

THE JOURNAL

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I am satisfied I am on the right path so long as I can see anything to make me happier. Anything to make me love man, therefore God the more. God is not far from that heart to which man is near.—James Russell Lowell.

A GREATLY USEFUL ORGANIZATION.

THE OFFICIAL opening of the splendid new Commercial Club building Friday evening was an event of interest not only to its many hundred members, but to thousands of other people of this city, and to many throughout the region of which Portland is the commercial center.

But our bustling southern Oregon critic, in justice to his neighbors to the north, should have gone a little farther and noticed much improvement that is taking place lately in the Willamette valley. This is visible in various aspects—as to fruit raising, dairying, stock raising, roadmaking and otherwise.

Though a comparatively young organization, having been started only 15 years ago, the Commercial club is one of the very strongest associations of its kind in the country. It is said to have a larger membership than any other, and to have done more systematic and effective work.

The value of such an organization to the city and to other Oregon cities and to the Oregon country, is beyond computation. It is essentially an unselfish institution. That is, it works continually, broadly, in many directions, for the benefit, the advancement, the growth and prosperity, not of itself and its members especially, but of all the people, of all business men, farmers, professional men, producers of all kinds, active, worthy citizens of every class and condition.

Especially commendatory has been the work of this organization in respect of the broad scope of its work. It has not narrowed its vision to Portland, nor confined its operations to boosting for this city, but has ever been ready to encourage and aid other towns and localities, and enterprising efforts everywhere in the Portland region.

There are continual insinuations in the morning newspapers and a few others that if the situation were reversed Democratic Statement No. 1 members of the legislature would not elect a Republican who had received the largest popular vote to the senate. These remarks can only be intended to influence Republican Statement No. 1 members to disregard their pledge. It is intimated, and even positively asserted, that if the Democrats had a majority in the legislature and a Republican had been chosen by the people he would not be elected.

But whence have these evil counsellers any authority for this assumption? Since when has it become an acknowledged fact that Democrats were run in an entirely different moral mold from Republicans? How was it discovered that because a man classed himself as a Democrat he thereby separated himself from truth and honor and became a man whose pledge could not be relied upon? What ground have these editors for saying that Senators Smith of Umatilla, Miller of Linn, Coshaw, Mullit and the other Democratic members and other men like them if such had been elected, would as a matter of course break their promise to the people and refuse to do the particular thing that they had agreed to do? Because they call themselves Democrats are such men as ex-Senator Gearin, Judge Galloway, J. K. Weatherford, A. S. Bennett and hundreds of others well known in Oregon, unworthy of credence if they make a positive, unqualified promise? What excuse has the Oregonian for thus daily offering gratuitous insults not only to all the Democrats in the state, assuming that they one and all are dishonorable men, who would violate pledges as binding as solemn oaths on a slight provocation?

There is not a particle of foundation for this vile slander of nearly one third of the voters of Oregon. A man's party predilections have nothing to do with his honesty, his honor, his manhood, his performance of duty. These are the common inheritance of Republicans and Democrats equally. And those devoid of

their orchards become so covered with pests that they are unproductive. They are wearing out their rich soil by planting the same crops for half a century annually; they plant hops when they know they can't make expenses, simply from force of habit; they allow Portland commission men to take all their profits year after year, and haven't energy enough to organize for self-protection. What life there is due to newcomers, who are building up the towns, installing power plants, building trolley lines and making money from the long neglected natural resources that would lie forever untouched if left to the mossbacks. No wonder they cannot understand or appreciate higher education.

The Journal does not indorse or approve all this, nor feel entirely responsive to the spirit in which it is apparently uttered, yet people of the Willamette valley ought to acknowledge what truth there is in such criticisms, and instead of resenting them try to avoid deserving them.

