EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

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Never speak well or ill of yourself. If well, men will not believe you; if ill, they will believe a great deal more than you say.—Eastern Proverb.

WHY?

WHY should the voters of Oregon be required to give up the right to choose United States senator? Are they incompetent for the task? Has their use of the privilege been abused or betrayed? Has it resulted in senatorial deadlocks and riot at Salem? As once tried in Oregon did it result in 40 days of bedlam and a demoralization of the legislative session? Is it because the privilege has been abused, and the state been betrayed by the people, that the voters are asked to give it up? Has any shame or any scandal, or any sale of the senatorship to the highest bidder, occurred under its operation? Is there one man in all Oregon who rises up to charge any of these abuses to choice of senator under Statement No. 1?

Not one man has so charged. Not one man will so charge. Not one whisper against its wholesomeness and purity has been uttered. Not one whisper of that sort can be uttered. Not one scintilla of incriminating testimony has been, or will be, brought against it. There is none to bring. Its effectiveness is unchallenged and its virtues admitted, even by its opponents. Its excellence is so manifest, and its popularity so universal, that those opposed to it copy its provisions as nearly as they can with a bogus statement. They take a pledge that they seek to foist upon voters as a substitute for Statement No. 1. What testimony more convincing, what admission more complete, that Statement No. 1 is right, that the people want it, and that the politicians know the people want it?

Why, then, should the people be cheated out of the privilege? Why should they be deprived of it, and the power be delegated to a few politicians? Is it the people, or is it the politicians, that pay the taxes? Is it the people, or is it the politicians, that supply the money to build school houses and support schools? Is it the people, or is it the politicians, upon whom the whole burden of supporting the government rests? Is it the people, or is it the politicians, that shoulder a musket and trudge off to battle when there is need of defenders for the country?

Why, then, for what reason, under what guise, and by what authority, or semblance of authority, shall the power be taken away from the people, and be bestowed upon a few bosses? Why shall a few be masters, and all the people be servants, crawling, bossed, taxpaying servants? Why?

"A NEW ERA INDEED."

OUR local contemporary is still worrying about the initiative and referendum, and deploring present and probable results of modifying the representative system of our state government by these means. That 19 measures are up before the people instead of being before or trying vainly to get before a 40-day biennial legislature is, our contemporary thinks, so many assertions or assumptions that representative government is a failure. Well, what then? Isn't it true that representative government is to a great extent a failure? And isn't it likely to be less so if the people can either make or veto laws themselves?

But, it is bewailed, everything "hobbyhorsical, fatuous or absurd" is brought forward under the initiative because anybody can get petitions signed. The present list of measures does not justify such an opinion; still less so, probably, will future lists so presented to the people to vote on. Some are not of much state-wide importance. Some would better be and probably for that reason will be defeated. What harm has been done? The "hobbyhorsical" fellows had to pay for getting their petitions signed; the state pays a small, inappreciable bill for putting the measure before the people, and nobody is injured. But even the least and worst of these measures will work a benefit, in helping to educate the people to inform themselves about their public affairs and think about them, and so become more intelligent, worthy citizens.

By the way, are not many "hobbyhorsical, fatuous and absurd" measures brought before a legislature, and urged there, sometimes successfully? Haven't they a better chance there than before the people? And worse than these, are not many special interest measures, schemes for a few to benefit greatly at the expense of the people, also brought before the legislature, and not infrequently passed by that body, with no redress by the people except through the referendum? Can any such scheme succeed through the initiative? We trow not.

But our contemporary persists that the people are ignorant or apathetic, and will not consider these measures upon their merits. "The majority will neglect the whole string of them," it says, "refusing the bother." We are not sure of that; wait till after the election. But if even only half of the voters cast ballots on all these measures, still the system is not a failure. Next time more people will vote on initiative and referendum measures; the people will learn by this very method to govern themselves more intelligently and successfully.

