EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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But look! Amazement on thy mother sits;
O step between her and her fighting soul;
Conceit in weakest bodies strongest works.
—Shakespeare.

PORTLAND CREDIT THE BEST

PORTLAND CAN point with pride to this week's sale of a block of her securities. Half a million dollars' worth in Portland park bonds went to New York buyers at a premium of 2 per cent. A firm of Chicago buyers were on the ground with half a million dollars in their hands and offered a premium of ⅝ of 1 per cent, immediate delivery. Thus two great money marts of the country coveted the privilege of lending Portland this great sum. The condition is in striking contrast with New York city bonds that were recently hawked about with no bidders, and which were finally taken over by J. P. Morgan, largely on his own terms. It is a widely different condition with that of recent offerings of Seattle bonds, which barely netted par in the final transaction. The Portland sale is described by bond authorities as the best made in recent months, and by the same authority Portland securities in general are reckoned as among the most desirable in the market.

The condition is an attestation of the stability and strength of the city from the viewpoint of captains of capital. It is acknowledgment of the spirit of conservatism and good business conditions ascribed to the city's commercial and industrial life. It flows from outside confidence in the management of the city's financial operations and in the reputed freedom of the city from conditions of graft and grafters. It is a repute to which Portland through a consistent career of commercial, social and industrial life is legitimately entitled and which has been reflected in every phase of the city's past. In the conception, conduct and final settlement of the affairs of the Lewis and Clark exposition, not only without a dollar of unpaid indebtedness, but with an actual dividend, there was sample of the business integrity that is now accentuated in a sale of city bonds under the most gratifying terms. It is all a condition to give fullest confidence to the public and private life of the city and to lead this people in a continued policy of stability, progress and sanity in business conditions.

DISCOVERING LAND VALUES

FIFTEEN HUNDRED dollars an acre is not an unusual price for Hood River orchard land. Orchardists there not infrequently refuse to part with their holdings at that figure. They hold to it because the revenue from the apple product justifies the investment. The same figure was realized this week in a sale of a 12 acre orchard in the Medford district. It was set to Newtown and Spitzenberg apples and brought a sale price of $18,000. Yesterday these lands were selling at $10, $20 and $50 per acre. Their value for producing apples and pears had not been discovered. The possibilities and opportunities of the fruit business and its relation to Oregon lands had not been demonstrated. Today the discovery of these possibilities are known and the sequel is $1500-an-acre land. The incident is of value to land owners in other parts of Oregon. There is no monopoly of this resource for fruit production. Other discoveries of potentialities for the industry are to come. Lands in other districts of the state can be made to yield incomparable apples and pears that the earth cannot beat. There are lands in the Willamette valley now selling at $25 to $50 per acre that will yet have a sale price of hundreds of dollars. The possibilities with them are the mere matter of discovery. A scientific Hood River apple grower operating on a properly selected Willamette valley orchard would quickly demonstrate its value. The power is in the soil and the correct conditions in the air. It only remains for man's hand to do the rest, and tomorrow man's hand will do it. Tomorrow land values will be different and the state's export of fruits be many times multiplied. Tomorrow the gold mines in apple trees and pear orchards will be uncovered and then the world will pay the price.

President Ripley of the Santa Fe railroad expresses the opinion that the people of the Pacific coast have no occasion to protest against increased freight rates and says the increase of revenue to the railroads has been greatly exaggerated. But Mr. Ripley is careful to go into no details, and show no figures. Why not submit the matter to the Interstate Commerce commission and get its decision, or opinion, before arbitrarily raising the rates? Apparently the railroads are afraid to submit their case on its merits.

