

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. B. JACKSON, Publisher

Published every morning except on Sundays and public holidays at the Journal Building, 1111 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

Entered as second-class matter, October 3, 1906, under post office number 1111, at New York, N. Y., under special authority of post office department.

Subscription Terms: Single copy, 10 cents; 10 copies, \$1.00; 1 month, \$3.00; 3 months, \$8.00; 6 months, \$15.00; 1 year, \$28.00.

Foreign Advertising Representatives: The Journal, 1111 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

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erty owners are to be required to pay for this pipe line because it increases the value of property. Once the means for bringing in water are paid for by the property owners, the cost of handling and distributing the water, all the operating expenses, should be paid by the water users.

But in determining the amount to be paid by water users, the amount of water consumed should be taken into consideration, and this can only be done systematically and accurately by a meter system. Each water user, however small the amount used, should pay a fixed minimum price, to be determined partly by the amount of money necessary to be raised, though this minimum probably need not be over 50 or 60 cents a month; then all consumers over a certain amount should have to pay in proportion to what they use.

A meter system is essential even if it should be decided that water users and not property owners must pay the interest on these bonds and provide a sinking fund for their redemption. Without such a system, there is an enormous waste of water, and in a few years still another pipe line will be necessary, whereas with it this second one will be sufficient for many years. People won't waste water that they have to pay for.

NEW YORK AND NORTH YAKIMA.

COMMENTING on a communication from a citizen of North Yakima, Collier's Weekly remarks that the Washington town "must be a place of considerable civilization." This may not be said sneeringly, but probably is, for most New Yorkers and Bostonians suppose that civilization decreases as one goes west; that there is but little of the cream of it west of the large Atlantic cities, that it becomes thin and coarse after the Allegheny mountains are crossed, that west of the Mississippi river conditions are at best semi-barbarous, and that on the Pacific coast the principal representatives of civilization are the Indians who at great expense have been taught to believe in hell and have escaped being civilized into premature graves.

Possibly for the benefit of a few readers it should be stated that the foregoing is not to be construed quite literally; yet there is enough basis of truth in it to render eastern people's notions of their superiority in point of civilization over westerners ludicrous. North Yakima is a place of "considerable civilization!" Why, there is incomparably more real civilization to the square foot or square mile, not to say per capita, in North Yakima, or Ashland, or Boise, or Walla Walla, or Salem, or Lewiston, or Tacoma, or Eugene, than in New York, Boston or Philadelphia. To begin with, the people in these western cities are less illiterate. A far larger proportion of these western people have an education, that is, some degree of book learning, of literary culture. But besides that, their view is almost infinitely broader. They are far less selfish; they know more of their country's and the world's general affairs; they live better—better than either the very rich or the very poor of eastern cities; and they are more honest and more candid.

About all one hears from New York is about Wall street, or about a coterie of multimillionaires and their wives, children and paramours, most of whom first or last show up in the divorce court. Are the Wall street gamblers high and shining products of civilization? They produce nothing, they exist only to live off others, never attempting to earn anything or to benefit others; their lives are worn out in a perpetual effort to fool or swindle others in short, they are purely gamblers, and so more vermin on the body politic. They have no patriotism; any religion they profess is a mere veneer; they have scarcely more conception of the country at large than the wharf rats along the waterfront; politics is to them merely a game in which those who can plunder the people most are the best fellows; in literature, beyond that of the stock market reports, they have about as much interest as the members in the central park zone, and they suppose that heaven is a place where they can out and drink cold all day and go to bed drunk at night.

Signs at the multiple dwellings are of a little higher order. Pierpont Morgan spends great sums on pictures that have an artificial value because they are old or somebody with a reputation has commended them, but he has the least patriotism enough to bring them over to this country and pay the duties on them—though as to the tax on art—here and there one gives signs to colleges. But not one of them pays taxes on one-hundredth part of his wealth, and most of them not on a thousandth part. They "saw off" their taxes, perjure themselves with the same big lies that they mumble the prayer-book responses or order a champagne cocktail. They cheat all their poorer neighbors, all taxpayers, and perjure themselves to do it, they thus meanly and treasonably rob millions by positive crime, instead of interesting themselves in their own country, that they know as little about as they do of China, they spend millions annually in Europe, merely because it is fashionable. And this is the height, the

very acme, of "civilization" in the country's metropolis.

