

THE OREGON DAILY JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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THANKSGIVING DAY.

THE whole civilized and Christianized world follows the custom today and makes a special showing of thankfulness. But it is in this especially favored, prosperous and progressive country...

In soil, in climate, in variety, in opportunity, in production and prolificness, in brightness and beauty, in splendor and satisfaction—there is not, has never been, and never will be, a country equal to the United States of America!

So we can afford to be thankful, and ought to be thankful—not only today, but every day—for nature's rich gifts; for fruitage and flowerage; for sunshine and moisture.

Be thankful; you ought to be so. And in being thankful try to make some others especially thankful—today!

RESTORING CONFIDENCE.

THEY MADE IT as easy as they could for President McCurdy of the Mutual. First they cut his salary in half, which he gracefully accepted, and then encouraged by his complacency they "accepted" his resignation. Now he is out of a job. It is given out that this circumstance will tend to reestablish public confidence. It may "tend" to do so but it will not get much farther than that.

Indeed it is not likely that the great insurance companies will ever again cut such a swath as they have in the business of the country. Other financial centers have learned of what vast advantage these funds are and they will not longer rest content to have them monopolized in such vast proportion in New York. In the meantime out of it will be evolved a better, more economical and business-like system which will bring life insurance more closely within the reach of many who should enjoy its advantages.

ANOTHER OF OREGON'S OPPORTUNITIES.

IT COSTS THE PEOPLE too much to get somebody into office. Elections are too expensive. They cost too much not only in cash but otherwise. Are the office-getters worth what we pay for them? Is not our whole system too complicated as well as too costly—employing more men than are needed and getting out of them very much less than we pay for?

When we contrast the orderly, economical and business-like methods of the private corporation with the cumbersome and costly method employed in the public service he is simply amazed at the waste and the lack of results ordinarily secured. While the science of government is old in certain senses it is still in its infancy. Take the average country, city and school district governments and see how much common ground they cover. In doubling up in this way the expense is naturally increased.

The tendency throughout the country at this time is in the direction of bringing to the front qualified men who aim to give the best possible service for the money received. This is due to a growing political independence on the part of the people. It must gradually lead to a modification in the cost to the aspirant for office and as the standard of officeholders is raised and the individual responsibility more keenly felt it is quite likely that the public service will be improved in the respects in which it is herein criticised. Such strides have been made in the last few years that it will not be surprising if some results are attained even in that direction. With the tendency in Oregon to return political power back to the people, so that they have a securer hold on their public servants than ever before, it is not unlikely that in this respect Oregon will lead the country, for with the legislation now on its statute books it gives greater promise of far-reaching public reforms than any other state in the sisterhood.

Folk on Bribery.

From an Address to Kansas City High School by the Governor of Missouri.

The people govern through the laws of a state. Take away the laws of a state and there would be no state government left. When I was district attorney first one man told me that as they had been bribed from time immemorial they had acquired a right to them, a vested interest, and that I had no right to interfere with them taking bribes until I had given them notice to quit. Men would get up in the open court and argue that the offense was not such a heinous one after all—that it was a conventional crime.

Now the people know better. Government by bribes and lawlessness is government by the few with money to buy official favors. Now we demand that those who prostitute their trusts in official positions be made to answer in the courts of law.

Four years ago there had been only 14 cases of bribery recorded in all the law books of the United States. The offense was not unknown, but it went unpunished. That is no longer. Today every state in the American Union is prosecuting takers of bribes. That shows moral regeneration, and that the spirit of civic righteousness now abroad will not die out.

We will pass from sordid commercialism to an age of high ideals. Already wealth is not worshiped with the same devotion as of old, and you can see to-day the spectacle of the richest old man in the world a beggar for sympathy. Since I have been governor I have been impressed with the scarcity of men. When you go out to try and find a man for a place you have a difficult proposition on your hands. You young men and women will make possible the real and permanent reform of America. Make up your minds to do your duty to your country, and remember that the hoodler who bribes justice for his own profit is a greater enemy of your country than the invader who comes with ships and armies.

Honest Wealth.

From the Wall Street Journal. "Honest graft."—Plunkitt. "Honest poverty."—Andrew Carnegie. Plunkitt believes in getting rich by political "pull," though carefully avoiding any "monkeying with the pen and ink." Mr. Carnegie, although one of the three or four richest men in the world, says that it is "honest, pov-

erty and the inspiration to progress that goes with it upon which our sound principles of democracy must stand. There is, however, one thing better than honest poverty, and it is: Honest wealth.

Wealth that represents industry, frugality, patience, skill; wealth that enriches the world even more than the possession; wealth acquired by strict adherence to moral and economic law; wealth that is used beneficently and not displayed in lavishness and wantonness of living; in utter disregard of the rights of others; wealth that is kept within reasonable bounds and not made the object of suspicion and fear; it is honest wealth that makes a great nation.

