

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
C. S. JACKSON, Publisher
Published every evening (except Sunday) and every Sunday morning at The Journal Building, Fifth and Yamhill streets, Portland, Ore.

Subscription Terms by mail to any address in the United States, Canada or Mexico
DAILY \$2.00 (One month) \$5.00
SUNDAY \$1.00 (One month) \$2.50
DAILY AND SUNDAY \$7.50 (One month) \$18.00

There is nothing little to the really great in spirit.—Dickens.

RAILROADS WIN PARTIAL VICTORY.

THE HARRIMAN forces won what they manifestly consider a great victory in the house at Salem Monday, and while balked in the senate yesterday appear confident at this writing of carrying their point as to the appointment of the railroad commission by a board, and their election thereafter.

By this result, since a commission could not be defeated, the railroad forces have striven and schemed, in every possible way, during the session. Their organ in Portland has to the extent of its malign ability seconded their efforts, and sought to prevent any reformatory or regulative railroad legislation. It chortles with glee now at the possible defeat of the Chapin bill, an amendment calculated to weaken it and render it comparatively worthless, and it loads with praises the leaders of the railroad forces in the legislature, who have used partisanship to defeat a very important feature of a bill demanded almost unanimously by the people of Oregon.

If the bill passes as amended in the house by the votes of some members who mysteriously changed their position at the last moment, it may accomplish some good, but one of its best and most necessary features will be lacking, and it will have been cut out by the "railroad forces," led by Speaker Davey.

SHOWING FAVORITISM.

IF THE Oregonian can get its spite bill through the legislature repealing the gas franchise, it desires that no other perpetual franchise be repealed by that body. A perpetual franchise is a very bad thing, in its estimation, if it is held by people against whom the proprietors of the Oregonian have a personal or business grudge, but is not bad enough to be noticed if held by Mr. Harriman or any other of the business friends of the Oregonian. It is argued that the gas franchise stands on a different footing, and that other franchises can be repealed by the city council, but this is only a newspaper opinion, and perhaps not an honest one at that.

A STAR CHAMBER PRACTICE.

REPRESENTATIVE CRUMPACKER'S bill to give people accused of fraud in the use of the mails a chance to be heard in their defense, a "day in court," that has passed the house and is pending in the senate, seems to be one entirely meritorious, and that ought to pass without objection before congress adjourns. Under the present law and practice a departmental "fraud order" puts a man out of business without any chance to defend himself in a court. It is an ex parte proceeding, the result of secret investigation on the part of postoffice agents, who are not averse to make a reputation, and while it may be assumed that their reports are usually well founded and correct, the practice is a bad one, and contrary to the Democratic spirit of our institutions.

The trouble is that if a mistake has been made the injured party is without a remedy. No appeal from the decision of the postmaster general is allowed. He combines in his own person the functions of judge, jury and executioner, and when he has spoken the rest is silence. One who has been convicted of murder and sentenced to death can appeal from one court to another to an extent which appears to be solely limited by his financial resources and the ingenuity of his counsel, but when a mail exclusion order has been issued there is nothing to do but submit.

This, says the Philadelphia Inquirer, "may tend to promote the effectiveness which the postmaster general exercises for the public good, but such official absolutism is not in harmony with our institutions, and it jars the American sense of right and wrong. An order which means the ruin of the interests to which it applies ought to be reviewable under conditions carefully framed to prevent the privilege being abused, and the passage of the pending bill, assuming that it does not work the suspension of the order appealed from pending a final decision seems a mere matter of justice."

PORT OF COLUMBIA.

THERE IS some objection down in Columbia and more particularly in Clatsop county to the Port of Columbia bill now before a select committee consisting of the members from those counties and Multnomah. This bill proposes in effect to extend the Port of Portland to take in Columbia and Clatsop counties, so that they as well as Multnomah shall contribute to the improvement of the channel of the lower Columbia.

