



EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL



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commissioner, say—Republicans, and one third non-Republicans, mostly Democrats. Would it not be fair and just, but really best for the people's interests, if six or seven of the 19 members of the legislature from this county should be Democrats, with perhaps a Socialist or Prohibitionist? Would it not be better if there were a large minority of anti-Republicans in that body, and some non-Republicans here and there in county offices? Theoretically most Republicans will agree with this proposition. But they do not see how to bring about this result. They reason that active Republicans must stand by the whole ticket as a matter of course.

There are two ways by which the results of a popular election may be prevented from being too one-sided. One is by adopting the proportional representation scheme proposed by Mr. U'Ren and others. This would secure the desired result, but it may be doubted if it is well to adopt any more new political reforms until we have those recently adopted in smooth working order.

However that may be, the result can in some measure be obtained by more independence in voting, a greater interest in the people's welfare and less in the success of a party. Whether a party wins or loses in a state or county election may be of little importance. Whether men are elected who will faithfully, intelligently and devotedly serve the whole people is of much importance.

Let the clubs organize, then, and resolve, and specifically, and enthusiastically, and play their partisan stunt, but the majority of voters will do well to hold themselves free when election day comes to pick and choose among candidates, and if some of another party than their own are preferable, to vote for them; and if in consequence some men of both the principal parties are elected it will be better than if all of one party are elected. Almost all Republicans agree to this, in the abstract; why not bring it about actually?

HEAVY MEAT EATERS.

THOUGH THE United States exports an enormous amount of meat, the amount consumed at home is much greater. The average American eats more meat than anybody else, the beef-eating Englishman not excepted. But it is to be remembered that the poorer classes in other countries, even in England, eat meat only once or twice a week, while in America nearly everybody, rich and poor, eats it three times a day.

The ranges and farms of the United States support about 95,000,000 head of cattle and 60,000,000 of swine and sheep each. The value of our meat exports is around a quarter of a billion dollars, while at home we consume about 4,500,000 tons a year, worth perhaps half a billion dollars. Packers utilize everything pertaining to a carcass, so that nearly 100 by-products are made from the slaughtered animals. Notwithstanding the revelations of packers' methods, and consequent legislation, the business has kept growing, except that the exportation of canned meats has fallen off somewhat, but this is believed to be only temporary.

Prices of meat have recently declined, though perhaps the average housekeeper has not noticed it. Appreciably lower prices would no doubt increase consumption to some extent, though the proportion of people who would refrain from using meat on account of a difference of a cent or two a pound is very small.

COAL MINE ACCIDENTS.

IN VIEW of the frequent coal mine horrors, and especially of the three of the last month, a preliminary report of the United States geological survey on coal mine accidents is of interest. In 1906 2,061 men were killed and 4,800 so badly injured as to impair their future usefulness. The figures for this year will doubtless be greater. Such accidents have been increasing in number and in the number of fatalities yearly, indicating that no effective steps have been taken to prevent them. In 1895 the number of miners per 1,000 thus killed was 2.67, in 1906 it was 3.40.

The investigating commission finds the following contributing causes: (1) The lack of proper and enforceable mine regulations; (2) The lack of reliable information concerning explosives used and the conditions under which they can be used safely in the presence of mine gas and dust, and (3) not only is the number of miners increasing, but they work on a lower average level, where ventilation is difficult and explosive gases are more liable to accumulate.

Examination of European methods shows that much could be done that has not been done in this country to prevent these explosions. In Belgium, in 1895, 1.40 men in each thousand were killed; in 1906 only .96. In Prussia, in the same period, the death rate was cut from 2.54 to 1.80. In Great Britain from 1.49 to 1.23. In France from 1.03 in 1901 to .84 in 1906. Summing up the record, it is found that three times as many men, in proportion to the number employed, are killed in the United States as in Europe. And there, as a rule, the mines are deeper than here. With all our boasts, human life is nowhere held so cheaply as in the United States.

The commission recommends the compulsory use of safety lamps, under strict rules; prohibition of the use of certain explosives under certain dangerous conditions; employment of experienced and trustworthy shot drillers; prohibition of certain materials for tamping; watering of the roofs and sides of mines by spraying or sprinkling devices; experiment station for the study of the subject, and ample preparations for aid and relief for the injured in case of accident.

Since it seems apparent that coal mine owners will do nothing, or will not do enough, to prevent these accidents, there should be strict laws for carrying out these or the best possible means of prevention. Sufficient care will surely prevent many of these calamities that would otherwise occur.