But "the common citizen," we are told, "does not like to be kept on guard duty all the time." Then he should be taught to like to do this. He has read that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," let him learn that this is addressed to him, to every voter. He needs to be "on guard duty all the time." Why not? There is no great strain about it? He can think as he plows. This has been just the trouble, that the average citizen has not been on guard duty at all; he has left his affairs entirely to the politicians, the leaders, the bosses, the machines; and the results have not been satisfactory. They have done his thinking and acting, politically; all he was expected to do was to hurrah when the campaign spellbinder spieled, and vote the ticket straight. With what laws were passed, or rejected; with what schemes and jobs were carried through to his cost and injury, with what malfeasance and corruption went on under the representative system, he had nothing to do. Even if he objected and protested, this amounted to nothing; he was as powerless, aye, nine tenths of the voters, unorganized, were as powerless, either to accomplish or prevent, as so many children.

"It is a new era, indeed," With this we agree. And we welcome it. The time was ripe for it. It is an era of true, right, progress; an era of spreading enlightenment and independence among the people of Oregon. We are not the least in sympathy with this reactionary spirit that would abolish the initiative and referendum, and the primary law, and go back to the old system. "A new era, indeed," and yet our contemporary is for turning back to the old era from which we have partly emerged into greater light and larger liberty.

There have always been those who, standing on the threshold of a new era, have feared to go forward, and either from cowardice or selfishness have sought to restrain the movement and turn it backward, but they seldom if ever succeeded. Thus our venerable contemporary noting with astonishment and fear the forward movement, seeks to reverse the engine of the car of progress and cause a backtrack movement. Vain effort. Forward, we say; and ever forward! "Sail on, and on, and on!"

ART AND HUMANITY.

OUTSIDE the domain of partisan or machine politics, Mayor McClellan of New York has some most excellent ideas, and can express them felicitously. In a recent address at a meeting in memory of St. Gaudens he pleaded with convincing eloquence for a recognition of the importance of artistic ideals in a well developed democracy. In another address in acknowledgment of the presentation to him of a medal distinguishing him as the American layman who has rendered the greatest service in advancing the interests of architecture and civic improvements, he dwelt further upon the idea taught by St. Gaudens that "beauty in art, as in nature, is not a luxury, but a necessity for happiness. The mission of art is not to minister to the selfish enjoyment of a few, but to express the inner consciousness of the community, and is limited by neither time, age, nor place." Mayor McClellan finely stated a great truth thus:

> In a self-governing community the ultimate object of government is the happiness of the governed. The success of government depends upon the support it receives from the people. Government and people act and react upon each other, so that the measure of their mutual success is the loyalty of the governed, directly proportioned to the happiness conferred by government. There is no fixed receipt for happiness. But for people who breathe the pure air of the sea and of the plains and of the hills, who live in the God-given light of the sun, happiness and joyousness are inseparably connected, and joyousness cannot exist without beauty.

By way of bringing his point home to municipal ground, he said:

> Our fellow-citizen sits him down to sleep the summer day upon a bench in City Hall park. If he wakes facing the north, you know that he will slouch away a better man for having looked upon that little gem of the colonial—our city hall. But if he wakes facing the south and gazes upon the postoffice, can you blame him if he goes away with homicide in his heart?

The illustration is true and pertinent in all cities. The surroundings, the environment, the view act unconsciously upon the beholder. Every person, however ignorant or humble, responds intimately to the beautiful, even in a business building. The Kamm shacks have made worse citizens in Portland; the Corbett building has made better citizens. We can quote but one more paragraph from Mayor McClellan's address:

> Something more is needed to make the happy city than health and wealth and wisdom. The citizen may feel a just satisfaction in the thought that in his city the death rate is low, the streets clean and the water pure. He may be smugly complaisant in knowing that rents are high, food dear and bankers and brewers rich. He may beat his breast with pride at the thought of the wisdom of his town, that all her people are clever, her schools excellent and her newspapers omniscient. The city healthy, the city wealthy and the city wise may excite all these emotions, but it is the city beautiful that compels and retains the love of her people. It is in the city beautiful that civic spirit is at its best.

Let us not forget these truths, nor allow them to be trampled out of sight in the rush for material progress and the chase for money. Portland can be made one of the most beautiful, if not the most beautiful city, in the world. There can be no better investment than money spent in making it so, for this will not only make Portland noted throughout the world, but it will make our own people better, purer, brighter, healthier, happier; and as Mayor McClellan says, this in the last analysis is the prime object of government.

