

THE OREGON DAILY JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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

A SMALL MAN IN A GREAT PLACE.

TWO AMERICAN WOMEN. It was reported in yesterday's dispatches, were ordered out of Germany for the crime of "lese majeste," speaking ill or slightly of the kaiser. They were riding in a railway car and made some unreported remarks critical of the emperor, or some of the royal family, and these being overheard by an officer they were required forthwith to depart from the doughty monarch's domains. Perhaps they were on their way out, anyway, and perhaps, whether they were or not, they will not go till they get good and ready. This would be like some American women. And if they don't obey will the kaiser put them in prison, as he does his own subjects, for such an offense? And if so—but let us not picture a war between Germany and the United States over the incident. Very likely the women exhibited had taste, at least, and if their remarks were only chatter, the emperor, if he approves his officer's action, will exhibit, for not the first time by many, the inaccuracy of his conception of true greatness. He has scriptural authority for the position that common people should not speak evil of rulers—and he considers himself the greatest one in the world—yet since we are not in his domains we may say that to apply the tenet to the extent of deporting two gossiping American women shows that though he is great in name and position, he is on occasions foolishly final by nature and education.

A cablegram only a day or two earlier told of divers and sundry penalties inflicted on German subjects for offenses by chattering tongues against the emperor or members of his family, all of which cases show the emperor to exemplify notably Thackeray's aphorism: "How weak are the very wise; how very small the very great are." A stone mason was sent to jail for three months for disputing that Prince Albrecht was not the world's greatest military genius. A commercial traveler ventured to doubt the transcendent abilities of Prince Henry as a naval commander. Two months. And a reservist got 60 days for not "hoching" with sufficient volume of sound and vigor of enthusiasm when a toast of the kaiser was demanded, although he proved that he had an impediment in his speech, the court diagnosing the case as one of lingual or bronchial lese majeste.

These cases and similar ones constantly occurring show the kaiser to be a small, final man in a great position. He is about 300 years behind his proper time.

In the congressional delegation in Oregon there are three vacancies de facto, if not de jure—or is it the other way?

WHY, NO ONE CAN TELL.

WHY SOME PERSONS get along through life easily and enjoyably, for the most part, while others suffer severe and repeated disasters and afflictions, are victims of "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." It is one of the mysteries of human life that, though philosophy may hold it mere accident and theology may attribute it to providence, can never be satisfactorily explained or understood.

There died at a Portland hospital a few days ago a native of Norway named Sigward Nelson, at the age of 36, who, as appears on the surface of things, was especially ill-fated by fate, while thousands of his countrymen, apparently no more and some of them less deserving, have prospered in various ways. At the age of 12 Sigward came to America with his parents who settled in Minnesota, and at the age of 20, while helping to dig a well, a rope broke and he fell to the bottom, badly breaking a leg. The surgeon's job was poorly done, and after much suffering the leg was amputated below the knee. Later it was again cut off above the knee, and still later at the thigh. Altogether, as a result of the accident, he was confined to a bed for five years. Soon after he was able to get about and do something for himself, signs of tuberculosis appeared, and four or five years ago he came to Oregon, locating at Aurora, where he became the editor and proprietor of the local paper there, the Borealis, which he conducted until a short time before his death. For years he suffered agonizing pain, yet made an honorable living when possible to do so, was uncompaining if not cheerful, and his successor says "he was liked by all who knew him, and numbered his friends by the hundreds."

This simple story is told not that it is unprecedented or even very rare, but as one of the mysteries of human experience, and to utter a word of appreciation for a humble man with a heroic soul, who under stress of severe affliction "did what he could" and looked cheerful.

With many people, the president's message is only a matter of "words, words, words."

MARK TWAIN'S SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY.