That many people of western Oregon have been rather nonprogressive, contented with existing conditions, unambitious for rapid advancement, is due to the region and circumstances in which they were placed, rather than to the people themselves. The hustling newcomers would have done and become the same, if they had lived so long in the same environment—that is, far removed from the activities of large populaces, in a mild climate, on a generous soil and amidst nature's bounties. The tendency of the average man is to take life easy and let the world wag, and after all a good deal could be said in support of that philosophy.

But we do not forget that these occasions, and more especially commencement time, are mightily interesting affairs to the young people whom they most immediately concern who are their interesting, inspiring, enthusiastic, happy central figures. One should never become too busy or too old to admire and love and take a lively interest in youth. And of all the youths, young men and maidens, of the country, its admiring approving attention is now turned upon those who are graduating. These occupy the center of the great stage whose main entrance is childhood and whose exits are manhood and womanhood. Surely it is a most interesting, important, a joyous and yet a solemn time and occasion. It is a day of farewells and of dimly opening vistas; a day of sweet tears and throbbing anticipations. It is a day of a lifetime, one long anticipated, one never to be forgotten.

The world welcomes the young graduates. It smiles upon them, yet has no new gifts for them. They have youth, health, education, opportunity, hope, faith, friends; these are rich gifts enough. The world welcomes, smiles and says, "So long; wish you well"; the rest each must do for himself. Every one must in large measure hew out his own road, toward a goal of his own choosing.

The world is rendered greatly richer every June by the commencement days. These young people may not be as wise as they suppose; their education may be worth much or little to them; but in the aggregate they are largely the country's hope and reliance. It is they who in a few years will be depended upon to make society a little better than their parents left it, and civilization a little nearer an expression of God's combined love and justice on earth.

THE COMMENCEMENT SEASON.

THE ANNUALLY recurring occasions that newspapers comment upon grow rather monotonous and stale to the writers, for every year the occurrences are substantially the same; the same thoughts regarding them arise, the same reflections upon them occur to the mind; the same congratulations and felicitations are to be extended and the same warnings or advice given. So don't censure the busy editor severely if his remarks on most of these anniversaries of different sorts are commonplace and platitudinous.

THE RIGHT KIND of street paving, the best kind, pays. This city, like most others, has spent a great deal of money on poor, experimental paving. Experience is said to be a costly teacher, but Portland should by this time have pretty nearly paid sufficient tuition fees. The cost of pavement is not the first consideration, but the kind of pavement—what is at once most enduring, or serviceable, and most agreeable.

THE BLIND MAN was doing very well in his effort to make his courtroom seat comfortable. Whether he came from the north or south, he was a man of good looks and a pleasant countenance. He was speaking against him. He was speaking for him. He was speaking for himself. He was speaking for the people.

THE FIGURE OF GRANT. POSSIBLY Mr. Taft's reference to General Grant's early habit was bad propriety. It was no more. It scarcely warrants the assaults made on him by those now opposing his nomination. It will scarcely justify Democratic attacks that will be made on him later, if the Chicago convention names him for president.

AN UNFOUNDED ASSUMPTION. THERE ARE continual insinuations in the morning newspapers and a few others that if the situation were reversed Democratic Statement No. 1 members of the legislature would not elect a Republican who had received the largest popular vote to the senate. These remarks can only be intended to influence Republican Statement No. 1 members to disregard their pledge. It is intimated, and even positively asserted, that if the Democrats had a majority in the legislature and a Republican had been chosen by the people he would not be elected.

INSULTING INSINUATIONS. TO SUPPOSE that the Republican members of the Oregon legislature who subscribed to Statement No. 1 will really vote for Chamberlain is to put an awful strain on credulity," says the Aberdeen World. And some Oregon papers have made similar remarks. But would not the strain on honest men's consciences be a good deal worse if they should violate a positive, specific, solemn pledge made to the people of Oregon? And isn't it rather a "strait on credulity" to suppose that hitherto honorable, respected men would do this?

