EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

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Let errors and wrong methods not disturb you. Nothing ever teaches a better lesson than the realization of your error. This is one of the most important lessons of self-education.—Carlyle.

THE PORTAGE ROAD

THE PORTAGE road at Celilo is an episode. The Columbia river is an institution. It is argued that because it does not pay operating expenses the portage road is a bad investment for Oregon. The question of whether or not it pays expenses is as inconsequential in the general scheme of securing an open river as is a speck of dust to the planet Mars. The portage road in the contemplation of ends to be served is nothing; the navigated Columbia river is everything. The water haul is perfected transportation. It is cheap while railroad transportation is costly. The $55,000,000 the United States government has spent on the Great Lakes system saved, as stated by the secretary of the rivers and harbors congress, on the freight in and out of Lake Superior in 1907 the great sum of $338,000,000. The saving since 1881 has been $2,000,000,000. The saving on the Great Lakes system over what the freight would have cost by rail has been $5,000,000,000 or as much as the entire wealth of Spain. The average rail haul in the United States, as given in Poor's Manual, costs 7.82 cents per ton-mile. The cost by water haul on the lakes is eight tenths of a mill per ton-mile. The cost for carrying coal from Pittsburg through the Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans is one third of a mill per ton-mile. The secretary of the rivers and harbors congress says river transportation is cheaper than on the lakes, and the cheap haul on the lakes has left its impress on civilization and vastly increased the comforts of life by placing the iron ores of the Superior region within the reach of man at the low water haul cost. These economic truths are known to railroads, and the railroads have to the limit of their power opposed the development of rivers. They hire lobbyists and subsidize newspapers. Through such influences, up to a few years ago, the upper Columbia had ceased to be used. There were no warehouses along the river. There were no grain buyers. There were no facilities. The railroad had everything monopolized. The great river with its priceless opportunity for transportation at one eighth the rail haul, or less, was unused. Its possibilities were little realized. The people knew nothing but the railroads. How was it to be opened, how was the federal government to be induced to appropriate money for removal of obstacles to navigation?

Thousands of localities and communities constantly beg congress for government aid. How is that body to determine which is worthy and which not? No sign of merit is so sure as local self-help. The building of the Cascade portage road by the state infinitely hastened government construction of the Cascade locks and canal. The enormous reductions of freight rates that followed the opening of the road testified to its value and became a most powerful reason to congress for undertaking the Celilo canal and locks. A further instrumentality in the same behalf was the building of the state portage road at Celilo. The canal and locks are to cost $5,000,000. It is now on a basis where its early completion is assured. Until the state had acted the river had lain barriered and unimproved since time began. Aid had been asked but never given, or if vouchsafed, was doled out in driblets that were as a drop of water on the bosom of the ocean. It was to give congress the hard, cold material facts to convince that body by stern practical considerations that aid for the great river was needed that the portage roads were built.

They did their work. They brought government aid. More than this, they have already established a traffic on the upper river. Where only the jaybird and the kingfisher broke the silence of the river solitude, boats are running, more are building, warehouses are multiplying and activity is at hand. Boats are penetrating to Priests Rapids and Lewiston, and the state of Washington has appropriated $125,000 for improvement of the upper river channel. Congress has before it a project in which the confidence of the people is demonstrated by their investments in improvements and in the activities of actual navigation. The great work of bringing the Columbia river into use as a transportation artery is assured, and the portage roads were premier factors in the campaign. If the Great Lakes, carrying freight eight times cheaper than the railroads can do it have been of value, if the utilized rivers of the east are carrying coal at one twenty-third the rail cost, if lower transportation is as all authorities agree the vital instrumentality for life comforts and easy living, is it not worth while for Oregon to utilize this great Columbia river, even though the railroads and their organ oppose it? In view of the facts when the scuttle expert of the Oregonian juggles with figures to show that the portage road doesn't pay expenses, have we not the performance of the burrowing mole that refuses to live in the light of the beautiful sun?

TAXES.

AN ADJUSTMENT of taxes between the counties has been effected by the temporary tax commission named by the legislature. Uniformity between the counties will be measurably accomplished. The uniformity as between individuals will be less marked. In this respect, there is a principle that tax authorities have not yet sufficiently recognized. The city owner on whose lot there is a large accretion of value due to increased population, does not pay a just proportion. His lot, for instance, in Portland, that was worth $3000 or at the utmost $3500 two or three years ago, will bring in the market $6000 now. His block that a decade ago was worth but $100,000, may be worth a million today. No labor of his caused the increase in value. No enterprise of his did it. He did not employ labor, nor promote industry that brought about his change of fortune. The great increase came to him, not through any effort, superior intelligence or initiative act of his, but was wholly due to the growth of Portland.

