# EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL


## THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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The present life is the seedplot of the future state, and the harvest which we reap in eternity is the same in character and quality as that which now we sow.—William Taylor.

### WILL PROBABLY BE BRYAN.

MR. BRYAN is doubtless sincere in professing that he does not desire to run for president unless the "rank and file" are for him. He is not a man to make any false pretenses in regard to his candidacy, nor on the other hand is he troubled with any false modesty. Of course he would like to try for the presidency again if the masses of the party want him to do so; otherwise he will cheerfully acquiesce in the nomination of some other man.

Efforts have been made to convince Bryan that a large or considerable element of the party prefer some one else, but on investigation this will probably prove an unfounded or exaggerated report. Of course all Democrats cannot agree, will not have the same first choice; but we think a very large majority of Democrats are for Mr. Bryan. A certain element of the party or of men who have been classed as Democrats, are against him and what he stands for, but the probability is that Mr. Bryan is stronger and a greater favorite with the "rank and file" than ever before. And probably he can be pretty easily convinced of this by the time the convention meets.

Mr. Bryan will run better than he did before. Indeed, careful observers say that he has an excellent chance of election. There are some of the Republican "rank and file" who will also vote for him next fall. Party ties are not so strong as they have been, and if Bryan is good for the "rank and file" of one party, he would do the "rank and file" of the other party no harm.

### MEN NEEDED.

WHY CANNOT a few "different" men be sent to congress? Not bushwhacking ranters like Jeff Davis, but fearless, able men of clear vision, compelling speech, resistless reasoning and a purpose; to wit, the people's true service? What a rattling of dry and moldy bones there would be in the halls of congress if there were even a dozen such senators and two score such representatives—people's champions, not demagogues; knights of the helpless masses; men who despise all hypocrisy and graft; men of moral courage, who would dare to take a position regardless of votes they would win or lose; men who not with windbags but with swords would attack the great carcasses of abuses that have grown up mountain high in the national capital.

It has been declared that for 30 years the people of Oregon have had no real representation in congress. The railroads and timberland grabbers and all sorts of plunderers have been represented, but not the people. These misrepresentatives—not only from Oregon, but from the whole country—have given away the public lands, timber and prairie, robbing their employers, the people, of them. The railroads are the sovereign taxing power, for they can charge whatever rates they please, and spend the money as they please. The water powers, worth a vast sum to the people, have been thrown away, passed over to whatever corporations asked for them; the people's supposed representatives actually, and as matter of regular official business, and perhaps of party "principle," taking the very valuable rights and property of a million men and giving it to one, two or three—free, unless the representatives received messes of pottage for themselves.

The average representative in congress is a mediocre man, who could not do much if he tried, but if he has superior ability he cares for the people only enough to get their votes again. He does as the rest do—introduces pension bills, runs on department errands, attends to routine committee work, votes with his party, sends home a lot of garden seeds and some speeches, falls in with all the schemes and big grafting that are going on, even if he grafts none himself, and imagines that he represents the people. And while for 30 years the average representative has been doing this, and the average senator, having more chances, has been doing worse, the people have been robbed, through their affirmative actions and neglect, of property worth billions.

Aside from La Follette and Tillman and perhaps Culverson, we don't recall a senator who can be truly classed as a people's representative. There may be another one or two from the south, and Bourne is not fairly in the harness yet. Beveridge shows some signs of trying to serve the people, Smith of Michigan may do so, but for the rest the people in real, vital matters are unrepresented. The membership of the house shows up better, but there is crying need for more men who will prove themselves real champions of the people. And yet our ears are dinned with "party," and "principles," and various moldy claptrap to divert the people's attention, when what is needed is men who can see what should be done and both dare and can do it. The poet's prayer, God give us men, is still in order.

### THE UPPER COLUMBIA.

THE INFORMAL report of government engineers who have been making an inspection of the upper Columbia river as far as Kettle Falls is encouraging. There has never been any doubt that with the expenditure of a reasonable amount of money the river could be opened to transportation by light-draft boats as far as Kettle Falls, well up into the interior of eastern Washington, and this inspection shows that the cost of the necessary improvement would be less than has been supposed.

