EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

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To be proud of learning is the greatest ignorance.—Bishop Taylor.

THE DEVELOPMENT CONGRESS

IT IS what Emerson calls the "plus" men that bring results to a community, city or state. It would be a godsend to Portland if a bunch of down east Yankees with tastes for seagoing enterprise would locate in this city. An ocean commerce with a vast trade in Alaska and other distant territory would soon be added to what Portland already has. It is a boon to the state that there are in it such men as those who are devoting time and talent to the Oregon-Idaho development congress. It is the agitators who blaze the trails of development. Ordinary men are wont to be concerned only with personal affairs and fail to take account of the larger projects involved in greater city and greater state measures. It is the agitator who arouses him from private affairs into interest in the public field. The more of such awakening there is the faster and more virile will be the development of the state.

The development congress is to meet at Burns July 1 and 2. A fine program of addresses has been arranged. The discussions will involve topics that lie nearest to the public heart and will include consideration of irrigation, transportation and other vital issues. All over Oregon there is a cry for more transportation assets. Many localities are organizing in efforts to build local lines of railroad. In some of them the work of construction is actually in progress, with local men as backers and promoters. The congress is a promotive organization that preaches the gospel of self-help and self-reliance. Its messages appeal to the resolute phase of Oregon life, and its purpose is the upbuild of the state. It deserves sympathy and support from Portland and Portlanders because Portland is in Oregon and Oregon's promotion is Portland's promotion.

At the Burns session of the congress leading men from Idaho will be participants and the occasion should be one of very great profit.

A REMARKABLE MOVEMENT

A REMARKABLE phase in Oregon life at the moment is the movement in many localities for local railroads. The desire for better transportation is everywhere uppermost. Articles of incorporation for the Coos Bay & Inland, to extend from Marshfield to Roseburg were filed at Salem Wednesday. Articles incorporating a proposed line from Independence through the Siletz to Cape Foulweather were filed Monday. A proposed line from Oakland to Empire City has been incorporated. A line from Corvallis through a rich agricultural belt and tapping 3,000,000,000 feet of standing timber southwest of Monroe is being built and will reach the timber zone within 60 days. A sawmill of 150,000 feet daily capacity to be built at Corvallis for manufacture of this timber into lumber is the sequel. Thirty thousand dollars was contributed by Corvallis and the people along the line toward construction of the road and the remainder is financed by Idaho capitalists.

Eugene is making strong efforts to secure construction of a line from that city to Siuslaw. The Salem, Dallas and Falls City line, according to the Salem Journal, is being built as fast as men and capital can put it down and will be running in 60 days. Salem is agitating for a line from that city to Stayton. The Oregon Central, a line to extend from Union to Walla Walla, has been organized by New Haven and Boston capitalists. David Eccles is to extend the Sumpter Valley from Austin to Prairie City, a distance of 22 miles. Private interests are moving to build an electric railroad from Cascadia to Lebanon, for use in transporting lumber to market. The United Railways has a big force of surveyors in the field on the line from Forest Grove to Tillamook. The farmers of Umatilla county are seeking means for building an electric road from the Columbia river for getting their wheat to market on living terms.

The list might be extended. It does not include any of the Harriman activities. It does not include the Oregon Electric. It illustrates the earnest desire in the various localities for better transportation facilities. It is reflective of the earnest purpose of a self-reliant people, weary with waiting on others, to help themselves. It is not a wild scheme or dream, but in many cases, a lucid and practicable proposition.

Western Oregon will ultimately be checkered with electric roads. In time enormous earnings will come to them. If local people build them the future usufruct will come to them, instead of to foreign magnates. The Hirschberg road from Independence to Dallas and other points has been profitably operated for years by a local owner. It will be possible for other local roads to be similarly operated. The Oregon Electric ought to have been built by Portland and Oregon capital. More than $100,000,000 of deposits is lying in Oregon banks. It is better for Oregon capital than for eastern capital to finance Oregon electric roads, for that is a means of keeping the usufruct at home.

No spot on the planet is more favorably situated for a future profitable operation of electric roads than western Oregon and parts of eastern Oregon. Rich agricultural lands for intensified farming and a dense population are everywhere. The Willamette valley can support a population of 300 per square mile, and the electric roads will bring that population. It is not accident that is already lining the Oregon Electric with five acre farms, where once farms ran from 100 to 500 acres. The electric road did it.