WINTER SPRAYING

THE AGRICULTURAL press is already discussing the old theme of winter spraying. It is a duty every man on the land owes to himself. It is a mere question of thrift, or waste. It is a question of whether old-time standards in country life shall be maintained or abandoned. Properly sprayed, the fruit trees are, however slight, a source of revenue. Unsprayed, the fruit is nothing but waste. The small trouble and the smaller cost will yield in clean marketable apples many times the outlay. It is therefore a good investment, good both from the standpoint of dollars and the sightliness of the premises. The moss-grown, pest-infested tree, with scab-ridden and scale-marked apples beneath is the climax of unsightliness. It is the heaped measure of discouragement. It is a perfect sign of unthrift. It is the mark of non-progress. It is a spectacle no farmer can, for the sake of appearances, harbor in his dooryard or his orchard.

Spraying is easy. Its expense compared to its benefits is trifling. The Oregon Agricultural college experts have pointed out that the lime-sulphur solution, made at home, costs but one third as much as the commercial sprays. The same authorities have demonstrated that the same solution in milder mixture is a perfect summer spray for apple scab, and that with a proper ingredient of paris green or arsenate of lead it is a better means of controlling the codlin moth. In the later use it is better than Bordeaux mixture, in that it does not occasion apple rust. Thus, the way to clean fruit trees and unimpaired fruit is easy. It is a mere question of thrift or waste. The availability of all Oregon for fruit growing is demonstrated. The world wants all the fruit the state can produce, even the few bushels on the isolated trees in the farmer's dooryard, and is willing to pay the price. Not one can afford to refuse to spray.

THE OHIO PEACE

THERE SEEMS to have been a rational settlement of the senatorial distraction in Ohio. Madness was in the air as a result of the contest between Charles P. Taft and Congressman Burton. There was threat that the legislature would become the theatre of a madcap controversy to disrupt the body into factions and convert it into a charnel house of strife. Rationalism and good order, however, seem to have averted the promised disorder and to have delivered Ohio from its senatorial peril.

The state is to be congratulated. So are the people. So are the taxpayers. The changed conditions give Ohio a fairer repute. The news of it causes men and people everywhere to look upon that state and her statesmen with increased favor. It betokens an orderly and decent citizenship. It gives evidence of the absence there of political insurrection and civic passion. It is a condition to commend the state to the confidence of men from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Gulf to the Lakes. When the passion and ambitions of men subvert the orderly conduct of bodies set up to deliberate for the general wellbeing it is misfortune. The suppression of insurrecto politicians and their confinement within decent bounds is of infinite benefit in Ohio or any other state.

SAN FRANCISCO

MR. JAMES D. PHELAN, a very prominent and wealthy resident of San Francisco, is the writer of an enlightening and encouraging letter concerning that city, published in a New York periodical. A brief resume of it is given here because the conditions he mentions are similar in kind, if not equal in degree, to those existing in most if not all large American cities. If civic honesty, virtue and patriotism can triumph in San Francisco, there is hope that they may do so anywhere, ultimately everywhere.

Mr. Phelan credits the attempted assassination of Heney with setting things right. The assassin's shot was the death knell of the looters. The greatest offenders, Mr. Phelan says, as Heney does, were men prominent in the management of quasi-public corporations, chief of whom was Patrick Calhoun. Others represented gas, electric light, telephone and other utilities. Ruef was in complete charge of the city government. The carnival of bribery and corruption inevitably followed. Then Heney came and agreed to clean things up without compensation if expenses could be guaranteed. Here the rich business men backed down. They preferred things let alone. But one man, young Rudolph Spreckels, rose to the emergency and agreed to pay all the expenses himself. At first the press supported the movement for reform, but soon the Chronicle, Examiner and all the weekly papers, because "polluted," did everything in their power to check and embarrass the prosecution. "Even the courts," says Mr. Phelan, "were infected with this poison, and the several judges of the appellate and supreme courts privately expressed bias, and after Ruef had confessed and Schmitz had been convicted, the appellate court and the supreme court by the most startling decision ever handed down by a court of justice, and so condemned by prominent attorneys and law professors, gave what it was believed would be a death blow to the prosecution." It is to be remembered that it was not Schmitz and Ruef alone who were to be saved; the higher offenders, Calhoun and others of his class, had to save Schmitz and Ruef to save themselves.