The writer of a published communication to the Oregonian takes exception to The Journal's course in advocating the nomination of James Cole for district attorney, characterizing it as an "interference" with the Republican voters, which is the "height of impudence," "unadulterated gall," an outrage on public decency," and so on ad nauseum. Our critic expresses the opinion that if any other of the Republican candidates had been given the support of The Journal, he would have requested the paper "to confine its support to the candidates of its own party, and if it then persisted he would drop out of the race." As a matter of fact, four out of the six Republican candidates who are Mr. Cole's competitors have personally sought The Journal's support. So that it would seem that the Republican candidates themselves recognize the entire propriety of The Journal's course in expressing its views as to the choice which the Republican voters should make. The Journal has never said that among the seven Republican aspirants Mr. Cole is the only one worthy of the nomination, but it has said and it believes that, all things considered, his candidacy should commend itself to the better elements of the party, more than that of any of his rivals. We have stated this view in the interests of decency and good government, and because in the nomination and election of a purely local official such as the district attorney The Journal cares nothing for party. We do not believe that the voters of Multnomah county will tolerate John Manning's longer tenure of the office. They want a better man and The Journal will do what it can in aiding them to get one.

Not even a quorum of the senate committee on privileges and elections could be got together to consider a resolution submitting a constitutional amendment providing for the election of senator by direct vote of the people. And it is said that only six state legislatures have passed resolutions for that purpose recently enough to be eligible for consideration—though many states have at some time passed such a resolution. Judge George wants to wait and amend the constitution before trying to effect the change, but at the present rate of progress this would take about a thousand years.

Senator Foraker's address to a conference of colored Methodists in Washington was evidently intended as an incitement against Roosevelt and Taft. In a small way he imitated Antony; he attacked directly no "honorable men," but he pointed to the negroes' fresh and bleeding wounds, real or imaginary, and less indirectly than Antony, told them they should revenge themselves in the coming election. And hundreds of thousands of colored voters regard Foraker as their great champion.

When Mr. Heney criticised Senator Fulton for recommending Embezzler T. Cader Powell for appointment to a fat and responsible federal office, which criticism was quite in order, some one in the audience pertinently asked him why the president, who has long known of Powell's record, kept him in office. Heney had no defense for his hero in this matter, only responding: "I would like to ask him that question myself."

Senator Fulton might perhaps have gained votes by canceling his Baker City engagement Saturday evening and remaining here to hear and answer Heney. People would have stayed an hour or two longer to hear him, and he would have displayed both courage and shrewdness—that is, if he could have made a good, successful defense.

The New York delegation to the Chicago convention will be for Hughes, but not ardently or enthusiastically. He doesn't suit the politicians of that state.

Letters From the People

Oregon's Lasting Disgrace.

Portland, April 4.—To the Editor of The Journal—I was present at the legislature during the 1895 session, and from what I was able to observe and gather at that time, I had no doubt that what Mr. Brownell recently made public, and perhaps a great deal more, is absolutely true. Regarding this contest he says:

"On the other hand, under the old machine system, look back to the contest of 1895, a contest which continued 40 days and 40 nights. Money was used, many were intoxicated and drunk around the capitol and hotels, patronage was traded off, votes were bought and men standing high in the state resorted to all kinds of corruption and immoral activity to bring success to a particular individual, whom they championed. This in the capital of a great state."

From that session on the corrupt and disgraceful practices at Salem seem to have gone from bad to worse, for, in 1897, according to the former Republican leader we find this condition:

"Look back at the holdup session of 1897. Recall the strife, the corruption, the broken promises, the bribery practiced on both sides. Legislation absolutely retarded for 40 days; one branch of the legislature failing to organize and appropriations for the support of state institutions held up, practically chaos and revolution, and the Eldridge block with its women and wine and touch of high life thrown in on the side. What fair-minded citizen of Oregon, who has any regard for the good name of this state and its civic virtue, would care to go back to these scenes, and to this system?"

Evidently machine tactics were slumbering for a few years, only to break out afresh and with renewed energy. Mr. Brownell's description of the scenes enacted at the session of 1901 should be read and reread by every self-respecting voter in the state. I quote the following from his article in last Sunday's Journal:

"In 1901 the old machine methods were revived again in the state of Oregon, Mr. Corbett being a candidate and Senator McBride being a candidate for reelection. This contest continued 40 days, resulting in the greatest corruption and demoralization, and ended in the selection of Senator Mitchell at 12 o'clock on the evening of the last day of the session.