Every Year.

By Albert Pike. The spring has less of brightness, Every year; And the snow a chastier whiteness, Every year; The autumn flowers quicken, Nor do the autumn fruits thicken, As they once did, for they sicken, Every year. It is growing darker, colder, Every year; As the heart and soul grow older, Every year; I care not now for dancing, Or for eyes with passion glancing, Love is less and less entrancing, Every year. "You are growing old," they tell us, "Every year;" "You are more alone," they tell us, "Every year;" You can win no new affection; You have only recollection, Desperer sorrow and dejection, Every year. Yes! the shores of life are shifting, Every year; And we are seaward drifting, Every year; Old places, changing, frat us, The living more forget us, There are fewer to regret us, Every year. But the truer life draws nigher, Every year; And its morning star climbs higher, Every year; Earth's hold on us grows slighter, And the heavy burden lighter, And the dawn innocent brighter, Every year.

THE PLAN IS NOT PRACTICAL.

ANYONE unfamiliar with the real conditions at the mouth of the Columbia river might easily be led to suppose that the plan proposed by Governor Semple of Washington for avoiding the existing obstacles to navigation is meritorious and worthy of serious consideration. As a matter of fact the plan is based on a radical misconception of the problem to be solved.

The suggestion is in brief that a canal be constructed 15 miles in length, extending southward from the Columbia river, just above its mouth, to Necanicum creek and through the creek to the ocean. It is proposed that a breakwater shall be constructed so as to ensure smooth water at the mouth of the canal. Vessels would no longer cross the bar at the mouth of the Columbia but would avoid it altogether by a flank movement through the canal.

One all-important fact is completely ignored by Governor Semple and it is alone sufficient to render his project impracticable. This fact is that the Columbia river is not caused chiefly by the deposit of silt brought down by the river current, but is the result of a condition which prevails all along the coast and which would be as serious a factor at the mouth of the Necanicum as at the mouth of the Columbia. The ocean currents which sweep along the coast carry in suspension vast quantities of sand. Where the currents strike an obstacle the sand is deposited, forming shoals or bars. The purpose of the jetty at the mouth of the Columbia is two-fold: First, to confine the river to a fixed channel, and second, to act as a barrier against the drifting sand which sweeps up the coast. The powerful current of the Columbia is an invaluable aid to the work of the jetty. The scour of the current maintains the depth of the channel which, without it, would soon become choked.

Governor Semple's plan is based on the assumption that the bar is caused chiefly by the deposit of silt brought down by the river and he does not take into account the drifting sands of the ocean which are the great factor in the situation. The attempt to deepen the mouth of the Necanicum creek would at once encounter this formidable difficulty that as fast as the channel was excavated it would be filled by the ocean sands. There would be no scour by a powerful river current, as there is at the mouth of the Columbia, to aid in keeping the channel open and only by unremitting work could it be kept in a navigable condition.

The people of the Pacific northwest are profoundly interested in the completion of the government work at the mouth of the Columbia, along the lines on which it has been commenced. The time is critical, for only by united effort can the continuance of the work be assured. Makeshift substitutes for the carefully considered plans of the government engineers are to the last degree inopportune and undesirable.

ONE SMALL SYMPTOM OF REFORM.

RUSSIA has always been behind the rest of the world, literally, as well as figuratively. Socially and politically it has long been several centuries behind.

Speaking by the calendar, Russia is 13 days behind; but among the reforms proposed is a change of the calendar. Mr. Witte is a progressive man, and he for his today in Russia has decided that the Gregorian shall be substituted for the Julian calendar.

The Julian calendar, which became a Russian institution with the Greek church, was established by the first and greatest Caesar in 45 B. C. and remained in force until reformed by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. The new and true Gregorian calendar has since been accepted by all the world save that part owing allegiance to the Greek church. This sweeping away of an old calendar with the old social and political order has been seen before. The first French republic tried the experiment, with results that did not long endure, for Bonaparte speedily restored the old. The Russian revolutionists are showing much the same wish to make a new world "while you wait" that actuated the thorough-going French reformers of '93, and the Gregorian calendar has done duty for three centuries and a quarter may soon be considered antiquated.

In several ways, history is repeating itself. France is re-operating in Russia! Must Russia go through the same terrific experiences to reach the goal of a constitutional government?

The Eclipse of the Trotter.

From the New York World.

Hardened lovers of harness racing will be moved to grief at the thought of a great trotting stallion like Cresco selling for a paltry \$21,000. It is only two or three years since he was making new world's records, some of which still hold good. Have the good old days forever passed, when champion trotters commanded prices on a par with those paid for the kings of the turf?

