

THE JOURNAL

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the money assessed was used, or was to be used, in building a railroad in Washington and in acquiring terminal grounds on Puget sound. This, if correct, is fairly a case of adding insult to injury, for the road to the sound was of slight if any benefit to Portland, or to Oregon, and was in fact built, or the preparations to build it were made, principally to antagonize Hill, because he was building a road to Portland. That is, Oregon people's money was spent to fight Oregon's friend and transportation liberator.

For 10 years a large annual surplus has been taken out of Oregon to be used for whatever purpose Mr. Harriman desired, but none of it, or but little, has been used to build new lines or make extensions in Oregon. The people of Oregon have been pouring millions a year into Mr. Harriman's coffers, beyond good fair returns on the investment in the O. R. & N. and getting nothing back. And now when they try to collect taxes on the surplus Mr. Harriman pleads that he needed the money not to benefit but to injure Oregon, or a friend of Oregon.

THE PARAMOUNT PURPOSE.

THE PORTLAND morning paper says that all it knows is that the Democratic party of the old days is dead. This being so, is it not "immaterial, irrelevant and incompetent" to urge, as that paper insistently does, that the Democratic party of today, and the Republican party, too, must be judged entirely by what they were in "the old days"? No party fit to live and do business is just what it was in "the old days," of course, because these are new days. We have all read the consequences of putting new wine into old bottles, and new patches on old garments.

PARTIES AND INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

AN ARTICLE published elsewhere in this paper interestingly narrates the position of the two principal political parties, so far as their platforms show it, since the time of the earliest political conventions, on internal improvement. It will be seen on a perusal of this resume that during most of this time the politicians paid little or no regard to this great subject. The first national convention, that nominated Jackson and Van Buren in 1828, declared for internal improvements; so did the Free Soil party in 1848, and the Whig party in 1852—though very mildly. The Democrats in 1856 "denounced" internal improvements, and there was no declaration on the subject again till 1880, since when one party or the other has intermittently and to a greater or less extent favored this policy.

Now both parties are professedly in favor of a broad, liberal and businesslike system of improvement of our rivers and harbors. This awakened interest in this great subject is due partly to the president's persistent advocacy of it, and to his appointment of an inland waterways commission and its work, but it is due even more, probably, to the energetic and able work of the rivers and harbors congress, in which Oregon and Portland have had a conspicuous part.

It is regrettable that the last congress did nothing in behalf of this work, or in aid of this movement, just as it did nothing to carry out any of the Roosevelt policies or any movement or measure in the people's interest; yet the next congress, even if of the same character and disposition, can scarcely resist the pressure that will be or can be brought to bear by the people of all parts of the country in behalf of this movement. Still, preparation must be made to exert all the pressure possible, for the railroads and most of the allied monopolistic corporations are as a rule against this plan for opening up our rivers to the greatest possible extent, and it is by no means certain that their influence can be overbalanced by that of the unorganized and for the most part unrepresented masses of the people.

THE O. R. & N. SURPLUS TAX.

THE JOURNAL does not know whether the O. R. & N. company is or will be obliged to pay the tax levied on certain large surplus earnings or not, nor whether the company is legally liable therefor or not. This is a matter for the courts to decide. But the Journal does know that in equity, in justice, as a matter of fair play, the people of this county and of other counties of Oregon, too, ought to get back in taxes, if they can get it no other way, a percentage of the big annual surplus made in Oregon by that company.

attend to your affairs; you are thick-headed and muddled and visionary and incompetent; if you try to do anything to help yourselves, you will get into all sorts of trouble; you sleep, just quit thinking about your good friends the wolves.

But we think it is becoming an "earnest and settled purpose" among an increasing number of people that a truer, more real Democracy shall be established in this country, under which the masses of the people shall know better what they want and how to get it, shall become more capable of deciding and obtaining, and shall be far more correctly and honestly represented than they are now. It is for this main general purpose that Bryan conspicuously stands. It is this gospel that he persistently and effectually preaches.

As led or dominated by Bryan, the Democratic party stands now for this general purpose and policy. And this is not a mere frothing, eddy-movement, trivial and inconsequential; on the contrary, on its ultimate success or failure rests the destiny of democracy, of republicanism, of a people's government in this country.

THE LOOT OF THE FORESTS.

THE loot of the forests has been the bane of the middle west and east. It is fortunate for Oregon that her forests have not suffered more at the hands of the despoiler.