"It is a matter of common knowledge that some men could have received as high as $10,000 to $15,000 apiece for their votes during this contest, to say nothing about the trades and corruption in the distribution of the federal offices and patronage. I personally know of one man on the last evening of the session who was paid $100 for each vote that he cast and was kept under the influence of liquor to demoralize his mind and to destroy his conscience.

"This man was a representative of the people of this state and took an oath to support the constitution and the laws of the state of Oregon, and yet, under the corrupting influence of this old rotten machine system and method of electing United States senators, this man lost all self respect and all regard for his duty and as soon as the roll would be called and he had voted, he would leave his seat, walk into the cloak room and get his $100 in paper money and an extra drink of whiskey, and return to continue serving the people of a great state in this manner and way.

"This is only one instance. There is another instance of where a man's vote on that night was changed from one candidate to another by a prominent federal office holder stepping up to him on the floor of the house and guaranteeing him $3,500 in cash, and thus got his vote for the other candidate."

Such practices were so common in Oregon those days that not much attention was paid to them by the average citizen, who thought that such things had to be, that there was no way out of it. Such practices have disgraced the fair name and citizenship not only of Oregon but of nearly every state in the union. Through the corrupting use of money the United States senate is composed largely of men who make no pretense of representing the people of their respective states, but who are there absolutely for the purpose of looking after the interests and protecting the "vested rights" of the great corporations, the Rockefellers and the Morgans. These men know that they would not remain in the senate if their election depended upon the expressed will of their constituents, and for that reason they have in the past, and will always resist in the future, any attempts looking to the enactment of a constitutional provision for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

Senator Fulton says he is in favor of such a law, but I question if he would support it in the senate. If he believes in it, why is he opposed to Statement No. 1? If he is sure he is going to be the choice of the people of Oregon for reelection, as he says he is, why does he not come out openly and say that he believes in the people and is willing that they should say who they want for their senator?

The old conditions are a matter of history in this state. Wonderful changes have been taking place. The enlightened citizenship of the state has been doing some thinking. The state has not been getting proper results from its chosen representatives in the senate of the United States, and her people want to know why. For that reason they have recently passed a law whereby they intend to have a direct say in the selection of senators, and the much-discussed Statement No. 1 is the vehicle through which they are determined that their wishes shall be carried out.

There seems to be a terrible scare among certain Republicans of the old regime that Governor Chamberlain may get a majority of the votes in the coming June election for United States senator. What if he should? Is there in the whole state of Oregon a man better qualified or one who would reflect greater honor upon the commonwealth than the governor? Can it be truthfully said that there has ever been a chief executive at Salem who has performed the duties of that high office with greater credit to himself and with more honor to the state both at home and abroad?

So that if in June the people of Oregon say by their ballots that they want George E. Chamberlain for their senator to succeed Charles W. Fulton, and the legislature next winter does its duty, as the people shall expect it to do, and the present governor is promoted to the highest position within the gift of the people, I cannot figure out wherein the people will be taking a chance.

I believe the voters of Oregon are thinking along these lines. I believe they are studying government in its broadest sense. I believe the day of partisanship is fast disappearing, along with its attendant false practices of the past, and I believe there is going to be a broader-minded and more enlightened citizenship and a better governed people not only here in Oregon but in every other state in the union and in national affairs as well. J. O. KUHN.

Insurance That Failed.

Portland, Or., April 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—My late husband, William Whigam, was a member of the Independent Order of Forresters, and at the time of his death, over six years ago, was in good standing in that order.

The doctor who attended him advised the head of the order at Toronto, Canada, that I was not entitled to receive the money my husband was insured for, $2,000.

I then began suit in the circuit court to compel the order to pay me my just claim. There were three trials by jury in the late Judge Fraser's court—two in 1903 and the final trial in June, 1906—at all of which trials a verdict was returned in my favor.

After the second trial the defendant appealed from the judgment to the supreme court. The latter sent the case back for another trial. At the final trial there was again given a verdict in my favor, from which judgment the defendant appealed again, with the result that the supreme court reversed the decision and said I had no suit and judgment should have been given for the defendant.

