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What you demand is here. You travel the world in search of happiness, which is within the reach of every man; a contented mind confers it all.—Q. Horatius Flaccus.

A MISTAKEN CRITICISM

IN COMMENTING recently upon the action of the city council in appropriating money for the purchase of the Sellwood park tract, The Journal made the mistaken statement that the price fixed by the ordinance for the property was \$80,000. It seems that this was the price asked later by the owner of the property, but the figure named in the ordinance was but \$62,000, and a member of the council explains that this was inserted, not as the price to be paid, but as the maximum limit, beyond which the city should not go.

Such inquiry as The Journal has been able to make confirms these statements and shows that the published criticism of the council in this instance was not justified. The Journal has found much to criticize in the acts of the council and therefore is the more ready to acknowledge its mistake in a case like the present one, where criticism was not warranted by the facts.

Mayor Lane vetoed the ordinance for the purchase of the Sellwood park tract, and recommended that the property be acquired by condemnation. The council, recognizing the value of the suggestion, sustained the veto unanimously and condemnation proceedings were instituted, resulting in a verdict giving the property, or rather a portion of it, to the city at a price of \$47,000. A small portion of the tract, it is stated, was not included in this proceeding, and another suit must be instituted if this additional piece is to be secured by the city.

The acquiescence of the council in the mayor's veto shows that the councilmen became persuaded that their original action was mistaken, but the charge that they were guilty of extravagance and recklessness does not seem justified.

UNDER WHICH SYSTEM?

YES, IT is a good deal of a puzzle to the average voter—the ballot, with all its charter amendments. Doubtless there are too many of them; that is, some are trivial, or at least not of great importance one way or the other. In a few years, we may reasonably suppose, not enough signatures can be obtained to petitions for such measures to get them before the people. It is true that so far too many voters sign petitions for too many things. This evil of the system will gradually correct itself, or perhaps can be corrected by modifications of the law. But cannot intelligent voters at the polls discriminate, even as to such unimportant matters as these? Most of them can, and come to a reasonable conclusion. And whether they vote these matters up or down is of little consequence. But when it comes to something of large, general importance, something that interests a great many people who are talking about it, we may be pretty sure that the people generally will vote on it, and decide right.

But again, suppose the ballot is somewhat of a puzzle; suppose too many measures are submitted on it; suppose there has been too much petitioning and signing of petitions, what then? Are the voters not learning about their affairs? Do they not think more about them and understand them better? And if they keep on legislating to some extent, being careful to keep the power of doing so in their hands, will they not yearly grow in competency, in wisdom, in fitness to judge of all public matters?

Conceding some of the criticisms that have been made of the present system and situation, do the people want to drop all the hold they have gained, to give up all the privileges they have acquired, to admit that they are incapable of passing on local measures, of either little or much importance, to abandon all power over local affairs and turn

them over again to the politicians, the rings, the bosses and the interests? Do they want to revive the old system under which the masses of voters could do nothing and know nothing? This is what is proposed, suggested, if not openly advocated, from day to day. And it is what will be attempted as surely as Mr. Simon is elected mayor.

WHAT RIVERS MEAN

IN ADDITION to spending \$110,000,000 for deepening the main stem of the Erie canal, New York is preparing to build the Cayuga-Seneca canal. Governor Hughes having signed a bill submitting the latter proposition to the electorate for approval. Though New York is threatened with railroads, the supremacy of the American metropolis is threatened by diversion of products through the St. Lawrence to Canadian ports, due to the cheaper water haul. The water haul movement is everywhere becoming more marked, because it is infinitely less expensive and cannot be monopolized. In Germany canals are being built and rivers canalized with a vigor and determination in which hundreds of millions are literally poured into the various projects. There the railroads welcome the canals as a means of relief from the less profitable slow and heavy freights.