Astonishing were the means resorted to. Juries, courts and public opinon by means of the press, except the Call and Bulletin, were "debauched"; "successful dishonesty" became aggressive, fashionable and admired; indicted men were lionized; most of the leading bankers and other big business men were openly against the prosecutions. "So there was an extensive conspiracy to browbeat everybody who stood for equality before the law and the cleansing of the city of lawbreakers and grafters. The tide seemed to be running with the enemy until Heney was stricken low at his post of duty. Then the community woke up to its craven position in giving countenance to public malefactors. It was not then a question of the conviction of Ruef and Calhoun, but a question of the preservation of American institutions and the preservation of law."

What would have happened if Heney had not been shot Mr. Phelan does not say, but justice would eventually have triumphed, we may infer he believes, for he says the great majority of the people are sound and clean at heart. Every appeal to them through the ballot box, particularly in the election of judges, has shown this. Lawlor and Coffey and Dunne have been reelected and Carrol Cook defeated. The city is law abiding. It has an honest, able, dependable mayor and council. "The pulpit is a unit. The two great universities have been a source of inspiration for the forces of good government." Through great difficulties, San Francisco is emerging into a broader, brighter, cleaner life.

BRITISH RULE OF INDIA

MR. JABEZ T. SUNDERLAND, already quoted from in these columns, says that as Rome impoverished Gaul, and Egypt, and Sicily, and Palestine, and other provinces, and as Spain drained the wealth of the new world to enrich herself, so England is doing in India; but doing it adroitly, by "enlightened" modes, under business and judicial forms, in the names of civilization and Christianity. But probe down through all these, and we see the same "hideous business" that Rome and Spain were engaged in so long. "It is national parasitism. It is one nation living on another. It is a stronger nation sucking the life blood of a weaker."

It is true that England has done much for India, but we hear little or nothing of the other side. We have long heard the story of the rulers, seldom or never that of the ruled. The masters defended slavery; the slaves were perforce silent. But many eminent and conscientious Englishmen, all through a century and a half, have spoken for India and denounced its rule by a foreign power. England has done considerable in the way of education in India—at the Indians' expense, of course—but with a population nearly as large as that of all Europe, India has only about 418,000 children in public schools. The cost of public education is two and a half cents per capita. After 150 years of British rule, only 11 males in 100 and 1 female in 200, can read and write.

But could the people of India rule themselves? Who can tell, since for four or five generations they have had no chance to try? One thing is certain; famines are increasing in frequency and severity; and so are impoverishment and discontent increasing. And the people of India, as has been said, are not barbarians. They are not to be classed with the Filipinos. When Britain conquered the country India was the leader of Asiatic civilization. It was far ahead of Japan. But look at Japan and then at India, now.

The tendency of the British government is repressive and reactionary, rather than liberal and expansive; it becomes less sympathetic with Indian aspiration, and more severe. The people are given no hope of such liberty as is enjoyed by Canada or Australia. British rule seeks to render them less instead of more fit for self-government, on the same principle that the slave owners would not allow any education to their slaves. But Mr. Sunderland says:

Does Britain rule India worse than other European nations would do? On the contrary, as I have already indicated, I do not believe that any other nation, European or American, would rule India so well. The fault does not lie with the want of humanity of the British people. I am myself an Englishman by birth. I am keenly sensitive to anything which seems to throw disparagement upon the honor or character of my countrymen. The men whose strong words I have quoted in support of nearly every position taken in this paper are eminent and loyal Englishmen. I believe in the British nation. I believe that the people who abolished slavery in their colonies when their eyes were opened to see its wrong, need only to be made aware of the real condition of things in India to set about a change. The fault lies primarily with the system of holding and governing foreign peoples without their consent.

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.

The Prohibition Viewpoint.