Chief Justice Bean of the Oregon supreme court, who was one of the representatives of Oregon at the convention of governors at Washington, brings home testimony in point. He had doubted the propriety of forest reserve policy until he went east and there learned from experts that the destruction of forests is what has brought on the "evils of spring floods which spread devastation and ruin through the valleys of the Ohio and other streams of the east." There was no effort to protect the young growth or to encourage reforestation, and as a consequence the hills and mountains that formerly bore heavy forests are now bare.

The Journal has often pointed out that the same conditions await Oregon unless there be a husbanding of the forests. Overflowed rivers in the spring and dry river beds in the summer will be the price of any policy of waste. It can all be avoided by a policy of conservation. Timber growth is faster in Oregon than in almost any other state, and reforestation proportionately easier. Reasonable care in protecting timber against fire, the unnecessary destruction of young growth in logging operations, and maintenance of an easy policy of forest reserve, is an wise means of preserving our invaluable timber, and a sure way to make Oregon, as Justice Bean says, one of the wealthiest states in the union. If public sentiment will crystallize along these lines, and insist upon this policy, the loss of the forests will be prevented, and an important factor in the state's future be preserved, to the benefit of generations of mankind.

THE OREGON STATE GRANGE.

THE Oregon state grange has done many good things. It has earned many commendations. It adds to the list in its announced purpose to break a legal lance with the Pacific States Telephone company in the corporation's effort to overthrow direct legislation in Oregon. The grange has set aside \$500 from its general fund, and will by subscription add enough to make an aggregate of \$1,500 for hiring special counsel to fight the telephone people to the bitter end.

Under the initiative, the grange secured passage of the law taxing telephone franchises, and the Pacific States taxes under the law was \$9,500. The corporation resisted payment, and has gone into the federal courts to destroy the law, and if possible to break down the Oregon initiative. Its hope is to invoke constitutional or legal technicalities for evasion of payment of just taxes. It is a manifestation of that principle in which interests have enjoyed immunity from just taxation so long that they think it ought to be perpetuated. It is notorious that the small property owners, and holders of lands and visible property bear the principal burden of taxation. It is equally notorious that syndicated and franchise created wealth successfully dodges nearly all taxes. Nobody denies it; everybody confesses it. When, however, here in Oregon, through the initiative, a way was found to enact the franchise tax law which the legislature had refused to pass, and when its provisions became operative for forcing the telephone corporation to pay just taxes as other people are compelled to do, the fury of the company is let loose on the initiative, on the salutary laws enacted under it, and federal courts and trust lawyers are invoked to kill the people's system.

A WALLA WALLA-WALLULA RAILROAD.

THE FARMERS and business men of Walla Walla county, according to a recent news dispatch, are planning to build a railroad between Walla Walla and Wallula, on the Columbia river, by next spring. The farmers are taking the lead. They have a cooperative union up there, at a recent meeting of which plans for this project were adopted. It is proposed that after the harvest and fall seeding are over, several hundred farmers shall turn to this job with their teams and grade the line. Right of way and a franchise have already been secured. Many farmers up there are wealthy, and with other moderate capitalists can supply the necessary funds. This road would occupy the route traversed by the old Baker railroad, the first one built in that region, and which helped to make its builder and owner very wealthy.

This seems like an entirely feasible and thoroughly worthy enterprise. This strip of railroad would bring Walla Walla and all its rich immediately surrounding country into direct, close connection with the Columbia river and the boats of the Open River association that are to be put thereon. The farmers could own and operate this road and practically fix their own freight rates. At least they would get the benefit of water transportation for their products from Wallula to the sea. So would merchants and their customers for merchandise. The road could scarcely fail to do a large business, and to be a paying investment at low freight rates. It would save and make for the people up there millions, eventually.

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insist that the people shall not have the right to make laws. No more conclusive proof of the incomparable value of the initiative could be given. It is a proof so patent, that if the corporations attempt to break down the system shall succeed, the row that will ensue will be the biggest ever seen in Oregon, and one in which the corporations will discover that they have sown the wind and reaped the whirlwind. These Oregon people are in the right; they have their minds fully made up, and the corporations and others who antagonize the electorate's purpose of participating more extensively in public affairs are certain some time to be central figures in a terrible awakening.

LET THE PEOPLE RULE.

THE JOURNAL is not solicitous about the success of any party except as it appears probable that this or that party will best serve the interests and contribute to the welfare of the common people. This is all that makes in favor of a party; it is all that justifies government at all.