The region adjacent to and this side of Kettle Falls is excellently adapted not only to grain and livestock, but immediately adjacent to the river to fruit also. In Stevens' county the valley of the Columbia varies from three to 15 miles wide, and everywhere is found a profusion of the finest orchard products known to the west, and it is one of the finest horticultural domains of eastern Washington.

With the river opened up, all that region would of course be immediately tributary to Portland. The cost, as we have said, for blasting out rocks would not be very great, and this reach of the great river should be improved simultaneously with the building of the jetty and the construction of the Celilo canal..

### VAIN SPECULATION.

THE PRESIDENTIAL figurers and guessers are busy already, and will get busier and more numerous till the day of election. None of them are more than guessers, and no better now at guessing than the average well-informed citizen. One of these early calculators has it figured out that if Taft should be nominated Bryan would carry New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Connecticut and Delaware, and along with the solid south, including Missouri and Oklahoma, would be elected. It is useless to argue or speculate about such calculations. It is within the range of possibilities that Bryan can carry New York, but it is scarcely probable. And one might as well predict that he would carry Wisconsin as New Jersey and Iowa as Ohio. Nobody can make an intelligent conjecture until about next September, or perhaps October. For Bryan to be elected, there must be a great popular "ground swell," east and west, in his favor, and that will not reach calculating proportions, if it comes, before late next summer.

The pension budget has made an upward jump again, although it had repeatedly been said that it had reached its highest figure, and according to the estimate will this year reach $150,000,000 or about $7,000,000 above last year's total. The country has no objection whatever to pensions for all old soldiers and their widows who are in the least need, but a large proportion of these millions is paid to people who are rich or well-to-do, and this is an injustice to the taxpayers. It is in fact a species of congressional bribery. However, since we are paying $150,000,000 a year in pensions, congress ought not to balk at $50,000,000 a year for waterway improvements.

## DO THEY CONSENT?

HAVE the members of the Oregon delegation consented to the policy announced by Mr. Tawney that there shall be no aid for rivers and harbors at this session of congress? It is common knowledge that aid is to be denied inland waterways as a measure of retrenchment for use by the Republicans as a campaign issue in the presidential election. Are Senator Bourne, Senator Fulton, Mr. Ellis and Mr. Hawley parties to this arrangement? Are they willing to sacrifice the material interests of Oregon for the sake of mere party success in the Nation?

Each of these members has, at various times and on divers occasions, trumpeted to the people of Oregon his devotion to the cause of Oregon river improvements. In speeches in Oregon recently Senator Fulton was mighty and voluble in his protestations of his zeal for an open Willamette and an unfettered Columbia from its mouth to its source. From Washington, Senator Bourne piped by telegraph his purpose to insist upon congressional aid for Oregon rivers. Mr. Hawley at divers times, as well as before the Oregon legislature declared his first and foremost purpose to be government ownership of the locks at Oregon City and improvement of the Willamette.

That is what they told the people of Oregon, but what the people of Oregon are actually hearing is, "no aid, no aid, no aid" for rivers at this session. It is a story so old that it has become threadbare. Promises there are, promises by the million, but of performances, none. When not a postponement, it is a delay, and when not a delay it is a postponement. It is always an explanation, and a promise.

These river improvements in Oregon ought to be made, and the beginning ought to be at this session of congress. Labor is available now in such a measure as it has not been available for years, and wages are much lower. Workingmen are more abundant and their hire much less than they may be two years' hence. A sane policy by congress would not be to hold up the country for partisan reasons, but to enter upon these various river projects at a time when labor and material conditions are so favorable. With every Oregonian pleading for these improvements, improvements that would advance every material interest of the state, if members of the Oregon delegation are parties by consent to this hold up, they are not worthy of the places they occupy. If they cannot secure these improvements, men ought to be elected to their places who can. If, while spending hundreds of millions annually on war and the incidents of war, congress insists on sacrificing the interests of Oregon for partisan reasons, the citizens of the state should resent the unwarranted and contemptible discrimination, by going Democratic. Improved rivers are of far more importance to Oregon and Oregonians than is the success or failure of any party.

