

Every human being whom we approach should be the better for us.—William Ellery Channing.

OPEN THE WILLAMETTE.

LITTLE IS heard from Washington about the Willamette project, but there is a surfeit of news about the federal district attorneyship. Over the latter matter the delegation is quarreling.

An appropriation of \$300,000 by the federal government for opening the Willamette river to traffic is earnestly desired. Assurances given the legislature by Congressman Hawley when the Jones bill for state purchase of the locks was pending, give the people a right to confidently expect this appropriation.

For the present, the chief interest that Oregon has in Washington is deserved aid for this great waterway system, including the Willamette project, and the lower and upper Columbia. The state has been discriminated against in railroad building, discriminated against in transport service by the government, discriminated against in the matter of military posts, discriminated against in river and harbor appropriations, discriminated against in so many ways and from so many sources that she is held back and is unable to take her true place in state development.

INJUSTICE DEALT FROM JUSTICE'S SEAT.

WE ARE GOING to state a case and comment on it. Scene 1—A is mayor of a town. B owns a railroad running from that town to another. The people of the town of which A is mayor want a depot built, or moved, or some little improvement made. A, acting for them, goes to the depot, quietly, peaceably, like a gentleman, to talk the subject over with B.

THE BEST FRUIT STATE.

ASIDE FROM semi-tropical fruits, raised in southern California and Florida, Oregon can easily become the best and most noted fruit state in the union. Indeed, it is so already, to a limited extent. It has been made so, principally, by Hood River apples and Rogue River pears.

home without any reasonable excuse for such action, during the holidays. This is not the end. The play isn't out yet. The rest of the drama is to come. How it will be played we do not know. But of this we are sure:

The editor had a right to make such a criticism. No grand jury, district attorney, or court, is above or beyond reasonable, honest criticism. The grand jury in this particular case did not do its duty, and the editor did.

SIGN THIS PETITION.

VOTERS OF the Port of Portland district, which includes the greater part of Multnomah county, will have opportunity within two or three days to append their signatures to an initiative petition which is of extreme importance to this port.

A GREAT SWEAR-OFF.

THERE WAS a wholesale swearing off in the office of the Northwestern railroad on January 1. It meant business. The road "went dry" that day—as in fact it and most roads had done to a large extent before. On New Year's 25,000 employees of that railroad pledged themselves to total abstinence, whether on or off duty, from intoxicants.

The new business law is that the man who, in his hours of leisure, away from employment, shatters his nerves and clouds his brain by intoxication, cannot repair that physical waste sufficiently to appear for work when sobered, as the productive equal of the competitor who has not so weakened himself.

A SUBTREASURY IN PORTLAND.

SENATOR FULTON has introduced a bill for the creation of a subtreasury in this city. The measure is one of great importance not only to Portland, but to the whole state. All the influence that can be brought to bear by our commercial bodies and by private citizens should be enlisted at once in support of the measure.

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tions of the Willamette valley, and of the Coos Bay region, and of the Umpqua and Nehalem valleys—all can produce fruit that would take premiums at any fair in the world. This is not an exaggeration. It is a literal and a very valuable truth. Whether such fruit is produced or not depends entirely on the fruitgrowers themselves.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

NO DOUBT CHINA is "awakening." No doubt, for such people, China is awakening rapidly. Japan is spurring China on, for Japan's own purposes. Japan means China to awaken and develop so far, no farther; Japan to be the master mind, China the additional multitudinous trained arms and legs—and money provider too.

We shall allude more particularly later to the "awakening" movement in China, but only say now that it is one of the most remarkable of the many wonderful manifestations of this marvelous new time—such as the world never saw; and for the development and activities of which there are no precedents.

Value of a Coin.

Portsmouth, Or., Jan. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal—Kindly tell me in your valuable paper if there is any premium on a nickel coined in 1882 and bearing the inscription, "In God we trust." For two years I have been looking for a nickel of this kind, but never saw any. OLIVIA AKESON.

The Winter World.

A barren land, a frozen world. The banners of the greenwood furled; A winter wind, a cold and hoarse rattle; Upon the eddying whirlwind tossed; A road overflooded with drifted snow; And all, with his blooming hair, From mounds of frozen mart, Unto the heaven of her heart!

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is that Taft will at the outset have more votes than any other candidate, and that he gets enough more besides what are sure for him he will be nominated. A good deal closer guess can be made three months from now—and a still closer one after the convention meets.

The Los Angeles Times has for many years been the great paper of that city, and is one of the especially notable newspapers of the country. Every year it issues a midwinter edition, and this number this year fell eclipsed all other efforts. It consists of 176 pages, and is a mammoth work of art throughout—something that could be produced only in a great and wonderful region and city.