Think of the figures at which Senator Stanford's horses were quoted in the palm days of Palo Alto! Even the mare Sunol sold for \$40,000. Thirteen years ago J. Malcolm Forbes, the Boston millionaire, paid \$125,000 for Arion, whose best record is 2:07 1/2. Three years earlier Astor (2:12) had brought \$105,000. To be sure, E. E. Smathers gave \$40,000 for the gelding Major Delmar, and last year W. Simpson \$50,000 for McKinney. But that only makes the price paid for Cresco, the conqueror on so many tracks, look the smaller.

The truth of the matter is, the public has lost interest in the trotter. As a racing machine he falls to arouse the enthusiasm of former days.

Morrow County Crops.

From the Heppner Times. The Morrow county farmers are very well pleased with the present prospects for a big grain crop the coming season. The seeding generally is all done and a great portion of the wheat is up and had a good start to growing before the freezing weather set in, while sufficient moisture has fallen for the present needs of the grain, which is certainly in a very favorable condition for a good yield. The acreage is also much larger than ever before and with an average season the wheat crop will be a bumper one.

Facts About Marriages.

From Harper's Weekly. The historical facts concerning marriage as an institution are probably only vaguely known to the majority of people, most of whom would doubtless be surprised to learn that the institution as we know it today is less than 100 years old. Histories of the marriage ceremony show that it was not solemnized in church as a religious rite until the time of Pope Innocent III. A. D. 1198, and was not considered a sacrament until 1444.

THE MAN—JEROME

Collier's for November 25 contains an admirable sketch of Mr. William Travers Jerome, the re-elected district attorney of New York City, who made such an admirable run as an independent candidate, and best the bosses of every party. Mr. Edwin Bjorkman, who writes the article, says in part:

"Jerome is first of all a teller of the truth, one of the men as is the universal truth, but of particular, individual, immediately applicable truths that concern the present day and place. Next he is a fighter. He was born to battle, and there is nothing that pleases him more than to fight. He is the illegitimate son of some high personage," scoffed his enemies. He did not reply. Then tales were told of his pride. A despicable man had presumed to cross the street in front of his carriage, causing the driver to slacken speed for a moment. "An insult to me," said General Trepoft, "arrest the man!"

Instantly hands were laid on the presumptuous citizen who had not scuttled out of the way with due respect. The scene closed at the police station, when the old man, who had been vigorously abused by the general, proved himself to be a prince, an ex-governor-general of an important province, a state councillor, aid-de-camp to the emperor, etc. General Trepoft apologized.

More stories were told. He had insulted an Englishman of high rank. Once more his pride had been humbled by a reminder from the emperor. And again the people he scorned rubbed their hands and gloated over his discomfiture. Then the laughter ceased. Scorn turned into hate. They tried to kill him. Three attempts were made in a single week. A woman placed the muzzle of a pistol against his breast and pulled the trigger.

The pistol missed fire. Two days later a young man sprang upon the step of his carriage and lunged at him with a knife. The blow was ill aimed. The knife wounded a policeman. Trepoft was unharmed. Three attempts upon his life in one week would be enough to shake the nerves of most men, but General Trepoft had been accustomed to would-be assassinations.

Perhaps, like some of his enemies, he was beginning to believe that he was impervious alike to steel, powder and dynamite. Certainly it seemed that bullets could not touch him. One man fired three revolver shots at short range. One passed through the general's overcoat—but they missed. Bullets always had missed this man.

Yet, in spite of his assumed contempt, he must often have thought of his danger, for when it was announced that he would take command of a brigade in Manchuria he is reported to have said: "Since I must be shot at, I prefer to be a target for professional Japanese soldiers than for dirty amateurs."

Exploring Young's bay. November 30.—It cleared up about 9 o'clock and the sun shone for several hours. Others hunters are now sent out, and more and more are coming the day in drying our merchandise, so long exposed. Several of the men complained of disorders, which can be ascribed to their diet of pounded fish and seal blubber. Of other animals there is a great abundance. We see great quantities of snakes, lizards, worms and spiders, as well as small bugs, flies and other insects of different kinds. The hills along the coast are high and steep; the general covering is a growth of lofty pines of different species, some of which rise more than 200 feet, and are 10 or 12 feet in diameter near the root. Besides these trees we observe on the point a species of ash, the alder, the laurel, one species of wild crab, and a few black ducks of a species common in the United States, living in large flocks and feeding on grass; they are distinguished by a sharp white beak, and separate from the other birds. These waterfowl, there are in this neighborhood a large kind of buzzard with white wings, the gray and bald eagle, the large red-tailed hawk, the blue jay, and great numbers of ravens and crows. We observe, however, and small birds, the one which has most attracted our attention being a small brown bird, which seems to frequent the rocks and the roots of trees. Of other animals there is a great abundance. We see great quantities of snakes, lizards, worms and spiders, as well as small bugs, flies and other insects of different kinds. 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