EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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Think naught a trifle, though
It small appear;
Small sands the mountains,
moments make the year,
And trifles life.

—Young.

ONE RESULT OF THE OLD SYSTEM.

A DRAMA is being enacted at Washington to give pause to thinking men. A measure to require consent of the interstate commerce commission before a rate can be raised on interstate railroads is pending before the senate committe on interstate commerce. This measure has the approval of the interstate commerce commission, a body of distinguished, dignified men who are beyond the pale of politics, and who have shown a manifest purpose to deal fairly between the railroad corporations and the shippers. It has the indorsement of the president of the United States, who has urged its adoption in a message to congress. It has the unanimous approval of the Trans-Mississippi congress. It has the insistent support of 120 lumber associations in the country. It has the undivided support of the creameries and other organized producing interests of the nation. It has the unqualified and insistent backing of the National Livestock association, the most powerful organization of producing shippers in the United States. It has behind it all the moral force embodied in the fundamental principle that a tariff rate is a contract between the public and a railroad corporation, and that if a producing business has been built up on a given rate, no change should be made without the consideration by a proper tribunal as to whether or not the parties at interest are to be injured by the change.

But in spite of the equities at issue, in spite of enormous pressure brought to bear by a shipping public representing billions of invested capital and in spite of the insistence of the president of the United States and powerful senators in congress, the measure slumbers peacefully in the pocket of a single senator, who as chairman of the committee on interstate commerce refuses to report it or allow it to reach the senate in such way that its consideration on the floor of that body can become possible. This man is Stephen B. Elkins, senator from West Virginia, representative of corporate and syndicated wealth, a barrier against wholesome legislation, and the sworn enemy of that fairness and equality of privilege that belongs of right to a free people in a free nation. He is able to defy and despise the moral and popular forces and oppose a righteous measure, because he receives his credentials as senator from a legislature, through a roundabout method, and not by direct choice of the whole people of his state. The country knows, and every man in it knows, that if Senator Elkins received his commission as senator as a result of direct vote, he would not continue his high-handed and insolent methods 15 minutes, but would report the measure instantly; and yet it is planned in Oregon to go back to legislative election of senator.

MR. M'COURT.

IN HIS accession to the federal district attorneyship, Mr. John McCourt of Pendleton will have before him late history with respect to the high office he is to fill that will be of exceeding value. Two late encumbents of the position came to the lamentable end of standing as defendants at the very bar of justice at which they had been United States prosecutors. In each instance the heavy hand of conviction was laid upon them. The story of their undoing is in evidence, and the methods and means by which each wrought his own official fall are easy to ascertain. The route they traveled was via the Oregon legislature, through the intrigues of dirty politics around the circle as servants of higher-up politicians, in short, as parts of a political machine, beginning in the United States senate and ending in Oregon election wards; and the sequel was wreck.

As United States district attorney, Mr. McCourt occupies an office that belongs to the people. It is his sole and exclusive business to administer that office as a trust from the people, and not as a gift from the Oregon delegation, or any part of the Oregon delegation. The place fell to Mr. McCourt, not as a reward, but because he was supposed to have the attainments, the talents, and the integrity to give a good clean administration. It elevates him as an official in a court of justice, and a court of justice is a place not to be tainted, as it has been at times in the past, with the odor of politics and politicians. It is a place where sacred issues are ever at stake, and in it there should be no admixture of those influences that brought past officials under the spotlight.

Mr. McCourt is in the prime of life, and the position gives him a great opportunity. What a mistake it will be if he does not rise to full man's stature and make the most of that opportunity.

THOMAS G. HAILEY'S BEST SERVICE.

THE late Judge Hailey was a variedly useful man, but we think that when his useful efforts are all properly weighed and determined, by thoughtful estimators—and such a man's work should not be immediately forgotten—his active and demonstrative interest in agriculture will outweigh his professional and official work. He was a good type of lawyer; he had natural aptitude for that profession, and succeeded well in it. He was a clean, high-class lawyer. As a public servant he was the same. He did good, conscientious work. The people could trust him. As district attorney he set a good example to other like officers. As a city official in Pendleton he was reliable, honorable, helpful. During his brief term on the supreme bench he made an enviable record.