Besides the rich agricultural lands there are water powers everywhere for cheap operation of the roads. No state in the union has so much power in her streams. Rhode Island has 410 people to the square mile and electric roads at almost every door in spite of a climate and soil beside which Oregon's are a paradise. The aspiration of Oregonians in many localities for independent railroads could have fruition if it would, and it will be the acme of sanity if the citizens in each cling to it until they win. "All great captains have performed vast achievements by adjusting efforts to obstacles," said Napoleon. "A man accustomed to work is equal to any achievement he resolves on," declared an eminent philosopher.

THE M'LOUGHLIN HOME

IT IS to be surmised that the people of Oregon City who have opposed the movement to preserve the old McLoughlin home have not sufficiently considered its real meaning and significance, and perhaps fail even to realize and recognize the enormous value to the Oregon country of the work of that grand and noble man. The worst indictment that could be brought against some of the early settlers of Oregon would be their treatment of McLoughlin, and this generation should do what little it can to rectify that shameful record.

To maintain the old house is a mere matter of sentiment, it may be said. Very well; it is an important thing to keep alive and hold sacred sentiments of appreciation and love and veneration for such doers of noble and patriotic deeds as Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln and, in a smaller but yet, as it should be to us, a very important field, McLoughlin. The old house, suitably fixed and attended to, will not be a blotch on the Oregon City park, but an ornament; one, with its associations and memories, more desirable than a marble palace.

Its value will increase, if it can be preserved, from generation to generation, for the farther Dr. McLoughlin is removed in point of time from living scenes the brighter will his life and services grow; and whatever is a concrete reminder of him should and will become more precious to Oregonians as the generations pass.

ANOTHER PORTLAND ANNEXATION

ANOTHER LARGE strip of territory has been annexed to commercial Portland. The stress of competition by railroads for economy in moving freight is working out the natural order. Men's whims may temporarily delay, but they cannot control manifest destiny. With the Oregon Short Line as sponsor, the Lemhi & Salmon Valley railroad is programed and is to extend from the vicinity of Blackfoot, Idaho, to Lewiston. In its entire sweep it will follow water courses, and by that token avoid the over-mountain lifts that railroad builders in these days of mad search for economy of operation are moving heaven and earth to escape.

The proposed line leaves the Mackay branch at Cerro Grande, follows the Lost river, Birch creek and Lemhi river to Salmon City and thence along the Salmon and Snake rivers to Lewiston. The distance is 508 miles, and in connection with the present water grade line from Lewiston to Portland will give Portland a downhill road of 846 miles, stretching into northern Idaho with complete control of the Clearwater country. A portion of the same country is tapped by the Pocatello-Huntington route, but in the latter there are over-mountain lifts, and the new route is programed in obedience to the inexorable demand for reduced cost in the freight haul. It is in part the sequel to the North Bank road down the Columbia and the plans of Mr. Hill to bring all possible territory within reach of this most economical of all lines. It is the strategy of Harriman answering the strategy of Hill, and the consequence is more and more territory riveted to Portland by that cheapest of all known railroad routes, the water level line.

That the future will see this line built is almost certain, for it is an issue that the compelling stress of competition will determine. When built it will give Portland every advantage known to commerce in a territory of great mineral and timber wealth, of vast agricultural possibilities, and will divert to this city a huge traffic now routed to other centers of distribution.

THIS THEATRELESS CITY

BY A strange coincidence, at the very time when Portland is without a first class theatre an unusually large number of stellar attractions are offered this city. The withdrawal of the Heilig from use as a playhouse is followed by the offer of an extraordinary number of New York successes for next season. The humiliating feature in the situation is that, though these attractions can be secured, there will be no suitable playhouse in which to accommodate them. It is the more humiliating because, in the past, it has been impossible to secure for Portland that share of the better productions this city so richly merits.

Portland is, per capita, one of the richest cities in the country. It stands practically at the head of the list in point of individual wealth. It is a striking situation when, as is widely known, it stands almost at the foot of the list in point of available playhouses. What makes this a disadvantageous phase in a local way is that to a large section of people a city's standing is largely estimated by the character of its theatres. Half the world likes a good play, and insists on living where it is to be had. At the moment when a great caravan from the east is moving westward in search of homes it is a serious handicap to Portland that she is theatreless, so far as a first class playhouse is concerned. It is a condition that stands very much in the way of the city's growth.