The bill is a reasonable one, and ought to pass as it was drawn, for these other counties have a large interest in a deep channel to the sea, as well as Multnomah. But if it is impossible thus to extend the territory of the present Port of Portland and make it the Port of Columbia, the necessary tax should nevertheless be raised within the present territory of the Port of Portland.

Members of the Multnomah delegation cannot afford to miss enacting a measure for raising the necessary revenue because of the objection and obstruction of Clatsop and Columbia counties. If they will not help, as they should or cannot be made to help, then Portland must go on with this work alone, as it has done heretofore, until the desired and necessary channel is secured.

STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR OPEN RIVERS.

EXPENDITURE by Oregon, Washington and Idaho, in conjunction with the federal government, in opening up the upper Columbia and Snake rivers, is becoming a very live question in these three states. Such action would be unusual if not unprecedented, and some look upon the project doubtfully, on the theory that such work is wholly the general government's and fearing that the more the states spend the less the government will spend.

That this work properly belongs to the general government and not the states to do nobody disputes, but the question is whether, recognizing that fact, the states should not, in their own interest, aid the government, and so hasten the work to completion, or to such a point of improvement as will open up the upper rivers to navigation a portion of the year and so afford river competition to the upper country as soon as possible. It is a growing belief that such appropriations would be a most excellent investment, and ought to be made.

Nor is it likely that the federal government will decrease its appropriations if the states offer aid. On the other hand the probability and presumption are that such action on the part of these states would be a strong inducement to congress to make even more liberal appropriations, on the theory that states that thus help themselves are deserving of liberal federal aid. In this respect the Columbia and Snake rivers are in a different class from the Willamette, which is entirely within one state and has no competitor from other states.

If these appropriations should be

made it would be well to place the funds at the disposal of the government, rather than that the states should separately carry on the work. Then the states will have no salaries to pay, and will make no blunders. Uncle Sam's work may be slow, but it is sure, and his men in charge of such work know what they are about.

The state of Washington is pretty sure to make a liberal appropriation for this purpose, and respecting it the Seattle Post-Intelligencer says: "Citizens of the state, irrespective of locality, who are interested in the upbuilding of this great commonwealth should applaud and approve the appropriation measure for the improvement of the Columbia and Snake rivers. The intelligent opinion of western Washington certainly is in favor of such improvement. We realize here, far better than many of the worthy gentlemen who constitute the membership of the legislature from the eastern part of the state have seemed to do, the merit of such undertakings, and there is no such petty jealousy here of any great and meritorious public undertaking in any other part of the state."

In simple justice Oregon should be credited with a large expenditure already made, partly for the benefit of Washington and Idaho. Not only did Oregon build and will extend the portage road above Celilo, but the Port of Portland has expended about a million and a half on the lower channel, work of direct, distinct benefit to eastern Washington and Idaho. But Oregon cannot afford to be final about this. The important thing is to get the rivers open, and if this can be accomplished the money expended in doing so will come back many fold.

PREPENSIBLE TACTICS.

THE MOST insidious and reprehensible means yet taken by the railroad interests, through their Portland organ, to defeat a railroad regulation law, is that which endeavors by indifferently masked suggestions to make it appear that the Chapin bill is a Portland bill, and therefore to arouse or justify opposition to it on the part of members of the legislature from other counties than Multnomah. There is even yet in some parts of the state some sediments of commercial antagonism to Portland, and the railroad organ has sought on several occasions to stir these up into an instrument of hostility to the Chapin bill. A few days ago this journalistic enemy of the people argued, inferentially, that without such a law interior towns might get terminal rates, and later it gives much space and prominence to alleged hostility to the bill aroused by requests of lumber manufacturers for its passage.

These are disreputable methods to employ to defeat the people's demand, but not more so than might have been expected from their source. The Chapin bill is not one in the interest of Portland any more than of other parts of the state, and not as much so as of portions of western Oregon. It is demanded by the people of the Willamette valley and southern Oregon even more earnestly than by Portland. And any public or prominent man or newspaper that seeks to create or foment hostility between Portland and other sections of the state for the purpose of defeating a law demanded by all sections and in the interest of almost all the people is a public enemy, a traitor to Oregon.