But he was more than all this; he set a fine example for other successful young men, in that he took a lively and very intelligent interest in agriculture in various forms. He was a potent friend of irrigation, and did a great deal of work, not for a fee, but, which was its own reward, in behalf of the irrigation movement in Oregon. He demonstrated, on one of his Umatilla county farms, that alfalfa can be raised successfully on dry, non-irrigated lands. He was a lover of good stock, and encouraged, by example as well as precept, the raising and use of good dairy herds. In a word, he was a helpful, forceful factor in the community in which he lived in improving and advancing agricultural interests — irrigation, scientific dry-land farming, stock raising, and fruit culture.

It is a very good thing indeed when a successful, prominent, influential, young lawyer interests himself and others in these ways. And it is because of his active interest along these lines, rather than because of his professional and official record, that the death of Mr. Hailey is really a great loss to the state. We have to submit when Death, for reasons inscrutable to us, seizes upon and strikes down such a man in his prime; and it is vain to mourn; but every such life and death ought to be a lesson, should teach all of us something; and that we pause, consider, and learn, would be all the tribute to his memory that Mr. Hailey would ask; this would please him best—if he knows.

THE IMPROVED COW.

THE ROAD to success is through intelligently directed effort. The evolution of process is on every hand, and invention or discovery adds every day to the number of short-cuts to thrift. The penalty of not keeping abreast of the times with its improved processes and machines, is failure. The improved cow has her place in progress along with the improved electrical device or the latest and best evolvement in mechanics. A six-year-old Ayrshire on the farm at the State Agricultural college at Corvallis, has just closed a milking period of 10 months, with a butter product of 544.47 pounds to her credit. It cost $40 to feed her, but her butter at 30 cents per pound yielded a revenue of $163, leaving a net profit of $123. Other cows give more, yet she is an up-to-date machine. She is to the long-horned, long-limbed bovine what the modern harvester is to the primitive flail, or the palatial railroad train to the emigrant's ox cart. The man who uses the old-time cow in these days of electricity and push, is as far behind the procession and has as little chance of keeping step to the march of the thrifty, as he who still rides in the ox cart or threshes wheat with the flail. Neither can ever possibly make headway toward thrift, for his endeavor is wasted in impossible methods.

A HOPELESS CASE.

IF IT were an individual with no great amount of money, instead of the Southern Pacific company the solution would be easy; the property he wrongfully obtained would be taken from him; he would forfeit property taken and held on conditions that he never even pretended to fulfill. But there is a different law for corporations, for great swindlers and stealers. Or, rather, there is no law that applies to them. And congress can think of no possible law that would apply to them. This is "our system." This is our glorious partyized political civilization. Harriman smiles, serene, overlord of a third of the country. He can hire better lawyers than the government can. Why not? He has the price, paid by the people. Even the few people of Oregon have paid nearly forty millions in a decade to him, beyond reasonable, legitimate profits. But look pleasant, and stand by "our system" and the constitution of our great grandfathers.

THE BENEFIT OF SMALL FARMS.

THE Spokane Spokesman-Review says that homeseekers now coming to this region from the east "should bear in mind the advisability of taking small farms rather than acquiring large tracts of land. The future of this country is for the small farmer and success will depend to a large extent on the ability and energy of the settlers in cultivating tracts of from 5 to 160 acres."

This is good advice for several reasons. One is that it is difficult to procure necessary labor at certain seasons on large farms. The small farmer can not only make a good living and relatively larger profits, but if a poor man, who has to go in debt some at the start, can spare some time to work for the large farmer at good wages.

Then, as the Spokane paper remarks, "the small farm plan brings settlers closer together, creates desirable social conditions, enables better schools to be maintained and in many other ways works to the advantage of the people."

Of course it is perfectly legitimate for farmers who already have quite large holdings to increase and extend them, and buy adjoining farms, yet this tendency is not to be encouraged. On the contrary, every division of large tracts into small ones, to accommodate the incoming homeseekers who want small farms, is to be encouraged and applauded.

