

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON, Publisher

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This world is a world of men, and these men are our brothers. We must not banish from us the divine breath; we must love. Evil must be conquered by good; and before all things, one must keep a pure conscience.—Henri Frederic Amiel.

ANOTHER RAILROAD MONOPOLY

IN A smaller field, territorially, Mr. C. S. Mellen, formerly president of the Northern Pacific railroad, now president of a railroad running from New York through New England, is as complete an autocrat and monopolist as Mr. Harriman is in the country west of the Missouri river and south of Portland. And there, too, as here, the railroad monopolist is or seeks to be a monopolist on the adjacent sea as well. Collier's Weekly says: "Mr. Mellen will control absolutely, and has already gone far toward controlling, every steam railroad and every trolley and every coastwise steamship in New England. Every time the New Englander travels a mile, every time he ships 10 pounds of freight, he will negotiate with Mr. Mellen's agents and pay into Mr. Mellen's treasury the charge that Mr. Mellen finds necessary to pay interest on the water in his securities."

So there the steam railroad monopoly has secured control of the trolley lines as well, and it may be expected that this will happen here also, as soon as they are fairly in operation, unless some means can be devised to prevent Mr. Harriman from thus continuing his oppressive monopoly. As to the question involved in such a situation, Collier's says that they are not to be ultimately decided by Mr. Mellen and his associates, "nor by the owners of moribund little trolleys who are glad to let Mr. Mellen's rich New Haven road give solidity to their water and create a charge upon which New England travelers and manufacturers for generations will pay interest. These are matters to be decided by the will and ballots of the people of New England."

This is the doctrine that The Journal has been preaching all along; this is public rather than private business, and if it is not run in the people's interest, but rather to oppress them, they must take hold of it and regulate and control it. A few years ago Mr. Mellen, Mr. Harriman, Mr. Elliott and the rest, would have laughed such an idea to scorn; now they do not laugh at it as absurd, but affect to ignore it, and to assert that the railroads are poor, prostrate victims of the people's hostility. They are careful not to admit or even recognize the basic principle of the whole controversy—that the railroads, as public highways, are public affairs, and as such must of necessity be under whatever measure of public control the people see fit to assume. These matters, as Collier's says, "are to be decided by the will and ballots of the people."

AS TO COMMON SCHOOLS.

IT HAS been frequently charged that the common school courses of Oregon are overburdened with non-essentials, and that essentials are neglected. Reading, writing and arithmetic were the branches our fathers were fed on. These were accentuated with a persistence that ingrained them into the child nature. Armed with these and the skill acquired in the spelling schools, the business life was undertaken with a considerable degree of confidence. These conditions are recalled by the report of an educational committee for the city of Cleveland, which recommends a return to school courses of narrower focus and greater accentuation. The commission devoted a year and a half to its investigations, and the gist of its recommendations was: More effort and time to reading; supervision of writing to be increased; thorough and continuous training in mental arithmetic, in every grade in which the subject is taught; more time to the essentials—reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling; smaller classes; greater use of the dictionary by pupils; better correlation of the physical training work with other studies.

There is no doubt but we have been given more or less to faddism. We have neglected and are neglecting reading and spelling. The new generation, compared to the old, is sadly deficient in both. The mournful cadence of the reading and the wretched spelling of many present

day graduates is a crime. It is not their fault, because time was taken from these fundamentals and applied to non-essentials. It is the fruit of the system. It is, however, a difficult problem, and so complex that there are almost as many opinions as people. It is noteworthy that all over the country the process of elimination is on with a prospect of an early approach to sounder conditions, even if not so drastic as is proposed at Cleveland. The most important point to bear in mind is that Oregon should build her school system to suit Oregon conditions, and not fashion them to match Massachusetts, Ohio and other thickly populated states. Avoidance of the top-heavy, close adherence to fundamentals and plenty of money for the vitalization and sustenance of the common schools will be sound policy.

CONGRESSIONAL HUMORISTS.

THERE ARE some funny men in congress. Some of them are conscious and some are unconscious humorists. Cushman of Washington, for instance, is funny of set purpose and design, and to be so is natural to him that he is always entertaining. But funnier still, to one who looks a little below the surface of talk and action, is the unconscious humorist, the man who makes a speech so absurdly illogical and patently ridiculous as to be a cause for "roars of laughter," and who is yet in dead sober earnest all through.