AT THREESCORE AND TEN YEARS Mark Twain's fountain of delightful humor is apparently as full and fresh as ever. He is one of the people who when they arrive at this scriptural estimate of the ordinary life's limit are 70 years young, rather than 70 years old. The animating spirit of such people never grows old. "Age cannot wither nor custom stale" the infinite variety of its manifestations. Like other men, Mark Twain has grown old in surface looks, and has doubtless aged in mere physical feelings, for spite of his affectionate laziness and apparent immunity from trouble and sorrow, he has worked hard and has suffered; but the soul of him is ever genially fresh, and knows naught of the frosts that have gathered

Priceless Jewels of Obscure People. Lately there appears to have been a greater number than usual of jewel robberies and losses. The odd thing about these affairs is the wonderful frequency with which \$10,000 is given as the value of the lost or stolen gems. Let a west side flat be broken into by burglars, and their midnight toll rewarded with booty valued at \$10,000. Let a hole in a lady's reticule allow a package of jewels to drop out, and the loss is estimated at \$10,000. Presumably the amount is greater, but \$10,000 is apparently regarded as the general and irreducible minimum of value for missing jewels.

Not infrequently—even in this stage of trusts and insurance companies—the lost property is recovered, and the finder is surprised to note how much his estimate of its value falls below the figures given by the loser. The "jewels" are not infrequently of the "common" variety, and the finder is surprised to note how much his estimate of its value falls below the figures given by the loser. The "jewels" are not infrequently of the "common" variety, and the finder is surprised to note how much his estimate of its value falls below the figures given by the loser. The "jewels" are not infrequently of the "common" variety, and the finder is surprised to note how much his estimate of its value falls below the figures given by the loser.

upon his head or the trenches that time has plowed in his brow and cheeks.

Mark Twain has been and is more than a mere humorist. He is also a philosopher and a preacher. He has made millions of mankind innocently happier, and therefore better. He has caused sorrow to subside, ill-temper to turn to pleasantness, and even pain to be forgotten. He has delighted and instructed multitudes of children and youth, and has caused flower-fringed and melodiously rippling streams to flow at whilom hours along the paths of millions of men and women. Thus he has helped humanity and bettered the world.

As a humorist, Mark Twain has no counterpart, and we think has had no equal. Others may have brighter and better things temporarily, or in brief, but humor in literature so voluminous and so long sustained has not been displayed by any one. He has also written much in a serious or semi-serious vein, showing not an iconoclastic or narrowly limited mind, but one that while turning naturally toward the lighter paths of literature, has some flowers turn through the day toward the sun, studied and pondered the deeper things of life.

In common with many millions, we are glad this genial genius has lived so long, and hope that years of tranquil and comfortable life are yet before him.

In the matter of tariff revision and reform the president's message roars as softly as any cooing dove.

IT SURELY CAN BE DONE.

STILL ANOTHER and a very emphatic as well as an entirely credible voice has spoken out convincingly on the affirmative of the proposition that Portland merchants can get most of the Nome trade if they "go after it" and what is particularly true of Nome is only less true of other Alaska points. H. Y. Freedman, who formerly resided in Portland but for six years past has lived in the Nome region, said in a statement published in The Journal yesterday:

"Portland merchants have an opportunity to do an enormous business in the Nome country if they will only go after it. Government statistics show that over \$11,000,000 worth of merchandise was shipped into Alaska in the first nine months of this year, and Seattle is doing the biggest part of the business. Portland merchants can get the business if they will make an effort for it."

Portland business men seem not to realize the great volume of produce and merchandise necessary to be shipped into the Nome country, nor its present and prospective development, nor the great opportunity presented for them there and at other Alaska ports. There seems to be an impression or vague idea that Seattle is so much nearer to Nome that Portland is handicapped on that account, but if a man will take a look at the map he will see that this difference is appreciable. Seattle got the trade not because it is a trifle nearer but because her merchants went after it.

If Portland merchants will send representatives to that country in the spring, or as soon as communication is open, there is no doubt, from many reliable reports and statements which The Journal has published, that they can secure a very large share of the immense and very profitable Alaska trade. And from all accounts this trade, instead of being but temporary, will increase in volume for years to come. There it is, inviting Portland merchants to come after it. And here is Portland as near as Seattle, with a fresh water harbor, with bigger stores and stocks, and whose future depends largely on its volume of trade and commerce.

We believe that next year merchants of Portland will improve this splendid opportunity; and that partly as a result thereof we shall ere very long get a smelter and assay office, so that ships can bring returning cargoes.

The people who patronize Chinese "gin mills" may not be worthy of great consideration, but the city should not tolerate places where stuff is sold that causes such worse than imbrutement of creatures in the form of men. The saloon business ought not to be allowed to descend to so low a level, to such a depth of degradation, as is witnessed as a consequence, in part, of these cheap Chinese gin joints.