There have been several such instances lately, in different counties of Oregon, and The Journal rejoices to see a movement in this direction. As an illustration, the Corvallis Republican says that "at least a dozen ranchers in the vicinity of Philomath have offered to sell off their farms in small tracts to those who wish fruit farms and market gardens"; and it adds: "Good, let the needed work go on. Now is the time for land owners near Corvallis to sell off small pieces of land for those who will raise fruit and vegetables for our canning factory."

The development must be mutual. Homeseeking immigrants cannot get needed small farms unless such farms are provided by Oregon land owners. It will be of immense advantage to the state as a whole if a great many such farms are put upon the market, and if most immigrants of limited means will seek for them.

A reader asks "why a voter is required to give his politics when registering?" No voter is required to give his politics when registering, but if he fails to do so he cannot participate in the primaries, though he will still be allowed to vote in the general election. The reason is simple: Under the direct primary law, primaries are held in April for the purpose of nominating party candidates for the various offices. It would be manifestly improper to allow Democrats to participate in the nomination of the Republican ticket, and vice versa. In order to prevent this the law provides that only voters who have registered as Republicans shall take part in the Republican primaries and only voters who have registered as Democrats shall take part in the Democratic primaries. The voter who has failed, when registering, to state whether he is a Republican or a Democrat cannot vote in the primaries of either party because he has not qualified himself to do so, but he still has the right to vote in the general election in June, and in the presidential election in November.

Through an error The Journal stated yesterday that legislative candidates whose districts comprise more than one county must file their nominating petitions with the secretary of state by March 28; it is held that 20 full days must elapse between the date of filing and the primary election, so that the last day when such petitions can be filed is next Friday, March 27. Similarly it is held that candidates whose districts consist of but a single county must file not later than Wednesday, April 1, instead of April 2 as stated yesterday.

Mr. W. H. Hurlburt is a candidate from the Second district for the nomination of railroad commissioner on the Republican ticket. Mr. Hurlburt is experienced in the operation of railroads; knows the ins and outs of rate-making and is a man who believes firmly in a "square deal" as between the people and the railroads. No man ever imposed a trust upon Mr. Hurlburt that he was not faithful to it and he would be true to the duties of railroad commissioner if chosen to serve the people in that capacity.

"Chamberlain is a wily politician," says the Eugene Register. Should not he be banished? How would an initiative law for this purpose do?

Some Republican organs seem to be in a flutter lest Chamberlain shall somehow seduce Republican voters to support him. But he is not going to compel them to do so, is he? Is a law really necessary to protect 75 per cent of the voters from his machinations? Isn't it somewhat of a reflection on a large portion of the Republican voters of the state to assume that they have on repeated occasions been wiled by this terrible man?

Big people are fighting to get into or near to Portland. Hill had to fight to get in. Some big meat packers are doing the same. They know a good thing in the way of a city, when they see it, and realize that Portland is going to be the best one on the coast.

The duty on art should be removed, of course; but it would not break Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan to bring over his pictures and pay the duty. That indeed, would be an indication of patriotism.

The hen seems to be doing her share to contribute to the nation's comfort and prosperity, and she simply cackles at any pessimistic suggestion of hard times.

Harry Orchard says he is guilty. Plenty of people say they wouldn't believe him under oath, but they might agree with him in this instance.

We have no doubt that there are equally crazy fellows who will marry Evelyn Thaw—if she gets a lot of money from her mamma-in-law.

Governor Cummins has jolted the old machine in Iowa considerably, but has not put it out of business yet. He has set a lot of Iowans thinking, however.

Why shouldn't Senator Bourne be a Bryan Republican if he chooses? Aren't there lots of Roosevelt Democrats?

Booth-Tucker's Birthday.

Commissioner Booth-Tucker, one of the foremost leaders in the Salvation Army, and for several years the commander of the organization in the United States, was born in India, March 21, 1853. His real name is F. de la Tour Tucker, but when he married Emma Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, he was persuaded to add the name of her family to his own. His family has for generations been one of the most respected in India. After receiving his education in England he returned to India, and for some years held an important position in the civil service. One day a number of the War Cry fell into his hands, and he became so interested in what he read that he determined to join the Salvation Army. He inaugurated the work of the organization in India in 1882, and had charge there until 1891. During the next five years he was connected with the general offices in London. In 1896, with Mrs. Booth-Tucker, he came to the United States to take charge of the Salvation Army work. Mrs. Booth-Tucker met her death in a railway accident in 1903, and soon after Commissioner Booth-Tucker secured a transfer from his charge in the United States and returned to India.