Portland, Or., Dec. 30.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I notice in your issue of the 28th that the liquor dealers propose to have the legislature amend the local option law, so as to make it "fair."

I have a few suggestions to make. If the present law is unfair to the liquor dealer it must be upon the ground that their business stands upon the same footing as any other. If this was so why do they not start on the city council and ask that their license be no greater than the license of the shoe store? If their business is as honorable as any other why has the supreme court of the United States declared that the right to sell liquors does not inhere in any one, that unless by special permission of law no one may sell liquor?

First they wish to have cities of 3000 inhabitants or more exempt from county option. If it is fairness they wish they should ask that no city be permitted to issue license without the permission of the county or else that the city shall pay the cost of the business to the tax payer through all its ramifications of sheriff's office, courts, poor farms, jails, penitentiary, etc., etc. The saloon in the city doubles the tax of the country land owner and yields him no revenue. As a matter of fact the liquor dealer is exactly wrong on that point.

They want the proportion of names required to a petition raised. This is simply to make it more onerous upon those who get up the election as it does not afefct the vote which alone decides the matter; it is wanted simply to annoy and endeavor to avoid any election at all, not that it will more clearly demonstrate the wishes of the people.

They want the law amended so that after one election a second can not be held for two years. But the object of the local option law which the people themselves put upon the statutes was for the purpose of being rid of the saloon and not for the purpose of granting it an additional lease of life. In the final analysis the liquor dealers will turn to this same law as a means of securing an added ferm of existence but it has not as yet reached that point and is not intended for the benefit of the liquor business. The business is everywhere recognized as an evil without a redeeming feature and the purpose of the law is to give those who desire to be rid of the business in their own county an opportunity to do so. Let it be as it is until we can get state prohibition, which is the only amendment which can better it.

But, in all probability the real object is to start amendments of any nature so that in the end the law may be shorn of its bite, rid of its prison penalties and handled as a "license fine" law.

If the people of Oregon know when they are well off they will keep hands off that law and especially from amendments asked by its enemies.

I hope such journals as the people look to to fight their fights will take this up and expose the purpose of the move and the equity of the present law. Till the liquor business can prove itself as beneficial to a community as the grocery or dry goods business it has no right to use the word "fair."

Yours truly,
E. T. JOHNSON.

A Report Corrected.

From the New York Times.

Reporters of the Sun have been telling its readers how President Roosevelt, accompanied by his wife and daughter, were riding along a country road when a company of gleeful boarding school girls, also on horseback, dared to overtake them and canter by. The president, according to these strangely garbled reports, rased his riding crop and savagely struck the horse of one of the girls, at the same time sternly upbraiding the rider for her lack of respect. The daughter joined her voice with her father's in the rebuke to lese majeste. The school authorities reprimanded the girls and sent an apology to the president.

This last detail remotely approaches the truth. The mistress of the seminary and her aids, having been run down by secret service agents and threatened with dire punishment, did, indeed, sign a cringing appeal for executive clemency. But, otherwise, the accounts betray an obvious inclination to belittle the importance of the incident, to make out as good a case as possible for Mr. Roosevelt, in the Sun's accustomed way. Why suppress the fact that the president, drawing a hammerless, self-cocking revolver of the machine gun type from his right hip pocket, shot the horse and sent the girl rider, although she was severely injured by the fall of her mount, to Fort Monroe?

Only the poor thing's parents and those of her companions, who were placed in irons and sent to Washington to await the inquiry of a secret tribunal have known until now how hard the mailed hand of authority can bear upon the offenders in such a case as this. A weak, piffling attempt to make light of an incident which must have its influence on all the future history of the country, to treat of it in print in so trivial a manner as to make the ordinary reader regard it as a "fake" or at best as an exaggeration of a gossipping school girl's all but baseless yarn, deserves the severest condemnation.

The Growth of Electric Railways.

From Electric News.

