

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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It is the care of the wise and good man to look to his manners and actions, and rather to how well he lives than how long; for whether he shall die sooner or later is not his business, but whether he shall die ill or well.—Seneca.

VALUE OF OPEN RIVERS.

THE Oregonian has admitted that there is need of an open river below Portland, so that heavily laden ships can come here, but argues that up-river improvement is useless because railroads can carry freight cheaper than small boats, such as can run in those waters.

If this position be correct, what is the use, as the Pendleton Tribune asks, of the Cello canal? Deep-draft steamers can never run above the Cascades, or probably Vancouver, at the farthest; on this theory it was a waste of money to build the Cascade locks, and the river beyond should be left alone.

It is strange indeed that even the Oregonian should at this late day begin to preach such a doctrine as this, when everybody who considers this subject at all well knows that potential if not actual water navigation controls railroad rates along the waterway, or between distant points with water connection.

It makes no difference to the producers and consumers whether the navigable river is used or not, so long as the railroad rates are reduced to the level of water rates. And no sooner is a river rendered navigable or a canal built so as to open up navigation to a region than the railroad rates tumble.

It is true that after forcing opposition boats off a river the railroad could raise rates again, and could repeat the process, but the time is soon coming when this will be prohibited by law; a railroad will not be allowed thus to monopolize business at rates first too low and then extortionally high. For railroad ownership of the government will inevitably result in stricter and more drastic government control, if not in government ownership, of the railroads.

Comparatively little freight is brought to Portland around the Horn by water, but Portland has water rates, or somewhere near that, because the water highway is there. So with a water highway into the interior; it will get water rates both out and in, whether a steamboat wheel turns or not. But without an open river the railroads would charge far more than profitable rates for even the small boats.

The opening of the rivers of the Oregon country is therefore worth literally millions a year to the country people, besides all it is worth to Portland. It is to the advantage of this city; it is even far more to the advantage of all the up-country people who have produce to send out and merchandise to buy.

The Portland newspaper mentioned knows all this of course, the school children away up in Idaho and British Columbia know it, yet through some mistaken influence that newspaper has now turned its rusty ancient guns against open rivers for the interior. Such a piece of journalistic treachery to one's own region is probably unparalleled.

NEEDLESS FATALITIES.

THE seasons' record of drowning accidents is reaching a ghastly aggregate. Boating and swimming with each other in presenting the longest list of victims. The unskilled or careless attempt both, and the roll call of death goes serenely on. Warnings are uttered and protests lifted, but the grim reaper proceeds with his harvest. The inexperienced swimmers attempt the passage to a distant island in the Columbia without an attending row boat, and one goes down within a few yards of the friendly shore. The experienced swimmer at Albany is seized with what is supposed to have been a cramp, and sinks beneath the surface. A man at Monroe who cannot swim, goes in bathing steps into a deep hole, and pays the forfeit with his life. A young man, ignorant of the meaning of the lights on a steamer with a tow, rows his boat into the bowser, and a young woman is sacrificed.

The price in human life is a heavy one to pay, but there seems to be no remedy. The unskilled will venture into peril from fear, the skilled would shrink in fear. The automobilist, tempted by the power to do so, speeds up his machine until there is an accident. Possession of the high speed car tempts the careless

hunter to fire on every pretext. Hazard itself is the very impulse that often attracts the venturesome into the impossible with its resultant fatality. We are apparently going to drown ourselves and execute ourselves with autos as long as time lasts, and can only do what we can to minimize the aggregate. This we may do, if we impress upon our youth and upon ourselves that the power of death lurks in the water as well as in the speeding auto and the high power gun. Even with this precaution pushed to its limit the coroner, the undertaker and happy homes will have their summings from drowning accidents.

DEFEND THE FRANCHISE LAW.

THERE should be no doubtless will be a generous response to the effort of the Oregon State Grange to raise funds by voluntary contribution, for use in fighting the Pacific States Telephone corporation in the later effort to destroy the initiative and referendum, and the corporation tax law. The case is to go to the supreme court of the United States. It is essential that the best legal talent shall be available in defense of the measures the corporation seeks to destroy.