A Surfeit of Honors.

From the Astorian.

It is announced from Portland, as a verity, that there is an understood and perfected deal afoot in the state to make up the Oregon Republican delegation to the national convention, at Chicago, of the four representatives now in congress — Senators Fulton and Bourne, and Representatives Ellis and Hawley. This is on a parity with the rest of the political deals now under negotiation, and exceeds, for extraordinary and untraditional processes, anything ever heard of in Oregon.

One would think that the gentlemen in question had received enough popular testimony of confidence and honor, without setting them this task so needless and gratuitous. There are plenty of excellent men in the ranks of the party to whom such rewards as this are due and who would appreciate it quite as much as those four, to whom it would come more in the light of a surfeit than anything else. We are opposed to the plan, and shall fight it to a finish on the ground that it is a dangerous innovation and a palpable breach of authorized and recognized procedure.

Boyd Goes After a Cougar.

From the Weston Leader.

Boyd of the Athena Press enjoys hunting, whether or no the fruits of the chase amount to more than a luckless jackrabbit and a fool hen or two. Boyd absorbs the most of what little intelligence he possesses from the Leader, and when he read the report in this paper as to the tracks made by a big cougar in the snowdrifts on the south fork of the Umatilla, he believed the story. Boyd went after that cougar forthwith, and spent the most part of last week chasing the beast over the Umatilla breaks. He never found the cougar and perhaps it is just as well for his reputation as a hunter that he didn't; for the only deer he ever saw gave him "buck ague" and a cougar would doubtless shock him first and eat him afterward. He returned to Athena with a whole skin, but is actually aggrieved at the Leader because of his failure to locate the animal.

Here's Boyd's own version of his hunt: "The cougar yarn published in Wood's nefarious and unreliable sheet caused the editor of this paper a strenuous trip. After wallowing through the snow up Bobsled canyon to the summit of the Blues, we struck the track of a jackrabbit. Utterly exhausted, we tobogganed down the mountain side, wishing at every slide that the colonel was there. Our paramount desire is to plant him at some convenient spot on the river edge where schools of fishes can feast on the best bait, ever."

This Date in History.

1621—Plymouth colony concluded treaty with the Indians.

1709—The anemometer, a measurer of strength and velocity of the wind, invented by Wolfius.

1775—Lucien Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon, born.

1788—Large section of New Orleans destroyed by fire.

1801—Kingdom of Etruria created by Napoleon.

1804—Duke of Enghien shot by order of Napoleon.

1806—Benito Juarez, Mexican patriot, born. Died July 18, 1872.

1863—Battle of Somerset, Kentucky.

1881—Lawrence Barrett, American actor, died. Born April 4, 1838.

1907—American marines landed in Honduras.

SOME UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Some pertinent questions relative to Statement No. 1 were propounded to the Oregonian in a communication from Julius Silverstone, which appeared in the columns of that paper March 8. As the Oregonian has not seen fit to reply to Mr. Silverstone's questions, The Journal has been requested to republish the letter, which follows:

"Portland, Feb. 26.—To the Editor—The election solely of Statement No. 1 candidates to the legislature is the only means whereby the voters of Oregon can be assured of their choice for United States senator.

"What made Statement No. 1 so necessitous? Were the people dissatisfied? Let me see. For more than 30 years the history of the sessions at Salem has teemed with intrigue concerning patronage and benefits to special interests; but the darkest and filthiest of all its pages relate to the selection of our United States senators. Any person with some knowledge of the inner mechanism of a Salem session, if he be a patriotic citizen, cannot but hold his fingers to his nostrils as he recalls the metaphorical stench. The hotels and the halls of the capitol were crowded with lobbyists for special interests, with pap-seekers and heelers, all looking for special benefits. But, overshadowing all, has he seen the main and most unscrupulous threads of intrigue and corruption which darkened the whole fabric of state legislation in the strenuous struggle of factions and interests for control of United States senatorships.