BLACK VS. BLACK.

EX-GOVERNOR FRANK S. BLACK of New York, who made the nominating speech for Roosevelt in 1904, has lately been criticizing the president sharply, showing that he has changed his opinions greatly about what a president should be, or else that Roosevelt has altered much in his official character. In his nominating speech Mr. Black, to quote only a few sentences by way of illustration, said:

"Above all things else, he stands for progress, courage and fair play. He is not conservative if conservatism means waiting until it is too late. Every day at nightfall beholds some record, which, if not complete, has been at least pursued with conscience and resolution. I nominate the highest living type of the youth, the vigor and the promise of a great country and a great age."

It seems to the average citizen that President Roosevelt has justified these encomiums since his last election, on the whole, more than he had in 1904, when he had been to some extent bound by McKinley policies, yet now Mr. Black says of the president:

"Keep your eye fixed on him who in all ages has been the people's seducer and their enemy, the man exhorting the crowd from the head of a barrel. The conduct and teachings of the most powerful influence of the country are expressive of impatience and contempt for the ancient safeguard, the constitution. The cry is against the criminal, but punishment in every case has fallen upon the innocent. Not a single move has been made by the all-powerful machinery of the government to imprison a single rich offender. What is the need for a public official to begin each day with a bulletin to the public that he still continues honest?"

So if Mr. Black told what he thought was the truth on both these occasions, which, however, is not to be assumed, he has been disillusioned during the past three years. But he is mistaken if he thinks the people generally agree with him. Though he hits the president a hard rap or two "where he lives," the country will agree with Black the convention orator rather than with Black the attorney of "interests."

THE U. P. AND OREGON.

THE ANNUAL report of the Union Pacific railroad and its allied lines shows that during the fiscal year ending last June its net profits were nearly \$11,000,000. This sum is exclusive of interest, dividends, and a large amount expended for betterments. The net earnings were sufficient to pay nearly 18 per cent on the common stock of the company. Yet Mr. Harriman has been complaining that he could not keep up improvements and extensions for lack of money, and that he could not borrow money. What do the people who pay this immense revenue think of such management; of piling up such great profits and getting only insufficient service in return?

A large fraction of these net profits and big dividends was made in Oregon, was contributed by Oregon producers and shippers, and yet the Union Pacific dictator, absorbing these millions of Oregon money year after year, refuses year after year to do anything to develop Oregon or increase its products and wealth, or to invite immigration and capital, or to accommodate the people. More than that, though refusing to spend money made in the state for these purposes, he will spend millions if necessary to keep any rival road out of Oregon, or to injure a rival road that does break into the state. And yet there are people who say that The Journal unjustly criticizes this Wall street panic-maker.

WHAT IS THEIR INNER SECRET?

IT WOULD be interesting to know the secret purposes of the inner circle of politicians who are seeking to overthrow Statement No. 1 in this state. Of course, a main purpose that inspires them to kill the provision if they can is that it takes away from them and gives to the people the right to select the United States senator. For 30 years these politicians, in the legislature and out of it, have fattened on the pickings from senatorial elections. Sometimes, in coin of the realm, but chiefly in jobs and grafts they have reaped a rich reward. Buconneering by the hired strikers

outside the legislature has its means of revenue, off of which many a senatorial bushwhacker subsists from one legislative session to another. It is notorious that the influence of strikers has been actually exerted to prolong senatorial deadlocks to the uttermost for the profit to be made out of it. It is history that leading lieutenants in such elections have lobbied for one candidate a part of the session and later, as a result of a deal, have espoused the cause of another candidate. The candidates themselves, pledging offices, bartering legislation, promising grafts, standing in with deals, their friends pleading all these things, and the latter actually paying out cash in return for legislative votes, create a saturnalia of plunder and pillage that is appalling, and which, of course, the taxpayers of the state have ultimately to pay.

That those who are accustomed to profit out of this sort of thing should be unilaterally opposed to Statement No. 1 and to selection of senator by the people is but natural. Deadlocks are an exciting business and a far easier way of raising revenue or grabbing a graft than through the avenues of legitimate business. Out of 40 days of senatorial deadlock and the preliminaries leading up to it, a politician can bushwhack more profit than tollers and producers can net in a year, and that is one of the reasons for the movement of politicians to assassinate Statement No. 1.

