EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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Procrastination is the thief of time:
Year after year it steals, till all are fled,
And to the mercies of a moment leaves
The vast concerns of an eternal scene.
—Young.

CONGRESS AND BROWNSVILLE

THE COUNTRY must be weary of the Brownsville incident. It has had a place on the center of the stage until it is almost ancient history. If, for the sake of argument, it be admitted that the president acted on an impulse and was sweeping in the dismissal of the offending companies the time for quibbling expired by limitation months and months ago.

It remains a fact now, and it was a fact then, that the town of Brownsville was shot and that it was done by individuals among the colored soldiers. It was an outrage for which the perpetrators deserved severe treatment, and got it. For their own reasons the innocent among the soldiers refused to disclose the identity of the guilty, and because of that refusal were along with the guilty dismissed from the service. The only means by which the guilty could be reached was that actually invoked, to wit: the dismissal of innocent and guilty alike.

The problem before the president at the time of the dismissal was whether the guilty should escape all punishment for a murderous crime and continue in the service and under the pay of the United States or whether they should be dismissed from the army and along with them some persons not guilty of any crime. The president chose the latter course and all the soldiers were dismissed from the service. There is no qustion of the guilt of the guilty. There is no question that the identity of the guilty could have been established by the aid of the innocent and thereby the latter could have escaped dismissal. That is all there is of the matter, and it would be infinitely better for the discipline of the army and for the country if congress would end the issue and turn attention to the larger concerns of the country.

THE HOBO

CONTRIBUTORS TO The Journal are confounding the hobo issue. The idle workingman in bona fide search of work is not a hobo. For him The Journal has infinite solicitude. It is the person who pretends to be in search of work but does not want to find it that is the hobo. When he finds work he runs away from it. It is his religion to hate work. He sometimes, when begging at a doorstep, makes a pretense of seeking employment. If it is afforded him he finds excuse for not accepting it. He is a hobo from choice. He likes the ubiquitous, strolling, gypsy-like existence and follows it as a profession. He pursues it with the same enthusiasm as that with which the physician prescribes capsules or the lawyer writes briefs. There is an army of this type of men in the social fabric and they are a nuisance. They feed on the thrift and toil of real workingmen and others who supply them with food as a charity doled out from the doorsteps. Sympathy spent on them is sympathy wasted, for they must either be happy in their lot or they would not spend their lives in it.

Between this type and the real workingman out of employment there is neither relation nor resemblance. They are as far apart in characteristics as the antipodes. The difference is that one wants employment and the other doesn't. It is the difference between energy and laziness. It is the difference between the stagnant pond and the rushing stream. One is a factor in creating comforts for mankind and the other an indolent, useless consumer of what others produce. One is the real workingman, employed or unemployed, and the other is the hobo. To the first the race owes every consideration, and to the other nothing. The genuine hobo is not the product of any economic system, for under all systems or no system, he would still be a hobo.

The Journal concedes that the real workingman struggles against handicaps and hopes that these handicaps may become more and more rare. It is in the effort to better his opportunities and increase his wages, widen his employment and lessen his cost of living that this newspaper at all times pleads for pure government and preservation of the rights and privileges of the commonalty.

A WORD TO CONTRIBUTORS

MANY ARTICLES for publication come to The Journal office unaccompanied by the names of the writers. Numbers of these articles are of value and merit publication, but it is impossible to print them unless the name of the writer is known to The Journal, not necessarily for publication, but for reasons that are obvious. Articles of current public interest are constantly and often reluctantly withheld from publication on this account. The best rule, in all cases, is for the writer to openly sign his article, a method that adds infinitely to its weight. It shows good faith. It indicates the courage of conviction. It is the American way and American spirit. It is the way that the public most admires. It is not, however, required, but in every case the writer must disclose his identity to the editor or the contribution cannot be printed. This is necessary for the paper's protection.

A further suggestion will be in point. Contributions should be direct and reasonably brief. This is a day of brevity. The public is always in a hurry. It wants to do the most in the least possible time. The subject in an article should be concisely and tersely treated. Newspaper space is valuable, and so is the reader's time. Articles that meet these requirements are especially desired and if free from invective or personalities and accompanied by the writer's name will always find a place in The Journal.

THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT

WITH THE example of the Russian douma before him, Sultan Abdul Hamid of Turkey probably regards the new parliament in his country with complacency. The first douma was soon dissolved by the czar and many of its members were punished; the second one, showing signs of following its predecessor's example, was even shorter lived; and the third, profiting by these examples, is a mere dumb show, a creature of the bureaucracy, either not daring or not wishing to exercise any real parliamentary power. So doubtless the sultan supposes, it will turn out in Turkey. He appoints the upper house and if he has the power of veto and dissolution he is still two thirds of the government and can in a little while render the elective body subservient or powerless.

But conditions are not the same in Turkey as in Russia, and the new Turkish parliament may not be so easily suppressed or controlled as the Russian douma was. Turkey is more within the sphere of progressive political movements. Its people are more intelligent as a mass than the Russian peasantry. Roots of democracy have been long planted in Turkish soil, and at different times have put forth sprouts, ugly but showing life. And lately the Young Turks, who brought about this parliament, appear to be a well led mass of men who are capable of maintaining their ground and advancing. The event is an important one in the domain of world politics, and the course of events in Turkey will be watched with interest in the western world.

THE POPULAR DECREE IS NINETY VOTES FOR CHAMBERLAIN

THE MANIFEST collapse of the insurrecto movement gives to unpledged legislators their opportunity. They have a guide by which to square their acts. A law was adopted by the people last June of which the title is, "A bill for a law instructing the members of the legislature to vote for and elect the candidates for United States senators who receive the highest number of votes at the general election." The bill provided that all members of the legislature should vote for and elect the popular choice. It was passed by a vote of 69,668 for and 21,162 against. The majority in favor of the law was 48,506. The vote shows that the sentiment of the voters is emphatically and overwhelmingly in favor of every member of the legislature voting for the people's choice.

It is a unanimity of sentiment that is remarkable, because the voting came after Mr. Fulton and many of his followers had engaged in public agitation against the election of a popular choice senator.

It is a vote of nearly three and one half to one. It is a vote 17,247 greater than the vote for Chamberlain. It included all his supporters and 17,247 additional. It leaves absolutely no room in any legislator's mind to doubt that it is the overwhelming desire of the people that, whoever he may be, the people's choice shall at all times receive the vote of every one of the 90 legislators, pledged and unpledged alike. A vote so nearly unanimous and given by the electors when the issue was so perfectly understood and manifest, leaves absolutely no quibble or question as to what is the people's will, or the legislator's obligation. If the ballot box means anything, if a vote of the people is worth anything, this is an instruction for each one of the 90 members of the legislature to vote specifically and unanimously for the popular choice.

It is the popular conception that legislators are the agents of the people. It is understood that they are elected to carry out the people's wishes. If that is not the true view, then there is no popular government. If it is not the true view this is a government by agents who carry out their own will and not the people's will. If it is not the true view, then the people do not govern, but are governed by their agents. If, on the contrary, legislators are elected to represent and carry out the people's wishes and if pledged and unpledged legislators alike propose to carry out that will, they know what that will is.

By the credentials which he holds from the people, George E. Chamberlain is entitled to 90 votes—which means the vote of every member of the legislature—for United States senator.

A CITY WITH PURE MILK

THERE ARE those who claim that some of the milk supply of Portland is a menace to public health. The situation renders of very great interest an article in the December issue of McClure's, describing the careful surveillance by which an absolutely pure milk supply is provided for one of the European cities. From it something may be learned that could be turned to account in this city.

The article is by Samuel Hopkins Adams and the city in question is Copenhagen. The problem of pure milk has been solved by a municipal organization called the Milk Furnishing society. It controls and distributes the milk supply and carries on a systematic work of sanitary protection. Its motton is, "Pure milk from sound cows."

The society owns no dairies, but it has a rigid contract with the owners of 40 or more large dairy farms. These owners are required to feed their cows on specified foods and otherwise to handle them as directed and at once report any disease among the animals, the employes, or members of the family. The society's veterinarians inspect every cow once a month and have the right of inspection at any time. During the time milk from a suspected cow is suspended, it is paid for, though not used, thus encouraging dairymen to cooperate. But if a contagious or infectious disease develops, either in cow or person, the milk from the whole dairy is rejected until satisfactory conditions reappear.

