

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Some men make a vanity of telling their faults; they are the strongest men in the world; they cannot be dissuaded; they even tell of their faults; they have lost their abundance of advantages by it; but if you would give them the world they cannot help it; there is something in their nature which abhors liberty and constraint; with many other insufferable topics of the same attitude.—Swift.

RUMBLINGS THAT ARE OMINOUS

WOODLAWN GRANGE denounces the assembly program. That program, it says, is an attempt to overthrow the primary law and direct legislation.

The grange resolution is a sign of where and what the resistance will be to the plan of scuttling the grangers are type of a numerous class. They are the men on the farms and their thought runs largely in the same direction.

Oregon politics under the convention regime with legislative election of senator, has, in extravagant appropriations, in exorbitant fees for officials and in other ways cost them heavily in taxes.

They have seen a legislature that never organized and others that did nothing else but barter state funds in useless appropriations for senatorial votes.

It was a business out of which senatorial hangers-on profited immensely, and which the men who have to dig what they get from the soil had to help pay for.

It was to rid themselves of the burden of these costly follies that the farmers of the state by overwhelming vote adopted the primary law and by the operation of the primary law and direct legislation they have been delivered from the old waste, cost and scandal.

They are men who know exactly what the old regime meant, for they had to bear the shame and cost of it. In their intelligence they know too that the assembly is a mere cheat by which the old time politicians are seeking to bamboozle them into acceptance of the old fraud and folly.

They saw the legislature refuse to make lawful such a preliminary convention as is proposed, and they recognize that the program is assumption by a few of the power to legislate the convention scheme into existence in spite of the legislature, in spite of direct legislation and in spite of the wishes or rights of the people.

Having suffered in cost and taxes from the machinations and operations of these politicians and being opposed to government by machine rather than by law, the farmers of Oregon will to a large extent vote to save from mutilation and overthrow the direct primary law and direct legislation, an overthrow plotted and proposed in the program of scuttling.

This, in part, is where the resistance will come from. It is the logic of nature that there should be such a resistance from such a quarter.

What it will amount to is not difficult to estimate. There are figures from which to reach a fairly accurate conclusion as to how many voters in the state are opposed to a return to conditions of folly and frenzy.

The late vote on the compulsory statement law shows exactly how many men in the state favor Statement No. 1 of the primary law.

The vote for the law was 69,568 and against it only 21,162. The majority for it was 48,506, or nearly three and a half to one.

Here was a vote of more than 90,000 or about nine tenths of all those who voted in the election, and in the solitude and secrecy of the election both the electors registered a verdict that it is impossible to misunderstand.

There is not one reason in the world for this sentiment to have diminished and many reasons for it to have increased. In any event, there stands the record of the vote, and it is open to the scuttlers of what they may expect. Pursuing, as they are, an unlawful program, hearing, rumblings from the foundations of the electorate, and realizing, as they must, that assembly candidates, if they be launched, must go out making the votes of people that are not wise enough to choose fit candidates, is it not plain that the programers are entering a career that is certain to end in party disruption, defeat and political doom for the men who embark in and represent

an impartial outsider, the demand of railroad employees for 15 per cent more pay appears reason-

able. Everybody knows that there has been a large increase in the cost of living during the past few years, even during the past year, and men of this class need more pay to support their families. And reports show the railroads to have been very prosperous this year, and that there is prospect of great prosperity ahead. Perhaps a raise of wages would be only a "square deal."

ONE CAUSE OF MINE EXPLOSIONS

IT HAS long been observed that most mine accidents occur in cold weather, and a majority of them soon after cold weather has set in. A writer in the Technical World Magazine says that if it did not get cold in the winter 2000 of those who meet death each year in mines would live. If it did not get cold, he says, the great succession of mine explosions that follow each other every winter would not take place.