The movement everywhere is to be more and more accentuated. It is an expensive business to operate a railroad. Every day in the year an army of section men repair tracks. Every seven or eight years the ties must be renewed. At proper intervals the rails are replaced. Bridges, whether of steel or wood, have their day of usefulness and go into the scrap heap. Rolling stock is perishable and locomotives pass into the obsolete. The toll of repairs and betterments upon railroad enterprise is enormous. The navigable river pays no expense for replaced rails or renewed ties. It is the government's highway and is costless to transportation. It pays no interest charges, no dividends to Wall street captains of finance. It lasts as long as water flows and is not Harriman's or Hill's, but the country's. Its cheapness for transportation purposes is so obvious that it is amazing that men have been so long in discovering and utilizing it. Do Portlanders realize what her rivers might be made to mean to Portland?

THE KELLAHER PROPOSAL

ANXIOUS to reduce the Simon opposition to a single candidate, Mr. Kellaher offers to withdraw and let which one remain in the field. Mr. Kellaher's concern for a concentrated opposition is to be applauded. It is the absence of concentration that is the delight of Mr. Simon and his supporters. However, when the ballot was counted in the primary election there was but one anti-Simon candidate. The product of those primaries, fairly and orderly conducted, was Mr. Simon and Judge Munly. It is on this account and because of his known fitness that The Journal is supporting Judge Munly. It seems a reason why all anti-Simon voters, Mr. Kellaher and Mr. Albee included, should support Judge Munly. All three stand for the same consuming principle, viz. the defeat of Simon. All three stand for a clean, progressive city. All three are adherents of the primary law. All three are exact antitheses of Joseph Simon. How passing strange that all three should be candidates, especially when originally there was but one and that the reason why there are now three is because Mr. Albee and Mr. Kellaher later entered the field.

Several large cities are defending themselves against the glorious Fourth. The annual death roll from explosives and the usual maimed and mangled at the close of our country's natal day is yielding restrictive legislation. No explosives are hereafter to be permitted in the national capital except in connection with citizens' celebrations, and then under rigid restrictions. Chicago has a new ordinance licensing dealers in fireworks and prohibiting the more dangerous explosives. Toy pistols, toy guns, toy cannons and blank cartridges cannot be sold or used. Firecrackers two inches in length and a quarter of an inch in diameter or under are permitted, but no others. No fireworks or firecrackers containing explosives more powerful than black gun powder are permitted. For violations dealers are fined \$50 to \$200 and celebrators \$5 to \$200. It is the climax of the anomalous of the fine abstraction of liberty to be emphasized with a riot of dangerous explosives, and it is comforting to observe the drift from an impossible to a sane celebration of the Fourth.

Years ago the "Sunset" or Bell Telephone company somehow obtained what is alluded to as a blanket franchise in Pasadena, Cal., but the city later saw fit to require the company to get a new franchise, under certain terms or pay a license tax under the old one, which of course it would not do. The city and the company went to law and the city won on every point, the court holding the company a trespasser, so the city authorities cut its cables and put it out of business. Up in

Oregon the same company is fighting a state tax, imposed by the people, and the case will go to the United States supreme court. It is a corporation, long a monopoly, that seems determined to resist taxation everywhere and to whatever extent possible. But after awhile it may learn that the people have some rights in the matter. By the way, if a blanket franchise for telephone lines granted a few years ago is practically revocable, or taxable at will by a city, it would seem that that old permit to a railroad company organized 40 years ago to use Fourth street free would not be a perpetual free franchise to all the successors of that company to the end of time.

TAKT AND CONGRESS

OF COURSE everything that President Taft says on any public question is interesting and possibly important, not only because he is a man of much ability and wide experience in public affairs, but because—he is president. In a speech at Petersburg, Va., last week he said: "I am not going to be mean enough to say that a tariff for revenue is just the same as a tariff for protection if it reaches the same amount"—a shaft of humor worthy of a presidential Mark Twain—"but what I will say is that if a man in Alabama is in favor of \$2 on lumber for revenue and a man in Washington is in favor of \$2 on lumber for protection, they haven't any great amount of dispute between them as to the duty they want to have put on lumber." Here, neatly punctuated, is exposed the pretensions as to "principles" of both parties, and of the politicians of all sections. It is the thing, the result, that is important, not the name, the pretense, the "principle."

