Editorial Page of The Journal

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND

PORTAGE ROAD SHOULD BE FREE.

THE BUILDING of the portage road was not undertaken for the purpose of direct gain by the state. Its purpose was to afford relief to the people of the inland empire. That result it will acaction is almost incalculably good. Here was a case in which the people had to help themselves. For long years that need was recognized but never acted upon. The people waited for others to act, with the usual result. a notoriously guilty man's favor, he would, on the con-But once they acted for themselves, once they realized trary, "go as far as the law allows" to convict such a that they not only knew what should be done, but could do it they advanced the material interests of the state by

Now that the road will be built and ready for business by the middle of May the people are face to face with a consideration of the proposition of what it was built for It should not be forgotten that it is not a money making enterprise, any more than are the locks at the Cascades, than will be the Celilo canal when the federal government completes it. Its purpose is to afford relief to commerce and from this standpoint it merits the most liberal treatment. The Journal does not believe that any tax should be levied upon the commerce which passes over The cost of its operation will be small and that cost, in our judgment, should come out of the ordinary tax In this way immediate relief is insured and the public will get the benefit at once without waiting for it,

RAISING STATE REVENUE.

OVERNOR PARDEE of California, according to a dispatch from Sacramento, will recommend the passage of a bill designed to raise all the state revenue by indirect taxation, so that direct taxation will be laid only for county, municipal, school and other local purposes. One of the principal means by which the would raise state revenue is by an inheritance tax, and corporation taxes would provide most of the rest.

best legislative thought and action. The last Oregon legislature made a good beginning in this direction, but only a fair beginning. It might be well to raise the scale of inheritance taxes somewhat, but whether so or not, there certainly should be a law taxing valuable ranchises, and corporations doing a very large and acrative business in this state, but which have comaratively small amounts of tangible, physical assets sub-

These taxes should be reasonable, but what is reasonable should be determined by fair-minded, disinterested men, and not by the officers of the corporations, who, most other men, like to pay as little taxes as pos-

with the emoluments of the state officers cut down to reasonable salaries, and the fees now received paid into the treasury, and with fair laws of the kind suggested, Oregon, whose expenses as a state need not after this year be very heavy, should raise nearly if not quite all its revenue without levying direct taxes upon the counties.

Toward this end legislators ought to work. Thus they will do something entitling them to the people's ap-

AN ENCOURAGING EXPRESSION.

N DENYING a motion for a new trial in the cases of certain boss gamblers, Judge Frazer said Saturday: "The time has come when a halt must be called word must go forth that men who break the law will mished. Thinking men all over the country are appalled at existing conditions. We must protect the people from those who defy the expressed will of the peo-Too often, bright lawyers bring into court some technicality and clear their man when he is concededly

The gamblers' attorney making a protest against this unusual but very true and pertinent language from the bench, the judge responded that he would go just as far as the law allows to convict men known to be guilty, and greatly decreased. mown as such by every one in the community, and, while he would not exceed the law, he would think that he was performing public service and doing something to stem the tide of crime and re-establish the respect of the people for the court if he assisted in convicting guilty men who sought to escape on technicalities.

This spirit and this kind of language, coming from a judge of the circuit court for this district, is very gratifying to all who believe that the laws should be observed and enforced, and especially by the men elected for that

People are becoming astonished and "appalled" at the lawlessness allowed and in some cases encouraged and wise be.

sanctioned by the officers of the law, and that judge is doing a very valuable and much appreciated service who realizes that he "must protect the people from those who

defy the expressed will of the peopl The rule has been, or at least it has been true in far too many cases, that courts would go far to sustain technicalities by which persons known by everybody to be guilty should escape punishment. This has indeed become a scandal and an evil in American jurisprudence, and it is therefore especially encouraging to those who are striving for better conditions to hear a judge declare that rather than seek for or entertain any technicality in man. For, as he says, this "will do something to stem the tide of crime and re-establish the respect of the peo-

Let us hope that the supreme court of this state animated by a like spirit.

AN OLD DOCTRINE REVIVED.

THE DOCTRINE that whether a thing is wron not depends on who does it and not on the nature of the thing done is not a new one, but it is selso offensively proclaimed as it was yesterday by

The ancient dictum, "the king can do no wrong," mod-ernized and locally adapted is, the mayor of Portland can do no wrong. If it be asked why, the answer is: He is over four-score years old, has filled high positions, and has always borne a good character. Therefore, whatever he does is right; whatever he fails or refuses to do

that officer, whomsoever he may be. The mayor does not act as the law requires him to act. But therefore we are told he does no wrong, because of his age, his honors, his

We are told that to indict the mayor for violating a law s an "outrage." Then to indict anybody for any infrac-

Hereafter grand juries, when considering a man's alleged offense against the law must ask: How old is he? What offices has he held? What has been his status as a cifizen? How high does he stand now in officialdom? The higher up a man is, the wiser he is, the more prominent he is, the less is he to be excused as an officer or infraction of laws, for setting up his own opinion in

defiance of law.