Whether true or not, it is the habitual assertion that the bar, because of masterful mentality and legal erudition, is dominant in swaying the courts and securing decisions. It is the contention of high and conservative authorities that this is a chief influence in swaying the courts into a line of decisions that seem to trend in the direction of favoring corporations, since it is the corporations that mostly control the best legal talent.

In any event, the issue between the people of Oregon and the telephone corporation is whether or not the people shall have their way, or the corporation have its way. The people, after the legislature refused it, voted the franchise tax law into existence, with the consequence that a tax of \$9,500 was imposed on the telephone company. We have yet to hear any demonstration that the tax is not just, and equitable. There is not the slightest reason why a corporation should not pay a just proportion of taxation, just as the individual is required to do. It is the failure of corporations to bear a just share of public burdens that makes the burden fall so heavily on the private citizen. The fact that in this case the corporation refuses to leave the settlement of the issue to the Oregon courts, but insists on carrying it into the more tortuous adjudication of the federal courts is evidence that it is not willing to be fair with the people of the state. The grange should have hearty support in its plan, for it is enlisted in a cause of striking importance to all the people of Oregon.

TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY.

DISCUSSING the Independence party movement the Philadelphia North American views it quite seriously as indicative of a possible new party that will sweep the country in the near future, and compares it to the start of the Republican party in 1856. The North American thinks that "a party that polled 225,000 votes for mayor of New York; a party that cast 75,000 ballots for Hiseon to be governor of Massachusetts 5,000 more than the Democrats could poll; a party that is a power in Illinois and holds the balance in California, is a party to be reckoned with," and continues: "It typifies the truth that there is a struggle that will continue to the death in this country. Every thinking man in this nation knows that this country is approaching a crisis between the forces whose creed is equal opportunity and the supporters of special privilege. And at such a juncture the appeal to the citizen by parties wholly critical and not bound to provide practical constructive designs cannot be disregarded by any earnest student of our civilization."

But what we do not understand is what need or excuse there is for this new party when the Democratic party has become pretty thoroughly levanted, and proposes to do about all that the Independence party proposes to do. Except in one or two particulars Mr. Hearst's platform is substantially the same as Mr. Bryan's, and if both seek in accomplishing the same ends, in the same manner, why turn to a new, little party when an old, big party that has a chance of success is at hand?

The North American says farther: "The wrongs and abuses do exist. And if this or any other radical party could convince the mass of the American people that no honest effort was being made by either of the dominant parties to correct those evils, we believe that public sentiment would be strong enough to make of the new party a mighty political factor. One American citizen, however, has stood in the way of the party of Hearst or the party of Debs becoming the holder of the balance of the nation's power at the polls. That citizen is Theodore Roosevelt."

This last expression seems a mistaken view, for it has been demonstrated that Theodore Roosevelt is practically powerless. He could get none of his policies enacted into law. He has not smashed a trust or sent a "malefactor of great wealth" to jail. His opponents are completely in the saddle, except as Mr. Taft might make some effort in the same direction. But if Roosevelt failed, how can Taft succeed, even if he were as earnestly and rigorously in

favor of reforms as Roosevelt generally appears to be? The votes cast for the new party in New York City and Massachusetts were local protests, and signify little as to its probable vote in a national election. It is probable that most of those so voting will consider Bryan, or Debs, good enough for them, and will be unable to see any good reason for further splitting up a minority opposition vote.

"BUILD NOW."

ALLUSION was made some weeks ago to the advice of the Lumberman, a trade publication, to "Build Now," and again, in a recent issue, that journal repeats the advice, allowing for the commercial interest that periodical has in the consumption of lumber, seems to The Journal to be good. Nor do we care if it is a part of an alleged plan to force a campaign revival of prosperity. In any event the depression must pass, and prosperity return in a greater degree than it has yet—though in this part of the country there is little ground for complaint—and then it will cost people much more to build than it will now.

The Lumberman goes into the subject quite deeply, as follows: Present conditions are ideal for the builder. The lessened cost of material, plus the greater efficiency of labor and the economy in the time required to put up a structure operate greatly to reduce the outlay. Contractors are aware of the expense involved in delayed operations. When it becomes necessary to lay off crews or to shift them from one point to another pending the arrival of material necessary to continue the work the loss is often great. There is a loss in time and a loss in efficiency, and further damage by reason of the delay in the completion of the building.