Such a speech was that of Townsend of Michigan the other day, who went on to defend if not to praise everything the Republican party had ever done during the last 50 years, and then launched into a laudation of the administration of Roosevelt. "Its record," he said, "will illumine the pages of United States history and mark an epoch in popular government," and he declared that "the students of the future would point to it as the period when the people came into possession of their own by establishing as facts the heretofore theories of a republic, whereby federal law is enacted for no class or financial condition, but for all of the people."

"Think of several hundred more or less bright and brainy men keeping their faces straight in the hearing of these declarations, immediately following an argument that in all its history the Republican party had done everything exactly right. If this be true, why this "epoch in popular government," this "period when the people would come into possession of their own"? If everything has always been just right, why this great change, and why hail it as a people's deliverance?

Yea, verily, there are some curious fellows in congress, and Townsend must be one of them. How refreshing it would be to hear one make a speech in absolute sincerity and candor.

NEGROES AND PROHIBITION.

IT HAS been quite generally supposed, and often said, that the negroes were the cause of the prohibition wave that has swept over the south, making several states of that section "dry," either wholly or in large part; but Booker T. Washington, whose opinion ought to be of value on such a subject, says in the Southern Workman: "The movement is deeper than this. The fact is that the temperance sentiment is just as strong in counties where there are no colored people as in counties where they are in the majority. The Alabama state prohibition law was introduced into the legislature by a man from a county where there are practically no colored people. . . . I am convinced that there is a deep rooted feeling in the masses of law-abiding citizens in the south that some thoroughgoing measures must be taken to reduce the enormous amount of crime that exists. This feeling has taken hold of many men who have themselves been addicted to the liquor habit. The movement is, in fact, a very deep and genuine one, a sort of moral revolution."

While the propensity of the more depraved portion of southern negroes to commit certain crimes was doubtless one cause of the prohibition sentiment in that section, it was not, as has been represented, the only or indeed the chief cause. Intemperance affects the economic value and status of each race, and turns out white as well as negro criminals of all kinds and degrees in great numbers. In portions of the north, as well as in the south, multitudes of people who have never been prohibitionists are looking the liquor traffic over, sizing it up and asking: "Does it pay?"

"IDLE TO EXPECT."

IT IS IDLE," says the New York World, "to expect currency reform from a bill which, like Senator Aldrich's, would permit bankers to emit emergency notes upon Harriman's Chicago & Alton bonds, but not upon city bonds. It is idle to expect reform from a bill like that introduced by Representative McKinney, with the sanction of the American Bankers' association, which permits an emergency fiat currency to be issued by the banks upon payment of only 2 1/2 per cent tax per annum. Under such a law an 'emergency' would arise whenever the bankers could loan money in Wall street at high interest. It is idle to expect

currency reform from a man who, like Representative Fowler, thanks God that Mr. Cleveland was president in 1895 to fall a victim to the great bond conspiracy; who speaks of J. P. Morgan as 'maintaining our national honor' at that time, and who would permit the banks to 'convert their book credits into current credits,' to pass as money. And then the World, becoming possessed of an idea, adds: "Perhaps it is idle to expect congress to do anything." That is the time it summarized the situation. Congress will do nothing, at least nothing for the benefit and protection of the great majority of people, and it is "idle to expect" it.

Senator Culberson introduced two bills, one requiring country banks to keep their money reserves at home, instead of lending three fifths of them to Wall street, and the other requiring that interest be paid on government deposits in national banks, the rate being higher in the spring than in the fall. These laws might have helped some, but of course they will not be considered. Neither will Mr. Bryan's proposition to guarantee bank deposits. Yes, it is "idle" to expect anything beneficial from that senate.

A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME.

AT LAST, it is believed, the affairs of the late Oregon Trust and Savings bank have been brought to the point where all depositors can rest assured of ultimate payment, and small depositors will be paid within a very short time. The German-American bank, a strong institution, has by virtue of the reorganization efforts and the order of the court taken over the defunct bank's assets and liabilities, and there is every reason to believe that they will be well handled, and that the outcome for depositors will be far more satisfactory than for a time they could expect. The reorganization and transfer have been effected in the face of considerable opposition and interference, malicious or at least mischievous, and much credit is due to the well known men who in spite of these difficulties have brought about this result. Especial credit is due to Receiver Devlin, who has labored most diligently and faithfully in the interest of the depositors, and for the result attained, and his expert knowledge and long experience as an accountant have been of great value in this emergency. "All's well that ends well," and this beginning of the end of this unfortunate failure is gratifying to all concerned.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Baker City, Or., Feb. 1.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I suppose when Baker Scott of the tall tower the other day served "Roast Turkey, a la Oregonian" he thought he was giving convincing evidence of his skill to roast veal in the most approved style; but I wish to suggest that on that particular occasion he was himself the blatter instead of the baker.