If there was a non-suit, why did the supreme court send it back for another trial? The opinion of the late lamented Judge Fraser and 36 unprejudiced and intelligent men apparently counted for nothing with the infallible supreme court.

In my poor judgment there is no great difference between insurance companies or orders that take a man's money on condition and promise that at his death they will protect his heirs and pay their just claims and saving and trust banks that put out glittering signs to trap the unwary and then proceed to make ducks and drakes of the common people's money.

The defendant had every chance to and did not fail to produce their evidence, and had plenty of witnesses from doctors and saloonkeepers.

It looks to me as if there was underhand work some place.

MARIE STEWART WHIGHAM.

Sorry for Umatilla.

Milton, Or., April 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—I feel that I want to add a word of commendation to you with reference to the stand you are taking as to Statement No. 1 of the primary law. I am a "dyed in the wool" Republican, and am a "crank" on the principle embodied in the above plan for the elimination of undesirable methods in the election of United States senators.

Am very sorry that Umatilla county is so much against the new and progressive method.

Yours for clean politics,

W. R. CRAIG.

Presents Both Sides.

Brownsville, Or., April 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—I wish to thank you for the way you have dealt with us in the appropriation question. The Journal is surely the people's paper. You give both sides of a question.

Hoping you will continue to favor us in this respect, although your sentiments may differ.

FRED E. HARRISON.

Questions for Numismatists.

Hood River, Or., April 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—Will you please tell me the value of the following coins, and if you know where they could be disposed of: Quarter dollar, coined 1853; quarter dollar, coined 1877; nickle, coined 1869. Yours truly, A. Wilson.

Water Board's Short Memory.

Portland, April 9.—To the Editor of The Journal—Our water board has a good forgetter. If those honorable gentlemen of the water board will kindly refresh their memory, then they will find that they granted an eight-inch main on Going street to the people of Vernon, and Lester Park and Elberta last year. Now let me tell you, gentlemen, it takes a little more than a promise to supply a district with water—yes, it takes some real eight-inch pipe. But where is it? In the Albina yard is plenty of it, but what good does it do there? Think of it—a two-inch main is supplying about 400 families! I wonder why people of that district complain of having no water in the summer time, not mentioning fire protection?

Think again: A schoolhouse without fire escapes on Going and East Twenty-second street north, with about 500 pupils, the nearest hydrant 15 blocks away. Is that not a real safe place for our children to be in case of fire? Only our water board is able to explain why these conditions exist after getting a grant of an eight-inch main on Going street last year. Let me tell you, gentlemen, we are determined to have this tended to at once or we will know the reason why. Summer is coming and we will be without water again. You knowingly compelled the people of that district to pay for water which you failed to deliver, but you will not do it this year, if we can help it.

PROPEETY-OWNERS OF VERNON, LESTER PARK, ELBERTA, per H. VON HOMEYER.

Bishop Alerding's Birthday.

The Right Reverend Herman Joseph Alerding, bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was born in Newport, Kentucky, April 13, 1845, of German parentage. After attending the parochial schools of his native place he attended an academy at Vincennes, Indiana, and completed his ecclesiastical studies at St. Thomas, Kentucky, and at St. Meinrad's Abbey, in Spencer county, Indiana. At the age of twenty-three he was ordained a priest at St. Meinrad's. For a time he acted as an instructor in the seminary and later filled pulpits in several cities and towns of Indiana before going to Fort Wayne. He was raised to the bishopric of Fort Wayne in 1900 and on November 30 of that year he was consecrated with elaborate ceremony in the cathedral of Fort Wayne. Bishop Alerding has a reputation throughout the church for his deep learning and is the author of several well-known works dealing with the history of the Catholic church in Indiana.

This Date in History.

1592—Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, English statesman, born. Beheaded May 12, 1647.

1598—Henry IV of France promulgated the edict of Nantes.

1747—Philippe Egalite born. Died November 6, 1793.

1748—British warship Pembroke wrecked near Porto Novo, with loss of 330 of her crew.

1759—George Frederick Handel, musical composer, died. Buried in Westminster Abbey.

1829—British Parliament passed the Roman Catholic relief bill.

1868—British troops under Sir Robert Napier took Magdala, a strongly fortified place in Abyssinia.