The farms are required to be models of cleanliness. The stables are specially built and "are kept like a New England kitchen." The cows are thoroughly groomed before milking so that no dust or hairs can drop into the milk receptacle. No dry sweeping in the stables is allowed. The milkers are dressed in special costumes, frequently changed, and abundant use is made of water, soap and towels. The milk is immediately strained, poured into sterilized receptacles and cooled and set in a cold chamber, and where possible hauled in specially provided cars or other vehicles to the great central milk depot of the city, when it is distributed to consumers. The milk shops of the city are also the subject of strict regulation as to cleanliness.

All this may not be possible as yet in an American city, for several reasons, two of them being that people here will not submit to so much control of what seems to be a private business, and laws are but laxly enforced; but this story shows of what great importance an old and well regulated European city considers the purity of the milk the people consume, and it is as important here as there. It might be practicable here at least to exercise supervirsorial and inspectorial control over all dairies delivering milk within the city, by means of licenses required of all vendors of milk. These licenses might be merely nominal, as a necessary formality, or they might be made sufficient to provide a fund out of which to pay for inspection and supervision.

However this may be, the matter should not be neglected. The subject should be thoroughly studied and the best practicable means of serving pure milk adopted and enforced.

What a fine idea for the president of a South American republic, who is also practically a dictator—to go away to Europe just before a revolution breaks out. This is better than having to leave in a hurry at the end of a successful revolution. But Castro is not regarded as a coward and may come back.

Letters From the People

Letters to The Journal should be written on one side of the paper only, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. The name will not be used if the writer asks that it be withheld. The Journal is not to be understood as indorsing the views or statements of correspondents. Letters should be made as brief as possible. Those who wish their letters returned when not used should inclose postage.

Correspondents are notified that letters exceeding 300 words in length may, at the discretion of the editor, be cut down to that limit.

Defends the Hobo.

Beaverton, Or., Dec. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—In today's issue, the 16th, you jab the editorial pen into the hobo. When one man shoots another you blame the revolver. Although the revolver bears about the same relation to murder that the fountain pen bears to poetry or forgery. I am willing that the editor should have his way, but when he writes down the hobo, I beg leave to protest.

If the hobo were the cause of the hobo evil, so much complained of, he would deserve all that editors up the valley would do to him.

It is assumed that every hobo is a hobo from choice. It is a pleasure to stray into a little town at night, an Oregon night, with the rain pouring down, chilled to the bone, hungry, friendless and without money. Oh, the joy of going to jail, the happy jail without a fire or blankets, a pallet of straw upon pieces of gaspipe set into the brick wall for a bed. The pleasure of getting out of town before breakfast next morning. To have the process repeated day after day, night after night, is assumed to be the life of pleasure these men wilfully choose.

It is assumed that the hobo never works, yet two years ago and for some years previous, very few hobos were seen. Last year there were many; this year almost as many as last year. I might state the case thus: All hobos are working men. All working men are hobos or near hobos.

Most working men are, even in good times, within 30 days of starvation, begging or stealing. Let a factory shut down. What becomes of the men? They naturally seek other factories. It would only be natural that they seek employment in those factories of the same kind, first in their own town, then in other towns. Here is where the working man leaves off and the hobo begins. Somewhere, at some future time, he gets another job. Here is where the hobo ceases and the working man begins.

If it were true that all hobos never work, then Coxey's army must have died suddenly some years ago to be suddenly resurrected in the fall of 1907.

But the remedy proposed is an astounding one: Compel them to work. If a man has no funds and among strangers, put him on the rock pile, "make him work," shout the editors up and down the state.

This is notice to every working man not to give up his job, no matter how undesirable it may be, under penalty of the rock pile.

Employers of labor could use this to their own advantage in dealing with their men. It would be easy to say to the dissatisfied ones, "Take this or the rock pile."

By compelling all men to work all the time, employers need never want for men, and get them at their own price, too.

If you are going to compel a man to work you should compel some one to hire him. The rock pile should be just as big and the rocks just as hard for the man who refuses to hire a man as for the man who refuses to work when work is offered him.

The objection that the hobo is a parasite comes with poor grace from many who make that objection. True, the hobo renders but little to society, but he also takes but little. While in Portland you have many fine haired parasites who render nothing to society and take a great deal. As an "incubus and a blotch on society," they have the hobo beaten a mile or more.