The Journal wishes the masses of people to have and seeks to aid them to gain both more power and more intelligence, and believes that each will develop the other. With power more directly resting on the many, the mass, they will feel more responsibility and become more fit to exercise power; and the more fit they become to use power for their own good, for the good of the many rather than of the few, the more power they will take upon themselves; the less they will leave to representatives and other officials who, as has been pretty well learned by this time, are prone to betray them.

The government must be to some extent representative; there must be public servants chosen to attend to the people's public business; but let the people more and more keep the strings of power and of public service within their own grasp, more and more require faithful service to them, more and more remember that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

The most powerful man in public life today is Joseph G. Cannon, and who would informally and candidly say that he uses his power in the interest and for the advantage of the people? There is needed in that position of great power a man of great ability, broad-minded, progressive, who has no other thought concerning his public duties but the sincere service of the masses of the people. What an indictment of the representative system and of partyism the spectacle of such a man as Cannon in such an office is!

The Journal would diffuse power among the people, the common mass, to the utmost practicable extent, believing that even if they made mistakes they would not misuse power to their own hurt so much as party leaders, misrepresentatives and private-snap officials have done. That is to say, the Journal believes in a democracy, an increasingly intelligent, capable, progressive and enlightened democracy.

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FOR WATERWAY IMPROVEMENTS

From the American Lumberman

Among the most important projects, which failed of passage in the late session of congress, is the improvement of our national waterways.

It seems that even yet many of our public men do not appreciate the business principles involved in the proposed continuing appropriation. The fact is that while some money has been wisely spent, much has been practically wasted—not because it was spent in every case on an unworthy project or not skillfully expended but because there was simply not money enough to do anything worth while.

There has been too much appropriation of money for the improvement of the river and its tributaries, and which, if improved, would have a navigable outlet nowhere. But even the money expended on the great and worthy projects has been so inadequately applied by the day to lift a laborer's block of stone to the top of a building unassisted by machinery or other laborers.

Much credit is due the engineering department of the army for accomplishing so much in the way of appropriations given and the restrictions upon them. Too often they have been put in the position of the laborer with the thousand-pound hammer of authority as their authority permitted, they have used appropriations wisely. We believe that in a good many cases they have overstepped somewhat the exact boundaries of their authority for the sake of economy and of doing good and lasting work.

But too often they have had to spend money that they knew would be thrown away simply because there was not enough money to accomplish the purpose. They would for example have to spend \$10,000 each year for 10 years, when each year would cost the expenditure of the previous year valueless; whereas, if the \$100,000 could have been expended in one year the improvement would have been permanent. Enough money has been expended on the river to accomplish something, though not all that is needed, but instead of being concentrated and making the work permanent as it progresses it has been so scattered that it has largely been wasted.

The new proposition is that appropriations should be large enough to amount to something; that they should be \$50,000,000 a year for a period of 10 years, and that the annual expenditure should be necessarily spread over the entire five-year field of the work to be accomplished, but that the engineers in charge

should be allowed to spend it so as to produce permanent results, with a view eventually of having the whole work accomplished in a workmanlike and enduring manner.

The obstacles are, first, the lack of appreciation by congress of these facts that should be given to an intelligent man, but which, of course, appeal most strongly to the business man, and second, the anxiety of congressmen to please their constituents. This latter influence is understandable and the remedy should lie in public education.

The Arkansas river enters into the general plan for the improvement of the Mississippi river and its tributaries, and which, if improved, would have a navigable outlet nowhere. But even the money expended on the great and worthy projects has been so inadequately applied by the day to lift a laborer's block of stone to the top of a building unassisted by machinery or other laborers.

The people ought to be brought, by honest methods in congress and by a certain river, that every real interest what should be done; to believe that the whole matter will be handled in a business way, that a real interest will be taken care of and promoted in the best manner. If the people along a certain river know that by waiting five years they would get a permanent benefit, but that if they demanded an immediate river, that by waiting their capita proportion they would get nothing whatsoever except by the mere spending of the money among them, as seen from the chosen path, but by opposition and we believe insist on such businesslike methods as those for which we are contending.

One of the strongest arguments against the proposed plan of river improvement is its cost; but if the entire cost had to be met by bonds it would be the best thing that the national government has made in the last hundred years, and the plea of economy does not hold. The fact is that the national congress which appropriated the funds to erect postoffice buildings in towns of 2,000 people or more, and to erect a revenue of only \$10,000, and some of whose members openly stated on the floor of the house that they demanded these absurd appropriations to please their constituents.

A Poem for Today

Emancipation.
By Malville D. Babcock.
[The Rev. Malville Davenport Babcock, the brilliant Presbyterian clergyman of New York, whose splendid career was cut short while at the height of his power by his death in 1901, was as well known for his epigrammatic religious lyrics and his short poems as for his preaching.]