The people of Portland, of Multnoman county, and of Oregon, want men in office who will respect, observe, bey, execute and enforce the laws; and they are going to have such men, more and more, and will not tolerate gross delinquencies on account of age or reputation.

WHERE IMPROVEMENT IS SEEN.

T IS AGREEABLE, while making criticisms upon so many things and men, to find those here and there—and they are not a few in the aggregate that can be conscientiously and cheerfully commended. Such a case is that of County Clerk Fields. His office is not only self-sustaining but yields a little revenue to the county treasury besides. Although the work is much greater than it was three or four years ago, it is better done, with a smaller force of employes. Here is an office, and there are some others, to which the people generally and tax-payers in particular, can really point

given to the Multnomah county members of the last legslature, who secured the passage of a bill that cut down very materially the expenses of this and some other of-And behind the action of the legislature, prompting and urging it, was the organization known as the Taxpayers' league, which had carefully studied the situation and discovered what should and could be done.

The coroner's office is another one that has been thus eformed. The county court is yastly superior to what has been in times past. The auditor's office appears to be well conducted. And the cost of maintaining these offices, in proportion to the work done, has been

These are encouraging beginnings of the general reformation of officialdom; they comprise the dawn of the day when county and city governments shall be conducted on strictly business principles, and in the interest of the taxpaying public, and not of some political party

When it is understood that the grand jury's condemnation of the mayor carries with it a condemnation of the Oregonian, its methods and what it has stood for, the unmeasured denunciation of the grand jury by the Oregonian will be better understood than it would other-

Small Change

Tom Lawson appears to be getting

Nearly all county officers will want their salaries increased, of course. But if not increased, they won't resign.

The subject of Mr. Bryan's latest address was "Watchman. What of the Night?" Black and heavy, as the darkey said when asked what kind of weather

Oregon Sidelights

Frogs are singing over on Coos bay

Forest Grove may have an ice plant

There was only one death in Pendle Some suspicion will hang around those off-drink saloons.

Newberg Methodists and Baptists ate a New Year's dinner together. No reasonable people are

Coast range black bears are now fat

Sherman county does not want

Near Perrydale last week, John By erley lost 15 head of fat goats through poisoning, probably from eating toad

electric line may be eventually extended up Gales creek and over into Tillamood The Hood River Glacler has taken

A Nehalem old bachelor received as a Christmas present a wooden rasor and a bar of laundry soap, but he refused to consider it as a proposal from any par-

The Baker City Herald tells a queer story of the modus operandi of a horse-thief of Baker City. He keeps on hand a bunch of cheap cayuses, and when he captures a valuable animal he kills one of his cheap.

The Cause of Appendicitis

Take a day in the life of the ordinary city man, who, having risen somewhat later than usual finds it necessary to

The Play

Delilah, Egypt, Mary -

The President's Wishes

Jewish patriot—not the Barabbas who was crucified. He loves the Magdalene and one of his passionate scenes with her in the first act caused a murmur in the auditorium that meant distinctly "S-h-o-o-k!" Mr. Baume's voice serves him well in this role, and he gives an effective interpretation of the author's idea—a Barabbas who thinks long and well before surrendering absolutely to the wishes of the reformed Magdalene.

Mr. Bloomquist read the comparatively few lines of the Apostie John beautifuily. Mr. Berrell was excellent as Si-

thy Scott and Gertrude Taylor, who comely, and Ada Henry, the last ad playing the inevitable Irish cook, undolph and Adolph" will run until nesday evening.

ding vich vishes to see you, but alvays

North Dakota.

January 9.—The weather is cold, the

of our men who was separated from the rest during the chase has not returned.

DIMERLAPIRL'S DEFFY MISSONS.

(By George V. Hobart.)
(Copyright, 1904, by W. B. Hearst.)
Der meaning of posterity is a lot of peoble vich vill forget all abouid you before dey vas born.

Der meaning of opportunity is some

meaning of pathos is a poor vidow

Lewis and Clark Der meaning of advice is someding

is alvays gifing it to somebody else. thermometer at sunrise was 21 degrees below zero. Kagohami breakfasted with us, and Captain Clark with three or four

school ve go through ven ve play truant fortunate as to kill a number of buffalo, but they were incommoded by snow, by high and squally winds, and by extreme cold; several of the Indians came to the fort nearly frozen, others

Der meaning of a lobster after der polish vears off.

Der meaning of a spendthrift is mitouid money trying to spend his Der meaning of ability is to know vare to plant a Christmas present so it vill bring forth someding more eggspensive.

Japan's Foresight.

OUR PHILIPPING POLICY.