The situation recalls that Manager Heilig is endeavoring to interest Portland capital in the construction of such a theatre as Portland ought to have. It is an enterprise that should powerfully appeal to the many men in Portland who have enormous fortunes that the city of Portland has almost thrown in their laps. Even if no profit was to be made out of the project it would seem that local pride should inspire them to become investors in an establishment that Portland ought to have and without which Portland is a very provincial town. But it is the history of Portland that building and realty investments in it never fail to pay a handsome profit to the investor, a fact that should make easy rather than arduous the effort of Mr. Heilig to give to this theatreless city a playhouse commensurate with its size, its importance and its destiny.

It is expected that street railway companies will in the near future supply their cars with wheels that not only will wear much longer than those now in use, but that will make much less noise, and do less jarring, pounding against the rails, an announcement that will be agreeable to nearly all urban people. The Chicago city railway lately placed an order with the Carnegie Steel company at Pittsburg for 30,000 steel car wheels to replace the cast iron wheels heretofore in use. The limit of endurance of these exceedingly noisy cast iron wheels is 40,000 miles, while the average solid steel forged wheel will run 140,000 miles and is said to be comparatively noiseless, and it is lighter than the old wheel by 200 pounds. As the cast iron wheels wear out or have to be discarded, it is to be expected that the streetcar systems of other cities will be supplied with the more enduring and less noisy steel wheels.

The country in general would approve his action if President Taft would decline to attend any of the numerous celebrations, fairs, anniversaries and other local and comparatively trivial public ceremonies to which he is invited. It is a matter resting entirely with himself, though a president certainly cannot attend scores of such affairs in a year and make a speech at each and very thoroughly perform the duties of his great office. Moreover, he is entitled to a summer vacation, like other hard working people, and he cannot get it unless he turns most of these invitations down, as he would be quite justified in doing. There is such a thing as being too good natured.

The Portland fan who waits and yearns for one or the other of the Portland teams to bring home a pennant meets occasionally with a jolt that maketh the heart sick.

If the Brooklyn sewer has been imperfectly and fraudulently constructed; if it is not up to specifications and cannot be relied upon to perform the expected service, as there seems to be at least some evidence to show is the case, then the mayor and executive board are performing an important, necessary and commendable public duty in refusing to accept it. Such an important and costly piece of work as that should surely be all right before it is accepted.

At Vancouver, Wash., Wednesday, a woman of 21 married a Chinaman of 45. She may think she is happy, may be so a little while, but it will be strange if the years to come, especially if she have children, do not fill to overflowing for her a cup of densely dregged misery. While reprehending, one may pity the action of an abnormal fool.

With the tips of an overland trip on his person, a Pullman porter was held up in his car in the Seattle yards by thieves who got $200. The marvel is that the yeggmen have been so slow in discovering that on a railroad train the passengers are not the only stuffed prophets of plutocracy.

From the estate of Nelson Morris, valued at $16,700,000, who died lately in Chicago, the state collected an inheritance tax of $184,000. Even more than this would have been a reasonable, just tax. If Morris had been an Englishman the tax would have been about $3,340,000.

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.

Owns Several Rare Coins.

Woodlawn Station, Portland, June 24.—To the Editor of The Journal—I see by your paper where a party asked if there were any gold coins minted previous to the year 1907 or 1908 without the motto, "In God We Trust." I have a $10 piece of 1844, a $10 piece of 1847, a $10 piece of 1854, a $5 piece of 1845, without "In God We Trust."

JULIUS KALLICH.

Thinks He Was Misrepresented.

Portland, June 23.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have been a resident of Portland one and one half years; have a home here, and expect to stay here, at least a few days more. I have been a subscriber to The Journal a year and am still taking it. Have always found the paper fair and willing to give everyone a square deal; therefore, I ask your permission to correct some misstatements in Monday's issue concerning the Baptist ministers' meeting of Monday.

Now, I believe had Jesus been present at that meeting, he would not have jeered at the one misspelled work in the comments which I wrote on the blackboard, but would have considered the subject matter and if he found it good, would have commended it; or, if evil, would have condemned it and given his reasons. Remember the word of the Lord: "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of my brethren, ye did it unto me."

