



EDITORIAL PAGE



THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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"CHEER UP!"

Don't kick because you have to button your wife's waist. Be glad your wife has a waist and doubly glad you have a wife to button a waist for. Some men's wives have no waist to button. Some men's wives' waists have no buttons on to button. Some men's wives who have waists with buttons on to button don't care a continental whether they are buttoned or not. Some men don't have any wives with waists with buttons on to button, any more than a rabbit—Lacon (Ill.) Journal.

THE LAST STRAW

SENATOR FULTON once wrote an article for the North American Review. It appeared in that magazine nearly a year before the last Oregon primaries. It described the primary law and the popular method of selecting senator in Oregon. If there has remained in the mind of any of his friends lack of realization of the utter impossibility of Mr. Fulton as his own successor, the article should bring conviction. That article rises up now to confound the senator and to confuse those hoping for some exigency to arise for him to succeed himself. It crushes the last possibility upon which his friends may have hoped to frame a scheme or pretext for presenting his name to the legislature.

In his article, Senator Fulton penned this sentence: "Furthermore, if a candidate for the legislature signs Statement No. 1, he is, in case of his election, bound by an obligation as solemn as his oath of office to conform to it." This is a sentence to burn itself into the conscience and seal itself into the soul of every friend of Senator Fulton and into the conscience and soul of the senator himself. It is an expression that would make it impossible for Senator Fulton, as a self-respecting, decent citizen, to accept the senatorship if the legislature should tender it to him. If the office would have to come to him tainted and sullied with perjury of an "obligation" that by his own acknowledgment is "as solemn as his oath of office," how in the name of common decency could Senator Fulton accept it? If as the senator says, the "obligation" of the 51 pledged members is "as solemn as their oaths of office," how, in the name of all that is honorable in men, can the senator do otherwise than advise each of these pledged members to be true to that "obligation"? In the face of this inexorable article with its frank acknowledgment of the truth as already recognized by all Oregon and all of the country, what is there for Senator Fulton and his friends to do but to gracefully meet the inevitable, acknowledge the impossible, and bid the pledged legislators do their duty? What is there but blight, destruction, and certain, overwhelming and disgraceful defeat in any other course?

THE PISTOL MADNESS

YESTERDAY'S dispatches relate how George Howard, a Portland brakeman, shot up a neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio. With a companion, he entered a Y. M. C. A. restaurant, and firing volleys from a revolver, drove everybody out of the place. They overhauled a baker's wagon, seized a quantity of pies which they threw at passersby. They stopped a street-car, firing their revolvers recklessly, and drove employees and passengers to the street. The police interfered, and after a chase of four miles captured Howard, but his companion escaped.

In the same issue, was the story of Osborne Edwards, who with a companion entered the peaceful rooming house of Thomas F. McGillard in this city, and called for a room and "girls." Mr. McGillard explained that he did not keep a room and "girls," and thereupon Edwards, whipping out a revolver, shot him to death, one of three bullets that entered his body passing through McGillard's heart. Still, men hesitate when they are asked to rise against this pistol madness. The latest of unmerited death that it

annually gleams would, if catalogued, shock civilization. With his pistol this drunken brakeman terrorized a city. With a revolver, this drunken Edwards without provocation, cause or even the slightest pretext, killed a peaceful man, plunged a family into mourning, and cut off the support of a wife and children. What business had either with a weapon? What business has any drunken man with a weapon? What is a revolver and who so much has use for it as a drunken fool or a thug bent on a holdup, or a murderer lying in wait for a victim?

By law and public sentiment the terrible toll of the concealed revolver on human life can be largely eliminated. Every weapon that is sold should be registered. Every drunken man and every suspect should be searched. Every man who carries a weapon should be required to take out a license. The public records should give the number of every weapon, the name of its owner. Whenever that weapon passes into other hands, it should be by consent of a proper authority, and the record should show it. There would be a key that would unlock the mystery of many a murder. No respectable man would be deprived of a weapon if it should be needed for his defense. But, the thugs, the murderers, the drunks, the highway-men, and all the walking menaces of human life would be largely disarmed, and death by the constantly flashing revolver be reduced, and peaceful human life would enjoy a reasonable safety. Does not the slaughter of McGillard call for reform?