"Party principles and interests were practically ignored, and the weaving of the web showed pseudo-Democrats joining hands with alleged Republicans, and vice-versa, for the supremacy. The needs of the plain people of Oregon were neglected. True patriotism hung its head. In the same connection many will recall that struggle for control of the Multnomah county convention which culminated in a good, old-fashioned ground scramble on the floor of the convention hall, in which Charles H. Carey, of the Mitchell wing, endeavored—not metaphorically but literally—to oust Hon. Joseph Simon from the chair. It was a spectacle which, 'while it made the unskillful laugh, could not but make the judicious grieve.'

"Bitter feud still exists. Party principles! Bah! They are regarded simply in the light of fairy tales fit for children and the unsophisticated. And are these our patriots? Well and aptly has the Oregonian exclaimed in despair: 'A plague o' both your houses!' And mark, to more than 90 per cent of the voters of the state it made not a particle of difference as to which faction won out. But it makes a difference now to our decent citizenship in the light of direct primary laws as to whether political banditti shall continue to monopolize the stage to the exclusion of Oregon's best interests. All county conventions were not so strenuous. The wheels and gear were, as a rule, well oiled, the senatorship always in view, and everything proceeded according to program. Once in a while a cog slipped; but the main pre-arranged movement continued.

"What has been accomplished at the national capitol? The Columbia river is next in importance to the Mississippi. For over 30 years the inland empire east of The Dalles has been groaning and sweating under an outrageous freight tax laid by one powerful railroad interest. From the time our senators began to make haste slowly they consumed over 20 years to build the Cascade locks, opening the river only to The Dalles. The work could have been accomplished in five years. The empire east of The Dalles still groans and sweats. Portland, by a direct tax upon its citizens, has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars keeping clear the channels of the Willamette and Columbia rivers westward, which should have been done by our national government. The Willamette valley for over 25 years has been paying heavy tribute to the railroads through the private ownership of the locks, once owned by our state, but which should long have been owned by our national government. During over 30 years our railroads, through congress, have absorbed immense tracts of our land. Harriman's Southern Pacific now claims absolutely hundreds of thousands of acres of the choicest land, which it refuses to sell, although in the original grant by congress it was to be sold to actual settlers at $2.50 per acre. And now, for the first time in 30 years, some activity is shown at Washington, D. C., to give relief. Much more can be said even to satiety. Meanwhile the Cincinnati, the sons and daughters of the Revolution and the loyal legion are giving prizes for essays. But deeds, not words, are sorely needed. The Oregonian has repeatedly asserted that the United States senate is the very citadel in which the great special and corporate interests are intrenched. Shall we strengthen or weaken it?

"The direct primary law has eliminated the vocation of the professional politician. He is not dead, however. He is engaged openly and secretly in a determined attack on Statement No. 1, realizing that it deprives the machine and interests of their most cherished power.

"The writer credits George H. Williams, Stephen A. Lowell and the Oregonian with sincerity and purity of conviction, but not with infallibility. Oregon has had practically but one election for senator under Statement No. 1. Mr. Bourne appealed not to the bosses, but directly to the people, for indorsement. The writer believes the people are satisfied, but not the bosses. The above gentlemen contend that Statement No. 1 will tend to destroy the Republican party, eliminate party principles and very likely elect a Democratic senator.

"Indeed! The Republican party of Oregon claims a strength of 60,000 to 30,000 Democrats. A strange confession to make when it is asserted that such a majority can be overcome by allowing the voters a voice in the selection of United States senators, and we are forced to one of two conclusions: Either the principles of the Oregon Republican party have become so shopworn that many of its members now fail to be attracted—or else the working parts which go to make up the party itself are of so diseased a nature that a radical operation is necessary. Neither the Democratic nor the Republican party has discovered the fountain of perpetual youth. Neither is assured of immortality. To live, they must be true to themselves, and no party should succeed without clean leaders as well as principles. For this reason, the good citizens and parties of Oregon have for protection Statement No. 1. It is not intended to, nor will it destroy a true party, accurately testing its candidates and principles, and tending to eradicate corrupt factions root and branch. A party refusing to cleanse itself from them invites defeat. It purifies, it need not fear Statement No. 1.