The electric railways of the United States carried last year 6,680,000,000 fare passengers. This wonderful increase is due to the growth of the street railway and interurban railway service, better transportation facilities, and the increase of suburban residents.

The number of persons to be transported increased at the rate of 1,500,000 annually. The number of passenger cars operated has increased at the rate of 40 per cent for the past five years. With the population of the United States estimated at about 85,000,000, the figures given above would seem to show that every man, woman and child in this country has ridden 78 times on the electric railways within the past year.

This gives some idea of the extent of the electric traction in this country. The electrification of steam roads has already been successfully accomplished, and it is predicted that within a comparatively few years all the principle railroads of this great country will be electrified.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Start out right, and then go straight.

* *

First Sunday of 1909 tomorrow; be good.

* *

Begin early—to make 1909 a big year for Oregon.

* *

Boost Oregon and Portland and you will boost yourself.

* *

A year hence Oregon ought to have a million more hens.

* *

Only six months more of the present council—or part of it.

* *

Every day the w-t-r w-g-n will be relieved of part of its load.

* *

The Christmas and New Year bills also come but once a year.

* *

A president of 85,000,000 people ought to be worth $100,000 a year.

* *

Nobody has heard of Uncle Joe Cannon making any good resolutions.

* *

A prize hen is valued at $10,000. This is in proportion to the price of eggs.

* *

This month affords a splendid opportunity to buy Christmas presents early.

* *

The young Turks in this country are also all right now, for nearly 11 months.

* *

The legislature, if it does anywhere near its duty, will have no time for playing politics.

* *

Think of southern Italy, and "Do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you."

* *

Mr. Ryan says he intends to take things easier hereafter. He has seemed to take them pretty easily in the past.

* *

This is also the year when the United States is to have a war with Japan—if you believe Hobson. But nobody else thinks so.

* *

Boodlers of consequence must feel contempt for those Pittsburg aldermen who sold out as low as $5 a vote. They deserve no mercy.

* *

There will be no more formal tariff hearings of testimony and opinion. The majority of the committee has heard more than it wanted already.

* *

If this year would bring about a change of style in woman's dress so that it would not button down the back, a good many married men would be thankful.

* *

Ambassador Reid thinks our American unemployed suffer less than the British because the former have money. Wonder how Mr. Reid discovered that they have money?

* *

If Venezuela resolved to have a stable, honest, decent government hereafter, and can stick to it, her people will have something to rejoice over and all the world will be pleased.

* *

A calamity prophet predicted the destruction of Boston and New York, and other Atlantic coast cities, late in December. He missed the mark by a few thousand miles, but if he had mentioned Calabria and Sicily by guess what a great prophet he would have been.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS.

It was generally a happy new year in good old Oregon.

* *

Many commercial clubs are preparing to get busier than ever.

* *

Albany is going to pave some this year. If well done, it will pay.

* *

La Grande will probably have a fruit and vegetable cannery this year.

* *

A big coal vein is said to have been discovered near the town of John Day.

* *

Central Point has been raised from a fourth class to a third class postoffice.

* *

Albany may improve a fine opportunity it has to get a city park tract of 20 acres.

* *

The rate of insurance in La Grande is to meet with a uniform reduction of 20 per cent.

* *

The outlook for building during the spring and summer of 1909 is even brighter than it was last year, says the Eugene Register.

* *

The big irrigation project in Grand Ronde valley is now an assured fact, says the Observer.

* *

A carload of Missouri mules has arrived at Pendleton. Why can't Oregon raise its own mules?

* *

Corvallis Methodists raised by subscription $2618 and paid off a $2300 debt and have a surplus.

* *

La Grande as well as Medford is having trouble with Nuveen & Co., Chicago bond buyers, for alleged breach of contract.

* *

For some time there has been hanging over the city a brooding fear that a new hotel would be built here, says the Salem Journal, but the fear is bein' dispelled.