THE RIVERS AND HARBORS APPROPRIATION

NEWS FROM Washington with reference to a rivers and harbors appropriation bill is conflicting. Sometimes it is encouraging, sometimes discouraging. A late dispatch quotes Congressman Hawley as saying that "the chances for a \$50,000,000 appropriation for harbors and waterways is growing brighter." If no bill is passed at this session, great loss will result. The work at the mouth of the Columbia will have to stop before the close of the next working season. The result of such delays is a familiar story in Oregon. The works fall into decay and have to be repaired at great expense. Working force has to be gathered together and organization completed when work is resumed. Equipment has to be renewed, and parts that the elements destroy during the delay have to be replaced. In a hundred ways, there is loss, destruction and waste. It is the most wasteful and most costly process in the world. It is a method that would bankrupt any other interest than the government of the United States. It is a practice that no business enterprise would tolerate for one moment, because it would be the certain road to ruin. It is estimated that because of delay and unbusinesslike methods of congress in making provision for public work in Oregon every activity has cost fully 25 per cent more than was necessary. The loss that would result in the present instance from failure of a rivers and harbors bill would not only affect the mouth of the Columbia but would, according to the statement of Major McIndoe, extend to the work at Celilo. It would likewise unfavorably affect every government activity in Oregon, and everyone in the country. It would not only result in loss at each, but would in an increasing ratio delay final completion with large corresponding loss to commercial interests.

It is the duty of congress to husband the country's resources. It is the duty of congress to avoid waste. It is important that an enterprise of public character once undertaken should be pushed with every regard for proper economy. That it does not do so in all cases may be due to lack of information. It is from this point of view that it is important for commercial bodies and business interests to be active in making themselves heard at Washington. Addresses, resolutions, petitions and requests should be forwarded. Information should be afforded, and insistent requests be made. Great consequences hinge on whether or not congress gives the country a rivers and harbors bill at this session, and a default ought not to result from any lack of vigorous representations by Portland, Oregon, and other interests.

WATER RIGHTS MUST BE USED

THE DECISION of the Oregon supreme court, holding in effect that no person or corporation can acquire and hold any water right except for his or its own domestic use, as against any claimant or appropriator who desires to and will use it, is one of much importance. It establishes, as it appears, a new rule, a new doctrine, on this subject, in this state and one that will be of great benefit to the state.

The decision, so far as we can gather from a summarized report, holds that no person or corporation can legally file on and hold a water right unless he makes a beneficial use of it; it cannot be held for purposes of speculation. The decision was rendered by Commissioner King, who has made a long and diligent study of this question, and who is probably as well qualified as anyone in this state to

on the supreme bench—as any man in the Pacific northwest to sift out the water-right tangle. It is fortunate that this decision was rendered before the meeting of the legislature, which can now frame importantly necessary legislation to conform to it.

THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE OF FRANCE

FRANCE HAS nominally the greatest national debt of any country. It amounts to more than our national debt at the close of the Civil War. Unless other facts in connection are considered, France might be considered a bankrupt nation. Its population is about 40,000,000, and not increasing much. The low birthrate is often considered an ominous thing for France.

But there is another side to be looked at. The debt of France is mostly owed to Frenchmen. It consists of little sums thus invested by millions of all classes of French people. And the French not only maintain a fine government, employing a vast army of officials of all sorts, but France is today the world's banker. Does Russia, or Japan, or any other country, need to borrow money, it first turns to France. Resort may eventually be had to England or the United States, but the whole world knows that France always has millions of money to loan on advantageous terms. And this after all the tremendous cost of the Napoleonic and following wars and revolutions, and after losing Alsace and Lorraine and paying Prussia a billion dollars, which the French people did in a short time, long before it was due.

M. Leroy Beaulieu estimates the savings of the French people during 1908 at more than a billion dollars. This is an average of \$25 for every man, woman and child in France. The people could use this to pay off the national debt, could wipe it out in three or four years, but they loan it to better advantage, or save it for the "rainy days." Almost every family has a little hoard, and the surplus beyond this goes into the Bank of France.

In the last 15 years the excess of imports over exports of gold into France amounted to \$786,000,000, much of which is possessed by the "peasantry," and Leroy Beaulieu says this fund "probably rivals the hidden treasures of India."

The French peasant reduces his personal and family economies to the terms of an exact science. He always, if in health, earns more than he spends. A centime—one-fifth of a cent—goes as far with him as a nickel, a dime, or even a quarter, with many American working-men. With the French peasantry there is no waste. Every item of expense is a subject of close inspection. Yet they are not in an offensive sense niggardly. They take good care of their children. They support church and school. They enjoy many holidays.