1894—David Dudley Field, American lawyer, died. Born February 13, 1805.

Drug Store Utility.

From the Washington Post.

It is safe to say that the 39,645 prescriptions for whiskey written by the physicians of Charlotte, North Carolina, last year under the prohibition act were promptly presented at the drug store to be filled, thereby saving many lives.

THE YELLOW PERIL

First of series of Frederick J. Haskin's articles written for The Journal. Mr. Haskin, who is known all over the world as a student of international affairs, will write entertaining and instructive articles on his travels, which will appear on the editorial page of The Journal daily.

By Frederick J. Haskin.

Tokyo, March 15.—The yellow peril! What does it mean? Those who essay to answer the question are divided into two schools, one of which declares the peril threatens the supremacy of occidental civilization, the other which asserts that there is no peril.

Take the view of those who see danger ahead: Since Japan has become a first-class military power and has proved to the world that the lessons in the use of the edged tools of the white race may be thoroughly learned by the yellow, there is alarm in the minds of the statesmen of every nation of the occident. In the whole of Asia east of the Punjab there are less than 350,000 white people, not counting the Russians, who exercise commercial and political dominion over eight or nine hundred millions of Asiatics. Thus oriental political affairs are in a state of unstable equilibrium and a readjustment would involve the peoples of the whole world.

The whole political map will be changed when the oriental shatters the prestige of the white race in Asia. There is not a group of Asiatics anywhere from Tonquin to Chinese Tartary which does not know that Japan has licked the boots off of Russia and thereby proved its eligibility to become the captain of the yellow host that is destined to restore oriental world supremacy. China is awakening from the sleep of centuries, and even the caste-bound millions of India are beginning to feel the stirring of a national spirit which will impel them to break the European fetters which bind them.

Marks Flood of Empire.

In the early history of the world the possession of Asiatic trade and influence has always marked the flood of empire, while its loss has meant the ebb of power. Three times since Macedonia first placed European shackles on Asiatic limbs has the Asiatic spirit been powerful enough to threaten the destruction of Europe—the Arab empire of trade which sapped the foundations of Imperial Rome; the fanatic rule of Islam which crossed into Europe, overthrew the Byzantine empire, subdued Spain, and knocked at the very gates of Christian Rome; and the Mongol empire which extended its conquests into the heart of Europe, overrunning Hungary and Poland. These things have passed away, leaving only the sick man of Europe on the Bosporus as a reminder. Since the advent of modern civilization and modern diplomacy the Asiatic has been a subject race.

Now comes Japan, throws off the habit of the recluse monk, takes the modern implements of war and goes forth—to do what? To expand. To become a great empire. To captain the Asiatic hordes and become the ruler of the world. Men may say that the day for conquest and dominant empire is passed, but so men have said before. Napoleon turned back the clock of time for centuries that he might become the chief of all men, and he was backed by a small people. If Japan can succeed in its courtship of China to the extent of gaining the support of its 400,000,000 people and its immense wealth, what is to stand in the way of an Asiatic conquest of the world?

Will Engulf Far East.

The next half century will see the yellow tide sweeping through Manchuria and Siberia towards Europe, down through the Philippines and the Islands of the Sea to Australia, and across the Pacific through Hawaii to the shores of the Americas. Today Japan is wearing the smile of a peaceful and industrious nation, but at the same time it is grinding its people into the earth by increasing taxes imposed for the purpose of building battleships, training soldiers and purchasing the munitions of war. Its agents swarm through the byways of interior China preaching the doctrine of "Asia for the Asiatics." In Korea and Manchuria its statesmen take advantage of the fruits of the first successful clash with Europe by instituting an ambitious program of Japanese extension which means the ultimate exclusion of occidental trade and influence.

Revolution is certain to come in China, and when the Manchu rule is ended and a Chinaman sits on the throne of the son of heaven, then the Japanese doctrines will be more welcome than now. Let not the world be deceived by the present show of jealousy and enmity between China and Japan—both are Asiatics and as such will stand together against the westerner when the time comes.

Thus speak those who believe that there is actual danger to modern civilization from the breaking of the leash that has held the yellow hordes in bondage.

