

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. PUBLISHED BY C. E. JACKSON, Publisher. Published every evening (except Sunday and holidays) morning at The Journal Building, 225 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Subscription Terms by mail to any address in the United States, Canada or Mexico. DAILY. One year, \$5.00. Six months, \$3.00. Three months, \$1.50. SUNDAY. One year, \$5.00. Six months, \$3.00. Three months, \$1.50.

THE GRANGE AND MR. SCHUEBEL

AS REPORTED, the state grange has information that Mr. Schuebel is not fitted for the federal district attorneyship, it is fully warranted in making the facts known at Washington. It is, in fact, not only warranted in doing so, but it is the duty of the organization, or of any other citizen similarly informed, to lodge a protest.

It makes no difference what the office is, or who the applicant, it is high time in Oregon, for competency, mental and moral, to be made the test of selection. It is no longer enough that the candidate for an appointive office may have done a political errand for some one in higher position.

There is no need for her to be compelled to accept less. There is a wealth of able and experienced lawyers, many of whom would be glad to serve the people in this distinguished capacity. In any event there should be a full investigation of all the facts connected with this appointment before any confirmation is made.

WHY NOT CHANGE THE DATE?

WHY IS IT that certain changes in our government—slight changes of date that almost everybody agrees would be beneficial and wrong nobody—are merely proposed occasionally, desultorily discussed, and dropped? Why not go ahead and make the changes since they are of date only, and not of substance or even form?

One of these changes is the date of the quadrennial inauguration of president from March 4 to some time in April or May, when the season is tolerable, instead of about the worst in the whole year. This merely involves the continuance in office of a single president for a month or two.

But a more desirable change is that of the time of the meeting of congress. Members-elect draw their salaries from March 4, succeeding their election, but do not convene till the first Monday in the next December.

over 19 months ago. There has been time since their election for issues to have died and new ones to be born. The representatives are no longer "fresh from the people."

Why not have a new congress assemble on March 4, when an old one expires, if the date of presidential inauguration is not changed? Then there would be only four months between election and service—long enough.

It does not need a constitutional amendment to change the date of the meeting of congress. Any congress can pass a law fixing whatever date it pleases. Why is not this absurd law changed? We can readily imagine some reasons that appeal to members of congress, but none of them are such as appeal to the people.

THE CRIME OF THE RAILROADS.

UNQUESTIONABLY there are a great many idle men in the country now, more than at any time for 12 years. They are numerous in every city and Portland has perhaps even more than its quota in proportion to population, because thousands of men employed on railroad work in this vicinity were discharged last fall and have drifted to this city hoping for re-employment soon.

The railroads—using for convenience this name for their owners and managers—have stopped all work wherever possible, have discharged or are preparing to discharge all employees that they can possibly do without, on the professed ground of the necessity for retrenchment; they say they haven't money, and cannot get it, for paying the usual quota of employees, much less for building new lines or making extensions and improvements.

If this be true—and we don't believe it is—it shows alarmingly bad management, or wrongful diversion of earnings, of the railroads. Their own reports show increased earnings, large net profits, and big dividends. They have had all the business they possibly could do, and at practically their own rates. Why then should they be in such straitened circumstances now? It is true that the financial stringency and other causes—the very causes that produced the stringency—sent down their stocks and weakened the market, especially abroad, for their bonds; yet after this decade and more of unbounded and unprecedented prosperity there is no excuse for the railroads to be so hard up all at once, and we do not think they are.

The railroads, it may be reasonably surmised, are revenging themselves on the country for what they call some hostile legislation—a few two-cent fare laws, and some small attempts on the people's part at railroad regulation and control. If this surmise be correct—and there is much evidence to support it—the railroads are perpetrating a colossal crime against the people, one which cannot fall to arouse indignation and bitter resentment. For so far the people have been wonderfully easy, liberal and lenient with the railroads, permitting them to have absolutely their own way in almost everything, even in the persistent violation of reasonable laws.

The people of no other country on earth grant such freedom and privileges to railroads. Everywhere else they are under strict government control, and are treated as public and not private enterprises. The railroads of this country do not know when they have been well and most liberally treated by the people; and as a return for this treatment the people are now to be starved, as nearly as the railroads can do so, into submission, are to be frightened into letting the railroads entirely alone.