But what is the hidden purpose of the inner circle that is organizing the movement? Have they a man who dare not risk the chance of selection by the people and whom they propose, by fair means or foul, to force upon the people through the legislature? Or are there two or perhaps more of such candidates who want the election thrown into the legislature, when, as dark horses at the psychological moment, they can leap into the breach and take their pooled chances on an eleventh hour election.

Of but one thing in their plan is there certainty, and that is that if they can they propose to cheat the people out of their right to select.

Since there is no law to the contrary, the new electric road between Portland and Salem can charge 3 cents a mile, if it chooses, but we believe that it will find that a lower rate would be more profitable. At that rate only those obliged to travel by that route will do so.

Senator Dolliver, who might have been nominated for vice-president in 1896 if Roosevelt had persisted in his refusal to accept, thinks that if the convention becomes deadlocked lightning might strike him. But Cummins can't see how that could happen.

A large collection of Indiana Republicans declared themselves for Mr. Fairbanks for president, but this only means that he will act the role of a favorite son, with a bunch of votes to dispose of to somebody.

That some Chinamen still carry on gambling games, to the large profit of a few of them, is not so important as the reason why they are permitted to do so, and by whom.

Mr. Cortelyou remarked that he was not a candidate for anything but the confidence of the people in the discharge of his duties. He loses by an overwhelming majority.

The more the affairs of the Title Guarantee bank are investigated the more it becomes apparent that Ross and Burkhardt mistook their calling.

Last Sunday of the year might be a good time to get those resolutions all properly framed and familiarized in mind.

Champ Clark is very positive that Bryan will be elected next year, but he talked the same way in 1896 and 1900.

Isn't Representative Hawley coming home to register, too? Surely he isn't tired of congress yet.

Notwithstanding his troubles, Mr. Steel has fairly demonstrated the fact that he has a good many friends yet.

Some Zoo Psychology. A little girl in a red hat approached the tiger's cage, and the old tiger, with a horrid yell, made a spring at her. Her yell in return was almost more dreadful than the beast's.

"Dash it all," said Keeper John Lover, "we ought to have a rule prohibiting red in the carnivora house. Red excites these animals' animal force. It's actually bad for their health."

"Why does red excite them?" "Because it looks like flesh; it looks like blood. A lion or a tiger sees a girl in a red hat or a red blouse, and gets the idea in his noodle that a chunk of raw meat is being brought to him. He mistakes the red fabric for a horse steak, and slaving and roaring, he makes a dash for it. And that is the psychology of a carnivorous animal's so-called hatred—it's really love—for red."

There is money in wheat and cotton. There is likewise money in corn.

There is money in shoes and dry goods. Just as certain as you are born.

There is money in china and dishes. There is money in women's fashions. I'm a liar if there ain't.

And also in shaving people. There is money in beer and liquor. Which is money in red-eyed blazes. There is money in bonds and stocks. There is plenty of money in old tin

And coddles of money in socks. —Nashville American.

THE RAILROAD'S OPPORTUNITY

(By R. F. Toakum, Chairman Executive Committee, Oregon Railroad System, in the Saturday Evening Post.)

The question as to whether President Roosevelt is a menace to business is a hard one because of the peculiar ordeal through which the whole country has been passing that has resulted in the present conditions.

We are in a state of readjustment of our business affairs as well as of adjustment of our business methods. Any man responsible for a corporation's policy who reads the signs of the times sufficiently well to see that there must be a change in corporate methods is blind to what is going on about him.

The policy which has been pursued by the federal government, while causing a greater security of prices, bringing loss to many people and temporarily depressing business, has undoubtedly been instrumental in preventing a national disaster of far greater magnitude than the present period of tension and unrest.

It is unreasonable to assume that the federal government is going to carry on a warfare against the railroads and the industries of the country to a point of destructiveness. That would be a sound business judgment nor good politics. Thinking people would repudiate such a policy.

The policy which has been pursued by the federal government, while causing a greater security of prices, bringing loss to many people and temporarily depressing business, has undoubtedly been instrumental in preventing a national disaster of far greater magnitude than the present period of tension and unrest.

The new state and national legislation will revolutionize the method of operation of the railroads. Under it the railroads will have an opportunity to become important factors in the economic life of the country. They will be able to operate on a fair and equitable basis and regulations under an agreed working plan that makes for closer cooperation and mutual advantage to the public.