The reporter has me written as a "former member of the conference." He should have left out the word former. The reporter also has me advertised as having been ejected from the Highland Baptist church, of which I was formerly pastor, neither of which is true. I was never pastor of any church, and have never been a member of Highland church, therefore, cannot be ejected. The article also charges me with making biased assertions, when in fact nothing was said about bias, except my own remark that I could explain my relations to Highland church, but the brethren might consider my version biased, which remark caused an audible smile to pervade the assembly. Now, Mr. Editor, if you will publish the above in the interest of justice, you have my sincere thanks.

GEO. M. WYATT.

Vienna's Public Air Baths.

From the Lancet.

On the recommendation of several medical men in Vienna the municipality last year opened an institution called here by the popular name of "Gauschaufel." It is simply an open air sanitarium for healthy persons. The old idea that sunlight, air and water are the main restoratives at our disposal was long ago taken up by a non-medical philanthropist, who opened an establishment of the most primitive kind on the banks of the Danube on the outskirts of Vienna. The results obtained by him have prompted the municipality to enlarge the establishment and conduct it on modern principles.

An immense area covered with fine sand, deposited from the Danube, which used to flow there in ancient times, a long river bank with shallow, rapidly flowing cold water and the absence of any shade giving trees are the three principal health giving factors relied on. Special care has been taken to enable schools to make use of the facilities offered there; 4000 persons can undress at the same time, and free tickets have been granted to schools and workshops, so that on some days last summer 10,000 persons were seen there, going about in the open air nearly naked.

It must be admitted that the institution has done much to convince the lower classes of the good influence of a natural mode of life. No less than 200,000 persons have availed themselves of the opportunity offered them, and for this year an increased area has been thrown open for the "air cure." There is a special medical attendant present.

Automobiles for Alaska.

From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

An illustration of how rapidly Alaska is getting up to date with every modern improvement is seen in the establishment of an automobile stage line on the Valdez-Fairbanks road. This line is to start on August 1, at which time the government road will be in condition for automobile use as far as the summit of the mountains. By August of next year it is promised by Major Richardson that the road will be in such shape to travel the entire distance from the coast to the Tanana.

This new line is to start with two high powered machines, and next summer, when the road is completed to Tanana, four more machines will be put on the run. With this auto line in running order, a trip from the coast to Fairbanks can be made in short order and the discomforts of the trail will be a thing of the past.

Where the roads can be put in practicable shape the automobile will have fully as large a field of usefulness in Alaska as it has developed in the desert regions of Nevada, and very largely for the same reason. Where freight rates are so entirely out of proportion to the first cost of the goods as they are in the interior of Alaska, gasoline costs less than horse feed, in proportion to the power developed. The substitution of autos for stages, wherever roads are put into shape for travel, will follow over a considerable portion of the country, should the new line to Fairbanks prove as successful as it promises to do.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Those black hands need iron bracelets.

Two male fools; one dead, the other in jail.

The "ultimate consumer" has few friends.

Some few wives are both expensive and mean.

A great many people didn't see Mrs. Gould drunk.

The loaves got no bigger when wheat went down.

The horrible tariff will apparently hang on all summer.

Radium is now worth $8,000,000 a pound. We don't need any.

When a girl says "I don't care," you may be sure that she does care.

The majority of senators are undoubtedly faithful to their trusts.

The Thaw and Haines cases are some discouragement to would-be murderers.

Now the days begin to shorten and perhaps the heat will begin to strengthen.

The Pole: There's Walt Wellman coming back this way; isn't he a polecat?

Still, it is quite possible to imagine that little Howard Gould isn't very much of a man.

A man who will cruelly abuse his horse will likely on slight provocation do the same to his wife.

A woman who changes her gowns as often as Mrs. Gould did must be expected to swear and get drunk.

Senator Tillman says newspapers are humbugs. But they would not venture to compete as such with senators.

Aldrich will be the logical candidate of the Republican party for president in 1812. He, not Taft, is the leader.

"Joy rides" quite frequently terminate in death or crippled bodies. But the "joy rides" will go on, just the same.

The Roosevelt policies are meeting about the same fate that the African beasts are that are herded up in front of the Roosevelt rifles.

A woman, millionaire was fined $25 for killing a servant girl. It was a shame; the penalty ought to have been marked down to $24.89.