Produce is to be left to rot, mills are to be closed down, manufacturing are to become partly paralyzed, development is to cease, the country's industries are to be blighted, because the people have taken a notion to regulate this great business of their own in a very small degree, not one tenth as much as it is regulated by government in France and other countries. Well, we shall see which is the stronger, the railroads or the people. The conflict was inevitable; it has been becoming imminent for years, and the people might as well make up their mind to fight it out, and find out which is master, they or the railroads.

There is, perhaps, another reason just now for this united action on the part of the railroads in producing, as far as they are able to do so, industrial and commercial paralysis. They mean very likely to try to intimidate one or both political parties into nominating for president a man who suits them, one acceptable to Harriman, Ryan, Rockefeller, Gould, Hill and the rest; and further, to intimidate voters into electing the candidate least objectionable to them if neither of them is entirely acceptable to the railroads. They think a few months' starvation for a million or more voters would render them pliable to their wishes. But their reckoning in this respect may be somewhat erroneous. Not so great a proportion of voters can be thus whipped like slaves into line as was the case in 1896 after several lean years.

But however this may be, the

country is confronted with this very serious problem: Have railroads any right thus to cease improvement and building, and to throw tens of thousands of really needed men out of employment? Since railroading is essentially a public business, have not the people a right to say that this must and shall not be done? And if the present owners and managers have made such a dismal failure of the business as they profess they have, must not the people relieve them of it and put it in the people's interest?

JOHNSON'S PLATFORM.

IN ALL probability Mr. Bryan will be convinced by the time the Democratic national convention meets at Denver, that the "rank and file" want him for the candidate, and more than two thirds of the delegates are likely to confirm that opinion and nominate him.

There is talk yet of Governor Johnson, and of Tom L. Johnson, and of Judson Harmon, and occasionally a faint suggestion of Judge Gray, or even Grover Cleveland, but it looks now like Bryan without much opposition. But Governor Johnson of Minnesota, has a good many supporters, and though he says he is not a candidate he is credited with enunciating the following platform, which perhaps Mr. Bryan could improve on but little:

Immediate and thorough revision of the tariff.

No further surrender of state rights to the federal government.

Opposition to federal incorporation, supervision and regulation of corporations.

Rigid control of corporations by the states, but no warfare upon corporations as such.

Adoption of an income tax, together with some of the principles of the single tax on land.

Adoption of an inheritance tax.

Reduction of fictitious valuations placed upon property.

Private, rather than government ownership of common carriers.

As small an army and navy as possible, to protect the Hawaiian war on the national nose and the Philippine hump on Uncle Sam's back.

National expansion north and south, rather than east and west, and a removal of tariff walls that separates the United States from Canada and from Mexico.

SPOKANE SALOONS.

THE SALOON MEN of Spokane have been having a good deal of trouble lately, because of their persistent violations of law, and in retaliation have been making as much trouble as possible for the city authorities, which course of conduct has caused Mayor Moore to use far more stringent means of regulation and suppression than he had done before and in the end he will win, for there, as nearly everywhere, public sentiment will uphold the authorities in requiring of saloonkeepers strict observance of the laws. Commenting on the situation, the Spokesman-Review says:

The saloon interests have themselves to reproach for the storm of public indignation which has burst around their heads in Spokane. They have carried matters with a high hand for many years, and would not see the handwriting on the wall as expressed with such clearness and vigor in the last city campaign. If they had then been wise and prudent they would have voluntarily cut out the flagrant abuses which had grown up around the liquor business here. They would have helped to stamp out the dives, to break up the demoralizing evil of rustling in variety theatres, and to detect and punish criminals who too long had been harbored in the low joints where liquor is sold. They would have yielded in good faith to the demands of the people, and thus helped to make their business—at best a bad one—of some degree of decency and respectability.

Saloon men in this city and many others have learned or are learning this lesson, and the sooner and more thoroughly they learn it, the better it will be for their business.

