

THE JOURNAL

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It is a melancholy fact that nations looking back have usually to confess that their wars have been blunders, which means they have been crimes.—A. Carnegie.

CHANGES IN THE CHARTER.

THE PROPOSED amendments to the charter, which seem to be most essential, and changes in the methods of street improvements, so that entire districts can be improved under one contract, increase in the salary of the city engineer and a provision so that contractors can be assured of their money, are up for consideration.

In 1905 an amendment was submitted providing for a penalty for non-payment of assessments for street work. It received 4,061 affirmative votes and 4,970 negative votes. Probably, now that the property owner is learning that he is paying in increased cost for his street improvements, to benefit those who don't want to pay at all, the popular vote may be different.

At the election in 1907 an amendment was adopted providing for improvements by districts by a majority of 2,250.

Why is it not put in effect? At the same election the amendment, increasing the salary of the city engineer, was lost by 2,166 votes.

Suggestions are also made as to the difficulty in the way of obtaining interest on city funds. In connection with this subject it must be remembered that safety of the principal, not facility to loan it, is requisite, and in 1905 the people by a vote of nearly two to one so declared.

All of this is not to say that these amendments and changes in the charter are not needed, but that some may be in effect now, and any changes suggested should be carefully considered before submission to the people and taxpayers of Portland.

NO PLACE FOR PARTY POLITICS

THERE IS just one reason, or rather one small excuse, for a partisan organization of the two houses, or of either house of the legislature next winter. That is that each house has in its hands, and generally acting through such an organization, the disposal of a number of legislative positions—for chief clerks, reading clerks, sergeants at arms, etc., and, less directly, a lot of committee clerkships. The Republicans being in the majority—unless all Statement No. 1 men have been effectually read out of the party by the Oregonian and Pendleton Tribune—these plums should properly or according to custom go to Republicans, to benchmen, supporters and adherents of the Republican members. On this account it may be argued with great force and with vehement zeal that if they still consider themselves Republicans the Statement No. 1 members of that party should not, must not, and if they have any "fealty" left in the souls of them will not, so conspire and combine with the 14 wicked and unpatriotic Democrats as to give any of these places to Democrats.

This is the only reason worth considering in support of a strict party alignment on organization. Aside from this the legislature has properly nothing whatever to do with partisan politics. The selection by the legislature of a United States senator having been practically taken from that body, its duty being only to carry out the instruction of the people, there is nothing else of a partisan character with which it should concern itself. In no measure that the people are interested and on which they want action should partisan politics enter at all. The people want their choice elected for senator, and beyond that not one in a thousand of them cares a cop-

per cent whether the presiding officers are elected by united Republicans or against Democrats, or by a combination of Republicans and Democrats as against other Republicans. They do care that capable, square, straight men be chosen for president and speaker, for these officers can much influence legislation; but the partisan feature of the business is of no concern except to a few politicians and crumb-pickers. The people, in fact, are becoming pretty tired of members of the legislature neglecting their business to play peanut politics.

AN \$8,000,000,000 CROP COUNTRY

GOVERNMENT CROP estimators feel assured of another large crop the ninth in succession. The chief statistician of the agricultural department estimates the value of this year's crop at a round \$8,000,000,000. This, figures the New York World, "would pay the net interest-bearing national debt nine times over. Or it would pay the net national debt and leave enough to buy at par the stock of all the railroads in the country. It would nearly pay off the entire bonded debt of every American railroad. At assessed valuations it would buy every acre of land in New York city and replace every building in it, with a little remnant over equaling the combined assessed valuations of Chicago, New Orleans, St. Louis, Portland and San Francisco."

Panic makers will have a hard time in making hard times last very long in a country that produces an eight-billion-dollar crop every year—and this, we suppose, does not include dressed meats, poultry products and many other things more or less depending on the soil, and of course has no reference to manufactures.

Corn will be usual be the king of crops, but fortunately most of the estimated crop of 2,700,000,000 bushels is fed up near home. It would take to move it, says the World arithmetician, "2,520,000 30-ton cars, 540,000 more freight cars than there are in the country of every sort. The freight cars of all the world would not carry our wheat and corn. If there were cars enough and if the wheat and corn were loaded into 30-ton cars, 40 to a train, and trains were run at two-mile intervals at a speed including stops of 30 miles an hour night and day, it would take nearly six months for the procession to pass a reviewing stand. A bin built the size of a city block, 600 by 200 feet, would need to be more than six miles high to hold this wheat and corn alone."