Why be afraid of death?
As though you're in a breath?
Death but anoints your eyes
With sleep—O glad surprise!

Why should you be forlorn?
Death only husks the corn;
Why should you fear to meet
The Thrasher of the wheat?

Is sleep a thing to dread?
Till you awake you are dead
Here or beyond the skies.

Why should it be a wrench
To leave your wooden bench?
Run with happy shout
Run home when school is out!

The dear one left behind—
O, foolish one, and blind!
A day, and you will meet;
A night, and you will greet.

This is the death of Death—
But the awake you are dead
And know the end of strife,
And taste the endless life.

And joy without a fear,
And smile without a tear,
And work nor care to rest,
And find the last the best.

Running Shots

(Written for the Journal by Fred C. Denton.)
Denver and Chicago named good men in whom the American people have practical ideas, but they would be a mud and bloody shirt campaign.

A Sermon for Today

The Heavenly Vision.
By Henry F. Cope.
'T was not intended for the heavenly vision.'—Acta, xxvi, 19.

HE WHO has fully followed his ideals may have missed all other prizes in that pursuit, yet he has found happiness and riches that could have become his in no other way. Here is the secret of satisfaction, here is high success in any life, that one shall have followed fully his ideals, shall have kept the best steadily before him.

Heavenly visions come to all. They may not come with the rushing of angels' wings, or with the strange and mysterious signs and appearances. Perhaps some of the old time visions of great men, and of a high character are described in terms of the supernatural only because they seem so much above the plane of the normal average experience.

None is poorer than he who has never known high aspirations, who has never lifted his eyes to see the glory set before him. After all, the measure of any life is the extent to which such visions of great possibilities and lofty tasks has entered into the being and dominated the deeds.

There is nothing like this to make a man step down here, to make him despise the paltry prizes that seem so attractive to eyes blind to the greater glory. This is a very lonely, and angelic, food that has sustained the soul through long days in the deserts, through the long days of the discipline, fears, forsakings, losses, and loneliness. They are able to despise the cross and to endure the shame who have never known the joy of a worthy life, and leading on every high path of service or of sacrifice. No man or woman ever attained anything without this; nothing is impossible to those who cherish this light and heed this vision.

Livingstone, Lincoln, Garibaldi, Florence Nightingale would have failed without the vision. In the rewards of wages or fame there would be no power to bear them up, on the contrary their only experience were enough to turn them from the chosen path, but for their lofty confidence that they were doing the one work for them, but for the inspiration of the ideal before them.

And this is any man's religion, to follow his ideal, to seek to be the best that day he knows, to do the highest thing that any lord, deity, indicates, to take the path that leads up in love, and service, and purity of living, that makes his own life a blessing to others, and to move his feet into his higher self, and so ever finds new heights before it.

The great vision for every man in religion is, not so much whether he will obey the 10 commandments, not so much whether he will bend to the dictates of his church, but whether he will be obedient to the inner vision, of the voice from heaven that speaks in his own heart, and bids him forsake his dull ways of self-content and rise to higher living, to sacrificial service.

That vision calls you to paths of pain, that vision, if you but heed and seek to obey, makes tremendous demands upon you. It is not the easy, need-less following of an emotional, romantic love for glory; it is the thorny path of the cross, the way of burden-bearing; it is so hard as to be heroic.

The thing that is eating like a cancer into the life of the modern man, is our love of ease, our hatred of the things that are hard, our refusal to be the heroes of our life, because we do not would be to endure hardness, to forsake our soft and pleasant ways. So seeking ease we miss the life.

Our days are filled with a dull discontent, not because we do not possess the things that we desire, but because we have missed its greatest prize, the joy of following growing ideals. There is nothing more to be desired, more to guard more closely than this, the vision that stir to greatness, the passion for perfecting, the hope of high living and service.

Sentence Sermons.
By Henry F. Cope.
Self-mastery is half of morality.
Life without difficulties is but death.

It takes a tender heart to do the really hard things.
The desired heaven is not reached by sailing before the wind.

No man becomes a hero by dreaming of knights and ladies.
There are no bargain sales at which character can be purchased.

Many are willing to be soundly pious so long as piety is all sound.
No man has said Amen to his prayers until he gets busy answering them.

He who never said a harsh word of any one failed in his duty to every one.
The problems of any day are the indications of the keenness of its conscience.

Bad times often come as a result of too much living for good times only.
Cynicism is the atrophy that comes from refusing to realize our own ideals.