A St. Louis man says he hasn't tasted water in 15 years. Water is defined as a colorless, tasteless fluid, so how could he? But some water can be tasted all right.

"The name Mount Tacoma grows in favor at the exposition," says the Tacoma Ledger. From which it may be inferred that Tacoma people are visiting the exposition liberally.

"Must we stop growing?" asks the Seattle Times. Certainly not; figures are cheap and plentiful. You now carry the announcement that Seattle's population is 309,375. Why not raise it to 397,305? Nothing simpler or easier.

This is the rule, with knave and fool, —get a gun. If with his wife a man has strife, he grabs a gun. If a crazy churl can't get a girl, he shoots her with a gun. Does wrath grow tense over a line fence, one or both insane contestants rush forth with a gun. When a piece of human junk goes out on purpose to get drunk, he generally loads himself first with a gun. Many parents in effect say: "Dear little children, you may play with this pretty thing; it is a loaded gun." Of leading evils this is one, the needless, cruel, deadly gun! As a human curse, few things are worse than the cowardly, murderous gun.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Clatsop is becoming quite a fruit county.

Linn county pioneers—Brownsville, June 22-25.

Fruit crop probably heavy in John Day valley.

Several cement walks being put down in The Dalles.

Mining becoming active around Sumpter and Granite.

Union shows symptoms of waking up, says the Republican.

Will be an abundant crop of wild blackberries in Coos county.

Ten Gold Beach strawberries laid side by side measured 16½ inches.

Great scarcity of farm help and men for irrigation project work around Bend.

The Bonanza, Klamath county, creamery ships butter to Sacramento by express.

Ideal conditions for dairying around Enterprise, says the editor of The Pacific Northwest.

Seaside is growing faster and making more substantial improvement than almost any other little town in Oregon. What we need most of all now, is a few more labor employing industries, says The Signal.

Union has more advantages in land, climate, transportation, opportunities for horticulturists, stock men and home builders than many boosted and widely advertised localities of the northwest, claims The Scout.

From about one and three fourths acres of land a Milton man took 275 crates of berries, which sold at over $3 per crate, or about $825 for all. This same patch of ground has for the past three years put into his pocket about $1500 from strawberries.

A party of men have inspected and bonded some rich placer ground about 12 miles up Evans creek from Woodville, for the sum of $80,000. The proposed purchase, if consummated, will mean the erection of one or more dredges by men who have been operating dredgers for a number of years in California for themselves and for large financial interests.

The strawberry crop around Freewater has been much lighter than in other seasons, but the prices have kept so high that the growers' earnings are above the average. One has already marketed 150 crates and ordered 300 more boxes, and another has sold 300 crates, averaging $2.50 a crate. The cherry crop is now on and the red and blackberries and loganberries are about ready for the market.

There ought to be something permitted to come to Salem besides billy goats, says the Salem Journal. How would a few hundred thousand Germans, Scandinavians, Swedes, Dangs and Englishmen do, who could grub land, milk cows and do ordinary farm work, at less than $2.50 a day and board? Speak to Dr. Withycombe about it. He is a "furriner," and running for governor. Don't let us all be officeholders. Let us have a few laborers in Oregon.

Jacksonville Post: The writer, on a recent trip from this city to Ashland, by way of Phoenix, saw thousands of trees, mostly apple and pear, in fact the hills and valley were literally covered with fruit trees, many being lately planted, one orchard in particular containing several hundred acres, all in one inclosure. In the region north and east of Medford, near Central Point the same conditions prevail, everywhere you look the eye rests on the rows of growing fruit trees, and we venture the prediction that the next 10 years will see this valley one of the greatest fruit producing regions in the world.

FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

The Future of America—By Daniel Webster

(From the oration at Plymouth, December 22, 1820.)

Let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our fathers were brought hither by their high veneration for the Christian religion. They journeyed in its light, and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate its principles with the elements of their society, and to diffuse its influence through all their institutions, civil, political, and literary. Let us cherish these sentiments, and extend their influence still more widely; in the full conviction that that is the happiest society which partakes in the highest degree of the mild and peaceable spirit of Christianity. The hours of this day are rapidly flying, and this occasion will soon be passed. Neither we nor our children can expect to behold its return. They are in the distant regions of futurity, they exist only in the all creating power of God, who shall stand here, a hundred years hence, to trace, through us, their descent from the pilgrims, and to survey, as we have now surveyed, the progress of their country during the lapse of a century. We would anticipate their concurrence with us in our sentiments of deep regard for our common ancestors. We would anticipate and partake the pleasure with which they will then recount the steps of New England's advancement.

