

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON, Publisher

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structure, were passed, and reprisals on the public domain made afterward. An enormous holding of the most beautiful timber in the Cascade reserve thus went to one of the railroads on scrip, and is now held by that corporation. The history of these crimes of cunning for which there can be no punishment is a blot upon the country's legislation. Great a criminal as he is, and deserved as is his penalty, the mulcted and imprisoned Hyde is but a waverer in the maelstrom of pillaged lands. Witness the splendid acres by the million in the Oregon and California land grant. The hope is that our indifference to public affairs is over and that we shall presently end the mad riot of the corporations in capturing our national resources.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE PANAMA CANAL DEAL

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S hosts of friends and admirers regret that we might safely say that the country regrets now, and will hereafter, though viewing him as in the main an admirable and nobly patriotic figure—his rash impulsiveness in harsh and unjust criticism, his choleric and intemperate outbreaks against men who have made some just or at least excusable criticism of some public transaction. The president's recent letter on the Panama canal matter was unprecedentedly intemperate and unjustifiable. It betrays throughout a state of intolerant and unreasoning rage, for which there was no sufficient occasion.

The editor of the Indianapolis News, who is charged a score or more of times with having published a falsehood, and of being a falsifier, merely reprinted some statements made by the New York World, giving due credit. The story was not unreasonable or incredible, and the World reaffirms its main features and gives evidence to support its statements. There was no occasion whatever for the president to fly into this raging passion.

The intimation made some weeks ago that the president's brother-in-law and Mr. Taft's brother were interested in and profited by the Panama deal may have been a campaign canard; the Journal was one of many newspapers that gave it little credence and made no point of it; but even that suggestion furnished no excuse for such an intemperate outburst.

That the French government got all the money is palpably absurd. That the American syndicate got a good deal of it there is no reason or room to doubt. If it was a legitimate, meritorious transaction, then there should be no reason for a raging diatribe about it. Why not make all the facts and circumstances known? Why shouldn't a newspaper ask: "Who got the money? And what for?" Such a query does not make a newspaper or citizen a forty-fall liar.

The Panama ditch was practically valueless. The company's rights had lapsed, been forfeited—at least so Colombia claimed. Nobody has ever believed that the new Panama canal company got more than a fraction of the \$40,000,000. Receipts are at most only prima facie evidence; it is very easy, and not very uncommon, for a receipt to express a far larger consideration than that which actually passed.

Nobody charges that President Roosevelt or Mr. Taft did anything corrupt or personally profited by what was done, but that there was a big scheme by which some people did profit very largely in the Panama deal is not only generally believed, but there seems to be evidence to support such a belief. Mr. Cromwell and Mr. Morgan are not patriots for their health. And a sufficiently searching inquiry might disclose the real reasons why the Panama route was so suddenly and unexpectedly substituted for the Nicaragua route.

When the people spend \$40,000,000 in a lump and get little or nothing of value for it they have a right to know all about the transaction and just where the money went. And it is not creditable to the president's executive balance that he should become so ebulliently testy over a suggestion or a statement of probable or at least possible fact regarding the matter. Who got the money, and for what? The inquiry is entirely proper, notwithstanding the president's volcanic eruption.

THE COURTS ARE OPEN, SENATOR FULTON

SENATOR FULTON has been characterized by some of his friends as "the best constitutional lawyer in the country." In view of this circumstance and in view of his repeated charge that he was defeated for the senatorial nomination through "Democratic frauds," why did not Mr. Fulton speak that address which the law affords? The courts are always open to any citizen who can show himself wronged by illegal voting, and Oregon has a statute which imposes severe penalties for ballot box frauds. The "best constitutional lawyer in the country" must be well aware of this law and of the remedy which lies open to him through the courts. If he was defeated in the Republican primaries through frauds perpetrated by Democrats why did he not commence legal proceedings at once to set aside the results of those primaries? Surely that would be more reasonable, more profes-

sional and more creditable than to seek now to cast discredit upon the people of his state by raising a senseless cry of fraud, unsupported by a scintilla of evidence.

Why pour this tale of fraud into incredulous ears at the national capital, when it would be so easy, if the charge is true, to establish it here at home by verdict of a jury and by decree of court? Why should any man believe the charge so long as you fail to bring it into court and to substantiate it by legal evidence?

MR. BEAN

THERE ARE men and men. Speaking of his candidacy for the speakership, Representative-elect Bean of Lane county, says: "I consider that the senatorship was settled by the people at the June election."

Mr. Bean is an unpledged member. He is in position, if he so desired, to be an insurrecto. He could, if he so desired, be a factor in the proposed smashing of the ballot box. He could, if he so desired, take the familiar position of "The people be damned." Others in Oregon take that position. But Mr. Bean considers that "the senatorship was settled by the people in June." That attitude by members-elect, he sees, leaves opportunity for a good business session, and he appeals for such a session.