The reason is very simple, and the wonder is, if this theory is correct, that it was not discovered and acted on long ago. It is simply this: a cold atmosphere is much drier than a warm atmosphere; in the summer the warm air is abundantly laden with moisture, and rather deposits than takes it up in the mine. But in winter the cold air contains little moisture, and absorbs much of that in the mine, being from 20 to 40 degrees warmer on its exit therefrom than on its entrance. Experiments in one mine showed that this cold air current took away 50 tons of suspended water a day. Before long the mine "becomes as parched as Sahara." The activities in the mine cause the pulverizing of the coal and fan it into the air, which becomes laden with this dust. Finally the danger point is reached, and when a blast is set off this coal dust ignites and explodes, and there is another terrible mine disaster. In the first few weeks of cold weather each season the moisture is exhausted and the mine becomes ripe for explosion.

This conclusion was reached by three experts of the technologic branch of the Geological Survey after an exhaustive investigation into the causes of the explosions in the Darr and Monaghan mines, two years ago this month, in which 633 men were killed. These experts have recently reported that these explosions, as well as most others, that have occurred in cold weather, were caused by coal dust, not gas, and that the means of prevention is simply an ample supply of moisture in the mines. How to provide this was the next problem. Sprinkling with water taken from the tunnels is helpful, but not satisfactory, and the experts have devised a scheme for the introduction of steam. The steam from the escape valves of the machinery will in some cases be sufficient, but where it is not steam can be generated at no great expense, and carried along and released at places where needed.

Strange to say, this idea is new. For hundreds of years there have been mine explosions, many of them doubtless from this cause, and yet till now nobody ever found out that all that was needed to prevent them was to keep the air in the mine laden with moisture, as it is in warm, "muggy" days. If the theory of these experts be correct, we may expect a decrease of one half or more in the number of mine explosions, and a great saving of human life in consequence.

In the past 18 years 25,000 men have died in the mines of this country, and the number killed annually has doubled within the last 14 years. Three times as many are killed in this out of every 1000, are killed in this country as in Europe, although working under far more favorable conditions, which shows that many explosions are due to gross negligence or carelessness. The mine tragedies have been increasing at a horrible rate; and it is probable that the report of these experts will lead to the use of one means of prevention.

COST OF SUBSIDIZATION

THE COMMISSIONER of navigation reports that American shipping totals 7,385,755 tons, the largest tonnage under any flag, except Great Britain's. This is, however, mostly in coast and lake vessels. If ocean tonnage under the American flag is to be increased by subsidies, the cost must be paid by the American producers, the people. That the cost will be enormous, under existing navigation and tariff laws, can be shown by two illustrations. The navy is sending American coal from Norfolk to the Philippines, and paying \$7.50 per ton freight, while vessels of other nations would carry it at \$4 per ton. About 200,000 tons have been sent this year, the extra cost of \$2.50 per ton amounting to \$1,050,000. The government purchased the steamer Shawmut and Tremont (now the Ancon and Cristobal) and put them under the American flag to carry cement from New York to Colon. About 1,000,000 tons were carried, at a cost to the government of \$3 per ton, while it was offered transportation by shipping firms at \$1.50 per ton. On this job the government lost \$1,500,000 in order that the flag would float over the cement.

Based on these and other figures, the country's cotton exports last

year would have cost, if carried in American ships, \$10,000,000 more for ocean transportation than they did; wheat exports would have cost \$3,000,000 more; petroleum and its products would have cost \$20,000,000 more; lumber \$3,000,000 more; iron and steel products, \$5,000,000 more; tobacco, \$1,000,000; and manufactured goods, fruits, meats and other exports, a sum estimated at \$50,000,000. The estimated extra cost on imports if carried under the American flag would be: On sugar, \$5,000,000; coffee, \$2,000,000; tea, \$1,000,000; chemicals, ores, hides, rice, salt, spirits and other imports, \$40,000,000; passengers, \$80,000,000. These items make a grand total of \$227,000,000 a year that the American people would have to pay in subsidies, under present laws, to put the ocean carrying of American exports and imports into American hands and under the American flag.

Who will get the benefit of the subsidization at such a tremendous cost? Only the shipbuilders, suppliers and persons engaged in the traffic. These, sufficiently subsidized, would soon combine—that is, the big capitalists and employers—and form another gigantic trust, a monster leech on the body politic. This, indeed, is the aim and object of subsidization. President Taft's proposed \$5,000,000 or \$10,000,000 a year would amount to nothing appreciable; year by year the demand for larger subsidies would be made, and as we have shown, to make the scheme really work fully it would take a quarter of a billion dollars a year.