The French are a home-owning and a home-loving people. Wife, children, house, land, country, are objects of almost worship to the peasant Frenchman. He needs only a few acres, a little patch of land, and every foot is utilized, every plant is an object of thoughtful and diligent care. He works systematically and steadily, yet after all not harder than the average American, perhaps not so wearily, and with a home of his own and a little store hidden away or in the bank, he is happy. The whole object of existence is attained, solved.

So with many years now—since Sedan—of peace, it is the French peasant who has become largely the world's banker. If any czar, emperor, king or president needs some millions, or even a billion, and has first-class security to offer, the French peasants will loan it to him. They have it, and are always ready to make a safe and profitable investment. Roosevelt tomorrow could borrow \$300,000,000 in France at a fair rate of interest, and most of it would be the money of small farmers, vineyardists, "peasants." We doubt if such an example of thrift has been set in all history.

A state is entitled to a healthy, vigorous governor. The state of Washington needs and deserves the services of such a man. It is possible that Governor-Elect Cosgrove has a reasonable chance of recovery, and of becoming physically well and strong again. If so, he can reasonably ask the people of Washington to wait a little for this result. But if the prospect is that he will be an invalid for a year or two, he owes it to the people to resign after inauguration and let the lieutenant governor fill the office. Too often men who become incapable of performing the duties of an office hang onto it. A permanently sick man is not fit for governor, or any other high and onerous position.

If Cader Powell is not fit for reappointment to the marshaling of Alaska, on account of his dishonesty in office here years ago, he was unfit at the time of his first appointment, and the facts were all known then. Portland has grown some in spite of the Oregonian—it admits that the city is larger than it used to be—and will continue to grow, notwithstanding all the knocking that malevolent paper can invent.

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 names will not be used if the writer asks that it be withheld. The Journal is not responsible for returning of letters or statements of correspondents. Letters will be made as brief as possible. Those who wish their letters returned when not used should inclose postage.

Good Roads and Unemployed.

Portland, Or., Jan. 4.—To the editor of The Journal:—I am often urged when discussing the subject of good roads, that criminals and hobos be used for building them, but this kind of labor is not available for much work on roads and can be used safely only for quarrying, breaking rock, etc. Roads and streets come high at best, and the use of criminals and hobos should be used to the limit. Not from the taxpayer's standpoint alone should they quarry and break rock, and do other preparatory road work, but because they will not in this way compete with honorable labor and with capital, which employs labor at good wages.

The present system of leasing convicts has killed the industry of stone quarrying in Oregon for capital, and thrown skilled laboring men out of employment. Intelligent laboring men know that they will not stand for such an association for constructing roads, and pay the wages that energetic laborers can command in private industries and they would like to see the preparatory work of prisoners and hobos, who, possibly, so as to reduce the cost of the good roads and streets to such an extent that every county and town in Oregon would construct good roads and streets in the direction.

Then, there would be no argument at the real work of constructing roads and streets, and keeping them in good condition, for the unskilled laboring man, who, having no trade to follow, is often forced to beg for food and shelter, and must have employment.

Fame awaits that member of the legislature who shall link the good roads question with the unemployed problem so that every idle man and woman of the state—no matter whether out of work because of hard times or because of some shortcoming or misfortune—can earn a good living at road and street work.

As a foundation for such a law, every town should have a rock pile or rock quarry for its criminals and petty offenders, where they can do useful work without competing with honorable labor. Our first decision, if we are to receive Mr. Hobo, whom railroad employees are now empowered by law to arrest if caught beating his way, and to turn over to the authorities of the town up in the west of those days, instead of as now, forcing him on a neighboring town or, worse still, escorting him to the city limits and dumping him out on the country.

Railroads are interested in the good roads question because it means that the country will be more highly developed and there will be more business for them, but they will be doubly interested in this subject if a law is devised that will take hobos off their hands, or cause hobos to put Oregon on their black list.

It is said that hobos cause one half the wreck on railroads, do much other damage to their property, often assault and kill trainmen and cause so much expense that to be free of the hobo evil railroads would be justified in hauling rock free to prisoners or hobos, and in paying prisoners free to rock quarries and rock piles for the state.

If in addition to using criminals and hobos, where possible (society will be benefited by using them), any unemployed man could go to work on roads or streets in any locality in Oregon, we could boast of having not only the finest of macadamized highways, but the best of the streets within reach of our pocketbooks, that would reach our state, but could also boast that there need never be a hungry or homeless man within the state of Oregon. Are we not state patriots to the extent of wishing to see the state bring about this desirable situation?