Glance at the other extreme—tens of thousands of men willing and anxious to work out of employment; other tens of thousands who won't work, proying on their fellow men, mostly on the poor, of course; thousands of children for whom school room is not provided, and thousands more who are too weak from chronic hunger to learn their lessons; millions upon millions of dollars absorbed in graft annually by a political machine that all the millions of people of that city cannot overthrow nor control, a continual saturnalia of official corruption from which there is no escape or relief; churches pretending to preach the meek and lowly Christ, and piling up vast fortunes out of rents and unearned increments, churches as cold and selfish as any temples of mammon could be made; sweatshops where thousands of children and women toil for long, weary hours to earn barely enough to keep the spark of life in their weary, fast-aging bodies, with never any luxuries or recreation or sympathy or hope, treated worse than the worst citizens of North Yakima would treat their dogs—these are some of the prominent features and phases of New York's "civilization."

Yes, we know that mankind is much the same wherever we find it, under similar environment. New York is a big city, and these features of it are inevitable, under present "civilization," while North Yakima is a small city, where conditions have not brought these features forth; we know, too, that in that great city, as in all great cities, there are multitudes of good, honest, virtuous, admirable people—the ones we never have occasion to read about; but taking them all together, it is not in order for a city like New York to sneer at the "civilization" of North Yakima.

SWINDLED SETTLERS.

THE POSITION of a considerable number of settlers in Crook county is pitiable, and if the state is in any wise responsible therefor, and there is any way in which it can help them out, it should do so. Briefly stated, the state granted a company a lot of land to be reclaimed by irrigation and sold under a state law, to settlers. The company, or its successor, it is stated sold the lands, but failed to irrigate as the law and its contract required. The company got the settlers' money and left them without water, and is now presumably bankrupt. The state authorities have been making efforts in behalf of these disappointed and apparently swindled settlers, but is not likely to gain for them their rights in full. It would seem that the state should have been more careful to see that the company fully complied with its contract, though perhaps it did all that could be done under the law. And if members of the concern who took the settlers' money and failed to give them water as agreed are responsible financially, the law and all its officers should be very ready and willing to give the injured people redress.

PROBABLE DEMOCRATIC GAIN.

IT SEEMS to be generally expected, and tacitly conceded, by eastern Republican newspapers, that the Democrats will gain a considerable number of seats in the next house. Republican campaign managers would not concede this, perhaps, but those who are in a position to tell what they think truthfully admit that they expect the Republicans to lose some districts that they carried in 1906, even though that was an off year and this is a presidential year.

The Republican majority in the last congress was 54, so that to have a majority in the next congress the Democrats would have to gain 28 seats, and it is not impossible that under present circumstances, and with the heavy load the Republican party has to carry, an even greater number of seats than this may be gained. These gains will be made principally, if at all, in the middle west, where great numbers of Republican voters are thoroughly disgusted with the party's standard platform, its general, reactionary policies, its gross selfishness to the trusts and other interests, and its record in the last congress of turning down almost every one of the Roosevelt policies for benefiting the people. There have been indications of displeasure among western Republicans for several years, with several warning indications. McCreary, extreme protectionist, was beaten in Minnesota. Lacey, fossilized, machine standpatter, was beaten in Iowa. Babcock, who made some false motions toward reform and went back, was turned down in Wisconsin. Luedis was beaten for reelection in 1904 in Indiana, and old Warhorse Hull, of unsavory repute, was denied a renomination this year in Iowa. Governor Cummins has disrupted the party in the latter state, following the lead of a sincere and able man, La Follette of Wisconsin. All through that region there is dissatisfaction and disension. Voters are disgusted with leadership and great power in the hands of such a coarse, vulgar politician as Joe Cannon. The tariff is the main grievance, but this has been supplemented by the defiant insolent refusal of the last congress to do anything what-

ever demanded by the president in the people's interest. So it would be strange if, even in this presidential year, the Democrats did not make gains in that part of the country.