BETTER AVOID A FIGHT.

THE PRESENT SESSION of congress is one which will be followed with profound interest by the people of the country. The president's message joins the issue between the corporations and the people. Clearly and plainly he has set forth the popular wish regarding railroad regulation and passed the matter into the hands of congress.

It has been no mystery to the people for many years past that the trusts and corporations of the country exercised not merely an undue but a preponderating influence on legislation. It was an open secret that nothing inimical to their interests could be gotten through congress, no matter how much the public interests demanded it. In the past few years there has been a steady growth in the public sentiment that the corporations should be curbed in the exercise of the arbitrary power which they assumed and much of the material which caused that change of sentiment came directly from the corporations themselves.

There is no present disposition to take undue advantage of the corporations but there is a determination to get for the public at least a little of what is legitimately due it. This will probably provoke one of the biggest fights which has lately been seen in congress. The corporations would be wise in avoiding much trouble along this line for it is either a case of making these concessions now or facing a much more drastic condition a year or two hence.

Fairy Tale Lessons.

From the London Mail. Are fairy books fit reading for elementary scholars? This question has been raised by the Duchess of Somerset, who, on visiting the village school at Malden Bradley, found the children reading tales of the type of "The Sleeping Beauty." At a meeting of the Mergboard of guardians, where the question of education was discussed, the duchess expressed the opinion that it would be much more useful, instead of filling the children's minds with such nonsense, tales were read to them about Julius Caesar and other great men. It appears, however, that the teachers at Malden Bradley school are in good company. In the infant schools of the London county council the following among other books of a similar nature, are read as class lessons: "Aesop's Fables," "Daisy and Her Dolls," "Beauty and the Beast," "Gulliver's Travels," and "A Book of Fairy Tales." An official of the London county council, in defending this class of reading, said it was deliberately selected for children of a certain age as being decidedly useful, and on the whole more beneficial than heavier and more informing books, or even authentic history of the great Julius Caesar.

SMALL CHANGE

Hard winter weather—to beat.

Secretary Root is also quite a traveler. Having been to Labrador, he is going to Brazil, perhaps to crack some hard nuts.

We do hope congress won't overwork.

A Denver bride packed her husband in her trunk when she started on her honeymoon. Good scheme. Thus she knew where to find him when wanted, and kept him out of her way when not wanted.

More and bigger buildings yet next year.

When a person reads the president's message through, he is likely to be so exhausted that he can't tell what, if anything, he thinks about it.

The Tanner creek sewer is about to break out again. Apparently the Tanner creek sewer will always be Portland's biggest white elephant.

Mrs. Kerns, from whom a footpad snatched a purse containing \$37, of which he spilled \$22 in the darkness, which she found at dawn next morning, probably believes in the adage that "the early bird catches the worm." She was on the ground a few seconds before the thief arrived on the same errand, and she secured the \$22 worm.

Cut up the big landholdings.

The Democrats in congress can amuse themselves by making tariff speeches and frequently voting no.

It is a good time to begin thinking of worthy people who can't buy Christmas presents and feasts.

Still more resignations of officers of life insurance companies would be acceptable.

Oregon's representatives are conspicuous by their absence.

The mayor of Olathe, Kansas, receives a salary of \$1 a year. Most any mayor ought to earn that much.

Good-bye turkey for a year.—Albany Democrat. No money left for turkey on Christmas?

A kind of revival needed is one that will induce people to prevent the diptheria, scarlet fever and smallpox that every winter are prevalent in Oregon.

Governor-Senator La Follette gets into the papers nearly as often as Tom Lawson.

Big things will be doing in Oregon next year.

John D. Rockefeller has been offered a temporary job at \$3 a day as grand jurymen, and the money thus earned, if he doesn't need it at home, will come in handy for buying tracts for his Sunday school.

Albany, says the Democrat, "is the main car distributing point in the Willamette valley. The other day 53 cars arrived there for distribution to other points."

The Grand Ronde Electric company will put in near Imbler a \$14,000 pumping plant to irrigate 5,000 acres, which is to be planted to sugar beets.