Each step in the construction of a dwelling, store or office building increases the outlay. Contractors usually are paid in installments, receiving a certain per cent of the price when the foundation is in, another when the walls are up, another when the structure is roofed over and so on. A delay of two or three weeks after the building is covered over means the absolute loss of the use of the money invested for that length of time or possibly longer. Furthermore, a prospective tenant may become tired of waiting and secure accommodations elsewhere. All these are problems which the builder who builds during busy times must consider. They are problems which those who build now are not required to solve.

It is not possible to determine the influence of an active building campaign upon the commerce of the United States. Were it possible to provide work for all the mechanics an increase in general trade would result. The solvency of the butcher, the grocer or the banker depends upon the ability of his patrons to pay their bills; the solvency of the jobbing house depends upon the ability of hundreds of small retail distributors to pay their accounts; the solvency of the manufacturer hinges upon prompt settlement with the jobbing trade.

The ability of manufacturers to keep their mills going depends upon collections and the demand for their products. No one link in this chain is independent of the others. No one link can be benefited without at the same time benefiting all the other links. Final analysis shows that the interests of the various elements of trade are indissolubly linked together. To start building is to start at the beginning and upon a firm foundation to begin renewed activity. Build now.

It is probably true that Mr. Heney and his work has fallen into some discredit in California, even among many people who were in favor of the prosecutions. There has been so much delay and expense, and such small results, that the people are tired of the proceeding and think it largely farcical. This may be the fault of the judicial system rather than of Heney and his backers, but people cannot be expected to keep up a lively interest in such a matter for years at a time. Heney has done some good work, but he has blundered and bulldozed too much and sometimes has acted on too slight evidence.

The Burns News relies on "the yeomanry of the land, the common people on the farms and in the workshops of the country. In such states as Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Oregon and California," to "save the country from the threatened disaster of Bryan's election." Yet it would not be surprising if the "yeomanry," the "common people," should show that they have become tired of Aldrich, Cannon, Elkins, Dalzell, and all that outfit, and of the rule of the trusts and corporations and railroads and moneybags, and not being afraid of Bryan as they were in 1896, or not being so easily controlled, should vote him in this year.

One man having written to the Oregonian that he considered it a laudable and patriotic action for Democrats to register and vote as Republicans, that paper at once assumes that he speaks for many and that his statement supports its reiterated falsehood that thousands of Democrats so registered and voted. So far it has discovered one instance of a man so voting, and one man who justifies that act. And this is all the evidence that it has been able to produce.

A boy of 12 years went out hunting in Columbia county; he slipped, and the gun went off, killing him. A boy of 12 has no business with a gun, either when alone or with somebody.

Small Change

Herrin is still boss of California. Everybody reads what Tom Lawson says. He pays for it.

Bryan did not have to get anybody to revise and edit his acceptance speech. Fulton also got indorsements from the vice-president and some of the senators.

Mr. Taft has bought a 1,200-pound riding horse. He may serve, but is none too big.

Enforced and abnormal prosperity will require an immense Republican campaign fund.

The Walla Walla Statesman reprints whole editorials of The Journal verbatim, and so on credit.

The big odds on Taft in the Lloyds "insurance" scheme are likely to drop a good deal before election.

The New York Journal says bathers need more clothes. Some bathers would look better with more clothes on, surely.

The Astoria review is a unique event, the only one of the kind in this region, and deserving of a very large attendance.

Somebody has invented a new word for a navigator of the air—aviator, which is one letter shorter than aeronaut.

Of course there must be a lot of good roads talk first; but the work is done, and come, the people are all for good roads.

The only way Illinois can get rid of its trust corporation and hoodie senatorial politics, is to elect a Democratic legislature.

Look at the record of that last congress, and then wonder that anybody should ask you to hurrah for the party that was in the majority.

Again, Sir Thomas Lipton has a notion of trying to lift that cup. Nobody so well deserves it, and nobody would it be so cheerfully surrendered.

It has not yet been reported how many clerks Chairman Hitchcock has employed in making a list of the trusts that have been smashed and the wealthy lawbreakers who have been punished.

A news item reports a man disappearing at Emattia as complete as if the earth had opened and swallowed him up. How did the reporter ever manage to invent so apt and original a comparison?