Assuming that a congress is going to do anything anywhere near right, is going to make a tolerably decent record, it is better that both houses should be of the same political complexion, so as to be more likely to agree on legislation; but since it has been amply demonstrated that the last Republican congress, with a large majority in both houses, was entirely subservient to the trusts and corporations and financial moguls, and utterly neglectful of the people, it would be well—it certainly could not make matters any worse—if a Democratic house were elected this fall. That would at least eliminate Cannon as speaker, and it would be worth millions a month, from an ethical if not a financial point of view, to rid the country of that incubus.

WORDLESS SERMONS.

WE COMPLAIN bitterly, and with much reason, at the reigning spirit of intensified commercialism. In its mad scurry for gain, it strives to obliterate time, and conquer distance. It takes the child from the cradle and ties it to a machine. It transforms the world into a workhouse, and dispenses leisure. It drives lives into hard lines, and has little mood for mellowed hours.

But the system is not all fault. It has delivered the most effective sermons ever preached on prohibition. When the big railroad systems notified their employes that they must forego intoxicants or lose their positions, there were thousands of instantaneous conversions to the cause. There was in addition, a significant warning to all young men that gradually the doors of employment are closing to drinkers. No pulpiter in a lifetime of sermons ever drove so many nails in the coffin lid of intemperance. It was an unpunished sermon preached by the spirit of commercialism and the surviving fittest.

Others like it have been preached by great manufacturing and mercantile establishments. It is a movement with a message for everywhere. It is the sanest of sanity, and for that reason is spreading and extending to the minor establishments and industrial places. The crowd in the electric car is imperiled when the hand and brain of the motorman are unsteady. The depositor's funds in the bank are jeopardized when the cashier's brain is ever wine-soaked. There is no place in the activities of life where an intoxicated man is useful.

Carrying the theory further, Superintendent Vanderhoff of an Ely, Nevada, mine recently delivered a wordless sermon on cigarettes. A notice posted at his mine warns cigarette smokers not to apply for employment. He believes that men who do not smoke cigarettes can give better service than those who do, and that is the reason for his action. He wants results. All capitalists want results. In this tense, steel-strung commercial day,

GREATEST CRIMINAL OF THE AGE.

WHATEVER the conclusions of courts and lawyers in the Standard Oil case, there are certain indisputable facts which are well known to the American people. These facts carry home the conviction to every unprejudiced mind that this corporation is the greatest criminal of the age. Its crimes have been flaunted to the world. Its long continued defiance of the law, its inhuman indifference to the rights of competitors, its dishonesty, its cruelty and its manifold violations of every principle of commercial integrity are familiar as household words. Standard Oil is the greatest living exemplar of the old legal adage that "a corporation has no soul."

In the minds of the people at large there is no shadow of doubt that in the case tried before Judge Landis this corporation was morally if not legally guilty. For three years the corporation enjoyed a secret rate of six cents per 100 from Whiting, Indiana, to St. Louis, while independent operators were forced to pay the published rate of 18. During the period, the corporation piled up profits of \$200,000,000. The rates were utter and wanton violation of the country's laws, and the officials know it. The pretense that they did not know it is shallow humbug.

Proceeding on the theory that the laws are for the poor and not for the rich, they ignored statutes, courts and all the ethics of ordinary citizenship. The corporation ran riot in a carnival of organized plunder, but held up its hands in holy horror if workmen asked for equal rights before the law. It founded and endowed universities and hospitals, but by use of its enormous power and secret fiscal system, drove into bankruptcy and early graves men who dared to cross its path. It endowed churches with one hand, and with the other reached into the pocket of every oil consumer in the world. It prated publicly of heavenly things, but violated the laws of humanity, the laws of the commonwealth and the laws of the Almighty. The trail it has traveled in its

THE STANDARD OIL DECISION

Portland, July 25.—To the Editor of The Journal. The following from the decision of the judges in the Standard Oil case denotes that their opinion was not rendered on technicalities, but on the merits of the case as they saw them.

"We should take up these subjects in the order stated, the first being whether a shipper can without error be convicted of accepting a concession from the lawful published rate even though it is not shown, as bearing on the matter in intent, that the shipper at the time of accepting such concession knew what the lawful published rate was, and carried out in the ruling excluding certain proffered testimony, including that on one Edward Bogardus, who, being in absolute charge of traffic affairs of plaintiff in error, offered to testify that during that period he did not know anything about an 18-cent rate over the Chicago & Alton railroad; that his attention had been called to any such rate by any person, or by the examination of any document, and that it was his understanding and belief, based on what he was told by the shipping agent, clerk for the Alton, that the rate over the Alton road was 6 cents and that the rate had been filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission."