There was an anti-Bryan conference at Washington the other day. Behold some of the distinguished and distinterested Democratic patriots who were present. There were August Belmont, Thomas F. Ryan, William. F. Sheehan, ex-Senator James Smith of New Jersey, Colonel G. B. M. Harvey, and others, but last and perhaps least, J. K. Jones, chairman of the national Democratic committee in 1896 and 1900. At least it was so reported, though we doubt if Uncle Jimsy was there; yet it would not be surprising, for it was found out years ago that he was up to his neck in the cotton tie trust, and standing in with all the others. Gumshoe Bill Stone and Judge Parker should have been there to round out a goodly company of very distinguished and disinterested patriots.

Mr. A. L. Mohler, general manager of the Union Pacific lines, is, or was lately, still discharging men and cutting down the time of workingmen, and he is quoted as saying that this was necessary as a result of Roosevelt's administration. Of course this was Harriman, not Mohler, speaking. Harriman is angry at Roosevelt, and is taking his revenge out on the country, especially the workingmen. Some day the country will get its boot on Harriman's neck.

The country must expect some measure of depression until the presidential campaign is over. These political disturbances come too often. Frequently a change in the constitution making the presidential term six years has been talked of, but no definite steps have been taken to bring it about. Why not? Do the politicians like this quadrennial hubbub? We believe an overwhelming majority of the people would vote for a six-year term.

Secretary Taft has been explaining that a reduction of duties on Philippine sugar and tobacco would not injure American interests. He leaves it to be inferred that if he thought lower duties would injure the sugar and tobacco trusts, he would not advocate a reduction of duties. Mr. Charles B. Warren, the Michigan representative of the sugar trust, recently said: "I am satisfied with the situation. Taft is more favorable to our interests than he was. Personally, I am for Taft."

It seems to be necessary to repeat from time to time that The Journal pays no attention to anonymous communications. In every case the real name and address of the writer must be given as an evidence of good faith. If he does not wish to have his name published he can so signify.

Some Russian people are blaming the douma for doing nothing. But if it did anything it would be dissolved and the members would be lucky if they escaped punishment.

An exchange exclaims indignantly against Jerome browbeating that poor, little, sensitive, delicate girl, Evelyn Thaw. Don't worry; she's a match for Jerome.

What a pretty, appropriate plaything for a little boy a pistol is. A Yakima family has a boy of 7 years who hereafter will have one hand instead of two, because he was allowed to play with a loaded revolver. Possibly his parents now realize that this detestable invention is a curse to the country.

The Philadelphia Record (Dem.) says: "The question at the present time is not whether Mr. Bryan is right or not." But, in connection with his nomination, which is what the Record was discussing, that is just the question, as with regard also to any other possible candidate.

"Hughes will accept the nomination if he can get it," declares the Buffalo Times. Is it possible? We can scarcely credit so astonishing a statement.

## Running Shots

Written for The Journal by Fred C. Denton.

Established special privileges in all times have relied upon those who could be induced to believe that freedom and progress would injure them individually to fight their battles for them. The express trust is one of the wisest of this generation, and its satisfaction with the strenuous opposition to the parcels post put up by honest and earnest tradesmen must be great, especially as it probably does not cost the trust a red cent.

* * *

The two "fish amendments," as they are called by men short of time and sharp in discernment, if passed, will give more relief to the over-harried salmon of the Columbia river than the sponsors of either one desire. One will stop salmon fishing on the upper river and the other on the lower river. What a rest the next legislature will enjoy from both houses of fish lobbyists if both bills pass. With the voice of the people still reverberating in their ears the solons will have good excuse to do nothing.

* * *

With land selling at the rate of $1,600,000 an acre, as shown by the leasing of the McGinn block, perhaps the farmers of Oregon will discover that they do not own the land if measured with $10 bills. At $50 an acre it would require 32,000 acres of farming land to equal one acre of Portland land.