It is easy for those with a good job and whose intestines know the joys of sirloin, to remove an "incubus" or a "blotch." Just attack the blotch. It is easy, it requires no mental effort. Discussing the hobo as an effect, a result of another incubus, requires some mental strain. The editors up the valley therefore should not try it.

FRANK CRONER.

Likes Journal Editorials, Except One

Imbler, Or., Dec. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal—In the issue of The Journal of December 11, under the head of "Bogus Saints," you say it would be interesting to know why these preachers went armed. I am not seeking to take the part of these religious fanatics, but I think the most interesting question to know is what right that policeman had to fire on defenseless women and children and kill a little girl 13 years old, the bullet tearing most of her face away? What had the little girl done? If she had been killed accidentally in the riot in the street we might overlook it, but the account says he deliberately fired on these defenseless women and children. What else was it but murder? Why is it that we see nothing in the papers, and I take the Kansas City papers as well as the Oregon papers, condemning this cowardly act? I like the Oregon Journal. Your editorials are good. Your article in this same number headed "Bryanism" suits me and speaks my sentiments.

A SUBSCRIBER.

The Senatorial Question.

Canby, Dec. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—It will soon be time for the legislature to convene and the eyes of the nation are on Oregon, watching the outcome of a Statement No. 1 legislature and a Democratic senator-elect (by the people). It is an easy matter to say that the legislature will not ratify the expressed will of the people by electing George Chamberlain, but the final wind-up will show Chamberlain elected to the United States senate. This is not in conformity with the wishes of a great many Republicans who were the most ardent advocates of Statement No. 1, but it is the will of a majority of the Republicans of the state. The situation from a party standpoint would assume a more serious aspect, were it not for the fact that the leading Republicans of the state, who are opposed to Statement No. 1, voted for Chamberlain, thus hoping to produce the present situation. The program has worked well so far, but the last act of the drama is yet to be played. Those Statement No. 1 Republicans who shouted from the house tops to the dear "peepul" that they would support the popular choice for United States senator have but one thing to do—stay by their pledges. It is galling, we will admit, for a Republican to have to vote for a Democrat, but every man who took the Statement knew that there was a possibility of his having to vote for Chamberlain. If these men did not feel that they could do this, even if Chamberlain were elected, they should have had backbone enough to repudiate the Statement and take a party choice pledge. But the man who took the Statement because he wanted to be elected to the legislature, refusing to carry out his pledge, would make Benedict Arnold look like 30 cents.

The legislator who took the pledge and then deliberately goes back on it, should be tarred and feathered and assisted out of the state. If a pledge, sealed by the courts and affirmed by the people of a republican form of government is not to be observed by the one who makes it, then the very basic laws of the commonwealth will lose their hold on the people, and chaos, confusion and eternal strife will be the result. Let every man who secured his election by pledging that he would vote for the people's choice for United States senator carry out that pledge, and the eternal fitness of things will be properly observed.

GEORGE W. DIXON.

The Hobos.

Portland, Dec. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—Your editorial "The Hobo" is good. It should be reprinted in every paper in the union. For the last six months I have kept a record of all the hobos who came to my house. Here is the list:

One hobo wanted to exchange work for a meal; one hobo wanted to exchange work for cash; 22 hobos wanted to exchange pictures for cash; 30 hobos wanted to exchange tea, coffee, groceries for cash; five hobos wanted to exchange prosperity for votes, etc., etc.

Under a civilized government those poor hobos would not have to tramp up and down the street begging, but be given a chance to produce something useful at living wages. The hobo is a nuisance in whatever form he may appear.

A. PIETZOLD.

Benefit of Open Saloons.

From the Ottawa (Kan.) Herald.

A Kansas man wandered into a saloon in Chicago to inquire the method of pickling pigs' feet for cold lunches, when he met his long lost brother, serving as bartender. This argument in favor of the open saloon should not be lost on the Amalgamated Association of Juice Dispensers. If the incident had happened in Kansas and not in Chicago the Kansas man would have had to follow his brother down the alley behind the livery stable in the dark, and might never have recognized him as his brother.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Please, Emma, don't come.