The people of Portland created this increased value. The brick mason, the carpenter, the painter, the clerk, the stenographer, the business men, the streetcar conductors, all the trades by their handiwork, all the business men by their enterprise, all the units in the community by their activity and endeavor, which, with the natural position of Portland, attracted thousands of added people here, created this increased value. In equity, the increase that came to the lot owner is not all his, but, being as it is the creation of the community, is in part, or all the community's. The community by its thrift, toil and enterprise earned this increased value, and the owner, having done nothing to earn it, should in thankfulness and without complaint pay to the state a tax squared with his increased fortune. The process would lessen the tax on labor, lessen the tax on enterprise, lessen the tax on business and industrial endeavor, and more nearly equalize the struggle of life. The equity of the process is so certain, and its application so just, that it is mystery that the principle is not more fully recognized and more regularly invoked.

WORTH ALL IT COST

ONE PRINCIPLE set up by the late Oregon legislature with respect to state affairs is worth all the session cost. Its efficacy will be demonstrated later on, and through it added credit be accorded the session. It is the principle of raising state revenues through other sources than taxation of homes. Four measures passed by the session are effective in this direction. The most important is the measure of the house committee on assessment and taxation, which taxes the capitalized net earnings of public service corporations. The lowest estimate of revenues that it will yield is $200,000. It may be considerably more. With the growth and development of the state's industrial life the sum will be vastly increased. It further adds about $40,000,000 to the taxable property of the state. It is a revenue measure of great importance because of the principle it involves. It is a part of the tax system in vogue in Wisconsin, where recently so much revenue was yielded by it that the state actually had more money than it knew what to do with. A portion of it was finally disposed of by devoting it to the state school fund, which in Wisconsin has grown to a magnificent volume.

Along the same line is the Eaton law, which lays a tax of 25 cents to $2 per horsepower per annum on the water powers in use in the state. The amount of revenue it will yield is trifling in comparison with the importance of the principle, and the ultimate limits of revenue it will produce as utilization of the water powers goes on. It is, however, expected to yield a considerable revenue from the moment it goes into effect.

Of the same tenor is the law taxing insurance companies from which an annual revenue of $25,000 is expected, and the law increasing the revenues to be derived by an inheritance tax. In the case of the latter time has already demonstrated its efficacy, and time will add to its revenue-producing power by further confirming its merits and justice as a source of state income. All these measures trend in the same direction and reach interests that have largely escaped payment of the just burdens of government. They are laws whose wisdom the future will abundantly vindicate, and for which, in the future, the people will give the late session much credit.

THE GOVERNOR AND MR. HARRIMAN

GOVERNOR CHAMBERLAIN'S letter of inquiry has brought renewed assurance from Mr. Harriman that a railroad is to be built into central Oregon. Mr. Harriman makes no specifications as to what lines are to be built. His statement is not as full of detail as was the late dispatch from Chicago which declared that the Deschutes line, the line from Klamath to Natron, and a line from Natron to Ontario and Snake river are to be rushed to completion. Mr. Harriman's reply does not go so far. It merely answers Governor Chamberlain's inquiry. That inquiry was if a road, either from a connection with the Oregon Railroad & Navigation from the north or with the Southern Pacific from the west was to be pushed into central Oregon. Mr. Harriman's reply is that the line has been authorized, and that it is in the hands of local officials.

In any event, so far as human assurance is concerned, a railroad into the Madras, Agency Plains and Bend regions appears probable. Mr. Harriman authorized Governor Chamberlain after last summer's conference to make a public statement to that effect. Governor Chamberlain made the public statement, and Mr. Harriman now confirms it by saying the line is authorized and in the hands of local officials.

This and other lines is what the people of Oregon are calling for. This is why the railroad amendment was submitted to the people by the legislature. It is a service that is due Oregon by reason of the great sums the people are pouring into the lap of Mr. Harriman's corporation in railroad earnings. It is no more than they have a right to both demand and expect. Incidentally, they are ready in a spirit of helpfulness to do what they can in removing temporary barriers to construction. The Portland chamber of commerce has offered to aid in getting approval of the maps of the line that are a temporary hindrance because held up by the interior department. The same spirit is, or should be, manifest throughout Oregon. The whole purpose of the people is to get additional railroads, and to lift Oregon out of its present contemptible position of a state that is at the bottom of the ladder in railroad mileage and railroad importance.

