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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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It is a folly for an eminent man to think of escaping censure, and a weakness to be affected with it.

RAILROADS AND COMMISSIONS

REITERATED plea of the railroads is that only trained experts can intelligently and fairly decide what freight rates should be; that so complicated and delicate a business problem can only be solved correctly by men with special knowledge and appreciation of all the circumstances and conditions and long experience in studying and applying them.

When Railroadless

TRANSPORTATION is the heart of commerce and industry. Development of a locality is impossible without means of transit.

Six counties of the state are practically without railroads, and cannot be reached by water hauls.

By his resignation Mayor Harper of Los Angeles has confessed that the recall was properly invoked against him.

THE RECALLED MAYOR

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HUGE PROFITS OF THE HARRIMAN SYSTEM

Letters From the People

IN VIEW of the fact that the earnings of the Oregon end of the Harriman system cut a large figure in the grand totals, we publish in another column comments of the Wall Street Journal on the huge earnings of that system.

The net earnings of the system are so great that it is a problem how to get rid of the money.

What grim, sardonic humor there is in the proposition.

What difference in principle is there between the offer made and the building of the road by the people themselves?

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COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Trust Taft. Boost; don't knock. Pay, and look pleasant.

It's the season for growth. Easter and baseball are coming.

Wake up; get busy; it's spring. But big improvements cost money.

Taft has a tremendous opportunity. There's Chamberlain; where's McJannet?

Miss Spring could not keep away any longer. It beats all how seldom a policeman is a real hero.

A little piece of fertile land spells independence. Most officials are good, honest people, after all.

How would it do to hunt out the big tax dodgers? Monday Aldrich and Cannon will resume operations.

Nobody imagined that Roosevelt could keep still so long. This is going to be the biggest year in Oregon's history.

Salem gets prominently into the date lines again next week. The longer a man is dead the greater and better he is, as a rule.

Did you greet your homesteaders with the glad hand? You should. Spring! Why, yesterday afternoon even suggested the ice man.

The legislative leaders are men who can be trusted as about right. A growling, grouchy, gloomy grumbler never was mourned much when he died.

Taste has been defined as simplicity. Then some society women must be tasteless. Farmers have learned, and are organizing. They can run this country if they try, right.

The legislature should straighten up all serious errors, if it does take an extra day or two. Now is also the time to clean up the premises. This is as important as cleaning up politics.

Taft will earn his little \$75,000 a year, if he does his duty, and the Journal believes he will. Hello, Miss Spring; mighty glad to see you, even if your feet are frosty. Put 'em on our back.

Governor Folk has Chautauque engagements amounting to \$17,500. Politics pays for some people. Does anybody who owns desirable business lots want to sell them at the assessed value? Not a man.

The tariff will be somewhat revised, sure. The people are beginning to rule, in spite of Aldrich and Cannon. Come out to the coast this summer. President Taft; you and we'll win all enjoy your visit, even if we haven't possums.

Atlanta Journal: It is to be doubted whether a more popular man than Taft ever held the presidency. Even Chancellor Day has made no complaint. The earnings of the Harriman lines, particularly those of the Union Pacific, continue to make large gains.

Huge Earnings of Harriman Lines, Approximating Twenty Per Cent on Stock.

From the Wall Street Journal.

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A Canal With Locks

From the New York Times.

With that urbanity and broadminded candor which are so characteristic of him, the ex-president informed congress that inasmuch as the lock-type of construction has been adopted for the Panama canal, any attack upon the lock plan must hereafter be considered as "merely an attack upon the policy of building any canal at all."

Also, with that manly courage which is characteristic of him, President-elect Taft declares that he is convinced of the soundness and sufficiency of the lock plan, and that he will assume full official responsibility for its adoption.

We are not quite sure, under the edict of Mr. Roosevelt, whether the penalty for further criticism of a lock canal will be indictment by a federal grand jury in the District of Columbia or summary arrest for high treason.

Whatever may be the nature of the peril, it has been incurred, and woe it will continue to be incurred, by a large number of desirable American citizens. It is our information that a majority of civil engineers in this country, and substantially all shipping men, regard the adoption of the lock type as a deplorable blunder, and the dissenting engineers will be disregarded as of no account. Mr. Roosevelt says that the engineers whom he obligingly sent to the Isthmus with Mr. Taft are the "best qualified to pass upon these very questions which they have examined." Nevertheless, a majority of Mr. Roosevelt's former board of advisory engineers, Davis, and Parsons, being among the number, did not recommend the lock canal, and did advise against the construction of a lock canal substantially on the ground that the plan was impracticable.

So far as we are aware, the assumption that these engineers are opposed to the building of any canal at all must rest upon the unsupported statement of Theodore Roosevelt.

A majority of the engineers who accompanied Mr. Taft, and who now report that they were not appointed for that reason by the president, were readily committed to the lock canal plan. It is not surprising that their brief visit to the Isthmus confirms views already entertained.

The country may, as well make up its mind to provide not less than \$400,000,000 for the building of a canal at Panama on the lock plan. This is, we believe, about \$100,000,000 more than the maximum estimates of cost of a sea level canal, three times the cost.

It is a very serious question that Mr. Taft has decided, and upon which he has so firmly taken his stand. We hope he has not been too much influenced by the state of the mind of those of these engineers, that there will be no trouble about earthquakes, since the locks will be structures of great stability and little subject to damage by earthquake shocks.

Whatever Mr. Roosevelt's opinion may be, we believe that affirmation, a candid world will laugh at it. The American people will not laugh, however, if after completion the canal should be put out of business in two or three years because of a destruction of its locks by earthquake.

The Legislature. From The Dalles Optimist.

The Optimist has from time to time made a little fun of the members of the legislature, which has cost him a good deal to say about their whiskers! But we have in no way attempted to vilify or abuse them.

We have thought and still think the election of Chamberlain was not necessary to preserve honor, and that the election of a Republican was the only logical method for a Republican legislature to pursue. But that is all ancient history. Mr. Chamberlain is our senator, and the state is not to be divided by the way we supposed it would be settled. We did not suppose he could be defeated (after his indorsement by the voters last June), but fought for our honest convictions. We lost, but that has nothing to do with the question.

We do wish to say a word in commendation of the work, other than political, of the present legislature, and that is this: We believe they did better work than any legislature in the state for a great many years. The personnel of the body was above the average, and they gave us many good laws, besides having the stamina to scotch, if they did not kill, that foul national school grack which has cost the state so dear, and which has tainted nearly all of our legislation for years.

We do not believe a single member of the present body made a nasty deal of a dirty deal during the session. We believe their every action was performed with a high sense of public duty, and that the public will so consider their acts.

The Appropriations. From The Dalles Optimist.

From certain quarters there is a terrible howl going up about the heavy appropriations of the legislature, and from a casual perusal of these remarks one would think that the state is sure to go into bankruptcy. But it is all base and nonsense. The amount appropriated was more than formerly, but who wanted it less? Nobody but a lot of soreheads who have no sympathy with any of our institutions.

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