Among the bills of merit that appropriate money is the one in aid of carrying on the topographic and hydrographic survey of the state, in conjunction with the general government. Only one-sixth of the surface of the state has been thus surveyed, and it is of much importance that this work be more rapidly prosecuted. The state has hitherto appropriated only \$5,000 a year for this work, but it is evident that a much larger amount would be money well expended, and would be of great benefit to various classes of settlers and investors. Some facts showing this, published in The Journal Sunday, are worthy of the attention of the members of the legislature.

Though there is quite a period this time of year without prolonged school vacations, the pupils get a few days off on account of teachers' institutes. Shouldn't there be a law prohibiting school sessions more than two weeks in succession, or requiring a week's vacation at least every month during the school year?

The government is going to prohibit papers that print objectionable evidence in the Thaw trial from transmission in the mails. But how does a government officer know what is too bad for circulation? Evidently in the opinion of the president a press censor is needed, but how is he going to be limited in his powers?

The death of Professor Thomas Condon at Eugene, the scene of many years of useful labor, removes one of Oregon's foremost educators, and for a long time the foremost one

in his special branch of knowledge, geology. Professor Condon's reputation as a well-informed, conscientious and helpful teacher, not only in the class room but in his writings, is national, and his death will be regretfully noted in many places outside the bounds of Oregon, where he has long been respected and loved.

The Journal is in receipt of a letter, with literature enclosed, from "the Massachusetts Association Opposed to the Further Extension of Suffrage to Women," but respectfully declines to discuss the subject at this time, as the people of Oregon, having passed through three woman suffrage campaigns, ought to be pretty well advised on the subject, and prepared to undergo another campaign which is promised next year.

The country is not agreed on the verdict that the Thaw jury should render, but is nearly unanimous in hoping that some agreement will be reached. A retrial would be literally "awful."

Great Britain's New Ambassador.

By Mrs. John A. Logan. The appointment of the Hon. James Bryce as successor to Sir Henry Mortimer Durand as ambassador from Great Britain to the United States is a representative of the high caliber of a woman who objected to the democratic methods of Sir Mortimer and his aggressive family. It is far more probable that Sir Mortimer desired a change for reasons it was his privilege to refrain from expressing to gratify a curious public.

In the selection of Hon. James Bryce King Edward VII has manifested much wisdom and demonstrated that the United States is no longer considered of secondary importance. Mr. Bryce is without a peer in England as a man of masterful ability, as an author and diplomat. He has studied the American government, people and institutions more assiduously perhaps than any of our own statesmen and political economists. His "American Commonwealth," a volume which is considered the ablest analysis and commentary ever written on the government of the United States and its institutions. His criticism cannot be considered as being anything but founded in the light of events occurring since they were written they may be pronounced to have been prophetic.

It will be interesting to him to be here at this particular time, when there is a contest going on between the executive and the legislative branches of the government. He has doubtless friends who settle in a new country. Thousands of eastern people are coming and are bringing their children and the old family physician with them. The medical examining board should grant them a license to practice. If an examination is required, let it catch all doctors.

Wants High Steel Bridge.

Portland, Feb. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal.—There is no doubt in the mind of the citizens of Portland that in the near future a new steel bridge must take the place of the narrow, low, wooden one across the Willamette river. I would like to suggest that it be a high steel bridge, a very high bridge, so that all river boats could pass under it, and that at all times and stages of the river without the use of a draw. The trains on both sides of the river could pass under the approaches to the bridge and thereby remove all danger from collisions with streetcars and other vehicles. With a railroad bridge somewhere near Elk rock, the Fourth street railroad travel (south) would be transferred to the east side, thereby increasing business by trains and switching, consequently a higher elevation than the present one ought to be selected by County Commissioners Lightner and Barnes and County Engineer Webster. The location is to be found either on East Market or East Mill street, starting the approach to the bridge on East Second street; on the west side, possibly Front and Clay. No doubt such a move will have the approval of all the people in city and county. This proposal invites investigation.