The farmers of Crook county have been enjoying an ideal fall and one that gives a most promising outlook for the next crop, provided the winter season is accompanied by sufficient rain and snow so that moisture may be stored up for the long, dry summer season.

Considerable celery is raised around Bandon.

Bandon Record: Some of the Coos Bayites are having an awful time deciding the question whether they are to have a 30-foot or a 40-foot channel on the bar. Over here on the Coquille we are not doing any kicking, but "swaying wood," and the day is not far off when we will have all the water we need and all we want.

A Gold Hill turkey weighed, dressed, 25 pounds.

More dwelling-houses needed in Aurora.

An Eugene man sold 2,600 turkeys last week in Seattle.

Two sets of timber cruisers are now at work in Wallawa county and timber claims are in great demand.

Some real winter up in Wallawa county, but nearly everybody is prosperous and happy.

Ashland authorities still going after blind piggers.

The receipts of fines and forfeitures in Astoria last month were only \$20, indicating that the city by the sea, that claims 14,000 inhabitants, is really becoming good.

The S. P. company will drill 2,000 feet in the Ashland yards, if necessary, to secure plenty of water.

HOLLAND SAYS HEARST IS AN ENIGMA

Holland's New York Letter in Philadelphia Press.

New York, Nov. 26.—In a play now on a local stage that has pleased so well that many are tempted to go a second or even a third time, the comedy part is played by a droll actor, who uses local episodes with no little tact.

Thus, he refers to "Little Mac," pausing a moment, but receiving only gentle applause. Then, again, he speaks of "Jerome" and the response is hearty and enthusiastic. A third time he ventures, not mentioning any name, except to say something about the "bogey man." For a moment the audience does not catch the meaning. When it does, the personal reference then then comes an indescribable, half-amused, partly serious, partly embarrassed or wondering demonstration, and that exactly describes the varying sentiments now prevailing in his community respecting the recent candidate for mayor, who is contesting the presumed election of McClellan.

For it is to Mr. Hearst that the comedian makes, and in a very kindly way, allusion, and there are many in this community who have come to think of Mr. Hearst as in childhood they thought fearfully of the bogey man.

That feeling was somewhat little softened yesterday when some of the members of a political organization met at a luxurious hotel. All of these members are women who have associated themselves in a woman's Republican club.

There came to this city this week some information from Harvard university, where Mr. Hearst spent some years as a student. This was in the form of a recollection, by a fellow student, for Harvard in a certain confidential way and unofficially has informed New York that Mr. Hearst is a man who must hereafter be reckoned with by the student body, and possibly by statesmen. In that statement is contained the prediction. With it came some recollection of Mr. Hearst's curious and yet successful struggles with the curriculum at Harvard university.

It seems that at first the faculty who were brought in contact with this young student did not understand him. Yet he was conspicuous the moment he entered because he was recognized as the son of one of the many millionaires rich men of California, who was also in public life serving as United States senator. Harvard professes to be democratic, and yet no student of hers who is the heir presumptive to \$20,000,000 or more escapes a certain distinction of classification, which has some aristocratic features.

But the students at Harvard soon discovered that while their associate and fellow student was to have wealth in abundance, nevertheless, he made no pretense because of these expectations, or because of the liberal allowance he had declared, and he seemed, however, to be of an unusual, dreamy, recluse-like disposition, although utterly unlike the secluded life which James Hazen Hyde is reported to have led at Harvard.

Young Hearst did not seek the seclusion of the library with the fine frenzy of a book lover or book worm. He appeared to be wholly his own master, and his fellow students did not understand him. He was not untidy or uncleanly, but he lived apart.

The formalities of the lecture and recitation room, and the strict discipline of the curriculum as directed by professors and lecturers, seemed to chafe upon Hearst, and at first the faculty were of the opinion that he was at college because he was forced to go and not because he wanted to.

But there came after a time, peculiar, unwonted flashes of intellectual brilliancy, which caused the faculty, all unknown to Hearst, slowly to observe him. A comparative failure in the lecture or recitation hall, nevertheless, he was capable of and did write some of the most brilliant examination papers that ever passed under the scrutinizing eye of a Harvard professor.