The American protective tariff league is going to put forth some organized and systematic efforts to defeat Taft's nomination, because he believes just a little bit of tariff reform at some future time. We do not imagine that Mr. Taft is a tariff reformer enough to hurt the projected interests much, but this effort of the league ought to gain support for him among the tariff plundered masses.

It would be by no means a safe bet that La Follette would not get a plurality of the Republican votes of Oregon, if a popular election could decide.

Letters From the People

People With Putnam.

Portland, Jan. 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have awaited with much interest the outcome of the libel suit brought against the editor of the Medford Tribune, George Putnam, and the verdict, having studied the case closely, was no surprise to me.

While I deeply sympathize with Mr. Putnam, I cannot help but think that for the best interests of the people at large, and of Jackson county in particular, it was the best thing that could have happened. It seems that someone must needs be sacrificed before the people will arise to assert their own rights and demands, and that they be heralded loudly. Mr. Putnam has taken it upon himself to champion the rights of the citizens and taxpayers of Jackson county, and in so doing he has had the misfortune to incur the enmity of those who sit in high places.

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HAS FACED BOTH WAYS ON THE PRIMARY LAW

In the hopeless effort to reconcile changing attitudes of the Oregonians toward the direct primary law, G. E. Hargreaves of Clackamas county has been studying the editorial utterances of that paper. He writes to The Journal as follows:

"The pompous and pedantic style of the Oregonian is often very trying to a constant reader, and the domineering and bombastic manner in which it makes possible a class separation between local and national issues, etc."

"The primary law makes politics a personal scramble, a contest of individuals who stand for nothing at all except the desire of the individual to get off."

"When you have destroyed party and abandoned who party stands for, nothing is left but a cheap personal contest amongst self-nominated men."

"And how are you going to do anything except by acting with a party? Each man or small group to act separately and part with the party is the necessary consequence of the primary law."

"The primary has abolished the representative system."

THE DOUBLE STANDARD

By Charles E. Russell.

All the peoples that are called civilized now use as money coins made of the precious metals (gold and silver) and promises to pay coins of gold and silver. For reasons of convenience coins of copper and of nickel are also in use, but these are only token coins, and circulate merely because they can be exchanged for the gold and silver, which form the real circulating medium.

That is to say, the real thing to be achieved is the exchange of the products of human labor, and in the opinion of these nations the best and safest way to effect that exchange is by means of money (or orders) made of a material that has in itself value. This is very different from the theory of fiat money. According to that theory the money (or order) has no value in itself, and is effective as an order for products only because of the stamp of the government. According to the metallic theory of money, the material of which money is made could be used to purchase things even if it bore no government stamp, and money should be made of only such material.

But those who think money should be made of any other kind of material are not useful as a circulating medium, because at any time people may decline to receive it. The cost of the material of labor. Whereas the money made of valuable material they will always be glad to receive. In other words, fiat money can circulate only by a universal and perfect agreement among all men, whereas money made of gold and silver can circulate only by a universal and perfect agreement among all men, and without any agreement.

Freedom of the Press.

The conviction of the editor of the Tribune and his fine of \$150 upon a charge of criminally libeling the grand jury and deputy prosecuting attorney C. L. Reames will in no manner deter this paper in its duty to the public in criticizing the misconduct of public officials in the future.

The Diary of a Boarder.

Monday. Roast beef tonight for dinner! I ate to beat the Dutch. A lady called on me this evening. We don't get many such.

Our Ex-Presidents.

John J. Ingalls once reported a prize-fight for an eastern newspaper. When it was suggested that employment beneath the dignity of a prize-fighter had been a United States senator, Mr. Ingalls replied in right manly fashion that any honorable work was becoming to any citizen who was put to the labor of his brains or his hands for a living.

To Be Expected.

From the Lincoln Journal. It is just what ought to be expected from a man who has spent only a very small percentage of William Sumner's converts stay hitched.

Small Change

THAW PER'S SWOLLEN FORTUNE WAS A CURSE.

Admiral Brownson has the merit of silence.

Perhaps January and April are to exchange weather.

Will Portland celebrate the completion of the Hill railroad?

The paramount question soon will be: Who will head the delegation?

The extremes of opinion concerning Roosevelt are very wide apart.

Thaw is already mad at Lawyer Littleton. No lawyer would suit him.

Usually the more a candidate tries to answer questions the worse off he is.

Will the Republican literary committee fully explain the panic?

Atlanta Journal: Demjoh supply no more exhausted yet. Gee! Worst is yet to come!