The Ministers' association of Baker City greatly appreciates the admirable editorial, "A Specious Heresy," as I do personally. I wish to suggest that "Roast Turkey" he showed that he cannot afford to be trusted.

In the first place, I never sent an article to the Oregonian with any intention of hiding behind my anonymity, as the editor of the Oregonian very well knows. I am personally to write the Oregonian on behalf of the Ministers' association a communication, with this in mind: "I am writing you for ally, and the Ministers' association officially, appeal to you to help us in the fight in this city for civic righteousness. But under the circumstances he is excusable."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

PERHAPS a layman cannot understand the incoings and out-comings of congress. Possibly the upmovings and down-movings of legislation at Washington are not intended to be comprehended by the lay mind. Hence The Journal is pardonable, if it errs in this humble inquiry: Wherefore is it necessary for a new survey of the locks and canal at Oregon City to ascertain their probable cost? Such a "survey" has already been made by the United States engineers, and their report is at hand. The figures are on file with the war department, and if it really wants them congress can get them without the slightest trouble. These reflections naturally excite curiosity as to why Senator Fulton has had introduced in the senate a joint resolution ordering a new "survey" of the canal and locks, with a view to determining their probable cost. Is this "survey" all the waiting people of Oregon are to get out of this congress? Does the action mean that there is to be no appropriation for purchase of the locks and that this specious bit of "sop" to wit, a "survey," is to be thrown to Oregonians as a solace for their disappointment? Having had a "survey" already, if this is not what it means, what does it mean?

The Klamath Falls Herald prints a cartoon showing Mr. Harriman at a telephone and saying: "Hello! This you Hood? Well, see that nothing interferes with the rapid completion of the California North-eastern into Klamath Falls. I want to use it to that point in September." Yes, Harriman is busy building a line from Oregon to connect with San Francisco, and another line over in Washington to harass Hill, but he is still refusing to do anything to benefit Oregon.

For the primary city election held recently in Seattle, about 33,000 voters registered. How will it look to show up in Portland at the primaries for a general election with only 18,000 or 20,000 voters registered? The proportion of voters to total population is probably somewhat greater in Seattle than here, yet Portland must have at least as many voters as Seattle, but from present indications the registration will be only about two thirds as large. Hike out and register.

Hurray for Harriman! Work on the Lewiston branch is to be resumed at once. We have waited a long time for a chance to say a good word for Harriman.

The Dalles Chronicle, after running for a few weeks as a morning paper, has changed back to an evening paper, saying that "this change is made after consulting a majority of the patrons, who expressed the opinion that they preferred an even-

ing paper." This is the case in all places, especially on this side of the continent.

Two readers of The Journal have recently written letters, which were cheerfully published, criticizing this paper for its attacks on the revolution. But if these critics will notice the news columns from day to day, they will find that where the revolution does one good service it is the means of many crimes and fatal or sad accidents. The ratio is probably about 100 to 1.

Representative Hawley has to travel over 6,000 miles (and pay his own fare) and lose ten days or so of work in Washington in order to come home to register. This law in this point does him and others in his position an injustice, and it ought to be changed as soon as possible so that members of congress could register by mail.

Cannon and Payne are in favor of a maximum and minimum tariff. We suppose this means that the trusts that contributed the most boodle would have the maximum protection, and those that were most stingy would be placed at the minimum end of the scale. In any event, the benefit to the people is a minus quantity.

There is no doubt that Senator Fulton will have large and attentive audiences in the defensive campaign he is to make.

Don't mention tariff revision to the Republican leaders in congress; it makes them nervous.

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"A refined and lofty principle actuates the common count; out of its mouth come words of truth and holiness; serenity of conscience marks its utterance; its action is in 'yes, yes, nay, nay.' As for the mayor, he is a brewer of disorder. And of such is the kingdom of politics." The Journal talking, but a Detroit newspaper.