But being president, and a statesman, and not Mark Twain, Mr. Taft added: "I am not in favor of a \$2 duty on either the Alabama or the Washington lumber." Here is a positive, definite statement that is significant. Mr. Taft may not send any roaring special messages, but he took this occasion to say, very specifically, that he was not in favor of this duty. That was not in favor of this duty. That was not in favor of this duty.

The New York World, that strongly objected to Roosevelt's attempt to control congress, now says that "the time has come for President Taft to assume the actual as well as the nominal leadership of his party." But how? The World would not have him "usurp the functions of congress or bulldoze senators and representatives or seek to bribe them with patronage, but speak his mind frankly and fearlessly." Well, didn't Roosevelt speak "his mind freely and fearlessly" on some questions? And what effect did this have on congress? And the World objected to his doing so. Taft spoke "freely and fearlessly" in one sentence of 17 words; if that has no effect on his party, or the extreme protectionists of both parties, in congress, perhaps Mr. Taft thinks it would be a mere waste of breath to declare himself as to all the thousand-and-one iniquities of the Aldrich bill.

The World says: "No other one thing would do so much to clear up the situation as for Mr. Taft to describe the kind of a tariff bill that he, as a Republican president, thinks a Republican congress should pass to redeem the Republican party's pledges." But wouldn't that be an attempt to "usurp," or "bulldoze"? The president has said one thing clearly: will congress act on that? No. Then why should he vainly plead any more? When congress yields to his positively expressed views on lumber, probably Mr. Taft will make another remark or two. Meanwhile he might as well play golf.

A prominent railroad official making a business visit to Portland, alluding to the benefit to the people of money saving combinations of railroads, said: "If the railroads build a new line or expend any money it is the public that has to pay for it in the end." True enough, and the people have to pay pretty highly in many cases, too; but out here in Oregon they want more railroads, even if the cost is high, railroads through very resourceful regions where there is none now, and where it is demonstrably certain they would pay. And if, as Mr. Woodruff says, the people pay for the railroads and all the expenses connected with running them, why shouldn't they have them?

A Washington report of the encounter between Senator Bailey and a newspaper correspondent says that the senator's speech was "a scathing arraignment of newspaper men," and that he characterized the writer of this particular article as an "infamous liar" and "a miserable creature unfit to associate with honest men." As to this correspondent or his article we know nothing, but the chances are that he hit Bailey with a weapon of truth in a tender spot. Bailey has not liked newspapers ever since the publication of his transactions with a certain Mr. Pierce of Stand-

Letters From the People

Letters to The Journal should be written on one side of the paper, 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 endorsing 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.

The Municipal Lighting Amendment, Portland, Or., May 27.—To the Editor of The Journal—There are a large number of amendments to be voted on at the coming city election, and among that number there is one that seems to me to be of great importance. The tax-payers and light consumers of this city.

The one to which I refer is the municipal lighting plant. We all know that at the present time the private lighting in the city of Portland is very poor, and that the present company has not sufficient electrical energy to supply the consumers with good lighting. We also know that the city of Portland is not even fairly well lighted, and that at the present time there are orders for hundreds of arc lights, that have not been furnished on account of the expense to the city.

If the expense at the present time is so great, you may know it is, what will it be when our city is properly lighted? The amount of money which will necessarily have to be expended in the next three or four years, will startle the taxpayers of this city, for if our city is properly lighted, it will cost at least \$200,000 to \$250,000 a year for arc lights alone, and this will increase from year to year, as our city increases in population, and the limits are not known.