THE MEDFORD TRIBUNE criticizes severely the counties of the Willamette valley that voted heavily against the state university, saying that they are "mossback counties, behind the times, stumbling blocks in the path of progress, so long in the rut that they can't get out, and it is useless to try to help them"; and it continues: "The region inhabited by these mossbacks is one of the fairest and richest on earth. The Willamette valley, and the making of a living is so easy that the inhabitants have but little energy, originality or enterprise. They have let

hints that they would do so, and the suggestions that they should, emanating from some few soured and unconscionable newspapers and politicians are an insult to every State-ment No. 1 Republican member of the next legislature.

THE PORTLAND REALTY board manifested the right sort of a spirit in securing City Engineer Thomson of Seattle to deliver an address here on the subject of improved streets and other municipal improvements. Mr. Thomson's lecture was deeply instructive, and should bear good fruit. It is regrettable that it was not heard by thousands who would in consequence take a far deeper interest in these matters.

THE CHICAGO PLATFORM will indorse the Roosevelt administration and policies, but since Roosevelt could not compel the Republican party to adopt and carry out those policies, and since the party stubbornly refused to do so, what is such an indorsement worth? Or what is a pledge by a party convention worth? If Roosevelt could not get his policies into action, is it likely that Taft can do so?

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SENATOR GORE OF OKLAHOMA

From the Philadelphia North American. The best of all modern story tellers wrote many stories of a soldier called Mulvaney. And one of the best of Kipling's stories finished with this saying of Mulvaney's: "God's been good to me! I've seen a man this day!" Now to our newest state let the message go from the oldest states that Oklahoma has shown to us a man.

There were days in Washington last week that tried men's courage and their personal and political standards of fight with a test of rare severity. Duty has compelled the North American to censure every congressman and every senator who made possible the passage of the vicious Wall street currency bill. But only those acquainted with the truth can conceive the pressure put upon the men who succumbed sufficiently to aid in working a wrong to the whole country.

The mere fact that Roosevelt and his loyal friends and the leaders of the Democracy alike were deluded into the belief that if they did not help in the passage of a bill that is a legislation of the worst quality of doing hurt, not to a party, but to the nation, is enough to show the strength of the influence brought to bear upon those men in Washington.

There is hurrying and scurrying in Washington now. There is surprise and wonderment at the uprisings of resentment in consequence of the passage of the iniquitous currency bill, which Republicans and Democrats must share the responsibility.

But in the crisis of last week a few men were blind as to the danger. A few men were a blind man—Gore, of Oklahoma.

An evil thing was done at the dictation of the stock exchange gamblers of New York by grace of the ignorance of the masses and the cowardice of the majority of both parties in congress.

But there was a Horatius to hold the bridge. And there was one to stand on either side. The Horatius was La Follette, of Wisconsin, who is by temperament a leader of forlorn hopes. Though he dragged himself from a sick bed to talk 18 hours, he enjoyed the experience.

Then, as Mr. Thomson, like every other engineer and artist, sees, Portland has the finest chance of any city in a thousand for a splendid boulevard circuit, along the circumjacent hills. These, with gradually increased and improved park grounds, would also be a paying investment; would make Portland a noted city throughout the world, and attract many wealthy and artistic residents.

We have progressed a good deal; we have some reason to solicit back-patting; but we are yet too slow, too inert, too unappreciative of benefits to be gained, in these matters. Mr. Thomson sowed good seed, we hope on good soil.

AN ABSURD SCHEME. THE NEW scheme, as reported, by which Chamberlain is to be kept out of his seat, should have originated, if it did not, in the lunatic asylum near Salem. The Statement No. 1 Republicans who vote for him are to sign a statement that they did so under the compulsion of their own voluntary promise—a promise to do what the people wanted done—and on this showing the senate is to keep Chamberlain out of his seat. A party majority in the senate or house has heretofore resorted to some unjustifiable means to unseat a minority member, but it is incredible that the senate majority would do so on any such baby-acting self-justification of legislators as this. Such action would make these men the veritable laughing stock of the whole nation, and the suggestion is an insult to their intelligence as well as their honor as representatives of the people. This must indeed be the "last ditch" of the insignificant and irresponsible busybodies who are trying to tempt any possible weak and foolish legislators to betray their trust.