PRODUCTION OF GOLD

GOLD WAS produced in 1908 in most of the states and territories of the union. The smallest amount tabulated is $20 for Michigan. Maine is credited with $198, Texas with $545 and Porto Rico with $642. To jump to the other extreme, Colorado heads the list, with an output of $22,811,784, an increase over 1907 of nearly $2,000,000. Alaska comes next with $20,930,784, an increase of $2,500,000. The Nome district sent out $5,153,380, Tanana $9,751,627 and other Alaska districts $625,803. California gained about $2,700,000, its output last year being $19,582,464; Nevada comes next with $12,089,968, a falling off of $3,410,000; South Dakota turned out $7,690,294, a gain of $3,500,000; Utah produced nearly $4,000,000, Montana $3,332,551, Arizona $2,345,308, Idaho $1,450,830 and Oregon $1,119,528. Some of these figures are probably not very accurate, as there is no means provided for obtaining full and accurate returns, and it is believed that some gold is produced that the government does not officially hear of, though most of it is presumed to go to the mint. Then some states may get credit for too much and others for too little. Oregon is at some disadvantage in having no mint and being situated between two states each of which has a mint. Good judges believe that Oregon's gold production is at least twice the amount reported.

The one-sided and deceptive article in the Portland morning newspaper about the portage railroad, and its false intimation or assumption that the road's direct earnings comprised all its benefits, is another indication of the source of that paper's railroad or transportation ideas and arguments. It seems to suppose that it can blind its readers to the benefits of this road in reduced rates and money saved to producers and shippers, and the far greater benefit that will result when the road is extended from Big Eddy to The Dalles and boats are running on the middle and the upper river.

A correspondent of The Journal says alfalfa is worth three times as much for dairy purposes as any other Oregon foods. He is mistaken. Chemical analysis at the Oregon Agricultural college has demonstrated that vetch carries an average protein content of 12 per cent, while alfalfa carries only about 11 and 12. It has also demonstrated that an average acre of kale yields 1200 pounds of protein, which is far larger than the best acre of alfalfa. The kale is an autumn and winter food that is even now being fed green in progressive dairies all over western Oregon. Besides, alfalfa is among the food resources for dairy purposes in Oregon and is being most profitably grown on many farms. In spite of our correspondent's opinion, western Oregon remains one of the best dairy sections in the world.

No postal savings banks law. No parcels post law. No coal conservation law. No income tax law. No trust regulation law. No monopoly restriction law. No Roosevelt policy legislation. But nobody expected any good legislation. But wait; the tariff is going to be revised this spring—by the friends of the trusts.

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 Christian Scientists.

Portland, Feb. 25.—To the Editor of The Journal—In a recent issue of The Journal I read a report of a paper given to the Ministers' association by Dr. J. A. P. McGraw, in which he evidently misinterprets the teachings of Mrs. Eddy and Christian Science. I am not a Christian Scientist, but belong to an orthodox church as they are called, but I believe in all fairness the doctor should allow Christian Scientists to explain their tenets, as they do in all their meetings, and publications. The willing ear given his paper will neither help nor hinder the truth.

What little I have read of Christian Science has greatly helped me in religious life, and particularly the teachings in regard to prayer, which the doctor takes so much exception to. Fruits are the best evidence of proper teaching, and contrasting the large congregations of the Science churches with the empty pews the doctor has for the past few months been preaching to, is a sufficient proof.

CIVITUS.

Should Have Done So.

Portland, Feb. 23.—To the Editor of The Journal—Reading the query in The Journal, "Why not patent pavements on hinges for Portland streets?" let us ask the question: "Why didn't those that laid Portland out make provision for alleys, so merchandise could be handled at the rear and not in the streets?"

A SUBSCRIBER.

This Date in History.

1690—Henry Bull became governor of Rhode Island.

1760—Indians attacked Fort Dobbs, in North Carolina.

1764—Rhode Island college was incorporated.

1807—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet, born. Died March 24, 1882.

1847—Americans defeated the Mexicans at battle of Chihuahua.

1871—Meeting at Washington of joint high commission on Alabama claims.