A more practical class do not apprehend a war of conquest, nor the erection of an Asiatic empire, but they are genuinely alarmed because they consider that the commerce of western nations is threatened. China is the greatest of the world's markets, and is becoming more important every day. When Russia attempted to monopolize the trade of Manchuria and to that end occupied Chinese territory, the world was largely on Japan's side when it forced Russia to abandon its program. But now it is repeatedly charged that Japan is closing the door of Manchuria to all but Japanese; that it is using every method of unfair discrimination to monopolize the markets for its own commerce; and at the same time is slipping in the back way to extend its trade into China proper, thereby becoming even a greater offender than Russia ever was.

China is rich and Japan is poor. If Japan could possess the control of that great country over which European nations have been snarling at each other for 50 years, then the commercial capital of the world would be Tokyo. China's immense resources of mineral wealth, practically untouched and greater in extent than those of any other country, are closed to occidental development because of the Chinese jealousy of the white man. If the Japanese can persuade China to admit them, as brother orientals, to teach the Celestials how to do things, then will come the moulding of the public opinion of China, which will result in a development of home resources, a constantly lessening demand for foreign goods and ultimately the loss of Asiatic trade to Europe and America.

China's Wealth Great.

China's wealth is so great that it cannot be estimated. Take but one example. At Hankow, a thousand miles inland on the great Yangtse river, is a port which the great ocean vessels may reach with water to spare for the greater part of the year. It is at the junction of two large rivers, and, with its sister cities from which it is divided only by imaginary lines, has a population of 3,000,000 persons. Within a few hours of Hankow is the greatest anthracite coal field in the world. In another direction and almost as close, is a field of soft coal, the extent of which may be only guessed at. Here, too, is iron ore in abundance, and the Chinese themselves are already making steel rails. Let the spirit of western enterprise touch that store of wealth, even if the impetus comes second-hand through Japan, and Hankow will become a new and greater Pittsburg which will control the steel business of the world. This is but an instance of the possibilities of the development of China's wonderful store of untouched raw resources.

Therefore, say those who are frightened by the ghost of a commercial yellow peril, it behooves the powers to take steps to insure that Japan does not go too far in its policy of excluding the other nations from a chance at free competition in China. It is all right for Japan to increase its commerce as much as it can, but it should be impressed upon tokyo statesmen that they must extend the trade of their nation by fair and open competition in the eastern marts, and not by attempting to establish a market closed to all others, nor by instituting a trade campaign to be enforced at the point of the bayonet.

Worth Playing For.

The possession of the trade of China is a stake worth playing for, because history shows that it has always carried with it the commercial supremacy of the world. Ancient Egypt, oldest of western civilizations, maintained a fleet in the Red Sea which brought the wealth of China into relation with that of the Nile. Babylon opened a trade road across Central Asia to China and became the ruler of the globe. Macedonia knew the value of the Chinese market, and in fact the trade roads across Asia were never closed until superior communication by sea gave the maritime nations the control. In the palmy days of the Arabic empire, buggalows from the Red sea met the Chinese junks at Ceylon.

Coming to the days of modern history, the pope once divided the world between Portugal and Spain, the Iberian peninsula holding the scepter of world power by virtue of its Asiatic trade. Later came the Dutch and then the English, since which time Britannia has ruled the waves, the secret of Great Britain's supremacy, like that of all its predecessors, being its commerce with rich old China and the east. Now there are signs that England is beginning to lose its prestige. Who, then, shall take its place? Shall it be America, that vigorous young giant which sprang from the loins of John Bull? Or shall the orb of empire pass from the white man to the oriental aspirant—Japan?

Small Change

Last stretch of the primary campaign begins Monday.

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They are still interested in the price of fuel coal back east.

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The paramount issue next Friday is: Shall the people choose?

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This is also the year when Walter Wellman will not find the north pole.

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Mr. Harriman had $5,500,000 cash to "save" the Erie railroad. Oregon money.

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And then possibly did not want an American ambassador who knows so much.

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A football game is tame sport compared to the contests between the mayor and council.

* * *

If the people are obeyed, can't the great and almost only Republican party take care of itself?

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It is only the college youth that is active in athletics that is heard of—till some years later.

* * *

No news now for "some time" about the Thaws, which is a case of no news being good news.