Over in the "free" Congo state the King Leopold-Ryan Christian combination killed 125 natives, whose only offense was not understanding what the Christian invasion might mean, and who, being savages and heathen, killed nobody in return. We presume Mr. Ryan and his delectable partner Leopold sent along plenty of Bibles and cheap whiskey with which to civilize those horrible barbarians.

Is the administration using its army of federal officeholders throughout the country to bring about the nomination of Mr. Taft as reported? If so—and as yet we are inclined to disbelieve the report—is not this "pernicious activity" such as the president has condemned and forbidden? Mr. Roosevelt's officeholders should keep out of this affair—for reasons which he knows very well, and has given.

We have the best police force that ever was, it is claimed; but the hold ups and burglaries keep on increasing just the same, and scarcely anybody is ever caught. Nobody would have anything left, and few good people would remain alive, if we had a bad or incompetent police force.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie refuses to interest himself in the New York tenement problem. He has spent some millions establishing libraries wherever people would load themselves with a burden to sustain them, and so has perhaps done some good. Some years ago he made a proposal

which he knew could not be accepted by anybody and was utterly impracticable, to buy the Philippine Islands for \$100,000,000. But when thousands of poor people almost under his nose, are being turned out into the street in midwinter because they cannot pay increased rents; when thousands of his New York neighbors are starving and scores of babies are dying of hunger and cold in his home American city, Mr. Carnegie hasn't a cent to spare, and isn't even the least bit interested in the matter.

If Oregon needs a humorist in congress—and doesn't it?—there's our Caledonian friend Shepherd. We believe that as a joker he would make a fine reputation in Washington, and that he would scintillate brilliantly at the gridiron club.

The Methodist ministers like to get their sermons and various other selected utterances and doings into the newspapers, all right. Suppose the editors should shut them out altogether?

If Mr. Heney delivers a public address, he will be sure of a large audience, even if admission was not free.

It would seem that Judge Dunne of San Francisco, is in imminent danger of being in contempt of court.

The jury will probably infer from the evidence that Thaw killed White.

Letters From the People

Government's Promise Not Kept. Hermiston, Jan. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In the issue of January 10, under the heading "Ask the Government for More Time," you state that the Water Users' association are asking for a postponement of two years of the first payment for water to the government. This is not correct, but what they are asking for is a fulfillment of the promises made to them.

War with any foreign power now would set us back a generation in many things. More especially would it give renewed life and vigor to the tariff fraud. All kinds of burdensome taxes would be piled on the rest of our industry, to hamper and oppress. The workers would do the fighting and then pay the bills, over and over again.

Thinks Standards Too Low.

Portland, Or., Jan. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In a recent interview, Professor W. J. Kerr of the Oregon Agricultural college made the statement that the policy of that institution is about to be changed. A citizen of our state who is interested in our institutions, and in its general welfare, wish to call attention to certain conditions that exist in our colleges and to suggest certain reforms.

While a great noise is being made over Taft for president you will observe that one, William Jennings Bryan, is sawing wood like a hand saw.

Irrigation lands have been held too high. If the failure of the institution backing the enterprise forces them on the market at less than \$100 an acre they will be quickly sold and developed. The irrigators of the Columbia river above and below Irrigon are sure producers, profitable to their owners and selling when improved. It is a pity that the uninformed a fabulous figure. What appears to be a blow to the further development of Irrigon may be a blessing in disguise. The Columbia river for irrigated lands at reasonable figures. Irrigon is a most valuable asset to any carefully managed financial institution.

The people can be trusted to see through any sly device of any liquor combine that succeeds in getting on the ballot with an amendment. If they do not, they will after, and can easily indorse its repeal in 1910.

Perhaps the people of Oregon are not quite ready to adopt the straight single tax, but unless the beneficiaries of the present absurd conglomeration of public impositions, which we call the tax laws, consent to liberal changes the single tax will come. Its shadow is already over New Zealand and Australia, where the beneficiaries of unjust taxation fought bitterly every attempt to moderate the assessments placed on thrift, industry and legitimate capital. The single tax, or something better, gentlemen. The present taxation laws of Oregon must be modified or revolutionized some time.