1895—Postmaster General Bissell resigned and was succeeded by William L. Wilson of West Virginia.

1900—Cronje surrendered to the British at Paardeberg.

1908—William O. Bradley, Republican, elected United States senator from Kentucky.

It Is Paradoxical.

From the Pendleton Tribune.

It is said now and it has frequently been said in the past that when doctors disagree, the undertaker steps in. Umatilla county is now confronted with the diametrically opposed diagnoses of two learned physicians. Dr. Cole says that the normal schools were a graft. Dr. Smith says that the normal schools were not a graft. The legislature performed a painful operation and the undertaker has been called. The corpse still gives evidence of life, but the coroner is ready to sit at almost any moment.

Pope said:

"Who shall decide when doctors disagree,
And soundest casuists doubt, like you and me?"

Progressive Washington.

From the Salem Journal.

How kindly the Oregonian glosses over the "extravagance" of the state of Washington.

It only asks for $7,000,000 in the legislature.

How awfully it roasted the Oregon legislators who appropriated a little less than half that amount.

Everything Oregon does is wrong, says the Oregonian.

Everything Washington does is right.

The Oregonian better move to Washington.

It knows the people of that state would not tolerate its policies six months.

But poor old Oregon will have to stand it for years to come.

The Convention System.

From the Detroit News.

Oh, yes, the convention system is a grand system. The older it gets the better it gets—like limburger cheese. Old "Hosea Biglow," back in war days, sized it up pretty well when he said:

"The call comprehen's
Nut the people in person, but on'y their frien's,
* * * o' the sort that pull wires
An' arrange fur the public their wants an' desires,
An' thet wut we had met fur wux jes' to agree
Wut the people's opinions in futur' should be."

Unfortunately for the convention system, the people are developing some opinions of their own.

The Oregonian's Way.

From the Burns Times-Herald.

The Oregonian picks out Colonel C. E. S. Wood from a multitude who are advocating state aid to railroad building to give him an unwarranted dig and extols Mr. Cotton's stand upon the subject. Colonel Wood is advocating what he believes is right and is sincere. Is Mr. Cotton doing likewise, or is he earning his salary as a Harriman attorney? We could expect nothing else from Mr. Cotton considering the position he holds. If the Oregonian would use its energies, talents and means to assist in bringing relief to a neglected district and show the sincere friendship that Colonel Wood is showing, it might be of much more benefit to the people of Oregon.

Gervais Star: Four wagon loads of fruit trees were brought to the Beers farm on Mission bottom last week. This 600 acre farm was recently bought by a fruit association. Can Hood River beat that for an orchard?

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Last Saturday for Teddy in the White House.

* * *

After March 4 Seattle will swell up some more.

* * *

Some time this spring the trusts will revise the tariff.

* * *

Though a woman won't tell her age, age will tell on her after awhile.

* * *

Bet it doesn't rain 31 days in March. In fact, it didn't in February, by three, at least.

* * *

Bill Sunday should go to San Antonio and rave at Harriman, who says "damned."

* * *

Aside from appropriations, congress, as usual, has done nothing for the benefit of the people.

* * *

No constitutional convention necessary, seems to be the general opinion of the country press.

* * *

If Chamberlain can't play golf, he'd better learn, even if it isn't exactly a Democratic game.

* * *

Bryan can easily beat his last record—for the size of the majority against him—if he runs again.

* * *

Chamberlain vetoed nearly three score bills, and could have vetoed a lot more and done the state no harm.

* * *

There will be a large party in the White House almost continually for four or eight years to come.

* * *

The time is short now in which Roosevelt can whack congress with the big stick. He can scarcely hit it amiss.

* * *

Before trying to convert the people of Korea, perhaps we would better clean up our own moral and religious premises a little.

* * *

It would not tax the space of a newspaper greatly to print a list of all the trusts that Roosevelt has put out of business.

* * *

That false and malicious cartoon in the Oregonian yesterday morning is a pretty advertisement of Oregon to send back east.

* * *

Harriman is quoted as saying that he will build a railroad to Patagonia. After he does that he may turn his attention to Oregon.

* * *

A young Albany society woman says she wishes she was a Swede, because the Swedes have lots more fun than Americans do.

* * *

Governor Sparks of Nevada, at one time wealthy, went broke playing politics. And this in a state with only about 10,000 voters.

* * *

Roosevelt has appointed a negro as municipal judge of the District of Columbia, and now the south is solider against him than ever.