Who can believe that the Standard Oil company would put a man as ignorant of rates as Bogardus, who pretends he is in charge of its traffic affairs, it is not of record at any rate if any railroad company took advantage of an ignorant shipping agent, company more than the published rate. Again, how is this for a decision: "A rebate has not been committed until the shipper has taken back a part of the first money whereby his property has been transported at more than the lawful rate. Proof that he agreed to accept a return of a part of the full rate—stopping there—would not support an indictment for accept-

business operations is strewn with the wreckage of men's careers, their homes and their business enterprises, all because these men sought to earn an honest living in the oil business. Its example, by use of secret rebates and other unlawful devices, has been ruinous to the citizenship of the country who saw in it positive proof that the easiest way to swollen wealth is by unfair and unlawful methods. Its act, by a policy of strangulation and secret conspiracy, in wringing countless millions from those who were instruments and integers in the production of that wealth, is treason to morality, treason to humanity and treason to the world.

In the opinion of a federal court of appeals, the fine imposed by Judge Landis was excessive, and the guilt of the defendant corporation was not established in accordance with the rules of evidence. We do not undertake to review the reasoning by which this conclusion was reached, nor to pass upon the technical accuracy of the appellate court's interpretation of the law, but we do say unhesitatingly that a fine of \$100,000,000 would not be an excessive punishment for the known crimes which lie at the door of Standard Oil. It is a national calamity that this huge corporation, this hardened and inveterate criminal, should escape unwhipped of justice. In the outcome, the prosecution of the Standard Oil has resulted in the grossest miscarriage of justice that this generation has witnessed.

The Dalles Optimist says that "some of the state papers say that Fulton's friends 'knifed' Mr. Calkins, and voted for Chamberlain," and that it would be nearer the truth to say that "the followers of one Jonathan Bourne elected Chamberlain," and adds: "To asperse Senator Fulton and his friends and followers and accuse them of conspiring to defeat Mr. Calkins, is a gratuitous insult, without foundation in fact." Go it, husband; go it, bear. Keep on harmonizing; the average, impartial voter cares little about your quarrels. Having elected the better man, most voters are quite well satisfied.

Laws are made and administered and adjudged or construed by the courts too much in favor of special interest, and against the general interest. Every legal maxim and theory, and the common law and statute law, and every technicality and resource, fight for the corporation that robs the people and against them, if they seek to punish the criminal corporation. Hence Judge Landis appears to his judicial superiors as a curiosity, a freak, a man out of place.

President Roosevelt having approved Mr. Taft's speech of acceptance, it may be regarded as certain that the candidate fully concurs in the Roosevelt policies. The speech having also been approved by Secretary Root, we may assume that it will be entirely satisfactory to the trusts. What is a Republican?

So far Chairman Hitchcock has not spoken up on the matter of campaign contributions. It is agreed that Bryan will boss the Democratic chairman in this matter, but there is no intimation that Taft is inclined to play the part of boss.

Is there a voter in all the land "green" enough to believe that if the next congress is like the last one it will revise the tariff except as the trusts dictate? If so, somebody ought to apply for a guardian for him. Judge Grosscup having been reminded that he used to be considered "radical," remarked that "as one grows older his mind develops." Yes, one's mind and aspirations and sympathies and purposes develop, sometimes in one direction and sometimes in another. As a rule, a federal official's mind develops in

Running Shots

Written for The Journal by Fred C. Denton.

Close to the city hall are some of the most remarkable firetraps in all Oregon. If some part or portion of the city government has not power sufficient to order their removal then the charter fixers should get busy.

In the move to build the new court-house on the east side it is proposed to use the vacant lots of about 100 never sold any area. Portland has none so large an area of parks now. The city has no occasion to use a large public school in San Francisco is leased for business purposes on terms that bring the city into possession of the school fund. With the removal of the court-house business would follow up Fourth street and the city should keep the property. The building creates an inferior to private deals.