WHAT FIAT MONEY IS

By Charles E. Russell. (Copyright, 1903, by W. R. Hearst.)

Money is, of course, only a device to help men to exchange labor and the products of labor.

What you work for wages or salary, you work for reality, for food, clothing, shoes, and so on. Your employer does not have these things. He gives you money instead, and this money is merely orders on the different man that have the different products of labor that you want.

Since men began to rise from the state in which each individual supplied all his wants by killing animals, eating the skins, and using their skins for clothing and shelter, they have been trying to find some satisfactory system by which the labor of the products of one man can be exchanged for the labor and products of another man.

In other words, they have been trying to find some satisfactory kind of money or circulating medium, and have not found it yet.

Here are some of the things men have tried to use as money: cattle, sheep, horses, human beings (that is to say, slaves), ivory, teeth, carved stones, shells, pieces of cloth, beads, bones, bits of bark, paper, bronze, brass, copper, tin, silver, gold.

In the thirteenth century the circulation of money in China was composed of pieces of the bark of the mulberry tree, stamped with the sign of the sovereign. To refuse to accept this money was a crime punished with death.

At present in this country we have money, or a circulating medium composed of gold and silver coins and a very large part of promises to pay gold or silver coin.

Good men, thoughtful men, experienced men, hold different views about this subject of a circulating medium, which is the most important economic problem confronting the world today.

There are three principal schools of theories concerning money—the theory that money is a commodity, the theory that money is a fiat, and the theory "greenback money"; the theory

of metallism and the theory of monetarism, or the single gold standard. I am going to describe each theory impartially, as it is described by its friends.

First, the theory of fiat money holds that the only thing that makes money useful or valuable is the stamp of the government upon it. That stamp is a guarantee that another man will redeem in groceries or meat or shoes the order you present to him.

The thing really sought is not the possession of the order (or money), but the possession of the product of labor that the order (or money) represents. It is because of the stamp of the government that men accept and redeem the order (or money) readily. Therefore it makes no difference what material the order (or money) is made of. Paper being a convenient material, the government stamps orders to be put upon paper, which would then become money and would be redeemed in the products of labor that men desire.

It is the exchange of these products of labor that really and alone constitutes business. The money used is nothing but a piece of machinery to facilitate the exchange. There is no reason, according to this theory, why men should not redeem orders (or money) made of any other material—gold, silver, copper, etc. But the issuing of these orders (or money) should be done entirely by the government. There should be no orders (or money) issued by private persons or by banks. The amount issued by the government should be in accordance with the demands of trade, and have no other limit. The money thus issued should not represent any valuable thing in itself. That is, it need not be redeemable in any coin of gold or silver, and the government need not keep any reserve of gold or silver to redeem it. The stamp of the government on the paper will enable the man that holds the order to exchange the product of labor according to his needs or desires, which is the sole purpose of a circulating medium, or money.

Under the theory of fiat money, held by many persons, the sale of the London Times may signify that it is now going to try to keep up with them.

Bryan says he is pretty well off, financially, but the chances are that he isn't a tax dodger, either.

The pay-as-you-earn streets would have a hard time of baseball, football and circus days in Portland.

It will be in order if Alfonso comes over to visit Latin America to reflect on what fools his ancestors were.

Governor Hughes says that what is needed is confidence. Great man, that; who else would have thought of this?

Small Change

The more the merrier—for Ellis.

The senate is likely to stand by Fulton.

Are Bourne and Schuebel still Populists?

Lots of conventions this week; everybody comes to Portland.

Of course it was a "royal" welcome at Rio—though it wasn't.

Behold, how great a fuss a very small creature can make—Radding.

Hawley seems to be as good a pension getter as Hermann was.

Mightn't Bryan run better if he would resume the way of his ancestors?

Portland isn't a dry town, but Bull Run water is the best stuff in it to drink.

If a big navy is a guaranty of peace, why not call the vessels peaceships instead of warships?

The railroads, evidently are determined to run the country or do what they can to ruin it.

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The duty on French wines is to be reduced 20 per cent. Now who will say that the tariff hasn't been reformed?

Boston Library authorities have suppressed Mrs. Glyn's name as fast as she deserves.