C. E. Borchgrevink's Birthday.

C. E. Borchgrevink, the Norwegian explorer, was born in Christiania, February 13, 1854, was graduated from the Royal College of Saxony. He emigrated to Australia in 1888, worked for some years as a teacher in Queensland and New South Wales and also in Victoria. His first voyage to the Antarctic sea was made on a whaler in 1894. On his return to Australia he organized a scientific and exploring expedition, which he headed in person. He was frozen seas to a point near the South Pole that had never been seen before. In 1902 Borchgrevink was sent by the National Geographic society of Washington to investigate the volcanic conditions in the West Indies. Mr. Borchgrevink has lectured throughout America and Europe and has been awarded high honors by the scientific and geographical societies of several countries.

February 13 in History.

1549—Catherine Howard beheaded in the tower of London.
1688—The reign of William and Mary began.
1804—Samuel Phelps, eminent English tragedian, born at Norwich, England.
1849—Lord Randolph Churchill, born.
1862—Assault on Fort Donelson, Tennessee, began.
1885—First session of the New Brunswick legislature after confederation.
1887—Richard Wagner, eminent composer, died.
1892—Home Rule bill introduced by Mr. Gladstone.
1901—General Weyler proclaimed martial law in Madrid.
The hours of labor in Belgium are very long. The laborer begins work at 5 a. m. and ceases work at 7 p. m., with the usual breaks for meals. He is paid on an average of 7 to 8 cents an hour for 10 hours, and 15 per cent more for two additional hours, making his daily wage \$4 cents to \$1.08 for 12 hours. Numerous factories have been established there by British firms, owing to the very low rate at which labor can be secured.

Letters From the Latest News From People

Blue Laws in Harrisburg.

Harrisburg, Or., Feb. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal.—As The Journal is recognized as one of the leading newspapers of the Pacific northwest, we believe its intention is to give its readers only items of news that conform to reality. We suppose it is sometimes imposed upon. An article from this place appeared on February 6 which is misleading; it says the Good Citizens' league of this place offered "the blue law" of Eugene, requesting that it be adopted as a whole as an ordinance for the city. The council took no action on it whatever, and that part of the council had made promises it had not kept by passing an ordinance removing paint from windows and stopping games on Sunday, and that this had been indignantly tabled and would possibly never see the light of day.

These facts are—and they are a matter of record and in the hands of our city recorder—the "blue law" was presented as an amendment to an ordinance that had just passed its second reading at the meeting mentioned, requiring paint to be removed from windows and prohibiting games on Sunday at soft drink places. The ordinance was very quickly action on the proposed amendment by indefinitely postponing the same by a vote in which every councilman voted yes, as all considered them "blue laws" in any sense.

Any other action taken by the council would have been severely condemned by all fair and liberal-minded voters of the city, among them our best citizens and highest taxpayers. The ordinance referred to has not been tabled, but is alive and taking its legal or due course and will come up at the regular meeting of the council next month, either to become a law or be rejected.

Doctors and Lawmakers.

Medford, Or., Feb. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal.—We note action has been taken by the legislature to put through a law favoring osteopathy. We ask why the taxpayers should commission our representatives to endorse osteopathy, mental suggestion, or hypnotism. Osteopathy is another name for "massage," which the medical profession should know. Massage is a part of the discipline of the trained nurse. The trained nurse is an angel of mercy in our hospitals and at the bedside. Do not rob her of any part of her noble work, and now do not believe, however, that the licensed doctors of the west coast states are inadequate in some way to hold up the requirements of the profession. Hence the osteopaths.

Would it not be better for the medical societies of these states to stop fighting the reciprocity law and compel the state medical examining boards to examine the doctors from other states to practice by showing a license of examination from the state he holds from? There should be no jealousy between doctors. The eastern doctor has modern experience and comes to the coast with his friends who settle in a new country. Thousands of eastern people are coming and are bringing their children and the old family physician with them. The medical examining board should grant them a license to practice. If an examination is required, let it catch all doctors.