• •

Tillman has been heard from already.

• •

Portland can easily green up for Christmas.

• •

Decorate up and look happy on the outside, anyway.

• •

Don't give any of the boys toy pistols for Christmas presnts.

• •

Those presents can't be bought early now, unless you hurry.

• •

This is a time when the Red Cross stamps ought to be especially popular.

• •

The anti-child labor law needs a common-sense interpretation, or amendment.

• •

Boni says he wants only the children, not money, but nobody believes him.

• •

When a bullet hit him, "Adam God" lost his faith. But he gained a little sense.

• •

With Taft already on the water wagon, an addition to it may have to be built.

• •

It is already too late to buy them early, but Monday will be better than Thursday.

• •

A Detroit stage struck girl is in luck; she has got a job as a waitress in a restaurant.

• •

Those train robbers apparently captured a lot of cheap probable Christmas presents.

• •

Emperor Pu Yi refuses to adopt a rule or policy of silence. He says right out whatever he thinks.

• •

It is scarcely worth while to keep going to the postoffice hoping for a newspaper with a lot of bills in it.

• •

Eggs taste very good these mornings; or people who can't affaird to buy them think they do, to others.

• •

Oklahoman: A Byrd family in Oregon has owned a paper 19 years. Ought to have a rather large nest egg by this time.

• •

A Pennsylvania preacher said he hoped all except old women would remove their hats. They were all off in an instant.

• •

Th Portland woman who was lured to Chicago to marry a man lost $900, all she had, and he escaped—but she also escaped marrying him.

• •

It is not so cold as it seems, say the weather officials. But what good does that do, if it feels colder than it is? It's the feel that counts.

• •

Walter Damrosch says there would be greater domestic happiness if there were more high-grade music in American homes. But few families can afford a Damrosch orchestra.

• •

The time to strike effective blows for woman's suffrage is when woman holds the future voter across her knees, says the New York World. The logic of this remark is of doubtful soundness.

• •

A Kansas City magistrate has ruled that a bridal trousseau should not be expected to last three years. But a great many women have been divorced and are ready for a new bridal outfit before that time.

• •

When J. M. Morehead of North Carolina was nominated for representative in congress by a Republican convention he said: Gentlemen, you have done me a great honor, and I hope you will not be disappointed in my defeat, for I haven't the slightest idea of being elected." But he was elected by 450 majority, and is now denouncing those who "wheedled him into accepting" and says he was "basely betrayed by his friends." But this is supposed to be a little of his humor.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS.

Farmers around Corvallis are going to organize.

• •

Nehalem has a fine new hall and lodge room.

• •

The railroad gets big business in Wallowa county.

• •

A $200 nugget was found in northern Josephine county.

• •

A 20 acre Hood River valley fruit tract sold for $20,000.

• •

Hood River valley is also becoming noted for fine poultry.

• •

Several sales of real property have lately occurred in Burns.

• •

Two Indians ordered suits of clothes costing $66 each at Athena.

• •

The Socialist candidate for mayor of North Bend polled 126 votes.

• •

The wheat crop outlook in Morrow and Sherman counties is roseate.

• •

A new fruit, peacherine, will be experimented with in Lake county.

• •

About 25 town lots have lately been sold in Wapinitia, Wasco county.

• •

Never were the indications of a bumper crop better, says the Condon Globe.

• •

Twenty years ago the 40 acres now the site of Freewater was bought for $1200.

• •

Several farmers near Monument will build a dam and irrigate their bottom lands.

• •

A man near Milton sold $4000 worth of strawberries this year from five acres of ground.

• •

Tillamook county wants a cheese inspector or a county dairy and food commissioner, says the Herald.

• •

The total valuation of property in Gilliam county this year has increased over last year to the tune of over $1,000,000; is now $6,873,487.

• •

Besides laying several blocks of hard surface street pavement and eight miles of new water mains, McMinnville has purchased eight acres of land for a park.

• •

Two large and finely improved farms, one 337 and the other of 320 acres, all in one body, facing the county road for two miles near Monmouth have been sold and will be divided up into small farms.

• •

Gas enough to light Ontario and several other towns is the estimated amount of the big finds at the oil well within the past week, says the Optimist. The series of big blowouts demonstrated that the supply of gas in this vicinity is immense.