Such comparisons may help a little to give one an idea of the immensity of the volume of these crops. Behold what the Republican party hath wrought!

CAN YOU SWIM?

THE SEASON approaches when a good many people are drowned through carelessness or recklessness. Occasionally a good swimmer is seized with a cramp which he had no good reason to apprehend, or one meets with an accident that removes the fatality from the "carelessness" category, but as a rule deaths from this cause are avoidable by the exercise of just an ordinary amount of prudence and common sense.

It is probably useless to enlarge upon this fact; persons who are born to be drowned through their own foolishness will do whatever is necessary to meet that fate in spite of all the newspapers can say; but possibly a few words in advocacy of a universal knowledge of the art of swimming might be heeded by some, hence this brief article.

A considerable portion of the accidental drownings reported are due to inability on the part of the victims to swim. Every year we read of many drownings of this kind. Both children and adults who cannot swim go out on deep water, and if thrown into it are likely to drown, when if able to swim they might easily have saved themselves. And frequently, too, they drag down to death swimmers who try to save them.

The moral of these facts should need no elaboration or emphasis; every boy and girl should learn to swim. Swimming "comes by nature" to some, or at least is learned very easily; for others it is more difficult; but for the latter as well as the former this should be one of the essentials of a practical education. Inability to swim has cost many a precious life.

THE NOMINEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

JAMES S. SHERMAN, Republican candidate for vice-president, is not a widely known man. He has been in congress a good while, where he has never made any special mark, his most conspicuous service being as chairman of the house committee on Indian affairs, and he largely controls legislation relating to the Indians. Whether he ever saw one is not known. He is supposed to be of the machine politician type, a standpatter for whatever the leaders decide on, and a mild opponent of any change in anything, since he is doing very well as things are. Being from New York he gives a sort of sentimental balance to the ticket, Ohio absurdly claiming to be "out west." His nomination will offend none of the large

business interests. He is a banker himself. That he will be especially acceptable to the big railroads is inferred from the fact that he opposed with unusual energy for him the Panama canal. He is a resident of Utica, N. Y., and though it may be true that "no pent-up Utica can contract his powers" it is doubtful if he ever saw anything in his mind's eye west of the Allegheny mountains that he considered of importance except Indians.

If voters were influenced to any appreciable extent by the vice-presidential nomination, that of Sherman would lose many votes for the ticket in the west that would have been won for it by the nomination of Dooliver, or Long of Kansas, or Sheldon of Nebraska; but it is rarely the case that a voter considers the vice-president in voting. If there are to be doubtful states—if Bryan is to have any chance—the battle ground will be the middle west, from Ohio to Wisconsin inclusive. In that territory any one of the men named or any good western man and campaigner, could have helped the ticket, while Sherman, if not weakening it directly, cannot strengthen it in that region.

THE QUESTION OF GOOD ROADS.

ONE DECLARATION that found its way into the Chicago platform is encouraging. It says: "We recognize the social and economical advantage of good country roads, maintained more and more largely at public expense, less and less at the expense of the abutting owners." Unfortunately it makes no suggestion that at least a portion of the funds of the general government now spent with prodigal hand on armaments shall be expended for the betterment of the "country roads." Yet the declaration, "We recognize the social and economical value of good country roads," is of value. It will probably be echoed from the Denver convention, perhaps with a pledge of federal aid. The outcome might be the inauguration by all the states of a policy of road building in keeping with an enlightened age. It is estimated that Oregon loses a million dollars a year because its "country roads" are not better. The average road is perhaps as good as in the average state, but the profit would be in having it a great deal better. The effective policy is that which yields effective results, and a cost of 25 cents per ton a mile for transporting products to market, when it should be but 10 cents, is an ineffective method. Portions of Oregon have been inhabited long enough and time and money enough have been spent on them to have made excellent highways in many communities. Failure to understand what the loss is in dragging loads over imperfect roads has caused the subject to be neglected. If all these years "we had recognized the social and economical advantage of good country roads" most of our highways would long ago have become turnpikes.

If our farmers, our business men and even our laborers could suddenly become convinced of what this "social and economical advantage" would be to each, highways would instantly become a burning issue in the state, with all arrayed on the same side of the question. No effort could be applied that would tend more to make the state both a place of delight and profit. We are throwing aside the long-horned cow, the long-legged steer and the razor-backed hog, and in this process of intelligent evolution the road of pioneer days should give place to a modernized highway. We need better roads and we should provide ourselves with them.

