



THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
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Without discretion learning is pedantry and wit impertinence; virtue itself looks like weakness; the best parts only qualify a man to be more sprightly in errors and active to his own prejudice.—Addison.

THE PUBLIC AND THE STREET-CARS

THERE is controversy between the public and the street railway company. Complaints and criticisms are in the air. In most cases of the kind a part of the truth lies with each side. The Journal intends to interest itself in the issue in the hope of promoting a just relation between the parties. Many people are embittered at the company and out of patience with the management. Complaints of varying character and large volume are made every day to The Journal. They come in such form and from such sources as to merit the attention of this newspaper. The charge is broadly made that the company had not enough cars to give a respectable or adequate service. To this the company answers that it is adding to its car equipment as rapidly as its orders for cars can be filled and its resources justify.

Again, the charge is made that the company's profits for the past year were above one million dollars, and that this is an ample sum with which to provide the necessary cars. The company rejoins that it spent last year in extensions and betterments not only the million of profits, but an added \$1,500,000; and this year it will do as much or more.

There is no doubt that the public meets with vexatious delays and many times has to submit to the inconvenience of overcrowded cars. On the other hand, it is undoubtedly true that the company has many troubles of its own, and that the men responsible for its destiny have much vexation of spirit and wear a yoke that is exceedingly uncomfortable. The officials insist that they are earnestly striving to meet every reasonable demand and to give the public a transportation service equal in value to the money exacted for it. They probably deserve more of good will from the public than is evidenced by the criticism and condemnation to which they are constantly subjected.

The public is entitled to a street-car service in full equivalent to the money it pays for it. It is entitled to no more. That, however, it should have, and in due time, must have. Until that character of service is provided the officials will be allowed no peace of mind, and must not expect it. A public is exacting and a corporation engaged in a public service must expect to render a service commensurate with what it charges for it and with what it has promised in the contract with the city to give. The public will not and should not be satisfied with less. Yet, speaking in the behalf of the public, The Journal adds that in our relations with corporations, as well as with human beings, we should expect of others no more than we would or could give ourselves were the situations of each reversed and conditions the same.

In order to arrive at the exact truth with respect to actual conditions, The Journal invites for publication communications covering the shortcomings of the street railway company. The articles should be expressed in the briefest form possible and with such data and facts as the writers can give. Personalities, abuse and vituperation are not wanted and will not be published. The articles must be signed with the name of the writer for publication and will not be printed otherwise. The purpose is to bring out the exact facts against the street railway company with a view of bringing about a diminution of the defects in the service and a better understanding between the public and its servant, the street-car corporation. This is its province as a newspaper, and The Journal desires to do its duty with full justice to both the public and its servant, the corporation.

There is a bill in congress that by all means ought to be passed at the present session. It has the hearty endorsement of President Roosevelt, the endorsement of President-elect Taft and the endorsement of the Boston Merchants' association. It has three times passed the senate. It is now in the hands of the committee on agriculture in the

house. It is a bill to create a national forest in the White mountains. It is a bill to which the western members of congress owe an undivided support. The east has been grudging in its support of western irrigation enterprises. The region interested has been vigorous in support of every measure for saving its resources to the west. The pending measure is in the line of conserving natural resources, and nearly every measure in that interest now with our resources swiftly disappearing, merits passage. The western members, especially those from Oregon, owe the Appalachian bill hearty support.

SIX MONTHS' SCHOOL

THE LEGISLATURE can help populate sparsely settled districts in Oregon. The way to do it is to provide six months school per year in every district. The parent's first thought is concern for his children's future. Proper school opportunities are the heart of that concern. The desire for their child to have the same school advantages as any other child burns in the breast of every father and mother. It is in nearly every instance one of the guiding motives in selecting a home. A district with so little as four months of school per year is next door to the wilderness. From it the parent shrinks as from an impossible home. It is an influence that holds back the settlement of many a section of Oregon. It peoples the towns and peoples the well populated areas at the expense of the sparsely settled places.

