

THE JOURNAL

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The superiority of some men is merely local; they are great because their associates are little.—Dr. Johnson.

THE VERDICT

IN THEIR wisdom the people of the country have selected Mr. Taft for the presidency, and, judged by the election day methods in Oregon, there is every reason to believe that it is a sincere verdict.

It is a verdict decisive enough to remove all doubt as to the popular will, and it comes straight from the ballot box. The people of the country are its rulers, and the ballot box is their means of announcing their wishes. Their judgment is final, and there have been no instances in which they have not met all responsibilities of government with intelligence and competency.

His supporters have claimed that Mr. Taft is a man of splendid fitness and capacity for the office of chief magistrate. They have urged that the government can be better administered by him than by another. It is within the easy possibilities that Mr. Taft is all that has been claimed for him and that he will do his utmost to give the country a wise and just administration.

It is easier to believe, and as easy to hope, that when the power finally passes into his hands that he will use it with a discerning wisdom that shall gratify his most earnest supporters and please those who were his opponents. In any event he is to be the president of the republic and he will at all times be accepted and hailed as such by this newspaper and all applause be given his official acts whenever they shall appear to be for the general welfare.

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE

THE school fund of Oregon is growing. It ought to grow. Its interest-drawing assets total more than \$5,100,000. They ought to total many times as much, and would have done so under a wiser management by previous state administrations, of the lands set aside for the purpose.

For a long time these lands were doled out at prices inordinately low, a condition illustrated by the fact that since Chamberlain became governor the price has been advanced to three or four times the former figure and the lands are selling just the same. It is, however, gratifying to learn that the fund is increasing. It is also gratifying to note that only \$11,000 of the school fund is unloaded. Time was when great sums of \$750,000 and the like remained unloosed in the treasury, drawing no interest for the schools. It used to be charged that these great sums were encouraged to remain in the treasury for the personal increment the method afforded officials and their friends.

Whether it was true or not, it is a fact that for the past few years this money has been loaned faithfully and the school children of the state have had the benefit. But there ought to be a vastly increased irreducible fund. Oregon has still left a sufficient remnant of public resources to greatly augment this total. There are water powers from which a rental could be derived and the proceeds go into the school fund. These water powers are all the people's and should be so managed that the increment from them should be saved to benefit the people's children. There is a vast land grant that ought to be forfeited and a part of its proceeds go into the irreducible fund. From either or both, and by continuation of the present wise management of the school lands and the husbanding of the school fund, the school children of the state will have a vastly increased irreducible fund.

money, a great irreducible fund could be built up that would give Oregon such common schools as she deserves. The Little Red School House is the first and foremost factor in lifting the life of community, city, state, nation and the world; and it should be the first and foremost object of concern to all men.

THE LINN COUNTY APPLE FAIR

THIS week the Linn county apple fair will be held at Albany. While Hood river and Southern Oregon apples have in late years gained greater repute, and probably have really exceeded those of Linn and adjacent counties, yet there is no reason to doubt that almost if not quite as excellent apples can be produced in the Willamette valley, as in any other section of Oregon.

Mr. Lowndesdale of Yamhill county has gone far to demonstrate this. Polk county is becoming noted for its fine apples. Over in Lincoln county, experienced growers from southern Oregon say that conditions are fully as good as in their own section, and land is much cheaper. Apples hard to beat are raised out in the isolated Nehalem valley. And certainly Linn and Benton counties, with Albany and Corvallis as their central points, can make a showing of apples that would be a surprise in any other part of the country if not in Oregon. And it is not only apples, but prunes and other fruits that can be produced in great quantities, but of superior excellence, in those counties, and indeed throughout the Willamette valley.

But to get the best results, to secure for apples the reputation those of Hood river and Jackson county have gained, the orchardists of Linn and other counties up the valley must improve upon past methods. They must keep their orchards free from pests. They must put brains in their work. They must study soils and varieties. And they must be careful and conscientious in packing and marketing. All this, we doubt not, they are learning to do, are doing more and more year by year. The Agricultural college has done splendid work in educating, not only youth but farmers along this and other lines. And every such fair helps. It inspires emulation, and encourages right efforts.