* * *

The different statute books of the states are full of fool, freak and fearsome laws enacted by legislators supposedly elected because of their abilities and intelligence being above the average. In legislating for themselves the people of Oregon may enact some absurd, vicious or injurious laws, but they cannot exceed in these lines what even the Oregon legislatures of times past have solemnly made into "the perfection of reason" Blackstone says that law is.

* * *

The story of Don Quixote charging windmills is one that made all Europe laugh at knight errantry. In the near future the charging upon the direct primaries made by a once possible United States senator of journalistic fame will mark the decline in old political methods, now being ushered out of Oregon with contemptuous but kindly smiles.

* * *

It is confidently predicted by men watching the course of events that if Taft is nominated and then beaten by Bryan Bobby La Follette will be the only possible hope of the Republican party in 1912. What a lot of crow the eminent members of the United States house of corporations will have to eat in four years, if these prophets are correct!

* * *

That Portland is the natural gateway for more agricultural country than any other city in northern latitudes in the United States is slowly dawning upon us. Let us be careful not to keep those gates from being closed to the commerce of the world that will come to the Pacific coast with the operation of the Panama canal.

### Preservation of Forests.

Governor Chamberlain in The Century.

I congratulate The Century on the efforts it is making to create a stronger sentiment in favor of the preservation of the forests. The policy of reserve creation inaugurated on a small scale in 1891 for the preservation of the forests in the public land states, and preservered in since, has been unpopular because the necessity therefor has not been understood. But constant and persistent educational work is beginning to have its effect, and to the Hon. Gifford Pinchot the country owes a lasting debt of gratitude for faithful, self-sacrificing and efficient service along these lines.

The west, and particularly the arid and semi-arid regions, understand fully now that conservation of the water supply is absolutely dependent upon the preservation of the upland forests. Opposition to the policy comes not from those interested in the development of the country, and the perpetuation of our institutions, but from the predatory classes, who care for naught but temporary gain. The policy of the west should be the policy of the east, and every section of the country whose streams have their source in the Appalachian or other ranges there should bestir themselves not only to protect the remaining forests, but to reforest the lands wich have been recklessly denuded.

The suggestion of The Century for a convention of governors and others to consider this question was followed by the president at the request of the inland waterways commission, and in his speech at Memphis on October 4 he announced that he would call a convention having for its purpose the consideration of the best methods of conserving all the natural resources of the country. This in the very nature of things includes the preservation of the forests.

I hope The Century will persist in its good work, for without a more general understanding of the part played in our civilization by the forests on the upper stretches and mountain ranges, they are doomed to destruction, to gratify the commercial spirit of an extremely commercial age.

### The Festive Jap.

From the Jacksonville Post.

The yellow newspapers and other agitators over the land are going to monkey around until it will become necessary for us to lambaste those well-done Japs to a hard-boiled finish. (I say "well-done" because they are brown.)

But anyhow, the Japanese race is now about to take place. Already the little curs are Nippin' at Uncle Sam's heels and the first thing they know Uncle Sam will kick seven kinds of liver out of the whole bunch.

In years agone we used to inveigh and declaim against the poor Chinese. Why, gentle reader (I call you gentle reader because it sounds literary), a Chinaman is an angel from heaven compared to a Jap.

A Chinaman is partly honest, but a Japanese is as far removed from honor as Bryan from the president's chair. If 20 widows and 17 orphans and five dying men and an ostrich were all dependent upon a miserable Jap, he would throw every one of them down and laugh in their faces at their credulity. That's the kind of a hairpin a Jap is.

Japs are about as judgment proof as a 50-inch bicycle. A judgment in a court of justice would be about as valuable against him and about as feasible as serving a summons for divorce on a lop-eared coyote on his way to dinner. They are undoubtedly the flim-flammers and bunko-steerers of the orient—the short-card men of Asia.