A good business session of constructive legislation is what Oregon needs. For lack of it the state's development has long been handicapped. That development, is always at stake. Legislation is needed for irrigation. Legislation is needed for water powers and their preservation. Legislation is needed for a more equal distribution of the tax burdens. Legislation is needed for the waterways. Legislation is needed for the public roads. Legislation is needed for the schools. Legislation is needed that will be enacted after calm consideration and with an eye single to the good of Oregon, and not enacted in the heat of frenzy with an eye single to the good of some senatorial candidate. To appeal for such a session is good citizenship. In appealing for it Mr. Bean is a good citizen and his example is worthy of emulation.

By these words this newspaper is not supporting Mr. Bean for speaker. It has no candidate. It cares nothing for any man in the matter of his political fortunes. The issues of the hour are bigger than mere men. They are principles. They are principles that make for the welfare and for the undoing of social and economic conditions, according as they are applied or misapplied. They are questions of whether the legislative session shall be a business activity or a senatorial abortion, and whether the people shall choose senator, or senators and a few bosses choose themselves.

THE PRICE OF INDIFFERENCE

WHEN THE Oregon Conservation Commission meets in Portland next week there is a bit of good advice it can give Oregon people. That advice is for each of them to take a deep interest in public affairs. It is advice timely for all people in all states. It is the indifference of the masses that makes the leaks in government. Mr. Bryce in his American Commonwealth observes that the best men in the United States hold aloof from politics, and that is largely true. It is also true that too many men hold aloof, manifesting but little concern in public affairs. That is what makes opportunity for the boss, the politician and the plunderer. The government, state and national, has to be conducted. Somebody is going to conduct it. If not the good citizen and not a wide variety of citizens, the bad citizens and only a few of them will control. The result will be inevitable. The selfish man is always on the lookout for a chance to plunder, and the indifference of the others puts public affairs at his mercy. This is a large cause of graft. The citizen sleeps on his rights and the grafters turn the trick. He sleeps on his rights and congress legislates away his national resources. He sleeps on his rights and the oil fields go to Standard. He sleeps on his rights and the public lands are gobbled up by fraudsters. He sleeps on his rights and legislators are demoralized by senatorial follies. He sleeps on his rights and those rights are one by one taken away from him and exploited by political bosses and their gangs of mercenaries.

It is easy to be indifferent to public concerns. There is a living to make. There is private enterprise to be supervised and conducted. There are the manifold concerns of every day life that engross attention and require the expenditure of energy, thought and vital forces that seem to put expenditure of all these on public affairs in the light of an added burden. Yet the history of the country is an appeal for the substitution of alertness for indifference. For lack of alertness our national resources have slipped away until a convention extraordinary is deliberating on how to save the remnant. Our lack of alertness has been a public calamity. If the Oregon Conservation Commission would build up for conserving the state's resources, let it advise every citizen to be a factor in the conduct of public concerns. If politics has the reputation of being a dirty business let

the good citizen aid by his presence in its purification.

C. N. McArthur, candidate for speaker of the house in the next legislature, declined to express an opinion as to whether members who had subscribed to Statement No. 1 should keep their pledge. Now that his chief opponent for the speakership, Representative Bean, has declared himself on this question perhaps Mr. McArthur may muster up courage to do likewise. It should not require any extraordinary heroism to say that a promise to the people should be kept, not broken.

Though Representative Bean of Lane county is not a Statement No. 1 member, he says that he considers that the senatorial question was fully settled last June, and should not be a subject of any contest in the coming session of the legislature. This is the right view to take of the matter, and the one that most members will probably take of it.

A law requiring a book of instructions to newly married couples to be handed out with each marriage license is advocated by women at Los Angeles. If the bill passes and the book be prepared by its advocates, any mere man who has the instructions to follow had better look before he leaps.

Letters From the People

Letters to The Journal should be written on one side of the paper only, and should be addressed to the Editor, The Journal, 225 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. The name will not be used if the writer asks that it be withheld. The Journal is not to be held responsible for the views or statements of correspondents. Letters should be made as brief as possible. Letters not exceeding 300 words in length may, at the discretion of the editor, be cut down to that limit.

Fulton's Charge of "Fraud" Absurd. Oregon City, Dec. 8.—To the Editor of The Journal.—With a boasted 25,000 party majority, how puerile to pretend that the Democrats left their own primaries in sufficient numbers to decide the election? It was only an accident, and it was an accident which, in the stirring history of the most momentous change the world has seen, placed Boston in the van. It was then a party of some 13,000 inhabitants; but "the rays of royal indignation" collected upon it served only to illuminate, and could not consume." Here Sam Adams, the ablest and ripest statesman of the epoch, forecast those men who were to lead 13 colonies into one thunderbolt and launched it at George the Third. Here Otis magnified every boy into a desperate rebel. The saving of this landmark is the best monument you can erect to the best of all solutions. You sponsor \$40,000 here and \$50,000 there, to put up a statue to some old hero. You want your sons to gaze on the nearest approach to the features of those "dead