* *

After traveling through a half dozen states looking at fine stock, E. E. Lynn of Perrydale has brought back to Oregon with him 21 head of the finest pure bred Jersey cattle that he could secure. They were bought in Kentucky and consist of 8 cows, 11 heifers and 2 bulls.

* *

The people of Lakeview are aroused on the question of a railroad, and there is talk of putting in an electric railroad from here to Klamath Falls. Well, let's do some more talking about it and build it! The money is here, and so is the power. All that is required is to get a move on us, says the Examiner.

* *

A wholesale groceryman who visited Coos county said: "The greatest little city in this county, however, is Bandon. They certainly have things on the jump down there and it was only with the greatest difficulty I could gain the ear of a business man for even a few moments when trying to grind my own ax."

* *

The Salem Christmas Journal contained many items about profitable yields, a few Polk county samples being as follows: Four cherry trees, $13 each; about $140 from a 500 foot row of strawberries; $750 clear from 5½ acres of fruit and berries; $220 from one acre of strawberries; $262 from one acre of strawberries; four cherry trees yield $40 a year; $14,000 off a 40 acre tract, and so on.

FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

"The Coming of Grant"—By Henry Ward Beecher

(From an oration at the official tribute to the memory of General U. S. Grant, by the city of Boston, Tremont Temple, October 22, 1885).

The spark that was kindled at Fort Sumter fell upon the north like fire upon autumnal prairies. Men came together in the presence of this universal calamity with sudden fusion. They forgot all separations of politics, parties, or even of religion itself. It was a conflagration of patriotism. The bugle and the drum rang out in every neighborhood, the plow stood still in the furrow, the hammer dropped from the anvil, book and pen were forgotten, pulpit and forum, court and shop, felt the electric shock. Parties dissolved and reformed. The Democratic party sent forth a host of noble men, and swelled the Republican ranks, and gave many noble leaders and irresistible energy to the hosts of war. The whole land became a military school, and officers and men began to learn the art and practice of war.

When once the north had organized its armies, there was soon disclosed an amiable folly of conciliation. It hoped for some peaceable way out of the war; generals seemed to fight so that no one should be hurt; they saw the mirage of future parties above the battle field, and anxiously considered the political effect of their military conduct. They were fighting not to break down rebellion, but to secure a future presidency—or governorship. The south had smelted into a glowing mass. It believed in its course with an infatuation that would have been glorious if the cause had been better! It put its whole soul into the struggle, and struck hard!

The south fought for slavery and independence. The north fought for union, but for political success after the war. Thus for two years, not unmarked by great deeds, the war lingered. Lincoln, sad and sorrowful, felt the moderation of his generals, and longed for a man of iron mold, who had but two words in his military vocabulary, victory or annihilation.

He was coming! He was heard from at Henry and Donelson.

Three great names were rising to sight—Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan; and larger than either, Grant! With his advent the armies, with some repulses, went steadily forward, from conquering to conquer. Aside from all military qualities, he had one absorbing spirit—the union must be saved, the rebellion must be beaten, the confederate armies must be threshed to chaff as on a summer threshing floor. He had no political ambition, no imaginary reputation to preserve or gain. A great genius for grand strategy, a comprehension of complex and vast armies, caution, prudence and silence while preparing, an endless patience, an indomitable will, and a real, downright fighting quality.

Thus at length Grant was really born! He had lain in the nest for long as an infertile egg. The brooding of war hatched the egg, and an eagle came forth!

The President's Weakness.

The following is from the Kansas City Journal, a very staunch Republican newspaper:

"Not only President Roosevelt's friends, but every friend of popular government, must deeply deplore the unfortunate controversies in which the president has allowed himself to become embroiled during his tenure of the nation's highest office. Aside from the merits of those various quarrels, the cause of free representative government can not but suffer a distinct loss when the president of the United States so far forgets the dignity and respect that should hedge his lofty station as to engage in violent public disputes over personal matters of honor and veracity with private individuals and newspapers.