Voys says Ohio will give Taft 120,000 votes. A list of the trusts that we will read during the next few weeks, splitting the difference may give a fair estimate.

An Indiana judge ruled that a night-gown was a luxury and granted an injunction against a woman who had been sued for purchasing one with part of her hard-earned wages. The girl and her corporation octopus cannot afford to appeal, and so may have to sleep in her kitchen gown until she can get a husband.

A Maryland minister, according to a dispatch, who was beaten severely by the husband of a woman whom the husband found in the preacher's study, said he is innocent, but the woman testified that he was awakened and ordered her to leave, and she would like to love her and pray for her. All of which may be true, but it is a reminder of the first rule of matrimony: "Don't marry a man." If it were not for women, what a good world it would be.

Oregon Sidelights

A branch 18 inches in length cut from an Egin man's apple tree held 53 apples, but was of average size.

A cougar over nine feet long was killed on Mosby creek by Mr. Van Hook, who is in the preacher's study. It had killed many sheep and goats.

With prunes selling at 5 1/2c and one of the families in the mountains don't rain during prune harvest, there will be good times at Myrtle Creek this fall, says the Mail.

There are seven families of the new colony already at Wolf Creek and a party of five families are to arrive soon, says the Glendale News. A hotel, store, etc., are being built.

Union will be conducted by telegraph wire with the rest of the world, and the old time method of sending telegrams by telephone or freight to the main line will soon be a matter of the past.

A Eugene man has a new well 118 feet deep, with 140 feet of water in it, which he pumps by ordinary pumping. He will ultimately build a water tank and have a water system of his own.

Many Prineville people in the mountains camping have been utilized as fire lookouts for the last three days. They do wages for the work, but they didn't go to the mountains looking for jobs, says the Review.

More than double the amount of fruit has been cared for by the Dalles cannery this season than was handled last year. This is due to the fact that the cannery has a large storage bin, and also of strawberries and peach plums.

Twenty thousand dollars is the sum that has already been proffered W. E. Howell, a partner of a Grande, says the observer who invented the process of making commercial turpentine from old stumps that cover the Blue mountains.

A freight wagon arriving in Prineville brought six barrels of beer consigned to six different parties of that city and a five gallon keg of stronger fluid, which shows that Prineville knows how to get its beer more cheaply than it did vote prohibition says the Review.

After driving down a hill with the horse set so that the wagon wheels did not turn, a man near Brownsville was surprised on looking back to see fire trailing over the hill. The horse was dead. A spark struck from a rock had set fire to the grass and 75 acres of ground were burned over.

With the market at from \$9 to \$10 there will be placed in circulation from the sale of Haines a sum from \$50,000 to \$75,000, which will be used for the grain crop being harvested and the big supply of feed hay in the stacks will give Haines a net profit of a million dollars to be divided up among us, says the Record.

"NO INFANT INDUSTRIES," SAYS DAVID STARR JORDAN

In a paper read before the International Free Trade conference held at Lowell, August 4-7, President Jordan of Leland Stanford university gives his views on the protective system, as follows:

Every argument for and against the tariff has been stated a thousand times. There is nothing new to be said. At the bottom of every argument is the necessary recognition of its primal equity. The fundamental idea in American policy is that of a square deal to all men, each standing on his own feet, with exclusive privileges governmental aid to no man and to no class of men. Inequality before the law is the primal sin of the protective system. It is the basis of all other sins. Inequality before the law is the basis of all other sins. Inequality before the law is the basis of all other sins.

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Campaign Funds

From the Commoner. If bank deposits are guaranteed as recommended in the Democratic national platform, funds in bank will be as good as gold in the pocket. There will be no more money panics because there will be no more money in circulation. Washington will not have to go to the aid of Wall street banks in trouble because all banks will be guaranteed. Large industrial interests enjoying special favors at Washington oppose the plan because it would reduce their power. The plan would reduce tariff schedules because the tariff barons control their organization and the campaign funds. To prevent the adoption of reform measures the Republicans will form an enormous campaign fund contributed by the power interests. The plan would reduce tariff schedules because the tariff barons control their organization and the campaign funds. To prevent the adoption of reform measures the Republicans will form an enormous campaign fund contributed by the power interests.

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