There was the study of geology, the dry routine of which seemed to appall young Hearst. Judging from the conventional recitation room standard, he was to be a failure in that study, but at last it was discovered that under the companionship of a tutor and discarding text books, excepting as they were necessary for their nomenclature, the student Hearst, wearing, tapping rocks with a geologist's hammer, studying strata and rock formation, exploring the fields and rocky hills beyond Cambridge and extending those excursions far away.

The student seemed fascinated with the story of granite and flint and sandstone as he read it in nature's book, and he delivered to the faculty of Harvard an examination day a paper that would have justified the prediction that a young geologist was with them who some day would take the place so long filled by Dana, first among American geologists.

There were other anecdotes telling of Hearst's Harvard life. They were all in sympathy with that strange and unexplainable career, and "matured man" seems to have marked out for himself since he came to New York.

For almost every one, Mr. Hearst is an enigma. Even those who were associated with him in the recent campaign seem not to fully understand him. One of the keenest of the Republican politicians, who gave close study to the Municipal Ownership organization, as well as to Mr. Hearst's career in congress, declared to a company of men of strong minds and of great experience that it was impossible for him to fathom Hearst's purposes.

Others have thought that they detected in his career and especially in the plausibly brilliant editorial appeals that were in his newspaper, an overwrought ambition for leadership in some great moral or intellectual agitation that may compare with the leadership in the moral and political and social agitation which at last freed the United States from the curse of slavery, although civil war was entailed before that could be done.

Those who thus reason take very seriously Mr. Hearst's iterated statements that of the \$9,000,000 of population there are perhaps 8,000,000 who are abundant in intelligence, but who are unable or by good luck to take care of themselves and of their families, while on the other hand, all of the rest are struggling, battling constantly for a living, and straining every nerve that they may get so far ahead as to have some sense of independence.

THE WEST COMING INTO ITS HERITAGE

From the Wall Street Journal.

In the northwestern and Pacific states railway projects and the building of new railway, and the expenditure of well over \$200,000,000. At the end of 1904 the northwestern and Pacific states combined had about 23,000 miles of railway with a combined bonded debt of \$1,277,000,000 and a stock debt of \$1,200,000,000. It appears, therefore, that the mileage under way or projected for immediate construction in these states amounts in the aggregate to about 20 per cent of the mileage existing in these states at the end of 1904.

There is plenty of room for such building. Five of the central northern states—Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, contained within their borders at the end of 1904 over 60,000 miles of road, as compared with the 26,000 miles of the northwestern and Pacific coast states.

The growth of the country at the present time does not center upon the eastern states or the states of the middle district, but upon the states that lie west of a line drawn from Chicago to New Orleans. The mighty west is still an undeveloped equity in the balance sheet of our national wealth. That it is magnificent in its possibilities has been proven by the glorious results that have followed the first turning of its soil.

As standing monuments to its resources and development there may be cited the Great Northern Railway company, the Atchafalpa Railway company and the Canadian Pacific Railway company. These railways drove their lines through territory absolutely virgin. They made their country as they went along. All the trails in the north country lead to the Great Northern, and it was upon the local business that followed these trails that Mr. Hill's fortune was built in the ultimate destiny of the Great Northern.

The northwestern states are growing today in population, wealth, resources and industry as rapidly, as certainly and as conservatively as they have ever grown. Their growth is founded upon not any fever for sudden wealth, such as brought the gold rush to the front in 1849, nor yet upon any such feverish activity as followed the opening of the Indian Territory in more recent years, but is based upon the broadest and most solid foundation upon which national prosperity can be based. The secret of the great northwest is the secret of a working race. In general its resources are not such as to give its pioneers promise of sudden wealth. The men who have made great fortunes in that country have made them by self-denial, by courage, by slow development of stubborn resources. The timber lands of Washington and Oregon, the wheat fields of the Dakotas and Montana, the salmon fisheries of the north coast, the coal mines of British Columbia are not equities that can be quickly turned into cash. They must be coaxed and humored. Men must live years of their lives and all their fortunes to the battle.

This is the genius and the spirit of the great northwest. It is upon the basis of such labor, such self-sacrifice, such courage and such patience that the destinies of these great states are being built. It is to further this destiny, to reach the golden age of the nation, to open up the country that capitalists of the world are willing to put over \$200,000,000 of new money into railway projects of the mighty west. That success will follow, no one who knows these states will doubt. That it will redound to the credit of the states and bring them to a mightier place in the politics, commerce and affairs of the union is almost axiomatic. The west is coming into its heritage.