Still the pension budget grows. Every year or two congressmen invent some way of adding to it. Forty-three years ago the pension budget was \$1,000,000. Now it is \$100,000,000. The pensioners are rich men and women. But the pensioners are not the rich. The pensioners are the poor. The pensioners are the old. The pensioners are the weak. The pensioners are the infirm. The pensioners are the blind. The pensioners are the deaf. The pensioners are the dumb. The pensioners are the idiotic. The pensioners are the insane. The pensioners are the criminals. The pensioners are the degenerates. The pensioners are the scum of society.

Four new families have located in Albany, and say they will stay. Houses are getting scarce in Albany. The city needs at least 50 new houses for rental.

C. E. Mills of Lyons, Linn county, last year from 12 cows received \$1,194.93 from the creamery and \$230.10 from the sale of butter. His total income was \$1,425.03. The expense was \$358.50.

Bandon Recorder: The speed limit of delivery of mails into North Bend from Marshfield, three miles, averages 18 hours for three miles for the past two months. This is the record, and we advise a leather medal with two lemon pennants be presented to the mail carrier.

Small Change

A leader is not just the same as a boss.

Bryan and Berry would be brief and alliterative.

Not even a tariff commission this year. It is just a wall.

When the morning paper essays "sarkasm," it tells considerable truth.

North Carolina may be the next prohibition state. The people will vote on it this year.

The chairman of the national Republican central committee is new, but not new in politics.

There is time yet this year to try one more land fraud case, if a start is made on it soon.

One swallow does not make a summer, perhaps a lot of robins do not make a spring.

Representative Ellis smiles contentedly when he thinks of Shepherd's candidacy for congress.

Still, a murderer or robber is not absolutely sure, if convicted, of having his case reversed.

The New York Sun will never be pleased until Morgan, Ryan or Rockefeller is president.

All those presidential booms are not precisely desirable.—Indianapolis News. Nor even feasible.

And yet the only trusted trust up to date is "In God We Trust," says the Johnstown Democrat.

The trouble is that too much "business" is that of robbing the people through unjust laws and party politics.

"An impudiculous excrement of decayed nobility," is the way an eastern paper alludes to the Vanderbilt son-in-law.

Boni is explaining why he spit in the other nincompoop's face. Is there no one else among these fellows out of the newspapers?

No; candidates for the legislature don't have to accept statements. No; neither do voters have to elect men who won't do so.

It is an imposition to compel a congressman to come clear across the continent and neglect the people's business to register. This should be remedied.

Although it is always possible that a president may die during his term, there are Republicans who actually mention Tim Woodruff as a candidate for vice-president.

A little winter isn't bad; in fact, it ought to make you glad; Fruit won't be killed—sufficient reason.

Till somewhat later in the season.

Oregon is still out of luck with respect to its congressmen. Now Fulton has to leave Washington just at a time when his services are urgently needed there, and go to campaigning in Oregon. But under the circumstances he is excusable.

"A refined and lofty principle actuates the common count; out of its mouth come words of truth and holiness; serenity of conscience marks its utterance; its action is in 'yes, yes, nay, nay.' As for the mayor, he is a brewer of disorder. And of such is the kingdom of politics." The Journal talking, but a Detroit newspaper.

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North Powder has \$885.36 in its treasury, accumulated in five years. The mayor suggests a few street lights and new sidewalks, adding: "The city council here isn't dead, they are only sleeping, and it takes more than an hour to wake them. Now, don't you think this is all just warm up don't you know?"

Correspondence of the Burns Times-Herald: We Windy Pointers don't want to brag or boast of our chickens, but we have had in this vicinity this year really has a record. In fact, it's a cold day when she doesn't lay two eggs. She is a full blooded Leghorn, owned by Mr. Skinner. This hen is more or less bothered, as she hasn't time to set, so it is necessary to get an incubator of 100 egg capacity, as by the time she hatching is ready to come off another lot of eggs is on hand ready for the incubator.

We point with pride to Condon as being a good country town. One of the boys has stood the test of various ups and downs, and continued to do a good business, says the Times. Condon is not doing so well in that respect as the rest of the country tributary to the town has various resources; wheat, cattle, horses, sheep, and wood. If the wheat crop is not as large as usual there are the other resources to fall back on, and when we have a big bumper crop of wheat as we had last year, and expect next, it adds to our general prosperity, and there are few old debts to be cleared up.