THE CORRUPT PRACTICES LAW

MUCH harsh criticism of the "corrupt practices" law, passed by the people last June, has been indulged in by organs that are opposed to all reforms in political life, of whatever nature. Some of the provisions of this law may be unreasonably restrictive, and if so these can be eliminated later, but the object and general scope of the law are good, as the result of its observance will be. By election day voters have made up their minds how they will vote, or can decide without the help of political touts and hired or interested pleaders. The scenes at the polling places yesterday were in very pleasing contrast to those of a few years ago, when the voter was harassed with a line of fellows with tickets and interrupted with appeals to vote thus and so—say nothing of the practice not so many years ago of buying votes by the wholesale for \$2 to \$5. The same organs that are complaining so loudly now about the corrupt practices act were also opposed to the Australian ballot system, and ridiculed it in much the same style. They were, and still are, opposed to the initiative and referendum, and to election of senators by the people, and to everything making for cleaner and purer politics. This law probably goes a little too far in some particulars, but that is no reason for condemning it as a whole, or disapproving its general tenor and purpose.

A POST-ELECTION ISSUE.

THE ELECTION is over, but it is not too late to utter a further protest against the use of large amounts of money, and of the coercive influence of the financially strong over the financially weak in American elections. In the decadent days of the Roman empire the great standing army put up the emperors to the highest bidder, to the one who would promise the most to the soldiers. Some-what analogous to the militarism of declining Rome is the industrialism of this country. We have not reached the point that the Roman empire did prior to its inevitable fall, but we have gone a good way in the last 25 years in that direction. It has happened that the Republican party, whose rank and file are as good people as those of any other party, has been the principal sinner in this matter of corrupting and intimidating the American electorate. The Atlanta Journal probably justified in making the assertion that the presidency was bought for Garfield in 1880, and by the "blocks-of-five" system for Harrison in 1888. It was partly the public disgust and alarm at this great scandal that elected Cleveland in 1892. Then came the Mark Hanna policy of raising unlimited millions from the protected and predatory corporations, trusts and financial interests with which to buy votes, and of intimidation and coercion of hundreds of thousands of workmen. Even in 1904, when Roosevelt could have been elected without the use of a dollar, the insurance companies, the oil interests, the interests, again

contributed hundreds of thousands to buy votes that were not needed. And to a greater or less extent the same thing has been done in the recent campaign. And finally the people pay, many times over, what these interests contribute.

The election is over. The Journal is not saying this to influence voters. It is speaking of a great and dangerous evil in this country, and between now and another election the people of all parties should take means to demand that this evil, corrupting, debasing and destroying practice shall cease. As the Atlanta Journal said before the election, the Portland Journal says also after the election:

It is a solemn question that confronts the American people whether they shall again allow the presidency to be purchased by the highest bidder in cold cash. It transcends all other issues in importance. The expression of the popular will, uninfluenced by sordid bribery, is the bed rock upon which American institutions rest. Let that be fatally undermined and the whole structure will rush down into chaos. This barefaced attempt to put up at auction the highest office in the public gift gives new significance to the question, "Shall the people rule?"

THE PREMIER GOLD MINE.

HOW THERE is a great gold mine that eclipses all the gold mines of the world in its annual output of wealth is the subject of an article in the current Outlook magazine. It is a theme of surpassing interest because the great mine in question, though widely familiar, is rarely noticed. This premier mine is the wheat fields of the United States with their annual output of golden grain. It is a mine so rich that, were the truth as to its wealth creations thoroughly understood there would be a rush for it beside which all the gold excitements of history would be insignificant. The impoverished cellar and garret dwelling inhabitants of the overcrowded cities would hurry to it as a means of deliverance from perpetual poverty. The crowded tenements of the great centers would be relieved of their congestion. In the hurry of the herd for the country with its wealth of golden grain. Toward the flowing brooks, the greensward of the valleys and the golden fields the indigent city dweller would hasten in the hope of gathering wealth from the bending stalks of yellow grain.