## FOUR MINE DISASTERS KILLED OVER SIX HUNDRED MEN

Naomi, Monongah, Yolande, Darr—the season of peace on earth, good will toward men, has opened this year with a pitiful cannonading from the coal pits which has killed a total of 650 men. Like war, these industrial disasters grievously injure a much greater number of non-combatants, and unlike war, no adequate system of pensioning has been devised to care for them.

The current issue of Charities and the Commons publishes a report of a special representative at Monongah, who endeavored to estimate the human weights and values of the community's loss. Here is a description of a hill street back of the mine's mouth:

A knot of silent mine workers, in boots and corduroys and overalls, could be made out from the rim of the bluff above them; and there sat in heavier silence a group of shawled women, waiting. Behind them ran a little street, thick in mud, with domino shaped stepping stones at the crossways, with colorless little houses, and propped walks and here and there dove-cotes nailed under the eaves or reared on poles.

Two Slavic women, with big-boned, grief-wrenched faces, were walking up and down the street, going nowhere. They wore great shawls, and diagonally across their breasts were the papoose-like bodies of their babies, wrapped in with a knack which is handed down by the mother wit of the old country. Farther on was a little, five-year-old girl, playing by the fence. "We've got two dead in our house," she said, smiling. At the end of the street were store buildings, and the Italian woman who kept one of them had let them leave a coffin box on her steps until the right household should be found. She told me of a country-woman, the mother of four little children, who had lost her husband, a son 19, and a trapper boy of 13: "Woman cry all time," she said;—of another with three boys killed;—of the man and seven boarders killed at No. 151—"All married, old country. No see tall, no see. He can' find. All burn." Standing at the head of the street, she pointed out with stretched finger, the houses in a row on the bluff where the shawled women sat and waited—"Firs' hous', one man. 'Talisno. Nixa. Slavish, maybe two; maybe tree. Nixa hous', he no come out. Nixa, four men die. Slavish. Nixa hous', two men, nine 'clock he got out"—and she raised and lowered her arm in a counting of the houses, one after another. So it ran; and life ached on those little streets where there was not so much as a rag of crape to show where the heart had been hollowed out of it, like the black workings that gutted the hills. A hearse drove up to the corner house and the driver beckoned to me and to a workman who had come up. There was a coffin to be taken away and he needed help in lifting it. The women had to be pushed back while he worked at closing the lid. Their cries rose and fell in that half unison of Slavic peoples which makes almost a ritual of sobbing. The wife stood on the porch as they drove off; bare-armed, stupid in her loss, her face knotted; with two little, open-mouthed children whimpering and plucking at her apron, and behind them a grandmother. Across the street the tears were running down the face of the Italian storekeeper and she was giving herself up to the impetuous crying of her race. A little red-cheeked Irish boy had poked his way into the Slavic house as they lifted the body out. He was going for the doctor, he said; the baby had been sick all night. "Got heem pap yet?" asked the Italian woman. "Nope," said the boy.

Reduced to its simplest terms, the rescue work is described as follows:—The entries of the mines are parallel tunnels connected every so often with cutoffs, like rungs on a ladder. Butt entries, similar to the main entries, branch off at right angles to the latter, and from these butt entries open out the chambers, or rooms, from which the coal is cleared. The fans forced the air down one entry until it came to a cutoff, around which the current set, coming back up the other entry. The men followed the air, until they reached the cutoff, where they set up a brattice, or temporary partition, blocking the connecting passage. Then the air current had to push on to the next cutoff before it could find an outlet to the other entry. The men followed, a gang of from 15 to 35, the explorers leading, lifting their safety lamps to the roof and watching the flame. If it lengthened, there was no firedamp there and they would know they were treading on the heels of another explosion and must wait. Or else they lowered their lamps and watched the flame. If it died down, there was blackdamp there, heavy, settling, but ready to reel over the man that breathed it. Again they must wait, must go 10 feet ahead and try; must hold canvas barricades against the gas till their arms ached, while the brattices slowly went up; and all the time must forage for death in that breathless sweater, finding it in a disemboweled mule, or the charred, crushed thing that had been a miner, or a headless trapper boy, or an empty shoe.