If school is good for one it is good for all. If it is free for one it should be free for all. If it is abundant for one it should be abundant for all. It should not be vouchsafed one and denied another. Because parents are too poor to live on \$100 land in the thickly populated neighborhood, and must live on \$5 land on the frontier, the child should not be mentally starved. Its right to knowledge is not eliminated by its remoteness from the centers. If the lucky child has ten months of school the child in the distant rural district should have at least six. Less is little better than none.

If the principle of a fair distribution is ever justice it is peculiarly just in school opportunities. We cannot afford to have one section of our children highly educated and another illiterate. Widely diffused education with no illiteracy has for its product a well balanced and sane citizenship.

Illiteracy is peril. There should be no illiterates nor influences promotive of illiteracy. The remote rural district merits six months of school. If necessary, the luckier property and persons in richer districts should gladly help maintain it. It is self-protective, and what is infinitely greater, it is justice. The state of Washington gives all its districts at least six months of school. Can Oregon do less?

A JUST CRITICISM

SENATOR HALE, when the bill for raising the salaries of the president, vice-president, speaker and supreme court judges was under discussion, quite properly commented on the increase in expenditures on the battleships, which he said was so great that the interest on the amount expended on one of them was more than all the increases of salaries provided for in this bill. "We shall," he said, "never reduce the expenses of the government until we take in hand not only the question of salaries, but the enormous expenditures that we are asked to make for the military."

Congress this winter will make no general appropriation for the improvement of rivers and harbors, and there will be delay and waste and loss and great injury to millions of people on this account, and yet congress goes on increasing enormously from year to year the appropriations for the army and navy, and now is considering increases of salaries that, added to the recent raise of the pay of congressmen, will amount to some \$1,500,000 a year. Larger salaries for the officers named seem reasonable, but if this country is so poor or mismanaged that it can do nothing to carry on continuously this vast important work of opening up our waterways and improving our harbors, it should reduce appropriations for the army and navy, for which there is little if any use, and go slow about raising salaries.

A PROPER INTERFERENCE

THE PRESIDENT'S request, telegraphed to the governor of California, that the legislature of that state restrain action on any anti-Japanese bills until he can be heard from, will furnish another occasion for the president's critics to censure him for "butting in" where he has no business. Ordinarily, a president has no proper occasion to interfere with state legislation, but this is an exceptional case. This country has a treaty with Japan, which the federal government is bound to observe and maintain, and a state that acts in opposition to that treaty places itself in hostility to the federal government in a national matter. The Japanese must be dealt with as they are—exceedingly proud and sensitive, and absurdly self-important—and it is better to yield something to their characteristics and their incorrect conceptions of our

system of government than to arouse their hostility. Exclusion or restriction of immigration is a federal and not a state function, and while it is quite within the province of the California legislature to pass resolutions and memorials on the subject, it would be better to work in harmony with the federal administration, which seems to be doing all that can reasonably be done to restrain Japanese immigration. The whole matter may safely be left to Roosevelt and Taft to settle.

ROOSEVELT AND CONGRESS

SINCE OF all the criticism of President Roosevelt, congressional and otherwise, nobody else ever started out after the land thieves of the country, or if anybody ever did he never accomplished anything. It is now reported that suits will be brought against various gangs of these land-grabbers to recover land valued at \$110,000,000. This is a far better procedure, if it succeeds, than prosecuting the land-grabbers criminally, for losing the land will be their proper punishment, and the people will get the lands back. It will be a long, hard fight, but if the government can win the country will owe an enormous debt of gratitude, in addition to the value of the lands, to Roosevelt and Taft.

Congress years ago gave away hundreds of millions of acres of land to railroads and other corporations; congress has passed laws making it easy to steal lands by the wholesale; congress has persistently refused to reform the land laws so as to prevent this; congress has never done anything to protect and preserve to the people the public domain; congress has refused, and refuses yet, to pass any law conserving the coal lands and holding them for the people's benefit; congress, one congress after another, has squandered the people's heritage, the public domain; and yet there will doubtless be congressmen to object to this effort of the president, and censure him for making it.