THE LAUREL AS THE NATIONAL FLOWER

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox. (Copyright, 1905, by W. R. Hearst.)

Mrs. Edward Foots Thompson of East Haven, Conn., has been elected to the position of Connecticut and at a recent federated club convention she set forth her reasons for proposing the laurel as the national flower of America. Her enlightening suggestion, I had labored under the impression that the golden rod had been selected and accepted as our emblem.

It is an old and well-known mistake. The golden rod is suggestive of decay. We never see it until the year has begun its decline.

For a young country like America this would be an inappropriate emblem. Then the golden rod, according to report, is unhygienic, and by many people considered unsafe to use in interior decorations, because of some unhealthy property it contains.

It is probably only an idea, but we want no flower for our symbol which can be even so misunderstood. The golden rod has no fragrance. It is a woman without faith.

However beautiful and brilliant, it is disappointing. It is incomplete. The laurel is exquisitely fragrant; it is beautiful whether in bud or in bloom; it is suggestive of all the arts, and from time immemorial has been used as a symbol of success—a crown for the victor.

Its significance in this one respect should make it the accepted emblem for our great and growing nation. The laurel, some species of it (so its cultivation), grows in all parts of the country.

It was missing from California until the plant wizard, Burbank, introduced it there. Now, give it the royal seal of our nation. It will no doubt become a more wonderful laurel than the world has heretofore seen.

The laurel is a beautiful in midwinter as in midsummer and ever-lasting and that is another significant quality for our national flower.

Nothing could be better; nothing more attractive; nothing more appropriate for a young nation, as it is to become the national flower. An industry in the cultivation of the beautiful plant would follow.

Healthful and attractive employment should be afforded many people. When Washington made his triumphal ride from Philadelphia to New York he passed through arches wreathed with laurel.

All the women's clubs agitate the idea until it is accepted. The power of the women's clubs of America once focused on any idea would carry it through with the force of an electric current.

Never was there an era when women possessed such influence as today. They do not realize it, or half use it. Let them make a use of it now as they have the ability to decide a long-unsolved question.

LEWIS AND CLARK

Weather-bound on Point William.

December 6.—It rained all night and the wind blew from the southwest, so that the sea was still too rough for us to proceed. The wind shifted to the westward, higher than it did yesterday and obliged us to move our camp to a high situation. Here we remained waiting for better weather, till about dark the wind shifted to the north, and the prospect of being able to leave our situation, and indeed, some rain fell in the course of the night.

Klamath Will Stay in Oregon.

From the Klamath Falls Express. A good deal of commotion has been published hereabouts on the alleged desire of Klamath county to secede from Oregon and join her forces with California. This tempest in a teapot originated in the stimulation of the Oregonian correspondent at this point, and has no basis in fact.

The people of Klamath county are now as loyal in their allegiance to Oregon as they ever were. They have no intention of changing their allegiance to our neighboring state on the south.

Of course, the people of this section cannot be blamed for trading where they can do the best, and a better market than Portland, under existing transportation facilities, is the only reason they favor the former. Under like conditions the people of this section would prefer to trade with Portland and be affiliated commercially, as well as politically, with the metropolis of their commonwealth.

It is simply a case of San Francisco being a better market for the products of the commercial advantages to be gained and retained in this section by furnishing adequate transportation facilities to connect the Klamath basin with these rival cities.

A Thankful Editor.

From the Freewater Times. As the next issue of the Times comes out the day after Thanksgiving day, we are going to express our thanks this week. We are thankful even though our only shirt is dirty, that it is ours. We are thankful for the weather man, for we have only one blanket. Thankful are we to our delinquent subscribers for they teach us economy. We are, indeed, thankful for these dark nights, for our wood was getting scarce. We wait to express our thanks to our advertisers, for they are so few that we don't have to set ads on Sunday. We are thankful that our subscription list is so small, for we don't have to keep books, we can remember 'em. Thankful are we to the railroad company, for they didn't charge us for walking to this town. Rise, brethren, and sing number 4-1-4.

Hitchcock.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock may not be the most popular man in the cabinet, but he has stood in the way of more grafters and schemers than all of his portfolio associates.