## Small Change

Don't put it off—registering.

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The New York World has Bryanophobia.

* *

Don't be too sure that it is spring for good.

* *

Pity the hard luck of the would-be fuel trust.

* *

If women could vote, Cake might have an advantage.

* *

Most of the proposed initiative laws will be beaten.

* *

Now the east is in the grip of winter. Behold Oregon.

* *

Taft won't fight Hughes in New York. Is this a feint?

* *

What a job making that Republican platform will be.

* *

Every day the revolver proves itself a deadly nuisance.

* *

Everybody should get aboard the waterway wagon.

* *

Czar Cannon is against improved waterways—of course.

* *

Bryan wouldn't talk politics Sunday. He lives his religion.

* *

Plead guilty and get immunity, is the legal order of the day.

* *

Injunctions should issue against the presidential election figurers.

* *

The railroads and the Weyerhaeusers have all their timber land yet.

* *

Wanted—A big, live man for congress. We don't mean "big" physically.

* *

If the people give up, how future legislatures would revel in mischief.

* *

Democrats opposed to Bryan, when he gets there are always somewhere else.

* *

We wish Hughes would issue an authentic and official cut of his whiskers.

* *

What's the matter with La Follette? many Oregon Republicans are asking.

* *

And again the marines are being entertained. What a picnic that voyage is.

* *

What is doing in congress for Oregon? Nothing much that we can hear of.

* *

Foraker has got rid of "la grippe" and has also nearly lost his political grip.

* *

La Follette, Republican; Pat McCarren, Democrat. Yes people prate of party.

* *

Boys have no business in poolrooms. And gambling poolrooms have no right to exist.

* *

Let the people elect their senators; electing only Statement No. 1 men will do it.

* *

A convention held at Denver ought to be able to adopt a high-principle platform.

* *

The Oregonian rails at the Mitchell Republicans. They were exactly like the other faction.

* *

Bourne may carry the president, but carrying Oregon for the convention is another matter.

* *

It is already becoming a question down in Georgia how many jags there are in a jug.

* *

Some blind pig talk is dry humor.—Albany Democrat. But blind pig humor must be wit.

* *

That bridegroom count is a curiosity; according to report, he has a lot of money of his own.

* *

Being an Ohio man, Mr. Judson Harmon cannot understand why his boom doesn't grew and bellow.

* *

Shaw has also decided to be a candidate for president. But he won't be candidate enough to hurt.

* *

When Seattle's postoffice can show as large a business as Portland's we shall believe its population is as large.

* *

It is suspected that Hughes' pere, who is a Baptist minister, baptized the kid Charles in very cold but clear water.

* *

Pugilist Ryan defeated Pugilist Johnson in 18 rounds. But this was in Wrotham, England, in 1791.

* *

As a rule, the richer a man in New York is, of those who have considerable property, the less taxes he pays.

* *

The railroads won't let laboring men work and the authorities of Chicago won't let them parade. So it is a cold time for them.

## Oregon Sidelights

Corvallis may have a gas plant.

* *

Fruit cannery for Dallas probable.

* *

Merrill had a big good-roads meeting.

* *

Cougars are killing in Langell valley.

* *

Falls City is growing as a trade center.

* *

Mumps are mumping in many small towns.

* *

The former Aurora Borealis is now the Hop Reporter.

* *

During 1907 a Brownsville man's 15 cows yielded a total of $1,175.

* *

Onion sets are being sent out by the carload from Hubbard to all parts of the coast.

* *

Estacada should have a flour mill, a fruit and vegetable cannery, and a tool handle factory, says the News.

* *

An Alsea man gives the following account from 135 Silver Spangled Hamburg hens for the year 1907: 929 dozen eggs, sold for $175.52, raised besides 100 young chickens.

* *

The Irrigator has received word that several intending settlers will soon be here from the middle west to look over the Irrigon lands.

* *

A Tillamook paper says: By the look of the flour and the feed for this county, held up there for several months on the docks, Astoria rats are well trained and splendid chewers on Tillamook feed.