On the morning of that day, although it will not disturb us in our repose, the voice of acclamation and gratitude, commencing on the rock of Plymouth, shall be transmitted through millions of the sons of the pilgrims, till it lose itself in the murmurs of the Pacific seas. We would leave, for the consideration of those who shall then occupy our places, some proof that we hold the blessings transmitted from our fathers in just estimation; some proof of our attachment to the cause of good government, and of civil and religious liberty; some proof of a sincere and ardent desire to promote everything which may enlarge the understandings and improve the hearts of men. And when, from the long distance of a hundred years, they shall look back upon us, they shall know, at least, that we possessed affections, which, running backward, and warming with gratitude for what our ancestors have done for our happiness, run forward also to our posterity, and meet them with cordial salutation, ere yet they have arrived on the shore of being.

Advance then, ye future generations! We would hail you as you rise in your long succession to fill the places which we now fill, and to taste the blessings of existence where we are passing, and soon shall have passed our human duration. We bid you welcome to this pleasant land of the fathers. We bid you welcome to the healthful skies and verdant fields of New England. We greet your accession to the great inheritance which we have enjoyed. We welcome you to the blessings of good government and religious liberty. We welcome you to the treasures of science and the delights of learning. We welcome you to the immeasurable blessings of rational existence, the immortal hope of Christianity, and the light of everlasting truth!

This Date in History.

1778—Congress met at the statehouse in Philadelphia.

1813—The "Lawrence," Commodore Perry's flagship, launched at Erie, Pa.

1827—First issue of the "Gazette" in Cincinnati.

1840—Montreal and Quebec incorporated as cities.

1862—Battle of Oak Grove, near Richmond.

1872—President Grant attended the peace jubilee in Boston.

1889—Lucy Webb Hayes, wife of President Hayes, died. Born August 26, 1831.

1896—Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, Canadian statesman, died. Born May 8, 1818.

An organization that has become part of the American Federation of Labor has been established in Washington, D. C. The new body is composed of representatives from all organizations that have a label, and the purpose is to promote the union label products in all parts of the United States.

Harry C. Oberholser's Birthday.

Harry Church Oberholser, one of the foremost ornithologists of America, was born in Brooklyn, June 25, 1870, and received his early education in private schools in New England. Later he attended Columbia university and graduated from that institution at the age of 19. Zoology and ornithology were his favorite studies and before he was 30 years old Professor Oberholser had become noted for his work and writings on these subjects. He was appointed an instructor in the forestry school, established at Biltmore, N. C., and since 1895 he has been assistant ornithologist of the United States biological survey. In his official capacity he has conducted expeditions for the study of birds and bird life in Nevada, Texas and in all of the south Atlantic states. He has been honored with membership in the leading agricultural societies of England and Australia and in America.

His Proviso.

"I can marry a rich girl, whom I do not love, or a penniless girl, whom I love dearly. Which shall I do?"

"Follow the dictates of your heart, my boy, and be happy. Marry the poor one and—say—er—would you mind introducing me to the other one?"

The Rockmen and Excavators' union of Greater New York has made a demand for higher wages. The rockmen want an increase from $2 to $2.50, and the excavators ask for a raise from $1.50 to $1.80.

The REALM FEMININE

Trifles.

HANNAH MORE, an English writer of nearly a century ago, wrote:

"Since trifles make the sum of human things"; a simple observation, but a true one; and Young said:

"Think naught a trifle, though it small appear;
Small sands the mountain, moments make the year
And trifles life."

The significance of trifles in the home life of most people is that they are not allowed to remain trifles. A pretty system of fault-finding ignores the good trifles and magnifies the unworthy trifles out of all proportion, sets wife against husband, husband against wife, brother against sister, sours the conversation of the whole family, stirs up a spirit of disloyalty and turns what would be a happy household into an unwilling association of jarring personalities.

There is no necessity for such a condition of affairs if trifles were kept where they belong, just trifles.