"The writer puts to you, George H. Williams, to you, Stephen A. Lowell, and to the Oregonian this question, no personality being in any way intended: Suppose that at the Republican primaries a candidate for United States senator is chosen whom you three believe to be unworthy, and at the Democratic primaries one of unimpeachable rectitude and ability is selected, can you, would you advise your party, your friends or any citizen to vote in June for the man you deem unworthy? Hence, have we Statement No. 1 warning the party to be true to itself.

"For himself the writer declares, that whenever the above condition shall in his opinio.. exist, although a Republican, he will without hesitation vote for the Democratic candidate, and moreover, he will rejoice that there is a law in force giving him that privilege. How say you? JULIUS SILVESTONE."

Letters From the People

Man Above Party.

Portland, March 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—There is an air of uncertainty in the political atmosphere of this year that has hardly been equaled in half a century. No man, at present, can predict the result with any degree of certainty. As is said in the slang of the day, "It all depends."

A few years ago there were "leaders" and "followers," in both the Republican and Democratic parties. Party was the shibboleth. The leader could lead, and his flock would follow him like sheep. If a voter "belonged" to a party (that is, had abdicated his personality), he was labeled with the party label and shunted through to the polls, as a loaded freight car is, to the end of the line. In these good old times of "leaders" and "followers"—the shepherd and his sheep, as occasion demanded—the voters were counted and the result declared almost as certainly before election as afterwards. It was a prosperous state of affairs, for the leaders, as was illustrated in New York under Boss Tweed, and in Pennsylvania under Republican management. These leaders said, by their acts, "What is the use to have the power unless you use it?" And they did use the power they had for corrupt practices. Every intelligent man knows it.

People in general were patient under this style of rule, for a long time. Too long, in fact. But at last, moved by the quickened conscience that had come to life under Roosevelt's first three years, in the presidential chair, they rebelled, and in the presidential election of 1904, that protest and rebellion was expressed in the independent vote that was cast. That vote was a new thing in American politics, and I fear its full significance has not been comprehended by men who call themselves practical politicians and who undertake to manipulate results.

To show what that independent vote was in 1904, let me quote some of the returns. Take Colorado, as an illustration. Peabody, the Republican governor, had identified himself with the "interests" of that state, and had made an unsavory record. As a result, he was defeated by Adams, his Democratic opponent, by 11,118 plurality. But at the same election Colorado gave Roosevelt 34,582 plurality. In other words 45,700 voters of that state disregarded party and voted for true men and right principles. Nearly one out of every five. No doubt these independent voters came from both parties. Republicans voted for Adams and Democrats for Roosevelt. It was a vote for "a square deal,' and for honest men. It was a protest against machine work and corruption. It was a declaration in favor of personal independence and of individual judgment.

In Minnesota the vote was still more significant. It gave Roosevelt 161,464 plurality, but it elected Johnson, the Democratic candidate for governor, by 6,352 plurality. This was a wonderful event in politics, when you stop to think about it. Here were 167,816 voters who went to one party for its president, and to the other party for its governor. Here it was, as in Colorado, again, principle, and honesty, and conscience, above party. Patriotism against plunder.

In Michigan there were 167,487 independent voters. It gave Roosevelt 227,715 plurality, but Warner, the Republican candidate for governor, received only 60,288 plurality. A large number of Democrats must have voted for Roosevelt, while Republicans withheld votes from Warner for what seemed to them just cause.

In Massachusetts there were 128,989 independent voters. The state gave Roosevelt 92,076 plurality, but it elected Douglas, the Democratic candidate for governor by 35,980 plurality. Of course the reasons for these changes from one party to another were the same as in Colorado and in Minnesota. The people were studying their own and not party interests.

In Illinois where Deneen, the Republican governor, had stood with the public, he ran even ahead of Roosevelt, receiving 634,029 plurality, to Roosevelt's 632,645.