WHAT IS A REPUBLICAN?

THE SEATTLE Post-Intelligencer asks, "What is a Republican?" and answers in part as follows: "Among other things, he is a protectionist, because he doesn't believe in pauperizing American labor, closing the American factory, or stopping the American plow."

But what kind of a protectionist? How much of a protectionist? An Aldrich protectionist or a Cummins protectionist? And then a great many men who claim to be Republicans no longer believe this stale claptrap about "pauperizing American labor" and "closing factories" and "stopping plows." There is no duty on foreign labor; it comes in free. Protected interests don't divide profits with labor at all; they buy labor as cheaply as they can. Factories here as a rule can beat the world, without protection. They have advantages that foreign manufacturers do not have. Labor is higher here, but it produces proportionally more. Our manufacturers sell profitably abroad in free trade markets in competition with the world. High protection enables them to plunder the American people by charging unreasonable prices. As to the "plow," the average farmer is not protected at all. With him it is heads you win, tails I lose, every time.

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Recently Senator Flint of California made a similar announcement. He declared that in justice to himself and his family he could not afford to remain longer in the senate, and that it was important for him to return to his law practice in which to amass a competency for the days of the sear and yellow leaf. The retirement of these senators is not occasion for alarm. As fast as one steps out there will be another eager to step in. There is no possibility that there will be a famine, either in numbers or talent. Indeed if a few more would retire to private life there would be ambitious statesmen galore who would be grateful, and many unambitious people who would extend heartfelt thanks.

The senate is an august body. The privilege of serving in it is one of the greatest honors a people can bestow. The honor involved is a consideration beside which the \$7500 salary is inconsequential. It is an honor so conspicuous that it is scarcely a man in the United States who would decline it, all of which is assurance that the body will never lack for senators.

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The man who through all vicissitudes and emergencies sustained the Oregonian, and who, more than any other man is responsible for its continued existence is Henry L. Pittock, whose business acumen, foresight, and fixed purpose sustained the paper, and provided it with the essentials with which to meet a constantly enlarging future. Any fair review of the paper and its past must recognize him as the man who is responsible for its long existence and to a large degree for what

ever success it has achieved, a fact for which he has received scant credit in contemporaneous and eulogistic comments published elsewhere and locally.

It is not true as represented, that the Oregonian has led in the development of Oregon. It is notoriously true that the editorial policy of that paper has seriously militated against the state's progress. It constantly understates population, it falsely advertises the Oregon people abroad as incompetents and fools, it derides movements for modernizing the city of Portland, and in a constantly demented mood assails men instead of trying to aid them in efforts for the promotion of the state and its interests. It is almost always to be found on the side of those in opposition to measures of progress, and aiding those who resist advancement.

The Oregonian's circulation is in itself an indication that its policies and attitude are unsatisfactory. In spite of its long existence, and in spite of the fact that it is without a competitor in the morning field, its circulation is only about 32,000. The Journal though it has to divide the evening field with other publications, and though it is but little more than seven years old, has a circulation of about 35,000. The Journal's circulation is but little less than the Oregonian's, and within the state is actually larger than that of the older paper with its undivided field. The swift growth of the one and the non-growth of the other have significant bearing on the eulogistic article to which these remarks have reference. They seem to mean that if the achievements of the Oregonian are consequential, those of The Journal are pre-eminently so.

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The REALM FEMININE

New Specialty in Sewing. By Mrs. May C. Moore.

W E hear the remark far too often that the dressmaker is a "poor creature" and that she is "not worth anything." Apparently the complaint is not without certain foundation in truth. A glance at the poverty of scores of dressmakers, who contend daily with long hours of work, and poor pay is well calculated to give this impression.

Women who used to be able to make a good living by "taking in" sewing are frequently found only able to eke out the mere existence; it is equally true that a surprisingly large number of progressive women, who opened establishments a few years ago, are now making snug fortunes as the result of their enterprise.