"The spectacle thus presented by the president, in stepping down from his high office to exchange epithets of an insulting character with persons who have aroused his wrath could only find a parallel in the conduct of a general of an army who should pull off his coat and undertake to whip a private soldier that, in his opinion, had been guilty of insubordination. The inevitable result in either case is a loss of respect on the part of the public for the office as well as for the officer. The trouble with Mr. Roosevelt all along has been his apparent inability to differentiate between his personal and official positions. He has seemed to regard the presidential office as his personal property and to consider that whatever he might do with propriety as a private citizen he may do as president. But thoughtful people will not agree with him in that respect.

"When a citizen is elected to the office of president his identity is for the time being merged into that of his august position, and it becomes his duty to forget his own personality in administering the exalted trust. The dignity and respect that attach to the office of president belong not to the occupant alone, but to every citizen of the United States in equal share with him, and when he offends against that dignity and respect he offends every American citizen. President Roosevelt's failure to appreciate this distinction between his personal honor and dignity and the honor and dignity of his official position has led him into deplorable extremes which are unprecedented in the conduct of the office he holds, and which in the sober light of history can not fail to cast a cloud upon his administration.

"In short, the president of the United States has no right to call anybody a liar, although a private citizen may do so with impunity—if his legs are long enough."

The Heathen Invasion of America.

There are said by the Missionary Observer to be over 40 heathen temples in the United States burning incense to foreign divinities. The Moslem call to prayer has been sounded in Union Square, New York. The Bablists and Bahaists hold their meetings regularly in several cities. Hindu Swamis hold parlor meetings for the effete rich, Buddhists have their shrine in California, and Confucianists purpose to build a temple in Chinatown, New York.

The first Hindu temple in the United States has been erected in San Francisco. The number of Hindus in America has been increasing since 1900, and there are now 17 Hindu students in the University of California alone. A monthly organ of the Vedantic philosophers is published in New York. According to the Vedas, the Hindus can claim the earth. The San Francisco temple was dedicated April 5, "to the service of all religions under the auspices of the Rama-Krisna mission, Belur Math, Calcutta, India." The temple is a conglomerate of various styles of architecture, including the Taj Mahal, the temples of Benares, the temple of Siva, the temple Garden of Dakshmewar, and old castles of Europe. All is supposed to be symbolical including all countries and all religions. Men and women who oppose foreign missions in favor of those at home may soon have a combination that will call forth all their powers and teach them that "the field is the world."

The upper branch of the Vermont legislature has defeated a bill introduced early in the session granting municipal suffrage to taxpaying women.

Running Shots

Written for The Journal by Fred C. Denton.

Redfern, New South Wales, Australia, has a number of boot and shoe factories. Recently all municipal taxes are collected on land values, improvements and machinery being exempt. The city levy is 22 mills, approximately in American money. The total revenues are 20 per cent more for 1908 than for 1907, yet the reductions of taxes collected on the different establishments run from $35 to $220. The difference was taken up by the idle and inadequately utilized holdings.

* * *

To help out the large land owners in Australia tracts are being purchased by the different state governments and resold to actual settlers. This offsets to a considerable extent the laying of all city, town and county taxes on land values and encourages land speculation, poverty and overcrowding as much as in this country the giving to combines and corporations vast areas of the public lands has helped land monopoly under our flag.

* * *

California citizens are assembling in mass meetings to protest against taxation without representation. The taxing power lies with the Southern Pacific and as in other states the people don't like the recent increase of levies on industry by the governing regents, who act as if they feared neither the people nor the Almighty.

* * *

The only effect of the purchase of estates in Ireland by the British government for subdivision among the peasantry has been to increase the price of land all through the country and to thereby intensify land monopoly. But the landlords like it.

* * *

The confirmation by the supreme court of the United States of the imprisonment of the labor leaders will be notice to everybody to buy a Buck stove or range, or suffer the consequences of contempt of court.

* * *

Many sermons are preached for charity but few for justice.