THE MONEY DRAIN FROM OREGON.

IT IS not only Oregon, but all other states, in a greater or less degree, that are being drained by the eastern life insurance companies. According to a statement made before the "150,000 club" of Spokane recently, the people of Washington are annually sending away \$10,000,000 for insurance in the state, or two fifths of the value of its great wheat crop last year.

The people of Alabama, estimates the Birmingham Age-Herald, sent out last year a like amount for insurance, \$10,000,000, and received in paid losses and matured policies \$3,781,496, a premium to Wall Street of over \$6,000,000 in one year. In other of the southern and western states the record is much the same. But, the Age-Herald says, "the home life insurance companies are gaining ground. There is no better way to keep southern savings at home than by promoting in every possible way the business of the home companies. The scandals of three years ago in the big New York companies boosted the home companies, and the hope is that they will be honestly and intelligently managed until they are able to serve the entire south. This consummation would cut off one great drain of southern money."

This applies to Oregon, and to all states remote from New York. Why not stop this drain of money to that city? In this connection, though there is really no direct relation between the two cases, the Spokane Spokesman-Review deprecates the fact that "on top of that we are sending away additional millions for

dairy products, more millions for packing-house products and still more millions for eastern manufactures. Only a state of extraordinary wealth and resources could endure this drain. These are splendid methods, and if they are not abandoned we shall have to pay a hard penalty. The world is taking the cream of our mineral wealth, our forest resources and the fertility of our matchless soil. We are in an era of riotous waste of our marvelous natural resources."

This also applies to Oregon. This state, too, is sending away millions annually for products that it ought to raise at home. Of dairy and meat products, poultry and eggs, at least, this state should produce all it consumes and have a surplus for export. Oregon will never use "her own wings" sufficiently until she does this. In these ways the outflow of Oregon money that never comes back can be gradually decreased, and millions now annually sent away can be utilized in the development of our resources and the building up of Oregon industries.

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THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

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"M" IS WISDOM.

"M" IS Wisdom. The contexts tell in part what wisdom is. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Meaning, let us say, the fear to do violence to conscience. Wisdom says: "Counsel is mine; I am understanding; I have strength." God is so only by the possession of infinite wisdom. The more wisdom—not knowledge—a person gains, the more will it appear that he is "created in the image of God"; the higher is the degree of or quality of life he will enjoy.

Besides, with wisdom one can live not only better, but longer. Indeed, he will live longer because he lives better. The exercise of wisdom multiplies days, increases years. We do not only have the statement of the poetic wise man of his time, but it accords with our own reason and experience. And since life is deemed by most people so desirable, so precious, is it not the most important thing in life to "get wisdom, and with all thy getting get understanding?"

There can be but little wisdom without considerable knowledge, but there may be much knowledge with but little wisdom. Would it be beneficial to the world for some multi-millionaire philanthropist to found a great college of wisdom, rather than of mere knowledge, one of its objects being the multiplying of days, the increasing of years? Perhaps not. Wisdom is not so easily imparted by one to another as knowledge.

As a whole, humanity is race suicidal, from lack of wisdom. But what is wisdom, and how get it? Solomon seemed to think it easy—but then he probably wrote when he was old and had learned through experience—for he says: "Doth not wisdom cry, and understanding put forth her voice? She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the place of the paths. She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of men."

You young men and women who are going out now into the world with such knowledge as the schools can impart, take an indefinite post-graduate course of listening to the voice of wisdom, this attribute of deity, that "was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was"; that was "possessed by the Lord in the beginning of his way"; and that in all the work of creation "was by him, as one brought up with him," and was "daily his delight." Not only so, but wisdom's "delights were with the sons of men." "So hear then unto me, O ye children, for blessed are they that keep my ways. For whose findeth me findeth life."

The majority of the Filipino assembly resolved that the Filipinos wanted independence, and wanted it now. Some members, however, argued that the people were not fit for independence yet, these latter, it is supposed, being under the influence of the government, many of them holding lucrative positions. They are probably right, nevertheless; the Filipinos are not yet fit for self-government. But they are fit for fair treatment commercially, which this country has never accorded them yet.