The well borers at Vale are now down a depth of 800 feet at the courthouse and have struck a stratum of boiling mud. Another well near Vale is down 2,000 feet and prospects for oil are bright.

* *

One of the busiest little towns in this part of the state just now is the town of Marcola, says the Eugene Register. The monthly payroll at that point is now $26,000 and during the coming summer, it will be much greater. There is much business transacted in all lines. The enrollment at the public schools is now 186.

* *

If anyone is looking for a good, quiet and healthy place with clean, dry streets, to live, let them come to Hubbard, says a correspondent. We have the best streets of any town in western Oregon. Any of them can be crossed with slippers on and not get wet feet either. The roads leading into town are good.

* *

The members of the Clatsop county bar association are to be commended for their enterprise in deciding to purchase a legal library which will be installed in the new courthouse, says the Budget. Clatsop county now has the finest public building in the state and the attorneys show that they appreciate it by trying to add to its attractiveness and the completeness of its equipment.

* *

This from the Klamath Falls Herald is an old story in different parts of Oregon: 'From experiments made during the past year one of the greatest money makers for the small rancher, which has developed, is raising hogs. Klamath county at the present time does not raise enough hogs to supply the home market. Large quantities of ham, and bacon have to be shipped in each year. The reason for this state of affairs has as yet remained unexplained."

* *

A Eugene man advocates the establishment of a corset factory there, which leads the Register to remark: "It seems to us some one should embrace the opportunity to establish a corset factory here in Eugene. Such a chance should not be allowed to go to waist. Of corset is not to be undertaken without some risque, but if backed by people of the "stay with it or bust" class, there would be no bone of contention over, or strings on, the result." Yet the enterprise might have a tight squeeze to maintain fine financial forms.

### Regis Henri Post's Birthday.

Regis Henri Post, the present governor of the island of Porto Rica, was born in Bellport, Long Island, January 28, 1870. He graduated from Harvard in 1891, afterward studying law at the University of New York. He served for several years as a member of the Republican committee of his county and was a member of the general assembly of New York in 1899 and 1900. He is a man of independent fortune and prominent socially. He belongs to an old Long Island family, being descended from the Posts who settled in Southampton in 1640. When at home Governor Post took an active interest in athletic sports, being noted as a wing shot and prominent as a yachtsman. It was in 1903 that Mr. Post first went to Porto Rica as auditor of the territorial government. The following year he was made secretary to the territorial regime and later made executive of the island, succeeding Beekman Winthrop.

## The REALM of FEMININE

THE annual report of the librarian of the public library arouses a new sense of the tremendous potency for good of that institution and makes one realize what those are missing who fail to avail themselves of it.

A free library is one of the greatest factors for good in the community, and we who have a well-equipped storehouse of information open every day with courteous attendants ready at all times to give information or assistance in the selection of books may well be thankful.

It is a matter of congratulation, too, that our free library is the result of the generosity of certain large-hearted people in our own town. We are not "beholden to the inexhaustible purse whose largess so many cities have claimed," as a recent visitor in Portland puts it. We have a population of about 200,000, yet but 12,000 are taking books from the central library. This number is increased by those who are regular borrowers from the east side, Montavilla, Sellwood and Albina libraries. Yet, granting that some other members of the family read books that are taken out by one, the proportion of regular patrons of the libraries remains small.

The pity is that it is not the already well-educated people or those who can afford to purchase books who do not visit the library and avail themselves of it. Such people have usually largely developed the browsing habit and are accustomed to look through many books which they do not care to own. It is the people who need the larger outlook than a narrow life of toil gives who are neglecting their opportunities. It is a pity, too, that so many women and girls who need the broadening influence are indifferent to this vast wealth of information and culture. For the good thing about the reading habit is that it grows, like other habits, and it constantly tends to better things.