A BADGE OF HONOR. ROBERT A. SMITH, recently retired from the office of mayor of St. Paul, after holding the office altogether about 45 years, at the age of 81. He had served the people of that city in other capacities also, most of the time for half a century, and yet he ended his official career in such poverty that leading citizens made him a present of \$11,000 for his needs in his old age.

While wealth accumulated by public officials is often thought not always a badge of dishonor, the poverty of an old man who had thus long held office is of itself no sign of honor, but it was to some extent so in this case, for Mayor Smith was a director of a bank that made a bad failure, and though not legally bound to do so he gave up all his property to save depositors from loss. Hence poverty is in his case a badge of honor, and his fellow citizens honor themselves in seeing that his last days are made easy.

At first glance it would be thought from the following from the Pendleton Tribune that it had learned and accepted a lesson from the recent election: "At least there will be no contest in the next campaign over Statement No. 1. All candidates will be bound to support the people's choice for United States senator without taking any pledge. Nothing is left to the legislator but to be

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My With Our Own Wings. To the Editor of The Journal—In your issue of the 11th you call attention to the thralldom of Oregon to the Harriman interests and hit several nails squarely on the head. A vast and fertile empire is held, as you depict, out of development, because-making grants for a trust so will it. True, "God helps those who help themselves," but does it help themselves? Will it do any good to enlist Wall street capital in a rival road? Any observant man knows the utility of escape in that direction. It is a fact that our local capitalists in a lump would only be a month for the trust. Those who have been in Oregon all their lives, and they are the ones who must help themselves. The people are suffering in Oregon all they lack is wisdom, and experience will give them later a full supply.

The remedy, then, Briefly, extend the portage road to the Dalles on the end, and to Burns in Harney on the other. The people own it, and they should have it. It is a fact that our local capitalists in a lump would only be a month for the trust. Those who have been in Oregon all their lives, and they are the ones who must help themselves. The people are suffering in Oregon all they lack is wisdom, and experience will give them later a full supply.

What would the monopoly press say about it? Who cares? The free-press press, the Underwood press, will say anything that will glorify its masters, but the people of Oregon do not always obey the dictates of a lick.

Would be glad to see a man of the people take it up; but the quicker the better. The faster the quicker will begin to happen their work. Would be glad to see a man of the people take it up; but the quicker the better. The faster the quicker will begin to happen their work.

Help yourselves, sovereigns of Oregon; you are the ones who are to lose by their clanking. File them off with the iron. You are the ones who are to lose by their clanking. File them off with the iron. You are the ones who are to lose by their clanking. File them off with the iron.

Statement No. 1 Goes. Portland, Ore., June 12.—To the Editor of The Journal—Judging from the comment of eastern newspapers on our election, the nation has set up and is taking notice of Oregon. It is a partisan paper do not like the idea of a Republican legislature sending a Democratic message to the nation that pledges to the people must be kept, as every intelligent and honorable man should do. He is a man who is to be playing politics and is non-committal, has put himself in a bad light. He is a man who is to be playing politics and is non-committal, has put himself in a bad light.

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Suppose the legislature should seek to elect some other man than the people's choice. Where would they find a victim? Mr. Calkins would not accept it, and notwithstanding Senator Fulton's recent utterances, which the papers have been so busy in reporting, he will be found standing by his Corvallis speech, in which he said his name would not be on the list. He would not accept it, and notwithstanding Senator Fulton's recent utterances, which the papers have been so busy in reporting, he will be found standing by his Corvallis speech, in which he said his name would not be on the list.

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