* * *

An Illinois millionaire has married his washerwoman. Thus he saves a cook's wages and laundry bills, but she will have to be fed, and may need some new clothes.

* * *

A new Republican club has been organized in view of the approaching city election. The people need no party clubs to advise them how to vote in city elections.

* * *

The Salem Statesman says the poultry business is on the boom. The prices of eggs and chickens the past few months, or years, for that matter, justify such a "boom."

* * *

If the proprietors of the Oregonian would pay up all the taxes they have dodged, what they equitably ought to have paid, the tax rate could be made pretty low for a year or two.

* * *

If the game laws have to be amended we should like to see something done to the whist player who trumps his partner's ace.—Indianapolis Star. This paragrapher must be a woman hater.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

A meadowlark was caught in the stairway of a business building in Pendleton. He said spring was coming.

* * *

A good farming season in Baker county is assured. The weather conditions are just right, says the Democrat.

* * *

Some Greenleaf chickens are leading a worried life dodging skunks in the chicken house and tree climbing coons. (quadrumania.)

* * *

Farmers around Milton say the prospects at present are that the coming harvest will be the greatest in the history of the country.

* * *

Baker City Democrat: Snow is piling up in the mountains higher than for years and there is not likely to be a shortage of water in the streams the coming season.

* * *

Farmers are jubilant over the prospects of a large crop of grain this year, says the Milton Eagle. Land at $100 per acre don't sound so high if Mr. Farmer gets 40 bushels and sells it for $1. Who said hard times?

* * *

A La Grande company have loaded out within the past few days 12 cars of apples, nearly all being sent to southern markets, one of the cars going as far south as Memphis. There still remains about four cars more to be sent out, says the Star.

* * *

Newburg Graphic: The small boys have been doing their best for the past two weeks trying to usher in springtime by playing marbles on the streets, but with very poor success. A shipment of fishing rods arrived Tuesday and if this don't settle things we will give it up.

* * *

The cheerful Bend Bulletin says: The ingenuity and originality shown by the clubs and church organizations of Bend in giving entertainments of various sorts have made an otherwise dull and tedious season pass off pleasantly and quickly, and given Bend the name of a second Newport.

* * *

Figures compiled by the secretary of The Dalles Business Men's association show that Wasco county is making rapid strides in the fruit industry, in fact, in all of its industries, says the Chronicle. One hundred and twenty-four carloads of fruit and vegetables were shipped from this city during the last year, this amount being nearly doubled as compared with that of 1907.

* * *

Last week a Gold Beach woman, says the Globe, picked about a peck of quinces from a tree in front of her residence, this being the second crop grown on the tree during the year 1908. The tree produced a much larger crop the first time, but the second crop was of as good a quality as the first, fully matured, and of a good flavor when cooked.

* * *

Linn county farmers say the fall grain has passed through the winter so far in good condition, and prospects are good for an average crop, says the Democrat. Fruit prospects are good with the exception of some kinds of berries, which seem to have been killed by the cold weather in January. Stock is getting along quite well but has to depend on being fed as there is no grass in the pastures for any kind of stock and very little in the fields for sheep. Beef and mutton are scarce and high, and of rather poor quality. Farmers are talking of starting their plows, but are doubtful yet about the weather.

* * *

The activity in both the Furnish and the Hermiston land market is an indication that an improvement in the local conditions is assured, says the Pendleton Tribune. The population of both Echo and Hermiston is growing and there are almost daily records of land sales in each of these projects. The development seems to be substantial, as the purchasers are busy improving their lands and putting in fruit trees and preparing for other crops. The conditions could not be more favorable than just at present. The county is certain of a bountiful wheat crop and prosperity is again knocking at the door.

FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

"Lessons of Lexington"—By N. P. Banks

(In responding to the toast of "The Dead at Lexington," at the centennial banquet at Lexington, April 19, 1875.)

I shall, however, take the liberty of speaking as a minute-man; I mean a minute-man as the British understood that phrase before they were exactly instructed what its meaning was. They thought they were men that would stand for only a minute; but they found it represented men who could stand for a century, and for more—men without ambition, without greed, but who did all for their country. What a spectacle they present before the world! How much they have done to change and improve the condition of all nations! We cannot honor too highly the character of the sacred dead that have gone before us. The president tells me that beneath his feet is the spot where Harrington received his death-wound. It is not ours to grieve; it is ours to glory in their achievements.