* * *

Why not bridge the Willamette river over from St. Johns to Milwaukie and let ships up on a railroad?

* * *

The incompetency of our city dads is shown by the failure to set up a garbage crematory somewhere. We will have to do it with the initiative one of these fine days.

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Our timber is being wasted and our natural resources ravaged as by an invading conquering nation to help out a plundering aristocracy. We have water power for heat, light and motion monopolized and going to waste while we destroy forests that conserve that power. We could, by proper and just enactments, save the timber and other natural wealth for use instead of destruction. The problem is easy of solution, but the minds of our leaders and thinkers are weak.

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Some men with a light property tax have heavy brains and some with a big property tax have no brains. An idiot in San Francisco has accumulated a fortune of several millions in real estate in the last 40 years, and there be some who would rather have him on a charter board than a man who studies, teaches and knows something.

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Every day it is demonstrated in Portland that it will be necessary to have a method of electing city councilmen by some system that will bring honesty and ability more prominently to the fore.

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Cake says he won't be there when the roll is called in Salem to elect a United States senator. He is an honorable man and does not want and will not permit stolen property to be given to him. Fulton seems to have concluded to call it quits. What will there be left for the legislature to do but call it unanimous, carry out the instruction of the people and give the machine its last solar plexus kick, so long coming to it in Oregon?

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One thing is apparent to any person moving around among the people, and that is that they know the present tax laws are unjust and foster land monopoly, perjury and fraud. At present no remedies are being widely discussed, but all the people of Oregon need is a little definite education, local organization and a few leaders to make it mighty hot for the land grafters.

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Many of our best towns in Oregon are sadly lacking in public spirit, local pride and ability to get together and put through public improvements. The sanitary conditions prevailing are of the crudest and in any other country not blessed with copious rains and a cool climate would produce annual pestilences.

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Just because a physician lives in a city is no reason why he is a superior being to the one living in the country. The country physicians in Oregon are a hard working, hard driving, practical set of men, and while they may not have all the up-to-date formulae at hand they do have the confidence, regard and esteem of the people. In this state there is a population of less than four and a half to the square mile, and the long, cold, muddy drives the average country physician takes for nine months in the year would kill off a city physician in six weeks.

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There is no state in the union more in need of the initiative right now than California. And no state so likely not to get it.

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The longer a graft lasts the more honest it becomes in the eyes of its beneficiaries—and the public. Some of the fattest grafts in the world have lived for centuries in England. The landlords of London get from the people over $100,000,000 a year in ground rents. The Standard Oil company extracts only about $35,000,000 from us.

Electing Senators.

From the Oklahoman.

The half has not been told in the matter of advantages possessed by the popular election of United States senators as compared to the old constitutional system which enjoins this duty upon the several legislatures.

Thirty-one members of the senate are to be chosen by the legislatures which convene this winter. In the case of 18, who were chosen by popular vote, their election will be a very formal matter, consuming but an hour of the legislature's time. In the case of the balance, where bitter contests are on in consequence of the antiquated go-as-you-please election system the chances are good for a long drawn out struggle extending well into the middle of the session and consuming a great deal of time which would otherwise be devoted to needed legislation.

Oklahoma is among the states which fortunately choose United States senators by popular vote. The forthcoming legislature which chooses Senator Gore's successor, will scarcely know that the duty is imposed upon it of electing a United States senator. Senator Gore will be reelected in less time and with scarcely more ceremony than it takes to tell it. The legislature thus avoids a bitter and distracting contest.

But how different in the unprogressive states which still hold to the effete and antiquated system provided for in the constitution! Already the members-elect of the legislature are drawn into contests which destroy the usefulness of the session until the matter is decided, and which, in some instances threaten to turn into deadlocks and consume the full allotted time. If more than the election of a United States senator is accomplished, these states will be lucky. In the light of these threatened contests, with their attending contentions and distractions, the merits of the popular election system are too apparent to need mention.