In a single year the United States produces a wheat crop that exceeds in value the output of all the gold mines in the world. In a single year the wheat crop exceeds in value the entire output of the far famed mines of California, Nevada, Arizona and Alaska for all past time. In a single year a single wheat valley in California yields more than 21,000,000 bushels of wheat, a single wheat area in Oregon does the same and a similar area in Washington slightly exceeds either. In a single year the dividends from the wheat fields of the country would be a 50 per cent dividend on the steel corporation, capitalized at more than a billion dollars. In 1908 the yield of the United States was 630,000,000 bushels and Canada 70,000,000 bushels, making the North American yield nearly three quarters of a billion bushels. In 1907 it was even greater, reaching far toward a billion bushels.

If half the millions of money sunk in the search for gold mines had been expended in spreading information for doubling the per acre yield of wheat how infinitely greater would have been the returns! When the yield, now catalogued at 12 to 14 bushels per acre, shall be increased to 30 as England has done, what a vastly greater mine of yellow gold the American wheat field will be! And how important it is that the men who work with and produce this wheat should have the assistance and deep consideration of government, because their work is of such vast significance to the nation and the world!

The Journal admits some disappointment, over the result of the election, but no discouragement. It cheerfully accepts the results, and obediently bows to the will of the majority. The struggle for the present is over, and the people's attention and energies can be directed mainly to other things than politics. The war is not over, will never be over, but another quadriennial battle is over, and in the interim let us have peace.

Let everybody pray that Taft may live out his term. He is incomparably preferable as president to Sherman.

Hurray for Taft! He will be the next president, and he is capable of being a good one.

Now Mr. Harriman can have no excuse for not rushing those Oregon railroads along.

Bryan has lost his third battle, but emerges from defeat more honored than ever.

How corkingly bully President Roosevelt must feel over the election.

Cheer up! Four years more of Teddy.

Small Change

Stand by Oregon Industries.

It was a fine day for a big vote.

Many people find that politics don't pay.

Let's all vote for Oregon-made products.

Hurray for Oregon, regardless of politics.

In a fair fight, the best man always wins.

Tom Watson got a few votes besides his own.

Let everybody be satisfied; now for business.

Uncle Joe will be speaker till March 4 next, at least.

Only four years till another struggle. It should be longer.

Mr. Hearst can have the satisfaction of doing some harm.

It's all over; let's be contented, but not stupidly contented.

The trusts will continue to do business as usual for awhile.

Now the president can finish up that million word or so message.

Desire and sympathy do not make a good foundation for judgment.

It is certain that Mr. Tapp, the suffragette candidate, was not elected.

Wonderful—24 hours passed and no mention of Abraham and Miss Elkins.

Let the people rule. Or if they don't want to let them be ruled by the trusts.

The election being over, perhaps Cassel should secure mention again occasionally.

Now for a long, strong, all-together pull ahead and upward for Portland and Oregon.

At every election a lot of fellows learn how foolish it is to bet—but as many think it wise.

It's fuitable that the brother of the king of Italy should marry the daughter of the king of West Virginia.

The Atlanta Journal remarks that one overwhelming objection to woman's suffrage is that we should not know the returns for several days after the voting began.

Oregon Sidelights

The southern Oregon apple crop will be very large.

Three families have recently moved into La Fayette.

A Mosier 17-year-old boy killed himself while hunting.

A big warehouse business is being done at Pilot Rock.

A portable house manufacturing will be started at Klamath Falls.

The new county of Hood River has about 1,600 voters and 9,000 population.

A man near Dufur has harvested his first crop from three-year-old apple trees.

A Newport man has returned from a seven-weeks' vacation, spent mostly on horseback.

One man left Island precinct, Harney county, since it voted dry last election, and is back home.

One La Grande carrier's load the other day was 75 pounds. Yet the government is stinging with these men.

Salem postoffice shows 30.2 increase in receipts over last year, a greater gain than all the towns of its class in this region.

A new kind of barley, called Black barley, that did well in Baker county this year, will be tried by several Morrow county farmers.

Twenty-two people from the vicinity of Greensburg, Ind., have arrived in Medford this fall, and seven more from the same locality are coming.

A man who offered to sell a place in East Salem at \$1,300 last year is selling it for \$2,000 and refuses to sell. All property is increasing, says the Journal.

About 3,600 boxes of Newtown apples were picked from the Rapp & Oatman orchard, near Talent, boxes single to four-pound, owned by Spitzbergers and Winesaps.