That Roosevelt became president was an immensely valuable event for the American people.

It has been reported that there will be a bill before the legislature providing that a certain majority of a jury, three fourths, we believe, may find a verdict, in most cases. This is a good measure and straight in line with practical common sense. Another reform of the jury system to which The Journal can see no possible objection on any reasonable ground would be a law providing that in case of a juror's death or prolonged illness, or even that of two or three jurors, the remainder should find a verdict; the case should go ahead to a conclusion, and thus obviate long delays and in the case of a death a new trial, involving much cost and worry and often decreasing the chance of justice. It is difficult to imagine why anybody, unless it be an occasional lawyer, could oppose such a measure as this. And if unconstitutional, let us amend the constitution in this respect.

Statement No. 1, while of course not compulsory, is the peculiarly vital feature of the Oregon primary law. Nobody is obliged to make that statement, but there will always be candidates for the legislature who will make it, and the people will decide between them. And until opposition to the popular election of senators ceases this will be the issue in Oregon politics. They will not divide, as to the legislature, on parties at all, but on the issue of people against political bosses. If a political party, or a majority fraction of it, chooses to oppose election of senators by the people, then the people, at least so far as the legislature is concerned, will renounce that party. They are going to choose their own senators, as they did last June, whatever becomes of this or that party.

The tax commission bill, defeated by the legislature two years ago, has been reintroduced, and it is something very much like it ought to be passed. It was prepared by capable men with great care and contains many excellent features, and so far as we know no bad ones. It may be that some changes in it would now be desirable, but on the whole it would be a great improvement over the present laws on this subject.

The protestants at Salem last Tuesday cut rather a sorry figure. Did they not make that pledge voluntarily and intelligently? Did they not do so to gain votes and election? Did they not then declare freely and cheerfully that they would vote for the people's choice? Then why squirm and squeal about doing so? Their protests amount to saying that they do not want to conform to the will of the people, though by promising to do so they gained their seats in the legislature.

According to the official reports for 1908, Puget sound (including all its ports) shows a fall from 23 millions to 20 millions in imports and from 27 millions to 25 millions in exports; San Francisco shows a fall from 56 millions to 41 millions in imports and an increase in exports from 27 millions in 1907 to 28 millions in 1908. Willamette, Or., the customs district of which Portland is the chief city, shows a fall from

4 millions to a little less than 3 millions in imports and a gain from 12 1/2 millions to 15 1/2 millions in exports. Portland's exports at least will increase rapidly, and at this rate will eventually exceed those of Puget sound.

Roosevelt and the Steel Trust

Adams, in the Boston News Bureau. One of the most amusing things that has taken place recently has been President Roosevelt's answer to the senate on the matter of the benevolent assimilation of the Tennessee Coal & Iron company by the United States Steel corporation. Mr. Roosevelt stated that he was responsible for every detail of the transaction, and is cognizant of all the facts. He told the senate (using a letter to Attorney General Bonaparte as a vehicle) that Messrs. Gary and Frick had come to him in the dead of night, stating that a calamity would soon take place in New York, unless the steel corporation should be permitted by the president to take over the Tennessee Coal & Iron company. These gentlemen advised Mr. Roosevelt that a business firm in New York would go to the wall, unless the Tennessee Coal & Iron company were taken over, but merely had philanthropic Mr. Roosevelt, however, the name of the firm, nor the fact that other institutions of many times the magnitude of the stock exchange house in question had already gone to the wall. Messrs. Gary and Frick, according to the president, said that the United States Steel corporation did not really want the Tennessee Coal & Iron company, but merely had philanthropic Mr. Roosevelt, however, the name of the firm, nor the fact that other institutions of many times the magnitude of the stock exchange house in question had already gone to the wall.