I have before me a copy of The Seattle Times, under date of April 6, giving report of the operation of their city lighting plant, their earnings, etc., for the past year, which is in part as follows: "Greater Seattle's municipal lighting plant earned \$318,543.49 last year, and after caring for its obligations, except the construction work carried for by bond issue, there was a net surplus of \$61,972.72."

The operating charges of the plant amounted to \$129,795.01; reconstruction charges, \$11,775.91; reserve for depreciation, \$67,067.12; sinking fund, \$35,000.00; interest charges, \$50,100.00. These figures are taken from the annual financial statement, prepared by Chief Accountant D. W. Lamb.

Two weeks ago the capacity of the power plant situated on Cedar river, three miles below the city, was increased four fold or from a peak load capacity of 5000 horsepower to 20,000 horsepower.

It will be seen from the report of the power plant that the city of Portland, in the city of Seattle, covering a period of one year, that it has been very successful. This is more apparent when we take into consideration the conditions under which the plant was operated. You will not notice on the statement of the power plant, that the capacity of the plant up to the present time has been only 5000 horsepower, and has recently been increased to 20,000 horsepower. If the same rate of earnings continued under the increased capacity you will readily see that the earnings of the company will be considerably increased, yet the reserve for depreciation, sinking fund and practically all the money more than the present charges.

This is accounted for to a great extent from the fact that in the first installation of this plant they made provision and built for this increased capacity, and practically all the money necessary has now been spent for the construction part. This being the case there can be but little additional charge to the present one, for the sinking fund, interest charges, and the depreciation.

With reference to the reserve for depreciation, while we do not question perhaps the policy of setting aside the money which has been done, yet at the same time the engineers' report states that the operation and reconstruction charges practically take care of all the depreciation, and that this large sum of money is set aside for the purpose of preventing adverse criticism of their policy.

You will further notice that the sinking fund is ample to take care of the bonds issued, and that if the sinking fund is not made up, the city will every year they will have ample money in 20 years to build an entirely new plant.

It is unreasonable to suppose that the maximum price for lighting in the city of Seattle is only 8 1/2 cents per kilowatt hour, as compared with 15 cents in the city of Portland, it seems almost incredible to think that they can have done what they have done, and that it has not been understood too, that they have been in competition with two other companies in that city.

If this is a guide for the future of the city of Seattle, it is safe to say that with the present rates in the present rates in the city of Seattle will be reduced to at least one half of what they are at the present time, for I understand that the city of Seattle does not intend to make money out of the plant, but to give the residents of that city the benefit of all earnings in a decreased rate for lighting.

I understand that the city of Tacoma is purchasing the electric energy in the city of Portland, at 15 cents per kilowatt hour, and in turn is selling it to consumers at 6 cents per kilowatt hour, this being the maximum price for lighting, and as compared with the price paid in the city of Portland, it is a great saving to consumers in the city of Tacoma. Notwithstanding the fact that they are now able to furnish electrical lighting at this price they are getting ready to put in their own electric lighting plant.

There appears to be now only one

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Not many people excited over election yet. That Newcomers' club idea was a good one.

Get good and ready for the Rose Festival. There is no enmity any more between the Blue and the Gray.

Congress is at least not bothered with presidential messages. It is doubtful if Roosevelt will find any tigers of the blind variety in Africa.

Everybody who has to work might as well believe that labor is a great virtue. Decoration day should be especially sane and decorous when it falls on Sunday.

If there were many Roosevelts, Africa would soon need a set of strict game laws. A good many of the old veterans are yet hale and active, and some, indeed, not yet really old.

It is thought by some that alfalfa is a good foodstuff for people as well as animals. But wouldn't it soon become too dear?

Before we read it in the Chicago papers were going to remark that the earthquake throughout Illinois may have been due to the senatorial election.

A half dozen silver spoons were found in the stomach of a Philadelphia man operated on a few days since. Of course such a politician is always true to the party.