It is a well known fact that the various departments of garment making comprise one of the largest industries in the country, and when we consider that only a few are reaping rich rewards while thousands are working for a mere pittance, we are prone to believe that the prosperous element has trade secrets not possessed by others.

With apparently so unequal an amount of labor I am convinced that we have a problem that we may examine and profit by the study. It is the method of the woman that we are prone to envy, she who is in business and making a financial success of her enterprise.

Who are her patrons? How has she drawn an exclusive trade, and how does she keep it? True, she turns out artistic and original creations, but how does she achieve it?

To begin with she has the patronage of the exclusive trade of her locality, the "cream of the trade" that pays the high prices, and she gets it because she can meet the demands. The construction of the gowns that made her reputation called for originality and taste, coupled with a definite knowledge of good lines. These qualities of workmanship are the foundation stones of good dressmaking.

True, every woman does not possess the native talent to reach the high ideals of artistic workmanship, but any woman who attempts to work for money can give to it her very best efforts, and can respect the trade she chooses sufficiently to master a good system of cutting and fitting before she offers to serve the public. This is only fair had indeed, her only hope of winning favor.

She may not have developed the "gift" of originality. It may be necessary for her to begin merely by copying designs originated by others, but with an artistic eye and a constructive activity she should be able to indulge in little departures from the original styles for the pure delight in variety, without ruining the gowns in experimenting. If she can do this it will prove the most fascinating part of her work.

Every up to date business woman knows that the highest prices are invariably paid to a woman who excels in a specialty. A line of dressmaking that attracts the patronage of the adapting models to abnormal figures. I not only refer to the woman who is deformed, but also to the woman who feels that she is conspicuous on account of an overfull figure, and whose defects could be so cleverly and discreetly corrected by means of the dressmaker's art.

A glance at the fashion journals of the day will convince any dressmaker that the tall, slender figures only are considered. This fact alone should convince one who is looking for a specialty that this would afford an unusually good field, indeed to me it seemed a strangely neglected one, for of all the specialties it has improved me as the one most needed.

There is a growing tendency on the part of the patronage toward stoutness, as well as the general awakening to the unsightly appearance presented by an unwieldy figure.

Here is an opportunity for the woman of some ingenuity to make individual adaptation of fabric to the figure. These patrons are fastidious, it is true. They lay great stress upon good lines, but they are more dependent, perhaps, than any other customer upon the skill of the dressmaker, and it seems to me that such patronage would furnish a short route to success to the woman of some ability, a woman who can combine with simplicity of line that indefinite elegance of grace and style for the woman who is burdened with flesh.

Believing that this opportunity was persistently overlooked by the woman who is longing for a special niche in her work, I made it my business to visit the various department stores that keep a stock of ready made dresses, and make special inquiry regarding the supply of suitable, in black of rich material and large size.

I was assured by the salesladies of the departments that I was right in my surmise, and that the stout woman who wanted a good black suit had little choice to make in the average stock. These suits even in the department of ready made garments are invariably the first to sell and standing orders for them are always to be found upon the books.

A visit to the dressmaking establishments convinced me that little attention is paid by the average dressmaker to the needs of the abnormal figure. No one seemed to be master of the numerous defects that could be remedied by the proper use of line and color in the construction of a gown. The perfect simplicity of effect in outline that brings out the best points and conceals defects, seemed not to be understood or practiced to a degree that would meet the needs of any prosperous community.

Undoubtedly it is a new field and one that would afford an opportunity to the woman who possesses the courage to desert the beaten path, and take her steps to work herself out of a position where she can get only a small price.

Few cities either large or small could not keep a dressmaker in this description busy. One who will give it the serious attention that it deserves will begin right where she is to master a good system of cutting and fitting, and prepare herself for a specialty that can so readily pay a price commensurate with her effort.

Only Think So.

Portland, Or., Dec. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I see by this afternoon's Journal that President Josephine declares "beated cars injurious to health."

President Josephine's health is healthy—she only thinks they are. This is a good Christian Science doctrine. I believe in the power of the mind to heal.

A COLD-BLOODED SUBSCR