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It is no slouch of a job to be dog catcher in Boston. At $1 a dog he made $7,130 last year.

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Members of the Free Methodist church are free to have a row, as well as others, it seems.

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The German emperor has asked for a raise of salary, but he won't jump the job if he doesn't get it.

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We don't hear much of end-of-the-world prophets these days. Has the end of the world come for all of them?

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An admiring Nicaraguan has sent President Roosevelt a 350-pound turtle. What a lot of bully soup that will make.

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Because good streets cost a good deal of money, are we not to have really good streets, and more and more of them?

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The Democratic party may not be good for much, but a Democratic majority in congress couldn't possibly have done worse.

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A scientist says a man can live to be 100 on a sour milk diet. But we'd rather have sweet milk and die at 99 or less.

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It is said that an Italian playwright plagiarized part of his play from the Bible. And some theatre-goer discovered it!

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Bishop Fallows says auto-suggestion may often rekindle the love of estranged married couples. Does he mean automobile suggestions?

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If the Populist party solidly votes against Bryan it will affect his vote about as much as taking a forkful of hay off a big stack.

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It will soon be time to be making bets on the results of the primaries, in connection with which the only advice we can give is, Don't.

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A theologian has written a book in which he says hell is a place of tormenting desire. Then a good many people have quite an installment of hell on earth.

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Corey is in bad odor with the steel trust, because instead of some hundreds of million it thinks he should have managed to make billions. But he probably has lots of trouble at home by this time.

Oregon Sidelights

Albany will pave seven blocks to begin with.

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A new creamery is being constructed in Philomath.

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There are now 116 granges in Oregon with a membership of 7,187.

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It is said Linn county will go dry by a much larger majority than before.

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Out of 144 eggs 140 chicks were hatched in a Hood River incubator.

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Rev. Dr. T. L. Eliot of Portland will erect a fine 3-story brick building in Hood River.

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Tangent correspondence: The price of small farms is rapidly advancing and any who hold such pieces of land can readily sell them.

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Over 8,200 acres in the Rogue river valley in the district adjacent to Medford have been set out to apples and pear orchards this year.

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F. X. Matthiew, the only survivor of the celebrated meeting at Butteville nearly 65 years ago, celebrated his ninetieth birthday last week.

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Umatilla county boasts of having 158,000 sheep that will, during the next 30 days, yield clips of wool sufficient to make an aggregate of 1,343,000 pounds.

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There are 142 men near Natron cutting balm wood for the excelsior mill, and they will work until the entire tract of timber is cleared up. They are paid $1.25 per cord.

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Mrs. Simpson, Polk county's oldest citizen, 93 years of age, lives on the same farm on which she settled in 1846 and continues to keep house. The first cabin of 1846 is yet on the place.

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Echo Register: There is more gold for the man of small means here in Umatilla county than in Alaska. Every 10-acre piece of irrigated land is a gold mine for generations to those willing to work one as hard as they would an Alaska placer claim.

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The Linn county fruit inspector needs to get busy, it would seem, according to the following Tangent item in the Albany Democrat: "Fruit trees are in full bloom, but very few orchards have been pruned or sprayed and they are in a dilapidated condition."

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J. C. Wattenburger's sheep-shearing plant near Echo carries a crew of 50 men and among them are two of the fastest sheep shearers in the United States. He will shear between 60,000 and 75,000 sheep at this place and as many more near Heppner.

* * *

Ben Hayden, the venerable sage of Polk county: "If future legislatures are anything like a few we have had in the past, the people could better afford to pay the members $25 a day to stay at home—I say, they could better afford to pay them $25 to stay at home."

* * *

It is evident, from the limited tests made that Hermiston, Umatilla, Echo, Fosters and all of that section will be able to market new strawberries in immense quantities by May 1 every year, when once this industry is followed scientifically there, says the East Oregonian.

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Experts who are testing Clatsop county tile and terra cotta clay pronounce the drain tile perfect and believe that the buff colored brick will prove superior to any made anywhere in this country, not excepting those of Denver and Milwaukee. It seems entirely probable that Astoria may, through this test, establish a terra cotta industry that will make the city famous among architects and builders the country over, says the Budget. They say that they have never seen a better terra cota clay than that which can be had here in Astoria. This applies both as to color and texture.