• •

A fleet of seven steam schooners will soon be carrying lumber from the C. A. Smith mill at North Bend. That mill is now running day and night and is cutting about 500,000 feet every 24 hours. With all North Bend mills in operation the daily output on Coos Bay will be close onto 750,000 feet.

• •

Frank Groves of Corvallis took a 25-year-old orchard that was in bad shape, sprayed it properly, pruned the trees, gave that orchard some intelligent care, and this year made a display of apples at the state fair that was largely instrumental in Benton county winning first prize.

• •

The Booth-Kelly company's big mill at Wendling will resume operations immediately after the first of January and will continue to operate steadily thereafter. The plant has been completely overhauled during the past few months and is now in excellent shape. There is a general belief that the Southern Pacific mills at Marcola will open up again in the early spring. If they do, it will mean that financial conditions in this county will be better than now, says the Eugene Register.

FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

"The Faithful Dog"—By George Graham Vest

[From an argument, date and place unknown, before a Missouri jury in a dog case.]

Gentlemen of the jury: The best friend a man has in this world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter that he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name, may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has he may lose. It flies away from him, perhaps when he needs it most. A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads. The one absolute, unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog.

Gentlemen of the jury, a man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he can be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer, he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens. If fortune drives the master forth an outcast in the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him to guard against danger, to fight against his enemies; and when the last scene of all comes, and death takes the master in its embrace and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by his graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even unto death.

The Farmer of the Future.

From the Independent.

The future farmer will subirrigate his land, and defy drouth as well as floods. He will become a scientific forester and every farm will produce wood and lumber as well as wheat and apples. A single acre will produce what 10 acres yield now. Women will work out of doors as heartily as men; in fact, they will be the horticulturists and the truck gardeners. There will be closer relation between the producer and the consumer, ignoring a horde of middlemen who frequently waste more than is destroyed by ignorant help and insect foes combined. Under the alliance with the school the farm will be valued not only for its gross weight of products, but for its poems and its education. As our schools become places for applying as well as acquiring knowledge, our farm homes will become integral parts of the garden school and the school farm. The alliance between the home and the school will become very close. A valley full of farms is already the nearest to paradise that we have, but the future will tenfold its wealth and one hundredfold its delights.

Tastes of the Rich.

From the St. Louis Dispatch.

Ballooning, says Lieutenant Lahm, is no more costly than automobiling and the danger involved is less. Then there is no hope for it as a diversion of the rich. What is really wanted is a sport that will cost as much and be as hazardous as war and yet be indulged in only when one feels like it.

In Favor of Discussion.

From the Washington Star.

"Even though you may not favor tariff revision," said one statesman, "you will admit it is a topic worthy of discussion."

"Certainly," answered the other. "I always favor discussion. Sometimes the only way to postpone something is to go on discussing it."

Running Shots

Written for The Journal by Fred C. Denton.

The big majority for Taft in Oregon indicates that had Fulton been nominated for United States senator instead of Cake he would have been defeated by about that majority, for he allied himself all through his term with the anti-Roosevelt forces. The people of Oregon wanted Chamberlain and said so. No reason but machine creakings exist why they should not have him.

• • •

It may be possible that a Statement No. 1 legislator might go back on his pledge to the people and be honest, but who would be able to believe him so?

• • •

At the rate of speed the San Francisco courts display in convicting one boodler it will be the year of our Lord 2908 before the last of the bunch will have appealed to the supreme court for a new trial.

• • •

Murderers should not be tried entirely by newspapers. The judge and jury should be called in as a matter of formality.

• • •

Down in California an overwhelming majority of the members of the legislature are pledged to Statement No. 1. Never heard of it? P'raps so; but in the Golden state Statement No. 1 reads as follows: "And I further state that if elected to the legislature I will vote for that candidate for the United States senate who has received the indorsement of the railroad lobby, and for or against any and every bill or amendment in accordance with its instructions." These statements are not on public file, as it is not good policy for the common people to have strong political food placed before them, but the evidences of the existence of some such statement are accumulating until even a California Lincoln-Roosevelt leaguer smells them.

• • •

When congress recovers from the shock of the president's recommendations it will proceed to do the other thing, as usual.