If, as reported, the prohibitionists contemplate the submission of a very drastic state law, forbidding not only saloons anywhere, but every body from drinking or having in his possession under any circumstances any alcoholic liquor, they are unwise. Such a law, if passed, would relax prohibition and encourage illicit interperence. Even the attempt to pass it would do harm, for it would displease many friends of the local option law.

The platform speaks up for the rights of the negro of course. The negro is remembered and declared about by the politicians regularly once every four years.

In the month of May last year 193,000 immigrants arrived in this country and only 33,000 aliens departed. In the month of May this

THE BELATED BREWERS

From the Philadelphia North American. The "declaration of principles" of the United States Brewers' association in convention at Milwaukee is an admirably drawn document. "Taking the saloon out of politics," "improvement in the drinking habits of the people," "extermination of disorderly drinking places," "passage and enforcement of laws for keeping the traffic free from unlawful and injurious cessaries"—all these are pleasing phrases.

And better still is this official pronouncement of the sentiment of the belated brewers: "We recognize that the multiplication of saloons beyond the requirements of the market involve great expenditures by no means made up by additional sales of beer, and that the maintenance of saloons in residential neighborhoods where they are not desired by the residents is neither profitable nor wise, as the antagonism created by their presence involves greater losses than the sales in such saloons could make good."

These are words of sensible business and good citizenship. As words, they are good. Unfortunately, we have had some recent examples of the difference between words and deeds. And we say, "Belated brewers," as those which the North American was speaking to the liquor interests for many years. Long before the granting of the latest batch of licenses, our warning to the brewers and their allies in this city, it was the strongest argument made by the people who re-monstrated.

But there was no thought of any such year only 42,000 arrived and 75,000 departed. In May, 1907, we gained 165,000; in May, 1908, we lost 33,000. Since last October, when the panic began, 555,000 aliens have left this country and 193,000 have arrived, a net decrease of this kind of population of 357,000. This should help the labor market a good deal.

This time it was up in Benton county; two little boys, sons of a widow, and a gun with which they were shooting at birds; one boy very badly wounded. Being sorry for the widow, The Journal will not be harsh, but—Don't let boys have guns.

Poetic license is nothing to that of a convention orator making a nomination speech. For instance, Representative Boutell said Cannon had been "Roosevelt's strongest and bravest ally." Wasn't that enough to make an elephant bray?

"Fatbanks is a real Republican," angrily shouted Mayor Bookwalter of Indianapolis in the convention. Meaning, evidently, that Roosevelt is not a real Republican. But what is a real Republican?

Speaking of Roosevelt as a "good boss," the Oregonian says: "All Republicans follow him. His dictum 'goes.' The record of the last congress does not support this statement.

Roosevelt's prediction was exactly verified. This was one occasion on which the results of the big stick's use were up to expectations.

Coming Into Our Own. From the Pendleton East Oregonian. The official photographer for Sunset Magazine, who has been taking pictures in the east end of the county for the past week, has discovered some fine illustrations of the productiveness of Umatilla county soil and has laid bare some excellent opportunities for poor men to make a start and establish a home quickly.

Charles E. Littlefield's Birthday. Representative Charles F. Littlefield of the Second Maine district, who recently announced his intention to retire from congress and begin the practice of law in New York city, was born June 21, 1861, in Lebanon, Maine. His father was a Baptist minister. The son left school at 16 and began to earn his own living as a carpenter. He was successful in life he made up his mind to study law. He had natural traits of character, especially a strong sense of the legal profession—ready speech, a first hand and great determination. He first came to Portland as a member of the Maine legislature in 1887. He became a speaker of the house. His next public office was that of attorney-general of the state. He has since been successfully handled many important cases. In 1891 he was a delegate to the Republican national convention at Minneapolis and in 1896 at St. Louis. He seconded the nomination of Thomas B. Aldrich. In 1899 Mr. Littlefield was elected to congress in Germany, according to the death of Nelson Dingley and he was four times re-elected.

A Sermon for Today

Habit and Life. By Henry F. Cope. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."—Psalm, l, 1.

WE SPEND a good deal of time denouncing bad habits and warning the youth against them while, somehow, we have lost sight of the fact that there is just as much help in a good habit as there is hindrance and harm in a bad one. Habits may be allies just as truly as we find them to be enemies.

Violence are those who are habitually vicious; why should there not be those who are habitually virtuous? It is as easy to learn to do right and to have the doing of right become second nature as it is to learn to do wrong. It is just as easy both morally and physically to acquire the habit of walking upright as to acquire that of walking in a slouch.