The peanut politics indulged in by the city adds are discouraging to progressive citizens. Some sort of a change would be necessary to get the city out of the little theatre in the city hall.

"She flies with her own wings" is the motto of Oregon, but it would seem applied to the railroad building so much needed in the state.

Any United States judge can obtain a reputation now as a trust buster without stirring any enmity of the trusts; the higher the judge is perfectly reliable and trustworthy.

Private Bullwinkle may have been a little impetuous in his hands with a woman anarchist, but the court martial that sent him up for five years acted wisely in that respect. Bullwinkle, do it without fail. Recently New South Wales took up the same plan and it is working with immense success.

While Spain and some other countries have more thorough and prompt methods of convicting murderers than American people seem to prefer the present laxity to unjust severity.

Now that the Standard Oil has been relieved of that little fine of \$39,000,000 a donor of some college in its order or perhaps Congress should be asked to make some suggestions concerning the necessity of educating the great American people on the issues of the day.

A local boss in San Jose has made a confession charging the Southern Pacific managers with every crime under the sun from ingratitude to murder. The standard of truth in that confession is high and an ingrate himself, according to his own story, and if the honorable court sitting in Chicago was rendered, which leads some to suspect that there was a leak from someone connected with the temple of justice.

Champ Clark, fresh from the Denver convention, said: "Of all the idiotic performances on the face of the earth in modern times national conventions are the worst. You can no more deliberate in one of them than you could in a boiler factory."

It is none of our business, but it does seem that a certain doctor who has been on a trip abroad has been most grossly "unethical"—an advertisement of over a column run as "pure reading matter."

We always did like Big Bill Taft, and believe him as clean and honest as possible; and it is too bad to see so good a man bunched up in such company as Aldrich, Elkins, Crane, Cannon, Hopkins, and all that gang.

In voting for president, Republicans of Oregon may forget or overlook that last state platform. Taft was really not to blame for that.

The Canadians welcome the Prince of Wales, of course, but they really won't need much ruling by him when he becomes king.

People can't have any doubt that Bryan stands for the Roosevelt policies, whether Roosevelt does or not.

Taft Told a Big Truth. From the Salem Journal. Candidate Taft made a speech at the dedication of a coal mine in Virginia the other day when he uttered the splendid sentiment, congratulating the people of that state for electing a Republican county. He said where one party was overwhelmingly in the majority, the other party ought to get up out of office or secure the punishment of political offences. That was a grandly wise utterance. Mr. Taft, and big truth you utter in a time of need. Take it here in Oregon, and all kinds of unfit men have ridden into office on the coattails of the majority party, and in the last legislature there was but one Democrat in the lower house of the legislature. In the present legislature the proportion is not much larger. If the state were not riddled with corruption, there would be at least one-third of each legislature Democrat, and a stronger class of men would be put up by the Republicans to get the majority. But the sentiment is growing stronger against the machine party, and it is time that the party interest, Marion county this year has four anti-machine members of the general assembly. Hayes, Kays, Libby and Patton. The machine wing of the party has three members, Hughes, Reynolds and Smith. If the anti-machine wing is strong in both houses, and there is apt to be a new leadership that will put up a program that means much to the people and little to the machine. The machine program will mean extravagance and trading in offices and spoils.

One B. Hoppe of Milltown, Pa. a successful grower of apparatus, has made a fine quality. It measured 25 inches in length and weighed 54 pounds.

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While Spain and some other countries have more thorough and prompt methods of convicting murderers than American people seem to prefer the present laxity to unjust severity.

Now that the Standard Oil has been relieved of that little fine of \$39,000,000 a donor of some college in its order or perhaps Congress should be asked to make some suggestions concerning the necessity of educating the great American people on the issues of the day.

A local boss in San Jose has made a confession charging the Southern Pacific managers with every crime under the sun from ingratitude to murder. The standard of truth in that confession is high and an ingrate himself, according to his own story, and if the honorable court sitting in Chicago was rendered, which leads some to suspect that there was a leak from someone connected with the temple of justice.

Champ Clark, fresh from the Denver convention, said: "Of all the idiotic performances on the face of the earth in modern times national conventions are the worst. You can