Milwaukee Record: Milwaukee Heights is going up in all directions. In a general prosperity outlook pervades this splendid locality, for beautiful homes.

Talent Rustler: Thirty pickers have been steadily employed in the past two weeks in the Pellet orchard gathering apples. Two four-horse teams were kept busy hauling the boxes of fruit to the large warehouse in town.

A lad of about nine years was accidentally shot by his younger brother in Port Orford last Sunday. The bullet from a 32-40 caliber rifle passed through the leg just above the knee, and ran downward, and making an ugly wound.

In one day recently there came into Medford from the agency in Klamath county, five four-horse teams and one single team driven, owned by Indians from the reservation. These people are after supplies for their families during the winter.

The nearly new Jacksonville school house is in very bad condition, plumb-line, roof leaking, plaster falling off, etc. The work, says the Post, was done by an outside contractor who had no interest in the city more than to collect his money and leave the town.

The gamekeeper for one of the hunting club preserves on Deer island lost a valuable dog and subsequently got to get at the salt dog can fastened on her nose in such a way that she smothered to death before she was discovered.

Hillsboro is having a good steady growth, far greater than it ever before experienced, says the Argus. The new cases modern, and in many cases demand for lots, and in some parts of the city, good building lots are scarce. It is said that several new additions will be laid out next spring.

Sheridan Sun: A wandering Jackrab-bit taking the busy street for the sage brush of eastern Oregon, became dazed by the electric lights Tuesday night and wandered into the thoroughfare to the postoffice. Here his presence became known and he was soon felled by a blow from a billiard cue and his roving body was soon made into juicy stew.

Lincoln county has about 10,000 acres of land suitable for forestry, says the Newport Mail. This is a conservative estimate and in consideration of the demand throughout the United States for such land it means that some time soon we shall have a stable and remunerative industry employing several hundred skilled men.

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FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

"This Country Belongs to the People"—By Abraham Lincoln

From His First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861.

This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to break it or overthrow it. I cannot be ignorant of the fact that many worthy and patriotic citizens are desirous of having the national constitution amended. While I make no recommendation of amendments, I sincerely recognize the rightful authority of the people over the whole subject, to be exerted in the most judicious manner, and under the most auspicious circumstances, should, under existing circumstances, be afforded the opportunity to act upon it. I will venture to add that the convention now in session at Washington, in that it allows amendments to originate with the people themselves, instead of merely permitting them to take or reject propositions originally proposed by others not especially chosen for the purpose and which might not be precisely such as they would wish to either accept or refuse.

I understand a proposed amendment to the constitution—which amendment, however, I do not understand—has been introduced into congress, to the effect that the federal government shall never interfere with the domestic institutions of the states, including that of persons held to servitude. To avoid misconstruction of what I do say, I depart from my purpose not to speak of particular amendments so far as to say that, holding such a provision to now be applied constitutionally, I have no objection to its being made express and irrevocable.

The chief magistrate derives all his authority from the people, and he has conferred none upon him in six terms for the separation of the states. The people have a right to choose him, and he has no right to choose them. His duty is to do what the people will. It is to be understood that the government, as it came to his hands, is to be maintained by him, to his successor.

Why should there not be a patient and a patient in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world? In our present differences is either party without faith of being able to do more than the ruler of nations, with his eternal truth

and justice; be on your side of the north, or on your side of the south, that truth and justice will surely prevail by the judgment of a great tribunal of the American people.

By the frame of the government we have wisely given their public servants but little power for mischief; and have, also, provided, for the return of the public mind to its normal and healthy state, by the return of very short intervals. While the people retain their virtue and vigilance, no ambition, no avarice, no greediness, no jealousy or unhealthy self-interest, will be able to injure the government in the short space of a year. It is only when the people are ignorant, and their minds are kept so by their irresponsible and unscrupulous leaders, that the government can have its power and its justice impaired, and, on the sensitive point, the laws of your own country, which are the basis of our free government, will have no immediate power, if it would, to change either. If it were so, the government would be a mere puppet, and the laws of your own country, which are the basis of our free government, will have no immediate power, if it would, to change either.

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