In Kansas more than 20,000 Democrats voted for Roosevelt.

Missouri gave Roosevelt 25,137 plurality, but it elected Folk, Democrat, governor, by 30,100 plurality. This shows that even in that state where everything must be pointed out before a man can see it, there were 55,237 voters who caught on, and jumped over party lines. They took men with moral backbone in spite of party.

In Nebraska there were 77,539 independents.

And even in Oregon the independent vote was something of a surprise. It gave Roosevelt 42,934 plurality, but elected Chamberlain governor by 246 plurality.

These figures could be extended but they are sufficient to show the drift of opinion four years ago. Has anything occurred in the meantime to change that drift? Are voters less thoughtful than they were then? Are party lines more sharply drawn than they were then? Is the opening campaign to be driven through under the party whip, regardless of popular judgment and feeling? Have all the public abuses been corrected, and is there unquestioned security for the future, under strict party rule? These, and many other like questions, would seem to demand careful answers by those who assume to manage, and if they are not carefully answered there are likely to be some great surprises next November. LEVI W. MYERS.

Roosevelt and Statement 1.

Montavilla, March 21.—To the Editor of The Journal—Theodore Roosevelt, while a civil service commissioner in 1891, gave expression to a sentiment which shows that he is in favor of the direct rule of the people. He said: "Under the spoils system the theory is that politics belong especially to the officeholders. Under the merit system, the theory is that politics belong to the people, and that the people are quite capable of managing their own affairs without interference and dictation on the part of those whom they have chosen to serve the whole public in merely administrative positions."

Some opponents of Statement No. 1 intimate that the people are not themselves capable of choosing a United States senator. But we have the word from our Republican president, "That the people are quite capable of managing their own affairs without interference or dictation."

But is the president living up to his principles as a civil service reformer when he encourages his war secretary to travel about the country to work up a presidential boom? Upon that subject President Roosevelt, while civil service commissioner, wrote:

"The public service should be divorced from politics. No government office should be used to control the results of any election whatsoever, whether it is an election for state or federal officers, or a primary held for the purpose of electing delegates to a nominating convention. No officeholder belonging to a dominant party should act in any way which would cause a scandal or create friction in any office if the person belonged to the party in opposition."

At some time in his life Roosevelt has said and written about the right thing on nearly every principle of government. When he was a civil service reformer he made an apt criticism on Secretary Taft's present obtrusive activities, and at that time he announced a sublime belief in the present day theory of Statement No. 1, "That the people are quite capable of managing their own affairs." F. W. GILL.

The Way It Worked.

From the Vale Oriano.

It looked for a while as though eastern Oregon would have a federal judicial district of its own, but Pendleton got jealous to think Baker City was chosen and we presume "Daddy" Ellis had to voice the sentiments of his own townsmen and try to get the office located at Pendleton and now it will probably go a-glimmering. These little petty jealousies should be buried and those who create them should be given the "big slipper."

Small Change

Open waterways are more important than a big navy.

• •

Well, what's the matter with making that garden now?

• •

Harmony in politics seems to be one of the impossibilities.

• •

Well, there are thousands of voters who haven't registered yet.

• •

It is not only at Magdalena bay that the fleet will make good hits.

• •

It has been spring so long in Oregon that it seems as if summer were due.

• •

The best part of the fleet should come to the best city on the Pacific coast.

• •

How lonesome the G. O. P. will look on the ballot all by itself two years hence.

• •

B. F. Jones, of Polk-Benton, is another Republican Statement No. 1 candidate.

• •

The interests may have to nominate a candidate. How would Chancellor Day do?

• •

No town will do better in welcoming the fleet than that fine seaport of Oregon, Astoria.

• •

It seems doubtful if any man can be elected president who will exactly suit Mr. Harriman.

• •

Every land owner who divides up his land and sells it in small tracts is a public benefactor.

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By the time the fleet gets back to the Atlantic coast, won't the vessels be obsolete and have to go to the naval boneyard?

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Now the political wiseacres are wondering and debating whether Chamberlain can run as well for senator as he did for governor.