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Small Change

Now will we have an Oregon Herring?

Tomorrow is Valentine's day. Don't get mad. Harriman won a big victory at Salem yesterday by a close shave.

Perhaps no two councilmen are agreed on the majority question.

It looks like it was nearly time to see if that lawnmower is in order.

Speaker Davey is angry at The Journal. The truth hurts sometimes.

The present mayor is probably opposed to any Devlin in that office.

Party and people are two masters whose interests frequently conflict.

The steel trust earned \$187,900,000 last year. It loves the sacred tariff.

Oh, well, extortionate prices for mighty poor fuel are not quite so bad as no fuel.

And the country drags along somehow even during Tom Lawson's long silence.

If "fall" were the only requisite Councilman Shepherd would have a walkover.

Emperor William now thinks he is nearly as great a politician as President Roosevelt.

The beauty of the unwritten law is its adaptability to the case of almost any murderer.

Probably Harry Thaw is another of those chaps who have a poor opinion of their mothers-in-law.

It costs the policy-holders \$500 a day to count the ballots. Hence the count must proceed very slowly.

A scientist says many insane men are in business, and business men know that lots of scientists are crazy.

A Colorado jury was composed of eleven men and one woman, and the wonder is that she didn't hang it.

Republican leaders, if not candidates themselves, mostly prefer Fairbanks, but there's that pesky Bryan to run against him.

The government pays the expense of food examinations, but the "pure" food manufacturers have raised the price just the same.

Bryan and Beveridge are to chew the political rag for a year in a magazine, and then everybody will vote just the same as they were going to.

It is nearly time for Stevens to be offered a better job and resign. Perhaps the canal will have to wait two years, when Roosevelt will be free to build it himself.

It is reported that a lot of islands have been added by convulsions of nature to the Philippines, which was no favor to Uncle Sam; he'd rather have lost a few hundred of them.

Oregon Sidelights

Baker City seems sure of a flour mill.

Now fruitgrowers are preparing to spray.

Springfield's main street will probably be paved.

Alsike clover does well on Linn county white land.

Best Oregon apples are said to bring \$3 a dozen in New York.

Baker City is the outfitting point for the Snake river copper region.

The postoffice receipts of Bandon increased 25 per cent last year.

The snow was a great blessing to wheatgrowers in eastern Oregon.

A large bald eagle was caught with a lasso by a Malheur county young man.

The two women teachers of Eagle Point quarreled, and both were discharged.

Many Baker City henroosts are being robbed, and a buckshot objection is threatened.

Alsea people have taxed themselves \$2,000 and will raise \$1,000 by subscription to build roads.

A Philomath man has a colt 8 months old that weighs 1,010 pounds. Its mother weighs nearly 2,000.

While shaving staves a Myrtle Creek man accidentally cut the end off one of the fingers of his little daughter.

Same old story. A man near Madras was down to kingdom come by dynamite he was throwing, but that would not have been so bad, but his wife was nearly killed, too.

Philomath Review: Springtime is not far off for wild flowers in the shrubbery are budding, and occasionally a precocious little flower is seen nodding serenely amidst the battling elements.

The Irrigon Irrigator had only two pages last week, having gone to press, it says, on account of the blockade, without any "insides" without any "dope" ads, all home print, and all in the near future out the "dope" sheets out altogether.

There is a large demand from middle west states for Oregon Chinese pheasants, and Game Warden Baker thinks that quite an industry might be developed in this state if parties would raise them. They sell for \$7.50 per pair, and in large lots they readily command \$6.

Where, asks a Tillamook paper, is there another cheese factory in the state that received 3,745,480 pounds of milk for 1906, turned out a ton of cheese per day during the summer months, and for the \$81 cows which supplied milk to this factory, gave an average of \$6.75 per cow?

An Athens man went up on the mountain side last week to look after his crop of potatoes. There is a large acreage of mountain potatoes in the fields this year. This is said not to be unusual. Potatoes left in the ground come out in firm and prime condition when dug in the spring.

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