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Letters from the People

Letters to The Journal should be written on one side of the paper only, and should be addressed to the editor, The Journal Building, Portland, Or. The name will not be used if the writer asks that it be withheld. The Journal is not to be understood as endorsing the views or statements of correspondents. Letters should be short and to the point. Letters exceeding 300 words in length may, at the discretion of the editor, be cut down to that limit.

Keeping Business at Home.

Portland, Or., Jan. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—A news item in the building department of a recent issue of The Journal states that a leading department store of this city has secured plans from a firm of architects for a building for its own use. Do they expect to get their trade from Seattle people or is this a "hunch" for Portland shoppers to purchase their drygoods from Seattle merchants?

A BUILDER.

Portland, Or., Jan. 20.—To the Editor of The Journal—In a recent issue of a Portland daily newspaper, a news item where Police Captain Slover has ordered that the owners of howling dogs shall keep them quiet.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

What a long spell 'tis between school vacations.

What! Is the Republican party against the people?

The people like what they have gained and will hang on to it.

Congress strictly avoids adopting any of the Roosevelt policies, of course.

It will soon be Cuba libre again, and shortly after, probably, Cuba mixing.

But didn't you uns all profess to favor election of senators by the people?

When a party can't agree with the people, it must expect to have some trouble.

Still, no city has done away with its police force after a visit from Billy Sunday.

A big price for wool this year is predicted. And the tariff not raised. This is strange.

Governor Cosgrove is not superstitious. He will begin his journey to Olympia today, a Friday.

"Sings seen but not heard," is a headline in an eastern paper. They are doubtless very popular.

It seems that the preacher who accused John C. Young of being a Mormon had the fact just reversed.

The protests seem to recoil on those who make them. Didn't they make the pledge voluntarily and intelligently?

That was a light good speech the senator made to the legislature. He will put the people above party.

If Senator Fulton could be put back nine months in time and know as much as he does now, he would probably talk and act differently.

Several eastern newspapers speak of the "Alaska-Yukon-Portland" exposition. Now wouldn't that jar Seattle? Won't it make her mad?

A news item from Africa says the Hottentots are on the warpath. But they would better crawl into their caves when Roosevelt gets over there.

Well, is the legislature going to buy that governor's mansion this winter? His services in the past have been there's always a "mansion" for sale.

Might it not be well to amend the election law so that there should be no swearing in of voters; that if a man would not register he could not vote?

Now the Chalmers pay up all their debts and forgive all their enemies—at least temporarily—and have a good brotherly time. Their New Year's boasts.

An old friend of The Journal drops in to ask that whether Oregon is the fool of the family or not is something to be demonstrated in the years to come, but it has already been demonstrated in the past.

Salem Statesman: Mr. Ormsby McDarg may now return to his home on the other side of the Rocky mountains, bearing with him the remembrance of the honor of the election of a United States senator from Oregon had about as much effect as the exportation of wheat would have in increasing the depth of the ocean.

FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

"The Log Cabin"—By Daniel Webster

(From a three hours' speech in the open air, at the whig mass meeting in Saratoga, N. Y., August 19, 1840.) It appears to some persons that a great deal too much use is made of the symbol of the log cabin. But it is to be remembered that this matter of the log cabin originated not with the friends of the whig candidate, but with his enemies. Soon after William H. Harrison's nomination, a writer in one of the leading administration papers spoke of his "log cabin" and his "hard cider," by way of sneer and reproach. The whole party appeared to enjoy it, or at least they countenanced it by silent acquiescence. But it touched a tender point in the indignation of the whig candidate, and he immediately seized on it as a mark. "Be it so! Be it so!" was the instant burst of the public voice. "Let him be the log cabin candidate. What you say in scorn we will shout with all our lungs. From this day forward we have our cry of rally, and we shall see whether he who has dwelt in one of the rude abodes of the wilderness can become the best house in the country."