• • •

After the Conservation congress has told congress what it should do, the trust lobby will tell that august body what it has got to do; and that is nothing. The trusts need very little more legislation in order to be fully able to conserve all our natural resources themselves. What is the need of congress trying to meddle?

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Cannon seems to have captured Taft in the reconciliation business. Taft will have to learn what many other Republican statesmen have added to their store of knowledge, that Uncle Joe is the real thing.

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No money for waterways. The transportation combines do not see how Uncle San can afford it, and neither does Speaker Cannon. Go home boys, your time to howl has passed. The speaker of the house says "nit."

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Water rates to come down. That was what a few cranks figured out two or three years ago. The initiative stopped the building of mains past miles of empty lots to the enhancement of the value of the lots and the cost of the consumers of water. When we get sensible enough we will put the cost of the city government entirely upon lots, and abandon the systems of fining thrift and industry with licenses, and taxes on improvements. Long time off yet? Yep; mebby. Still 117 towns and cities in one little British state, larger and more people in it than in Oregon, have done it with great success.

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Some good people, mostly real estate agents, dealers and speculators, want to go back to the good old way of making the water consumer pay for the laying of water pipes past empty lots, blocks, acres and tracts. It was easy money for the idle lot owner. The voter may be fooled into restoring the little graft and doubling water rates, but the chances of going backward are small.

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Mayor Lane is as bad as Roosevelt. He just can't keep still. Here he is batting at the electric light combine and suggesting city ownership. Thinks the city has some rights and vetoes a little jobbery every once in a frequently just to worry certain gentlemen with whom he sustains official relations and compel them to show the brass collars around their necks. It will be just our luck to have him mayor some more.

Minnie Maddern Fiske's Birthday.

Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske, the renowned American actress, was born in New Orleans December 19, 1865, the daughter of Thomas W. Devey, a theatrical manager. She grew up in a theatre atmosphere and was scarcely three years old when she made her first appearance upon the stage, playing a child's part. At the age of 12 she played alternately leading roles and the parts of old women, and at the age of 15 became a full fledged star under the name of Minnie Maddern. She traveled extensively and met with remarkable success wherever she appeared. While in the east she became acquainted with Harrison Grey Fiske, the distinguished journalist and playwright and married him March 19, 1890. After her marriage she withdrew from the stage for five years, and when she reappeared it was in the leading part of "Hester Crewe," a play written by her husband. Since then she has been starring in a large number of plays, among them some of Ibsen's plays.

This Date in History.

1774—Mrs. Deborah Franklin, wife of Benjamin Franklin, died in Philadelphia. Born there, 1706.

1804—Thomas Jefferson and George Clinton were unanimously chosen president and vice president of the United States.

1813—David Hartley, whom George III selected to make a peace treaty with the United States, died at Bath, England. Born in 1732.

1852—Sacramento, Cal., was flooded by the breaking of a levee.

1860—Governor Hicks of Maryland refused to receive the Mississippi commissioners.

1862—The Confederates recaptured Holly Springs, Miss.

1864—President Lincoln called for 300,000 volunteers.

1878—Bayard Taylor, American author and diplomat, died. Born January 11, 1825.

1905—Governor La Follette of Wisconsin resigned and was succeeded by Lieutenant Governor Davidson.

An Economic Protest.

From the Washington Star.

"Did I understand you to ask me if I wanted work?" asked Plodding Pete.

"That's what you understand, if you understand anything," answered the woman with a cold, steely eye and a square jaw.

"You've got some wood that needs chopping, I suppose."

"I have."

"Lady, I'm surprised at you. Don't you know dat de trees gather moisture gradually an' by slowly lettin' it into de ground keep up a steady water supply? Don't you know dat when you leave de hillsides naked an' bare de water comes down in a freshet, same as beer from a barrel wit de head stove in? Don't you know dat future generations is goin' to miss de umbrageous protection overhead, an' dat our grandchildren is liable to be at de mercy of a parasol trust? An' you want me to chop wood! Lady, I'm surprised at you!"

Depressing.

From the Philadelphia Press.

"There," said Rimer in conclusion, "clever idea, isn't it? I thought I'd work it up into a ballad."

"Why not a quartrain?" suggested Critick.

"Oh, that's too short."

"I don't believe any editor would think so."