Once we were taught that we were all naturally altogether depraved, that man was born in this world with a bent to evil, that the flesh life and the upward tending life really were abnormal. Whoever first invented that doctrine must have had a terrible lot of iniquity which he was trying to account for with a theory.

Every man's chance of holiness is at least as good as that of the sinner. Make up your mind that you are born to be sickly, the victim of predaceous disease, and you never will be disappointed; you will have all the aches and pains that the most ambitious drug store almanac could covet to you.

Make up your mind that providence has cast you into the universe doated to depravity, branded as a fallen being, a lost sinner, and you will have, if you have at least handicapped yourself by the adoption of such a view in any determination to do right, and to do better than you were destined to be. Health of any kind is a matter of habit; it does not never will acquire right habits unless you have the character, the will, unless you have faith in man as a being to whom goodness is no less attainable than baseness. You never will be any better than you believe you may be.

There are two ways of doing things, the easy and the hard. If you were to speak only once a year the act would be done, and you would be a better man. If you were to speak every day, you would be a better man. The act of the exercise determines its difficulty.

In the life of goodness and truth means to you the doing, with special separate effort, of a long series of great acts, then it certainly is a path of great toil that opens before you. May it not rather mean the steady doing of the right in all things until the determination to do right, and the right seem to require no special consideration and volition in each case? Habits are life tracks; they lead either up or down. Habit is character in action working without conscious reflection. The laws of habit apply to the good as well as to the evil, to the higher life as well as to the lower. It is possible habitually to breathe correctly, eat sensibly, and speak correctly, to be master of one's temper, habitually to choose the right and do the best.

If we had to stop and measure every breath, count every vowel, reason over every step, one day's living would be enough to blight the life. So in the high and noble life, the life of the weary business if you still have to individualize and argue out all your actions.

Daily living is the gymnasium of the soul where moral muscles are trained to habits of implicit, apparently mechanical, action, and the impulse of high ideals, right motives, noble standards. Here power is acquired to overcome temptations, to overcome difficulties, to be master of one's own life. He has a good education who has acquired the best habits of doing and of thinking. He is learning life's great lessons, finding the richness of an education, to whom each day comes with its opportunities of training the mind through study and work, to the habits of the higher life, to self-mastery, and to efficiency in service for our fellows.

Sentence Sermons. Patching a lie only makes a larger rent. Who fears to go alone never can be a leader. Great gains are not always a gain in greatness. Faith does not fight kingdoms; it simply forges ahead of it. It's easy describing the dangers of riches before you have any. Lecturing on the secretarial art will give no one a fish dinner. The man who is short on his measures is often long on meetings. Wherever there is a heart open to heaven there is a house of heaven. You never can impoverish the life that delights to meet itself away. You will not go to heaven on your record for uncovering the faults of the heaven-bound. There's many a gain we would call a loss, and many a loss we would pay for it in the long run. Many a man who is strong on delectating the mind of the Almighty is mighty weak on minding him. If your religion does not lead you to think more of people it never will lead you to know much about God. You can argue the divine out of the heavens; but you cannot take the divine imperative out of your own heart. When you give inclination and appetite votes in the heart's tribunal it's worth while waiting for the verdict. The devil worries little over the man who never thinks of the salvation of the world until he is called on to pray in meeting. This Date in History. 1639—Increase Mather born. Died August 23, 1723. 1715—St. Paul's stone laid for St. Paul's cathedral in London. 1736—Enoch Poor, who led the American patriots at the battle of Saratoga, born in Andover, Mass. Died in New Jersey, September 8, 1780. 1754—Alexander J. Dallas, secretary of the treasury in Madison's cabinet, born in Jamaica, N. Y. Died in Trenton, N. J., January 18, 1817. 1858—Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, made his public entry into Brussels as first king of the Belgians. 1858—Brewer's son founded. 1877—Golden jubilee celebration of Queen Victoria's reign. 1895—Leland Stanford, United States senator from California, died. Born March 9, 1824. 1900—McKinley and Roosevelt nominated at Philadelphia. Father, Son and Grandson. A remarkable case, unique in the history of all consular corps of the world, is that of the American consul at Gibraltar. Mr. Morrison, the third successive generation of his family to hold the post of consul, his grandfather and his father, both held the office here. For over 60 years has the United States been represented by a member of one family.

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