and aspired to be the Democratic boss of the state.

"Oxcross me, madam," set der bank president, "but you not get your rich Uncle Gustave to go on your note?"

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Dinkelspiel on Financiers

(By George V. Hobart.)

My wife put down der evening paper and sighed patetically.

"We need a leedle money for der Christmas holidays," she whispered.

"Sure," set, "now, is coming der happy season ven der vimmen folks rush madly from store to store and get nervous hesitation, and der men folks rush madly from egg-nogg to egg-nogg."

"I must gif at least 'firty-sig presents, including der fur-lined cap. I will buy for you to gif me," my wife went on.

"I looked over at my bank book and it fell off der bureau and played dead."

"I see it here in der nulsunspaper vore it says dot a new woman financier has chumped on der horizon and der horizon is now inkuring der vay to der bankruptcy court," my wife continued.

"Many a fool and his money was parted by a woman," I whispered carefully.

"Vot vum voman can do so can anudder voman also, too, my wife set, chumping to her forehead, "Dis money needs a up-to-date financier, and I will response to der call of duty—doan't wait lunch for me, but doan't eat it all in case I should bring back a leedle hunger mite."

"Den, my wife went out from our home, vich is called "Dinky Hall," on Chestnut Hill, to der Pickle and Sausage Fairst National bank and she asked der president.

"Wie gehts, president?" my wife set, "I vish to become a voman financier and I would like to borrow 'tree hunderd thousand dollars, mostly in cash and der balance in fifty-dollar bills, please!"

"Der president pointed a chair at her and inkured politely, "Vot is your security for such a slight favor, please?"

"Vot," set my wife, "I haf read der 'Simple Life,' and I was now a simpleton."

"Der president smiled and set dot vider 'vot you haf about ten cents vore der loan."

"Vunce," set my wife, "I met Andrew Carnegie on der street in Pittsburg and he spoke to me."

"I haf seen him financially or socially," inkured der bank president.

"Vot," my wife set, "der street was much occupied at der time and he accidentally bumped into me und he set, 'I must gif you a dollar for your security.'"

"I would not loan money on anything Carnegie apologizes for," set der bank president.

"My," set my wife, "vot a lot of talk, vum voman has to dit before she becomes a financier. Perhaps 'tree hunderd thousand is not my lucky number. Should ve better say two hunderd thousand, mostly in fifty-dollar bills, yes?"

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