It is even an encouraging thing to see a girl going home from her work in store or factory turning the pages of an exciting Laura Jean Libbey novel to see what Lord Gerald did when the beautiful nursery governess spurned his attentions. It shows that she has begun to read. People begin that way, you know, when they begin to eat. They take to their nourishment in soft, gruelly stuff. By and by they need stronger food and the appetite for reading, once acquired, needs for its satisfaction stronger and more satisfying food. By and by she will progress to Dickens and Thackeray and Eliot and so she will be fairly started on an intellectual food that will provide her sustenance and give her energy for her whole after life.

Reading is not a substitute for life, says the practical man. No, nor is it intended to be. But it is in itself the most potent factor toward good living that is obtainable. Aside from the purely mental or intellectual culture that it gives, good reading feeds the inner springs of conduct, purpose and will that are unconsciously translated into action. This "tell me what you eat, read, wear, think, suppose, axiom has been tremendously overworked. It stares us in the face from billboard and street car posters as an incentive to dietetic stunts that are quite wearisome.

Yet it is applicable—peculiarly so—in the case of reading. From the book with his first wild west nickel novel to the matured mind, the book that we read influences conduct. We want to be like the people we read about.

Only a short time ago we had legislation enacted to put a stop to the sale of pernicious yellow literature to boys, but not until our attention was freshly called to it by the gory deeds of a few boys. "There is no worse robber than a bad book," says an Italian proverb, and the truth is obvious, for it robs the reader not only of his time which might be well employed, but it gets into the heart and soul and robs him of peace and purity and belief in the good, all of which is far worse than robbing him of his money.

So the necessity for a wise choice of books. And here is where the young person who is not well posted as to what to read may have the benefit of the advice and information of the attendants at the library. Many are too timid to ask. Many who go to the library do not quite understand how to use the card catalogue and the hesitate to bother the busy people there. Yet where a little time and explanation will set the inquirer right it is always courteously and willingly given.

"Would you know the tendency of a book for good or evil," said Southey, "examine the state of mind in which you lay it down." It is worth remembering as a means of testing for our own satisfaction the books that we read.

As to the long-established joke of a woman's reading the end of a novel first in order to see how it comes out, that is defended by one intelligent woman reader. She claims that by so setting one's mind at rest in regard to the narrative, one is left free to enjoy more fully the manner in which the plot, the characterization and the composition are worked out. It may be defensible, too, when one can by that means discover that the whole outcome is unsatisfactory and that it is not worth while to go through so much to get so little.

But reading a book straight through from first to last is undoubtedly as the author intends, and it seems only right to respect his wishes in the matter. There is another trick of the ordinary reader that is less defensible than reading the book wrong end to and that is skipping the preface. It is like entering into conversation with a person to whom one has not been introduced. If the author has something to say to you as man to man he says it in the preface. He tells you something of his characters, or himself or of the conditions under which he writes that makes you at once acquainted with him. And it not infrequently is true that what you get of the man behind the book is more valuable than what he tries to tell you in it.

So if you are not one of the people who are using the public library begin. That is one of the prettiest tributes to literature that Emily Dickenson gives:

"He ate and drank the precious words,
His spirit grew robust;
He knew no more than he was poor
nor that his frame was dust;
He danced along the dingy days. And
this bequest of wings
Was but a book. What liberty the
loosened spirit brings."

### This Date in History

1547—King Henry VIII of England died; succeeded by Edward VI.

1768—Benjamin Franklin examined in the house of commons respecting the stamp act.

1807—Pall Mall, London, lighted with gas—the first street in any city so illuminated.

1841—Henry M. Stanley, the explorer, born.

1856—Rev. Reuben Archer Torrey, celebrated evangelist, born in Hoboken, New Jersey.

1859—James Francis Smith, governor general of the Philippine islands, born at San Francisco.

1870—Steamer City of Boston sailed from Halifax for Glasgow, with 191 souls on board and was never heard from again.

1871—Paris surrendered to the Germans, after a siege of 131 days.

Ewan Lake Correspondence: Ranch horses are getting fat and some people have turned out their cattle to browse. Still there is lots of hay left, but the cattle prefer the brush and mahogany hay as the farmers call it.