Such men never die. "The block may soak their gore; their limbs may be strung on castle gates and city walls; but still their spirits walk abroad." The men who died at Lexington deserve well of our country in two respects: in the first, as men who understood their rights and the rights of their fellow-citizens. It was singular with them. In every other part of Massachusetts, and, indeed, in every one of the 13 colonies, there were many men (indeed, there were few exceptions to the rule) that understood perfectly well their rights as subjects of Great Britain, and also their rights as men. And, while they are entitled to our respect and to all the honor that we can pay them, they are entitled to our veneration and our worship in another regard—that they fought the great battle for American liberty.

Other men might have done it as well elsewhere, and at another time; but it is their honor, and it is our good fortune, that they did it here and then. More than this, sir. They have taught the world the great lesson which should never be forgotten. They showed the world what had never been asserted or themselves, in their own way, and in such a manner and at such time as they might choose; that the organizations of the people, and the military power of the state, were for the people themselves. From time immemorial it had been held that a man, born upon the soil of a country, remained the subject of that country to his death; and that there was no power on the earth, except the release of his sovereign, that could separate him from his allegiance to that country. The American doctrine was different. They thought that a man was master, not only of himself, but that he had the right to separate himself from any government with which he might have been connected. Within the last six or eight years it has been acknowledged so universally that it is the law of the world. There is another great change that has come over the ideas of the world. The first act of the American people was to separate the church and state. England has accepted the American doctrine in that regard, as applied to the church in Ireland; and I have heard it from magnates high in the church that they mean to extend it to the church of England as well. But there is still another greater work to be proclaimed. It is, that the world recognizes now that the military power of the nation shall be deposited in its people. I want to say one word more. I want to echo the words which were spoken by General Bartlett. What we desire is peace. War destroys liberty. We may be obliged to fight once in a while, but we fight for the purpose of securing peace. If the republic of the United States remains at enmity with itself, its races, its sections, or its people, there is no hope for liberty, either here or elsewhere. I am, then, for peace. I will not qualify it by calling it honorable peace, because there can be no peace that is not honorable.

The "Standing Evil."

From "The Woman's Invasion," in Everybody's.

To require a man to stand all day at his work may not to be to inflict on him any very great hardship, although the inquiring person who cannot quite believe that mere standing is work may easily satisfy himself on the point by standing on a corner, waiting for a car, from 7 in the morning till 12 and then, after an hour's rest, from 1 in the afternoon till 6.

If women could be regarded simply as delicate men, the argument for providing them with seats would be convincing enough. But women differ from men not only, usually, in muscular strength, but also, always and unalterably, in the fact of being women. It is the wife and the mother in a woman that makes continuous standing for her not only trying but dangerous.

It is for this reason that when any woman, worker or non-worker, wants to make out that she has had really a hard day, she will say: "I've just been on my feet every minute." And it is for this reason that among working women no complaint about dust, dampness, or bad ventilation, no complaint about overdriving and overspeeding, no complaint about low wages, is heard with one tenth the frequency of the complaint about lack of seats.

The Last Straw.

From the Atchison Globe.

An Atchison man has been married five years, and three times a day for five years, or, to be exact, 5475 times, he has stepped to the dresser to brush his hair and has had to tip the mirror back to get a look in. While dressing for an evening out, his wife would keep the mirror seesawing back and forth, she pulling it out to see how her clothes hung in the back and the man pushing it back to adjust his tie and comb his hair, etc. Finally, in desperation, he bought a chiffonier for his own use, but one evening he went home grouchy and found his chiffonier turned around and the mirror tipped forward; his wife was using them both. This was too much, and, grabbing his heavily mounted military brushes, he slammed one at each mirror, uttered a scream and disappeared.

Several sales of land around Tangent lately.

Oregon's Blight

From the East Oregonian.

The progress of a state depends largely upon the attitude of its newspapers. To a far greater extent than the average man realizes the press directs the course of public opinion. A state that has a progressive, untrammeled press will inevitably go forward; but the state that has a press that is narrow or is controlled by selfish interests, is cursed.