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Detroit News: There is some talk of introducing Merit into the consular service. Who is this Merit? What did he ever do for the party?

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F. M. Brown, editor of the Brownsville Times, is a Statement No. 1 candidate for renomination and reelection to the legislature, and will probably succeed.

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Tillamook Herald: We are supporting everybody that is running for office and can accommodate a few more. We reserve the right to ask our friends to vote for the best man.

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Albany Democrat: Every candidate in Linn county who does not subscribe to Statement No. 1 should be beaten two to one regardless of party. It is the only way for people to elect.

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But perhaps some men who have been Democrats hitherto, and who are registering as Republicans, have really become Republicans—since the Republican party shows signs of reformation.

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Anna Gould-Castellane is reported as saying that she will never marry any more. A good resolution is better made late than never, but if Anna had followed her sister Helen's example she would have avoided all her matrimonial troubles.

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"Should E. H. Harriman extend his railroad terminals to Charleston he would be received here as a most desirable citizen," says the News and Courier. There is also a chance yet for Mr. Harriman to get into the desirable class in Oregon.

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It is reported that Mr. Rockefeller took a soda fountain girl riding in an automobile, which is evidence that he is getting into his second childhood, and that his great fortune is in danger of dissipation. It wouldn't last long with some soda fountain girls.

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Well, why not a La Follette delegation from Oregon to the Republican national convention? We are not sure but La Follette woulud get more Republican votes in Oregon that Taft, if the voters had a chance to express their choice. But this is not certain; perhaps Taft would win out.

Oregon Sidelights

The hop acreage around North Yamhill will be much reduced.

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It is a slow town in western Oregon that is not pulling for a cannery.

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A drive of logs floated over the Mary's river dam, in Benton county, the other day comprising over 800,000 feet of lumber.

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Klamath Falls authorities are going to compel the people of that town to clean up thoroughly. This should be done in all towns.

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Joseph Herald: J. M. Mitchell is platting out about 60 acres just east of Joseph, into five and ten-acre tracts and will put them on the market at reasonable figures. An abundance of water goes with each tract. Mr. Mitchell will have no trouble in disposing of them, as a number of people have already expressed their intention of purchasing a tract for suburban homes.

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Rainier Review: The Oregon-Kansas mill are only awaiting the arrival of their new band resaw to begin active operations. They already have the contract for a large amount of lumber and the outlook is good for a long season of activity. The news will gladden the hearts of many men in Rainier, as the opening of the sawmills and factories means employment for every man who desires to work.

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Miss Rosa Tunison, aged 16, is confined at the home as a result of a bullet wound received by the accidental discharge of a .22 rifle, says the Corvallis Times. The ball entered the face along the jaw, one third of an inch below the corner of one mouth. It ranged downward and outward, and passed out of the neck back of and below the ear. Another case of mischief done by a gun.

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Woodburn Independent: The people should plant such things as they can dispose of to the cannery, which will be ready to operate this year and handle all the beans, squash, pumpkins, etc., and all kinds of fruit brought to it. Don't wait until the cannery is completed and then discover it to be too late for planting this year. The cannery will this year need your products, and you will find that this industry will be of the greatest convenience and profit that ever struck the town.

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Fossil Journal: Mike Dukek, who expects to fatten hundreds of beef cattle for the Portland market after the great packing-houses are built, is taking time by the forelock and is having plans prepared for two large barns that will be built this spring on his ranch in this precinct. Mike is one of the most successful stockraisers in the county, and he sees great prospects ahead for the Oregon stockmen, since it has become a settled fact that Portland is to become one of the great meat-packing centers of the country.

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Surveys will soon be made, says the Astoria Budget, to ascertain if the project of turning the water from Fat Buck creek into Cedar creek and thence into Bear creek above the headworks of the water system is a feasible one. If the proper grades can be found, the improvement will necessitate only the digging of a ditch about one mile in length and when completed it will increase the available water supply by about 300,000 gallons a day, sufficient to guard against a possible shortage during the summer months.

Don't Forget the Spring Fashion Number of the Sunday Journal Comes OUT TOMORROW. Your Wife Must Have It. See the Newsdealer