

THE OREGON DAILY JOURNAL

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A LESSON FROM ASTORIA.

THAT THE TENDENCY in Oregon is sharply to raise the standard of public service and that the only thing required to accomplish it is the disposition on the part of those with authority to do it, is well demonstrated in the case of Mayor Surprenant of Astoria whose untimely death was recorded yesterday.

In many respects Astoria seemed to present a very unpromising field for reform agitation and work: it is a seaport with the looseness characteristic of such towns and has a large foreign population to whom such ideals do not strongly appeal.

Indeed, there is in the whole affair, food for thought as well as gratification for all sections of the state. The people of Oregon do not want to be judged by the standards of the gamblers and their natural allies. They are keeping step with the march of progress throughout the country and they wish to maintain clean governments.

TURNING BACK THE DIAL OF PROGRESS.

THE PERSPIRING PATRIOTS who constitute the committee of forty will find a difficult task ahead of them. It is their purpose to rekindle the fires of partisanship, that unreasonable and hide-bound partisanship which exercises no reason and follows blindly the dictates of some party boss who is usurping the people's rights and using them for his own selfish ends.

Several recent new laws curtail the almost tyrannical powers which the bosses have heretofore exercised. Through the initiative and referendum it is possible for a majority to pass whatever laws they see fit without reference to the legislature, just as they have the power to defeat laws that have been passed by the legislature.

realize what is afoot the conspirators will find it a very difficult task to accomplish. All laws of this character which have recently been placed upon the statute books have for their purpose the getting back into the hands of the voters much of the power which heretofore they have delegated to their official trustees who have proven so recreant to the trust reposed in them.

Everywhere throughout the country the tendency is to destroy boss and machine rule. It has been found to be the most vicious and indefensible barnacle that has ever been engrafted on the body politic.

PORTLAND AND OREGON'S NEW SPIRIT.

FAR AND AWAY the most significant and gratifying feature of the new conditions which now surround Portland and Oregon is the new tone of the people themselves. There was a time when the people of Oregon were inclined to accept as a matter of course the many blessings which nature showered upon them.

But this is no longer true. Portland and Oregon people now realize the great destiny of both. They are proud of what nature has done for them and they fully realize the obligation thus imposed to make the most of it. Hence it is that we have a newer Oregon and newer Portland and that everybody is united in the determination to make a Greater Oregon and a Greater Portland.

PORTLAND SHOULD DO ITS DUTY.

THE WHOLESALE DEALERS and jobbers of this city have received official communications from the business men of Prineville calling attention to the manner in which they have been misrepresented by the Oregonian. Many of these letters have been written by men whose standing, financial or otherwise, cannot be brought into question.

Sorry.

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox. (Copyright, 1905, by W. K. Hearst.) There is much that makes me sorry as I journey down life's way. And I seem to see more paths in poor human lives each day.

Confidence in the Pilot.

From the Chicago Evening Post. The president's message contains general sailing orders drawn up by Master Pilot Roosevelt to enable the ship of state to navigate through the waters of honor to the haven of prosperity.

Fashionable Now.

From the Philadelphia Press. Bowing to the will of the people is the most fashionable thing in politics this year.

SMALL CHANGE

We hope Salem will in five years double in population. It can and should. It is happily situated.

LEADS IN QUANTITY, NOT QUALITY.

James Greelman in New York World. It was of the titanic struggle between Germany and the United States in steel-making—the basic industry of the world—that Charles M. Schwab was speaking.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Get a 40-acre farm in Oregon. Brownsville Times: It requires very little brains to criticize. One of the easiest things in the world is to say what you would do if you were in second-hand place.

LEWIS AND CLARK

At Fort Clatsop. December 16.—The five men who joined us this morning had been more unlucky, for in addition to the rain which had poured down upon them all night, they had no fire, and drenched and cold as they were when they reached us, exhibited a most distressing sight.

PERSONAL FANCIES

The Marchioness of Ormonde possesses a gold plate service 389 years old, which is the most valuable of its kind in Great Britain.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Mental Chaos. Portland, Dec. 13.—To the Editor of The Journal: Perhaps it is preposterous to imagine that a person in the common walk of life, from here to here, is an estimable and learned person like Professor Edgar L. Larkin.

Also Demand a Recount.

From the New York World. There is a disgusting rumor that New York's 400 have shrunk to 75. Those who have been counted out will probably demand a recount.

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