But how can Secretary Taft attend to an accumulation of important business and write out and deliver all those campaign speeches?

Most of the members of the first Russian duma have been sent to jail, but all the members of the last Oregon legislature are at large.

A Savannah woman kept a revolver for protection, and accidentally killed her husband. The revolver almost always does mischief.

Seattle Democrats are having a row. Portland Democrats will be at it soon, too, and the name of Enoc will be a-row have registered already.

But hasn't Secretary Taft just returned from Japan and didn't he say that Japan had no desire or intention of going to war with the United States?

Put off registering till the last day in the afternoon, or better in the evening toward midnight. This advice is probably as efficacious as the opposite.

In Rome the stock exchange was in the old temple of Neptune. That's certainly handy. Plenty of water for the stocks right handy, and salt water at that.

The natives of Terra del Fuego are said to be arming themselves with shells. Is there any way for Admiral Evans to keep off at a safe distance? We suppose the weapons are clamshells, or some other kind of seashore shells, and the shells of the warships could withstand them.

Oregon Sidelights

Pansies grown outdoors were picked last week in Baker City.

Clatsop county is doing some good work in making good roads.

A Myrtle Point man was fined \$100 for being drunk and resisting an officer.

Fruitgrowers of The Dalles and vicinity have organized a strong association.

A Lake county man has lost two valuable mules a few days apart by their falling into wells.

The Curry county court has let a contract to build a road from Sixes river to Denmark for \$4,449.

Philomath Review: Robert Knox of Evergreen left the latter part of last week, and nobody knows where he went, and nobody cares.

One of the fingers of a Lane county farmer was bitten off by a cow that objected to being taken to market.

A Thurston correspondent of the Eugene Star says: "The measles have been located on the family of Charles Gray, but they are getting along well." The measles?

At a mass meeting at Brownsville Friday night the people subscribed \$1,970 in cash and over \$100 in labor toward building the dam in the Calapooya river.

The year 1907 has been very satisfactory to Myrtle Point, and the new year is entered with confidence for the future steady growth of this city, says the Enterprise.

In one church in Albany, during the past two or three years, seven of the altar boys in the choir have married, and another one, and perhaps more, is spoken for. By all means learn to sing alto, says the Democrat.

A Blue mountain rancher killed a lot of coyotes by building a platform in a tree near where a horse had died and waiting for them to come for a meal. By killing a few horses or cows stock men could get rid of many coyotes.

Albany people, says the Democrat, are to be congratulated upon the settlement of the depot situation in such a satisfactory manner. Mr. O'Brien has done a very neat thing in making arrangements to give the city a modern cement structure which will be a credit to Albany for many years.

The outside covering of a smoking jacket in a La Grande store is made with garters, of which 500 were required. The lining is satin, quilted and hand-stitched. It is estimated that there are 160,000 stitches in the garment. The coat is valued at \$200.

Astoria Budget: The lumber camps of this vicinity are gradually beginning operations again, and by March 1 they will be at work with full crews, if they can be obtained. The supply of yellow fir logs has been announced to be larger than the demand, but the truth is that the supply has been almost exhausted, while the red fir logs are in plenty.

Never Occurred to Him.

From Harper's Weekly.

Grover Cleveland thinks that the Democrats ought to be a candidate guided by the light of past experiences. This is a thought which has escaped the brilliant mind of William Jennings Bryan.

Not since the god of battles first caused a spear to hiss.

Have men sent forth so splendid a host of our people?

So let the ships sail onward till all the globe is spanned.

And all the undulating nations at last shall understand.

S. E. Kleier in Chicago Record-Herald.

The polished guns are gleaming, the silent gunners wait.

Through peaceful days and stormy, prepared for any fate.

The stately columns follow one mighty flagship's lead.

And all the nations wonder and watch the fleet proceed.

Our ships are sailing, sailing; behind them mists increase.

And from each masthead flutter the flags that signal peace.

The reefs and shoals before them have all fled strong hearts with dread.

God grant they reach the haven that lies so far ahead.

The Armada of Peace.

Our ships are sailing, sailing; their pennants proudly wave.