The completion of the Corvallis & Alsea railroad to be celebrated by breaking a bottle of milk and honey. Now that was really more appropriate than a bottle of wine.

Mr. Harriman at any rate has a lot of very valuable Seattle and Tacoma real estate—at the prices he paid for it. He is a jolly good fellow.

The old Sunday or Sabbath of former times is being revived in the city of the Southern Presbyterian in their assembly. It takes some people a good while to acknowledge a long established fact.

The widow of a man drowned while drunk recovered \$5000 damages from the saloonkeeper who sold him the liquor. If this principle is carried out in all cases of death of drunken men, saloon-keeping will become a risky business.

Mr. James K. Sears of Polk county is in other respects an excellent citizen, no doubt, but as a standing and mischievous doer of a mischief, Mr. Sears is becoming a chronic knocker and so to this extent a nuisance.

Mr. Bryan's divorced daughter, Mrs. Leavitt, is true to her political upbringing; she will deliver an address at the state meeting of the Jane Jefferson League in Denver next July on the subject of the upbuilding of the Democratic party.

Every year a little thinner grow their ranks, as with flowers they march on Decoration day; every year to fewer and fewer the ranks of the world's view them grown more gaunt and gray. More of them yearly, wearied, faint, and fall; faster flies among their lessening ranks. Death's dart, once it comes to them the final conqueror's call; often from their friends must come the funeral dirge, and more and more should the aging remnant be made to feel that in our nation's life they played; honor them as they may, but do not let their names be again he theirs when among their comrades they are laid.

Salmon trout are running in Cohoos creek this season for the first time in many years, says the Prineville Review. This trout has in several years been scarce, and is a favorite and choice delicacy, being without the red scales almost entirely, although the meat is pink. It follows a fine stream will now have to be ordered to feed upon the eggs, and its presence in local waters would indicate that salmon have come into central Oregon once more.

A Mosier man, according to the Bulletin, has taken a watch charm from a watch chain of 1788, which he says he found in a hole in the wall of an old building. It is a "commonwealth" on one side and an Indian head with bow and arrows on the other. A traveling man offered Mr. Nichol \$10 for the coin, and he took it. Soon another traveling man offered Mr. Nichol \$10 for it and still another man, who claimed to know, said the coin was worth \$20.

The French blouse is much in evidence among the gossams, and the stock that fastens at the back is shown without even a suggestion of a jabot or with a narrow ruffled collar. The blouse shown in the shops include every variety, from the plain and almost severely simple, to the most extravagantly adorned blouse which may be worn for certain society functions during the hot season.

A coat and skirt of linen in a medium dark shade, with half a dozen blouses of fine soft texture, make an ideal blouse for the summer. The blouse shown in the shops include every variety, from the plain and almost severely simple, to the most extravagantly adorned blouse which may be worn for certain society functions during the hot season.

The only objection to the coat and skirt suit is that the coat may be worn only with its accompanying skirt, and some business women are welcoming the return of the separate coat or top-coat as it is now called. These coats are being shown in light shades, and light frocks are not in best taste for street wear, except on scorching hot days. The blouse suit, however, requires frequent attention on the part of the wearer, even if it is dark enough in color not to soil easily, and if the blouse suit cannot make the use of the blouse, blue or stone gray moire coat and skirt will be a wise choice and the coat should be lined with the thinnest of China silk or with dotted foulards.

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OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Roseburg's motto is, "Keep smiling." Modest merchants have formed an association.

A single branch near The Dalles has 50 full grown apricots on it.

Over 60 people are on the payroll of the Eugene woolen mill, a full force.

Nearly 1000 people attended the second rhododendron festival at Florence.

Fruit crop around Brownsville will be larger than last year, says the Times.

A new oil company has been organized for the purpose of prospecting for oil near LaCumb.

Until lately Tillamook was served by only one boat; now there are three, and there will be more.

The latest chaplain, mean person in Tillamook; he robbed a bank of small Sunday school children.