All this is natural, and springs from sources of just feeling. Other things have had a similar origin. We all know that the term "whig" was introduced into the English language by those who were thought too fond of liberty; and our national air of "Yankee Doodle" was composed by British officers in ridicule of the American troops. Yet, for the last of the British army laid down its arms at Yorktown, while this same air was playing in the ears of officers and men. It is only shallow minded pretenders who either make dis-

happens to be a dog fancier. They run packs like wolves, and are as much as license tags and they are as much of a nuisance as they are numerous. I am not a property owner; neither am I a dog owner, but I will not possess myself of half a dozen which the city will license to forage upon and annoy property owners who take pride in the cultivation of beautiful lawns and flowers, and who improve not only the appearance of their own homes, but of the city in general.

Yours for the suppression of the dog nuisance. SUBSCRIBER.

This Date in History.

1561—Francis Bacon, English writer and philosopher, born. Died April 9, 1626.
1788—Lord Byron, English poet, born. Died April 19, 1824.
1804—Memorial presented to congress urging that the importation of slaves into the Louisiana territory be prohibited.
1810—Americans defeated by the British at Frenchtown.
1830—The provincial parliament of lower Canada opened at Quebec.
1834—Several cities in South America almost destroyed by earthquake.
1844—John Y. Mason, American minister to France, presented his credentials to Louis Napoleon.
1855—M. M. Booth convicted in Milwaukee and sentenced to imprisonment for attempting to rescue a fugitive slave.
1861—New York police seized 200 guns about to be shipped to a firm in Maine.
1864—Public reception in Boston in honor of General Burnside.
1904—Aalestad, a fishing town of Norway, totally destroyed by fire.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS.

Many prospectors are at work around Galice.

That electric railroad from Eugene to the Siuslaw is again under discussion.

Baker City and Pendleton may each defeat the other in its effort to get the new asylum.

Far more good road building will be done in Oregon this year than in any previous year.

A Summerville lumber company during the recent storm felled up 1,750,000 feet of logs at its mill.

Losses of apples and potatoes on account of the cold weather up the valley may reach 25 per cent.

While hunting along the Umatilla river, the Echo, Dr. Biggers of Grande fell through the ice in about five feet of icy water. Had it not been for assistance he would have perished.

There is water enough in sight so that no one need go dry in the Willamette valley, says the Salem Journal. But water won't quench some people's thirst.

The boosters of good roads have received support of the right kind lately in the organization of the Oregon Good Roads Club, says The Dalles Optimist. From present indications substantial improvements in many of the county's highways will be made in the spring.

Old timers tell us that floods following melting snow are a rarity in this valley and that our freshets are due to prolonged warm rains that melt the snow in the mountains, says the Eugene Register. This accounts for lack of high water during the rain storm which rushed the recent snowfall out of the valley.

The streets of The Dalles are to be paved. Furthermore, all of the thoroughfares below the bluff will be improved and still further not a single objection, either from a councilman, member of the paving committee or a taxpayer will be made.

Members of the council when the city fathers took up the greatest step ever considered in the history of the city, the improvement of the streets, says the Chronicle.

Eugene Register: Many newcomers are asking what is there to do in this country to make money. Know and mention one thing—there are hundreds of others. Go to the grocery stores and upon each year you will find out that there are no home grown cabbage, cauliflower, celery, turnips and many other vegetables on the market. They are all shipped in and big prices are being paid for them by the people of Eugene. Thousands of dollars are being sent out of town to grow where we have the finest soil and natural conditions for growing vegetables.

There is a lot of money to be made where when we have the finest soil and natural conditions for growing vegetables. There is a lot of money to be made where when we have the finest soil and natural conditions for growing vegetables.

Vetch is the richest in feeding value of all the forage plants that are grown in Rogue River valley, says the Fruit Grower. Vetch is a hardy plant, and its protein content. As vetch can be grown on land that is too dry for alfalfa, it is a great asset to the farmer.

It is not a bad thing to have some alfalfa in the valley. It is only a few years ago that the farmers of this valley have been growing vetch, yet so profitable has it proven as a forage crop that the acreage is increasing every year. It is a hardy plant, and its protein content. As vetch can be grown on land that is too dry for alfalfa, it is a great asset to the farmer.

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