The cream turns sour or the meat is not delivered on time, or somebody has done an errand the wrong way, or a workman has not finished a piece of work when he expected to. Some such trifle as this confronts the husband when he comes home after a day of many petty annoyances, delays, assaults against his good nature. If he is of a small mind he blames the wife for not running her household smoothly—as though it were her fault that the world does not turn for him on rubber tires.

The accident that aggrieved him was a trifle, now it begins to loom large. The wife resents his tone or his implication that she is to blame—another trifle added to the original cause; she replies without thinking seriously how it will sound, and in an instant the whole atmosphere of the home has changed.

You have often picked up in an idle moment those little foolish paper weights that stand around invitingly in the notion stores, which, when disturbed, cause a miniature snowstorm within a small globe. Just so the trifling jar that first caused comment has with its vibration loosened all the angry feelings, the bitter feelings, the unworthy feelings in the minds of all the members of the family, and the storm is upon them.

When the poets say that trifles make life they seem, perhaps, to be exaggerating their importance, but in reality it takes something of a poetic insight to see how trifles set in motion large causes that have a bearing on the minds and characters of individuals. Trifles do not make life because they are of individual importance, but because in their aggregate they are stupendous.

Each one of us needs a divining sense as to what trifles are important and what are unimportant, some method of our own of discerning whether the things that loom big to other people are really big in our own lives or whether they take their place as unimportant details.

You remember in Browning's poem of the remarkable experience of the Turkish physician who had seen and talked with Lazarus after his raising from the dead how well the poet brings out this truth? Browning tells of the man Lazarus; how he looks at life after his strange experience; how matters which seem to his neighbors of great import fail to arouse any interest whatever in the man who has touched the mysteries of the life beyond, and how little things that others would not notice are to him charged with gigantic meaning. He had a new sense of what things are of importance. He looked at life from a new point of view, that of a man whose thoughts were charged with the deep import of spiritual truth.

In smaller measure, to be sure, but in some such light, each one of us may look at life.

But it does not follow that we need scorn the common trifles of life that really have a bearing on character. The common duties, the small details of everyday life must of necessity occupy much of our thought. We are living among them, our bodies must be kept healthy and strong with the right foods, rightly prepared; we must be cared for in a mere physical way; we must sleep and be clothed. The trifles which make up the sum of these things have their rightful place. It is only when they are exaggerated out of their just proportion that they become intrusive. When the physical absorbs all our thought, when we fail to see anything in life beyond the creature comforts, we are losing some of our rightful heritage. No man can live by bread alone.

In the common intercourse of daily life that trifles make or mar, carrying this thought with us will often help wonderfully. We shall see that we cannot afford to overlook the importance of trifling kindnesses, little courtesies, understandings, tact. Too often these things are saved for strangers while those who are bound to us by close ties are neglected. To them we show the ugly trifles of discourtesy, inattention or fault finding. And this course, pursued, ends in a relentlessness and unhappiness in the family life, drives the children from the parental roof as soon as they are able to fend for themselves separates kindred and embitters life.

When you look at results you perceive the real importance of the trifles that contribute to it.

Pineapple Compote.

COOK rice after the southern style, boiling quickly in a large quantity of water, draining in a sieve and drying in the oven. Make the rice, while hot, into small molds. Place cut up pineapple on top of each and sprinkle with sugar and the pineapple juice and put a tablespoon of whipped cream on top.

Egg Dumplings.

TO ONE HALF pint milk add two well beaten eggs and a pinch of salt, add as much sifted flour as will make a thick, smooth batter. Drop by spoonfuls into the boiling soup, cover closely and boil ten minutes.

The Consumer

(Contributed to The Journal by Walt Mason, the famous Kansas poet. His prose-poems will be a regular feature of this column in The Daily Journal.)

They will tinker with the tariff till the rivers are gone dry, they will wrestle with the subject night and day; they'll be piling up the language when the snow begins to fly, they'll be fiddling in the same old weary way. O the grand old windy wonders who adorn the senate floor, till the windup of the world will be on deck; and there's just one thing that's certain, that is sure for ever more: the consumer always gets it in the neck. There is talk of hides and leather, and there's talk of nails and glue, there are weary wads of twaddle on cement; and the man from Buncombe Corners stands and toots his loud bazoo, till his language in the ceiling makes a dent; no one in this martyred country knows how long this will endure, and there isn't any way the flood to check; and there's just one thing about it that is reasonably sure: the consumer always gets it in the neck.

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