Oregon's greatest foe at this time, and it has been the same for many years past, is the Portland Oregonian. The "dog in the manger" policy and the sour balled pessimism of that sheet has done much to thwart the progress of this state. The libels perpetrated by the Oregonian largely caused the death of the state's normal school system. Its subserviency to the railroad interests has helped Harriman keep Oregon bottled up and shelved away like a jar of preserves for future use. Now that the state is trying to help itself the Oregonian is doing its utmost to block its efforts. It has always done so. It opposed appropriations for portage roads and it fought the creation of the railroad commission. When skies were blue and there was nothing at issue it has stood up for Oregon. But whenever the lines of battle are drawn the Oregonian never fails to line up as a henchman for Harriman.

There is something wrong with Oregon. This state is not going forward as it should. It is not holding its own against its sister states of the west. The best of patriots must admit this if they are informed. At least one of the reasons for this is that one of the oldest and largest papers in the state takes an attitude that makes its very existence a blight upon the state.

Running Shots

(Written for the Journal by Fred C. Denton.)

California people are sick of the boodler trials there. Either the boodlers should have been convicted and breaking rock by this time or they should have been turned loose. The law's delays make more anarchy than the entire Russian anarchist colony in this country can. The lawyers themselves make the rich despise the law and the poor hate it.

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While the lawyers and the courts wrangle and ponder, the fish in the Columbia continue to get the can.

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California machine legislators with a railroad collar are in the majority, but the people can make them come to the referendum and initiative if they make widespread demand in and through organized effort.

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Washington is up against the equal suffrage question. Oregon has grown used to voting "nit."

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Knockers afflict every town, large and small, but Portland is suffering from the knocking of a great daily. In the smaller towns the local press stands loyally by the locality. Only in Oregon do we have a great writer getting off columns of knocks for outside consumption, quotation and bewilderment.

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Let us have peace between the critics of the navy and the expert defenders of it. The navy is all right. It sailed around the world and everybody had a good time. It was worth the money anyhow, even if it will soon be out of date and on the scrap heap. The steel trust and the powder trust need the money.

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What in Sam Hill do the people of Oregon want with a new constitution? The one they have has been amended and can be amended at the will of the majority. All that a constitutional convention could give us would be something worse.

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The normal school question will have to be settled by the initiative. No legislature seems to be able to proceed along any line in connection with a fixed policy.

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Scores of laws passed by the recent legislature seem to have given people a pain. Compared to California or Kansas we are pretty well off, thank you.

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As long as the improvements and livestock of the farmer are taxed to build roads the farmer will balk at building them past ten idle acres to get to one utilized acre.

Primary Law Will Stay.

From the Woodburn Independent (Rep.)

The old party conventions got exceedingly rotten; they were abolished. The direct primary method was adopted, and because some numbskulls, on account of it, slipped into office, the advocates of the old convention system have unblushingly declared in a loud voice that the direct primary was a flat failure. They are not willing to give a square deal a fair chance. They can only see justice in the people jumping to the crack of a whip in the hands of a political boss. But the direct primary is a permanent fixture and of a self-adjustable proclivity. It is the people's prerogative, and they will learn to recognize their own importance and the necessity of exercising more care in the selection of nominees. They have already learned the great advisability of standing by the party's choice, but they were taught the scratching business in olden days and sometimes find it hard to forget the lessons mastered in the old school. They will all understand in time that in order to fully protect their direct primary rights, they must make good selections and then stand by them at the general election. Because there have been not a few nincompoops at the recent legislature is no reason why the people should not be given the opportunity to select smarter, honester and more economical and abler representatives. It is certainly no reason why the power of choosing should again be placed in the hands of bosses, who themselves were responsible for quite a number of nincompoops, and a larger number of unrepresentatives. Experience is the best education, and the people are being educated.

Prince Carl of Sweden's Birthday.

Prince Carl of Sweden, brother of King Gustav V and one of the most popular members of the Swedish royal family, was born in Stockholm, February 27, 1861. He received an excellent and liberal education, as befitted the son of the late King Oscar II, himself one of the most learned rulers of his time. Prince Carl has been called the handsomest prince in Europe, six and a half feet in height, a dashing cavalry officer, and a most democratic man in manner and habits. In 1897 he married the Princess Ingeborg Charlotte Frederica, second daughter of the present king of Denmark. The couple have two daughters, the eldest now in her tenth year. The name of the little princess is Margaret and it is a fact of some interest that she is the first Swedish princess to bear that name since 1389, when Queen Margaret resigned her throne as union ruler of the three Scandinavian countries.

As to Nevada's Fighting Strength.

From the Cleveland Leader.

Now that the war scare is over we may be pardoned for wondering how many able bodied volunteers Nevada could have furnished.