The earnings must be sufficient for the railroads to meet all legitimate requirements to develop the country's resources, to provide for the maintenance of the railroads, to give a fair return to the owners.

But if the railroads fail to give themselves this opportunity, they will have to face another one like it will come to them again. Public pressure and public sentiment will then force rules and regulations upon them under penalty or reason. In other words, it seems to me that the administrative

Letters From the People

The Situation in Goldfield.

To the Editor of The Journal—Joseph H. Hutchinson, a lieutenant governor of Idaho, states he was chairman of the Industrial union at Goldfield until November 15 of this year. To all who may misconstrue his meaning I wish to state that he, Joseph H. Hutchinson, was chairman of the Mineworkers' association.

And as to the gun men Mr. Hutchinson refers to, the Mineworkers' association always had their own guns, and they were for their own protection, not for the purpose of attacking anybody.

Mr. Hutchinson further declared that the miners in that district have never been in the least bit afraid of the mob. The mob that took part in the Coeur d'Alene and those who were driven out of Colorado. He pictures them as bloodthirsty Socialists. Now any man that knows the history of Colorado at the time of the trouble there will know that the state was flooded with the most unprincipled scoundrels and bloodthirsty thugs that were ever introduced in the name of law and order. Mr. Hutchinson shows us a picture of a mob, a mob of thugs, not only were the miners deported and clubbed, but the county officers of that state were bodily ejected from their offices and threatened with the hangman's noose if they should dare protest against the mob law resorted to.

He states that the miners at Goldfield have 250 stacks of arms. That I will not try to deny, for I never thought the miners had any arms, and the rights to own firearms. It seems to me if the mineowners' stronghold could be entered the supply of arms found there would be a great deal to be said.

As to the agreement entered into by both sides, and which the last convention of the Western Federation of Miners declared unconstitutional, and which they also declared to be degrading to any citizen of our beloved free country, I believe that the miners, as a man, to his constitutional rights, inasmuch as it compelled him to sell himself into slavery for the purpose of enriching a few men, and to the miners' race. But as they broke the agreement themselves before said convention, I don't think they have a kick to make. They should have stood with their unprincipled and cunning eyes the local union at Goldfield divided into two parts, the one for the miners and the other for the mineowners, and thought they would take advantage of the segregation by openly declaring the wages paid were too much for the work they were doing, and they determined to reduce them 20 per cent.

But in this their scheme were foiled, because it brought the radicals and conservatives together, and today both factions of that organization stand as one. It is why the miners are content with nor at the state of Idaho wishes to misrepresent them to the people of Portland. He thinks that by resorting to this method he is saving the majority of the public, and have them indorse the cowardly actions of the governor of that state, who is known to be a willful tool for the wildest stockholders and political imbeciles of the state.

Be it further known that the ex-convict Jack Evans, alias Diamond Jim, who was sentenced to be hanged in the state of Idaho for murdering two shepherders while they slept, was later pardoned by the governor of that state, and was sent to the state of Idaho, against the protestations of all officers and citizens of Idaho, and against the protestations of the miners of Goldfield.

JERRY SEXTON.

It is and the crematory.

Portland, Dec. 27.—To the Editor of The Journal—Will you give space to the following in regard to the present discussion as to a site for a crematory?

Parties interested are told that if modern, up-to-date plant is erected:

If delivery of garbage is perfectly made:

If the garbage is assorted before delivery:

If it is delivered during working hours of the plant:

If the carts for hauling the garbage are perfectly constructed:

There is no carelessness in the hauling and delivering:

Small Change

For a panic year, 1907 did very well.

New Year presents will do quite as well.

Jupiter Pluvius is having a merry time.

A hard winter helps to make a fat summer.

Will Harriman do anything in Oregon in 1908?

Mr. Fairbanks' papers are all supporting him.

Whatever else stops, Portland doesn't stop growing.

Tomorrow is the last Sunday in 1907. Make it a good one.

Don't get the notion that everybody should believe just as you do.

Christmas was also a day of many accidents and crimes, as usual.

The Democrats will have a high time at Denver about 5,000 feet high.

It looks like Salem would forfeit that \$100,000 for Williamette university.

There may be other places as bad as Concord, but few are so notorious.

Will Baker City have three Republican candidates for congress, as usual?

The Willamette river thought it would improve the holiday season by going on a tear.

The man caught was not a real hold-up man after all. That explains his capture.

Very likely a dozen saloons should be refused a license. But Concord's is one, sure.