A Harney county man's shepherd reported that it would be necessary to provide him with another band of sheep if he was to hold his job, as he had lost all those entrusted to his care. He lost his job, says the Burns Times-Herald. He was inexperienced, and when some sheep strayed he searched and came upon some animals that looked like stray sheep, but of a rather peculiar color. They were chased some 10 or 12 miles over the bluffs, but at last were brought into the band. He had told his employer that five strays had been lost, and that they were real wild, and if they didn't quiet down and feed with the others he would simply run them to death and on investment they were found to be antelope.

Let's Think! Let's talk of trouble less and less; Let's strive more patience to possess, And more compassionate let's grow; And more cheerful or smile bestow. And you can quell the scorn that stings; This duty to ourselves we owe; Let's think and talk of pleasant things.—Success Magazine.

Will Some Numinist Answer? Portland, Feb. 4.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Please let me know through the columns of The Journal if a United States 3-cent piece dated 1874, is worth more than its face value. A SUBSCRIBER.

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Some Recent Oregon Political History

From the Salem Journal (Rep.).

In the primaries of the spring of 1903—the good old-style primaries—the Mitchell faction at Portland wanted to do up the Finon faction, and a candidate for governor was needed who had money to put into the fight at Portland. Fifteen thousand dollars was needed to carry out the program.

Al Crossman and Jack Matthews, who were then in the portofico, formed a committee by which the funds were to be given the delegation from Multnomah county for governor. Scott was to have the delegation for United States senator, and Geer was to be left holding the sack in the great political snipe-chase.

All went according to program. Finon was the whip and spur of the rule, got the solid support of Multnomah and was nominated. Geer was kicked out while Fulton was allowed to lead the Finon fight. It was never intended for him to receive the honors of the senatorship.

But a group of independent like Nottingham and Banks and others broke into the Multnomah delegation, and in the end Fulton was made senator.

The corruption of that campaign was so notorious that decent people not only bolted the Republican nominee for governor but resolved to have a direct primary law.

A direct primary law had been drawn up by a committee headed by Governor Geer, and preceding summer Senator McGinn and his followers killed it in the senate.

The present conspiracy against the direct primary is entirely selfish, and the charge that it is disorganized is a mere pretext. Democratic mayors of Portland, Democratic district attorneys and sheriff were elected in Multnomah county, not because of the direct primary, but because it was before it was the law, as the records will show.

Republicans resented not Republican party principles but factional maneuvering of the Republican party for personal ends.

An official does not do the bidding of the Oregonian he is to do it. It amounts to this: If you are not satisfactory to the regency of the Oregonian, you are not wanted in any public position.

A candidate or an official wears the Oregonian collar he is wanted by the people of Portland or the people of the state—that is, a majority of them. If he is not wanted by the Oregonian party in Oregon, there is no Republican party but it will not wear a collar, and is labelled "I am on the bargain counter."

The whole fight today in Oregon is to force the next legislature into a position where it must name a rotten "boughten" Republican senator or name a Democrat.

There is no Republican outside of the Oregonian office good enough to be senator or to remain in the senate more than one term if by accident he gets in there.

There is a much of a Republican party in Oregon as ever there was, and the result of the next election will show it. It is a fact that the direct primary is made a Republican issue.

The present plan is to split the Republican party into two factions and elect a Democrat or drive Republicanism to the old plan of buying the senatorship with a sack, and "Federal offices."

While flattering Roosevelt and pretending to be reformers, the Oregonian is really fighting to reform the Oregonian office of senators, and get Oregon back into the ranks of the rotten-borough.

While Iowa, Illinois, Washington and other great states are adopting the Oregon plan of selecting senators, a little coterie of Portland corruptionists are asking the people of the state to give up all they have achieved, and return to the rotten-borough.

Will the Republicans of Oregon be driven like sheep to take the side of the plutocrats and let the next senatorship be put up for sale? Will they stand by the direct primary law?

Japs Getting Plans of Mudville. From the Coos Bay Harbor.

The harbor into which a large portion of the Pacific coast produce is precipitated on the appearance of a slanting oriental in their city would be an amusing sight. Why these disgusting papers should so lower their standards as to print such a story is a mystery. A Jap walked down a street with a pony apparently wide open to every thing going on about him, and come out with a map of the city. The map was headed "Jap Gets Maps of Mudville" is a poser.

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