You can find a good many men who think Bryan will be elected who never thought so before.

An exchange says the way to boost is to put your shoulder to the wheel. This makes it entirely clear.

Though Mr. Geer has been a newspaper man, most of the Republican papers of eastern Oregon favor Ellis.

Governor Hughes is going to make a speech in Chicago February 23, and then, perhaps, express a few "views."

We suppose tariff revision by the friends of the tariff means revision by Aldrich, Daizell, Joe Cannon and Oxnard.

Some Iowa papers talk as if that state would be utterly ruined forever if Grandpa Allison is not continued in the senate.

The Detroit News remarks that the men who oppose municipal ownership are usually believers in the private ownership of governments.

Sarah Bernhardt is going to tour the orient. It seems to be nearly time she should be seen in our country. She's always welcome, even if she does take away a lot of our money.

In a local news item about the death of a man of 50 he is called an "aged" man. Is Roosevelt "aged" in this country? Brother Geer is 57 or so and doesn't act "aged." This word is overworked.

T. T. Geer was a candidate for the legislature twice, being elected, and was on the second occasion elected speaker of the house; he was a candidate for collector of customs, but failed to get the office; was a candidate for governor, but lost; was a candidate for re-nomination, but was defeated; was a candidate for senator and carried the state, there being no opposition, but lost in the legislature; was a candidate for the primary nomination for governor and lost by a few votes, and is now a candidate for representation. Does this make a man a "miscellaneous candidate"?

A Pendleton old bachelor gave the Tribune to print the following alleged old English law: "That all women of whatever age, rank, profession or degree, whether married or unmarried, shall, from and after the passing of this act, impose upon and betray into matrimony any of his majesty's male subjects by false titles, names, or names, subjects, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool, iron stays, hoops, high-heeled shoes, or anything else, shall incur the penalty of the law now in force against witchcraft, sorcery and such like misdemeanors, and that the same, upon conviction, shall be null and void."

Oregon Sidelights

A Phoenix, Jackson county, field of grain last fall stands fully 12 inches high and is almost headed out.

For the year 1906 the rainfall at Bend amounted to 19.8 inches, and in the year 1907, 69.8 inches, a much greater fall of 17.01 inches for the latter year.

The outlook for the new year in Linn county was never more encouraging, says the Albany Herald. Perhaps the county has never been so good financially to begin the new year as at the present time.

Burns Times-Herald: It is reported that the well-being sunk at the Jenkins ranch has been in a mad rush toward the drill has struck a vein of hot water. It has the odor of sulphur and iron, with particles of oil floating on the surface.

Pilot Rock Record: Mr. Geer ought to be a good congressman. He was a failure as a farmer. He was a newspaper man and miserably failed as a governor. All these things are in his favor. He is a candidate for office before "the people."

Charles Holloway now holds the belt in the Brooks' Times "yard of potatoes" contest. He left three Burbanks that measure just 3 1/2 inches in length, three "skinning" D. H. Long's three Burbanks that measured 3 1/2 inches, and Charles Weber's three by 3 1/2 inches.

Corvallis is leaping forward with such long strides that it is almost impossible for an old-time resident to realize what the village of a few years ago has become in its mad rush toward metropolitanism, says the Republican, which adds that Corvallis has 4,000 population.

At the Blinlock fruit farm near Freewater about 20 men are engaged in pruning trees. This orchard contains about 1,400 trees, many of which are bearing fruit trees. As soon as the pruning is done in the different orchards spraying will begin, and the growers will be busy until budding time.

The people of Fairview, in Coos county, are bound to have good roads, as at a recent road meeting they bonded the district for 10 miles for road purposes, when an amount of \$50,000. This special tax over \$5,000. They realize that if they want good roads they will have to build them. They have spent \$1.50 on the proposed new road between that section and Coquille City.

Drain Nonparadi: Has it ever occurred to you that no man in Oregon is doing more good work for the state than is being done right along by William McCurray? The very able and energetic general passenger agent of the O. R. & N. and Southern Pacific lines in Oregon? Through his untiring and splendid efforts in systematic advertising in the east and west, many thousands of desirable home-seekers are enabled to come to this state every year.

Walter Churchill went to Tillamook county with another man in 1888 and died suddenly and was almost immediately buried. He had considerable money, and his relatives were never quite satisfied, and did nothing till last week, when an uncaring farmer, who they found, says the Clatsop County, the bones well preserved, and the skull was lying on the ground, and was stretched out on left side and legs were drawn up, all of which would indicate that the deceased was not dead when buried, and that he recovered consciousness enough to struggle in his grave.