Work, not charity, is what the unemployed ask for, and much unwise charity would cease if the public knew that every man who could work would earn fair wages at road and street work—work which is endless.

Advocate Tax on Land.

Portland, Or., Jan. 5.—To the Editor of The Journal:—I have been reported that the State Tax Commission has appointed a committee to investigate the New Zealand system of taxation. This committee wants to find out all that can be said about the New Zealand system of taxation. It should open up communication with G. H. Folger, General P. O., Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. He can tell them of the progress of that great British colony which has recently gone further than any other in the world in the way of land monopoly and unjust taxation, largely imposed there by the example of New Zealand. The farmers in both the colonies actively support the methods of taxation which have been put in place by the improvement of the land and place in the hands of the land holder. The reason the farmers in Oregon oppose any practical modification of our absurd system of taxation is that they do not own the land, and do not know all the different forms of and monopoly by which they are burdened.

The farmers of Oregon do not know or realize that they do not own one-third of the land values of Oregon and that the proper way to measure land for revenue purposes is to use a dollar as a unit, and not a rod pole. They do not fully realize that they are paying the burdens of paying the enormous land rents of the city, and the cities dodge their just share of taxes for public improvements by shifting all road taxes on the shoulders of the taxpayer, by helping through state built roads, to pay for the avenues of commerce through which all products gravitate to the metropolis.

The farmers of Oregon do not know that the New Zealand system of taxation breaks up idle holdings into cultivated small farms, brings better schools, better roads, better social advancement, and better living conditions for the farmer. Land monopoly means not only high taxes on land users but it means isolation and poor communication, so characteristic of the greater portion of Oregon. By all means let the farmers of Oregon investigate the tax laws of New Zealand.

Whenever in Oregon a county can assess land values and exempt improvements and livestock. In accordance with the vote of the taxpayers of the county, or can exempt land and tax improvements or tax all and chase everything in sight as now, then the social will drop from the eyes of the working, producing farmer and he will see who it is that is on his back and the method of shaking off the burden.

Study the land question, Mr. Farmer of Oregon. It will be the most important day in the issues of the state. The land is rapidly coming. You are all members of the legislature. The bill for the destruction of land monopoly in

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

O. well, it will soon be spring.

Throw out crumbs for the birds.

This is hard time on hobos and frogs.

Congress is a little good; it helped Italy.

Charity can speak equally well in all languages.

But think how happy the poor abused plumbers are.

Portland should do some annexing this year, if it can.

Almost any old excuse seems to serve for a school vacation.

The country has frequent occasion to be proud of old Massachusetts.

What a fuss we Oregonians make over a little spell of mild winter weather.

Still another murder in Portland, due to the usual combination, whiskey and a gun.

No American citizen will object to that \$300,000 appropriation in aid of Italian sufferers.

If Jim Ham Lewis had arrived in China, that reported revolution might be easily explained.

But how would you have liked a temperature of 40 degrees below zero, as it was in some parts of the country?

Mr. Carnegie was careful not to say it until he had sold out and invested his \$300,000,000 in 5 per cent bonds.

Children in eastern cities go to school regularly when the weather is severer for weeks together than it is here now.

It will cost \$150,000 to take the American fleet of warships through the Suez canal. Ten years hence their successors may go through the Panama canal free.

A Washington "Post" paper says Mr. Taft visited a theatre the last time 20 years ago, the play on that occasion being "Uncle Tom's Cabin." That may explain why he went again last week, what would he have done if the play had been "Ten Nights in a Barroom" or "Dora Thorne"?

The Seattle Times says that "the ruling of the supreme court of the United States in the Columbia river channel case" is "not satisfactory to the people of Washington." But the people of Washington going to do about it? What the supreme court says goes.

One Grand Ronde valley farmer has subscribed \$400 to the big irrigation project. He says that the acreage is increasing each day and that he was confident that by January 16, when the first meeting is to take place, there will be sufficient acreage signed up to warrant the success of the undertaking.

Then someone in the family felt ill—she had to stir her own wishes and give her services. So when the school was over she came back to the college town with her last money and tried to find work. She knew how to starve. You know what a girl will endure in discomforts, in rigorous fasts, in weariness, and getting the education that she must have.

All these things the plucky little woman went through—and perhaps more. She knew how to starve, how to work through a year and through it all was a fine, pure, sweet Christian girl.

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