A Politician's Lament. (In Illinois, as in every other state where the uniform primary system has been adopted, the stock argument of "the boys" is of application to the reform was that "it will destroy the party." Touching upon this phase of the subject, Kenton H. Farley, in the following paragraphs, for the Chicago News: Dark are the clouds that above us are lowering. Indeed is the prospect ahead. All our fond hopes that so bravely were flowing. Nip it in the forest, are now blighted and dead. Bitter the sorrows tears that we shed. Several are the strings that we used to manipulate. Broken the puppets that danced as we willed. Now the silent compromise, barter or stipulate. Mourn, oh, my brothers! The party is killed. Wrecked is our beautiful party machine. Safety valves, pistons and cogwheels and shafts. Shattered, lie scattered all over the floor. No more to grind out political grafts. Spoiled, wholly ruined, our arts and crafts. Everything looked, too, so lovely quite recently. Then with bright visions our fancies were filled. Now we're too heart sick to bury it decently. Mourn, oh, my brothers! The party is killed. Vain were the efforts we made educational. Vain were our warnings, our pleas were in vain. Now the measure is found constitutional. Gone is our old occupation, it's plain. We had had any grip, to retain. Weep for the fleecy old flock that is leaving us. Woe to the heartless who've joyed in the killing. Mourn, oh, my brothers! The party is killed.

William J. Rolfe's Birthday. William J. Rolfe, the noted writer and Shakespearean scholar, was born in Newburyport, Mass., December 10, 1827. In his early years he was a school teacher and has always taken an active interest in educational affairs. As a young man he moved to Cambridge, which city is still his home. He began his editorial and literary labors in 1865, since which time he has written many text books, criticisms, guides and magazine articles. In his multitude of labors Dr. Rolfe has still found time to master seven languages and to make no fewer than 20 trips to Europe. He is regarded as one of the greatest living authorities on the life and work of Shakespeare. Harvard bestowed the honorary degree of A. M. upon Mr. Rolfe in 1889 and similar honors have come to him from Amherst and other leading colleges.

This Date in History. 1672—A monthly post was established between New York and Boston. 1741—John Murray, founder of Universalism in the United States, born in England, died in Boston, September 3, 1801. 1787—Thomas H. Gallaudet, a noted educator of the deaf and dumb, born in Philadelphia. Died in Hartford, Conn., September 9, 1861. 1804—New York Historical society instituted. 1837—Mississippi admitted to statehood. 1838—The house of assembly in Jamaica passed a bill abolishing slavery. 1856—Christ church, Montreal, destroyed by fire. 1867—All disputes between Mexico and the United States settled by treaty. 1907—Norwegian parliament conferred the Nobel prize upon President Roosevelt in recognition of his services in ending the Russo-Japanese war.

A Little Mistake. From Success. Lady—(on the Metropolitan railway London)—Please, sir, will you help me to get out at the next station? Gentleman—Why, certainly, ma'am. Lady—You see, sir, it's this way. Being a lady, I have to turn around, and get out backward, and the porters always think I am getting in, so they push me back into the carriage and say, "Hurry up, ma'am! I've passed four stations that way already."

FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

"The Old South Church"—By Wendell Phillips

(From an address June 14, 1876, in the Old South church building, Boston, in favor of the preservation of that ancient edifice.)

A hundred years ago our fathers announced this sublime and, as it seemed then, foolhardy declaration, that "God intended all men to be free and equal." With what tender and loyal reverence, may we not mark and cherish the spot where this marvelous enterprise marked the roof under which its first council was held, where the old walls trembles and burns with Otis and Sam Adams! Except the Holy City, is there any more memorable or sacred place on the face of the earth than the cradle of our country? Athens has her Acropolis, but the Greek city is not so much revered. London has her parliament and tower, and her St. Stephen's chapel; but the human race owes her no such memories. France has spots marked by the sublime devotion of her heroes, but the Mecca of the man who believes and hopes for the human race is not to Paris; it is to the seaboard cities of the great republic. And when the flag is hoisted from the masts of our ships, and the regiments march one by one through the streets, which were the pavements that thrilled under their footsteps? What walls did they salute with their bayoneted rifles? Boston is the Mecca of the man who believes and hopes for the human race is not to Paris; it is to the seaboard cities of the great republic. And when the flag is hoisted from the masts of our ships, and the regiments march one by one through the streets, which were the pavements that thrilled under their footsteps? What walls did they salute with their bayoneted rifles? Boston is the Mecca of the man who believes and hopes for the human race is not to Paris; it is to the seaboard cities of the great republic. And when the flag is hoisted from the masts of our ships, and the regiments march one by one through the streets, which were the pavements that thrilled under their footsteps? What walls did they salute with their bayoneted rifles? 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