

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

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Those things that are not practicable are not desirable. There is nothing in the world really beneficial that does not lie within the reach of an informed understanding and a well-directed pursuit.—Edmund Burke.

THE PINCHOT DISMISSAL

THE DISMISSAL of Gifford Pinchot is a capital political event. It is a first crisis in the Taft administration. It is a principle, more than a man that is involved, and yet the man in this case typifies a powerful sentiment among Mr. Pinchot's countrymen. Conservation has a mighty hold on the American people, because, for lack of it, there has been waste, loss, dissipation and monopolization of the public resources. The conservationists of the country, and they are legion, will regard Mr. Pinchot's removal with regret, and with a varying measure of resentment because they will fear that it means supremacy of anti-conservation interests among the presidential advisers. The incident constitutes a crisis of very wide consequence to the administration, and is likely to exercise vast political influence throughout the country. It was a crisis that Mr. Taft had to meet, for the controversy had reached a point where a choice had to be made between Secretary Ballinger and Mr. Pinchot. Mr. Taft's choice was Mr. Ballinger, a choice over which naturally there will be great difference of opinion, according to the viewpoint of the observer.

Meantime, the kernel of the controversy is contained in the charges made to the president by L. R. Glavis. The gist of those charges is: "As to the action of the land office on these claims (the Cunningham coal entries) I assert that the land office ordered the Cunningham claims to patent without due investigation when Commissioner Ballinger knew they were under suspicion; that while in office Commissioner Ballinger urged congress to pass a law which would validate fraudulent Alaska claims; that shortly after resigning from office he became attorney for the Cunningham group and other Alaska claims; that soon after he became secretary of the interior, his office rendered a decision which would have validated all Alaska claims. A reversal of that decision on every point was obtained from Attorney General Wickersham. Had it not been for Mr. Wickersham's decision, every fraudulent Alaska claim would have gone to patent."

Other action by the forestry service was the sending of Shaw of that department to Chicago with material for use in presenting the Glavis charge to the president. The forestry bureau manifestly believed that valuable coal properties in Alaska were about to pass out of the government's hands into private control of a syndicate without proper compensation, and defied the proprietors of officialdom in presenting the matter to the president. That they believed in the truth of their accusations is certain, for on no other hypothesis than absolute faith in their cause would they have played so bold a game.

The public likes to know the goings-on in the departments at Washington. When there are irregularities or signs of irregularity in the public service, information about it properly belongs to the public. Publicity about the departments and the transactions in them is the best way in the world to get honest service. The hiding of transactions from the public was the means by which public lands were gobbled, coal districts monopolized and forests seized. The curtain of secrecy is the cloak of dishonesty at Washington. Whatever he may have been otherwise, the attention that has been focused on him will make Ballinger a conservationist. In the meantime, since Pinchot and his subordinates have to go as Glavis went, the thanks of thousands of their countrymen will go with them. And citizens will ask themselves, how is it that men honest and courageous enough to make public what they believe, are unfit for, and must be dismissed from the public service.

PUNISHING FOOTPADS

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS imprisonment for one, 18 years for another and 10 for a third were the sentences imposed this week by a Portland judge upon three hold-up men. The highest sentence was upon a young man scarcely out of his teens, and the account is that he burst into tears when the judgment was pronounced. There will be no objection by the average citizen to the rigor of the punishment. The only regret that will be felt is that more of the footpads are not captured and given equally hard deserts. There is no excuse in this town or in this age for any man

to hold up and rob a citizen. There is an honest living for every man who earnestly seeks it. There are forests to fell, lands to cultivate, mines to work and structures to build. Oregon with her cities and her country is a clearing house of labor and a vast workshop of endeavor. There is room and an honest vocation here for all who want to earn their way. There is a niche and sustenance for every human atom who is willing to give toil for dollars. The state is capable of supporting in reasonable comfort ten times its present population, and in time will do it.

There is literally no excuse for any man to get a gun and go out to rob. When they do that, they do it as a matter of choice, and because they are vicious. When they are caught at it they ought to be sent to prison for just such terms of years as Judge Bronaugh imposed on the gang that held up and robbed George Estes. And, there ought to be enough officers of the criminal catching variety to capture and send to punishment about a dozen times as many of the outlaws as it has been the public's pleasure to see apprehended.

THE "FORWARD MOVEMENT"

IN HIS ANNUAL review Henry C. Clegg felicitates the United States on leading in the "forward movement" that has been going on for a decade, with but a temporary suspension in 1907-8. It is shown in invention, discovery, exploitation of new resources, development of manufactures, and political and social betterment, and is especially noticeable in the field of electricity and the revolution being wrought by electric and gasoline motors. New occupations have been created, and new territory has been developed, irrigation is accomplishing wonders, and railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, wireless telegraphy and aerial navigation are new or increasing agencies of development. In the social world the trend is also forward. Religion and philanthropy are doing more for mankind than ever before, and even in political life standards are higher. Economically, there are two sides to the prospect. "Opportunity to work is man's first requirement. No progress is possible in the face of misery." Labor is in good demand and wages are higher than ever before, a good sign of progress, but "thus far the benefits of the rise in values, which has been going on since 1900, have been confined to comparatively few. The process of readjustment to a higher level is still incomplete, and this year is likely to experience more or less unrest in consequence."

Answering the question, what are the causes of present high values? Mr. Clegg says they are numerous, the principal ones being greater gold supply, advance in land, trusts, tariffs, short crops, currency expansion, growth of population, taxes and extravagance. The greatest single cause is probably the increasing output of gold, lately \$442,000,000 a year as against \$235,000,000 a year from 1896 to 1900. Crops have scarcely kept pace with the growth of population, and high prices should result in greater production which would hold prices down. The same will happen with manufacturing, and then prices will decline somewhat, but "we are on a permanently higher level" than during the last decade of the last century.

Foreign trade is in an unsatisfactory condition. There was an increase of \$332,000,000 in imports, and a decrease of \$9,000,000 in exports, in 11 months of 1909. Railroads are prosperous, 44 of them reporting gross earnings for 11 months of \$618,000,000, an increase of \$67,000,000 over the preceding year. Bank clearings increased from \$118,016,000,000 in 1908 to \$149,762,000,000, but this does not necessarily imply an equal increase in the volume of trade. Many other particulars are given, and from the whole review we may conclude that while the outlook is in general fairly good, there is room for improvement—which, however, may be said of most things and people at most times.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND OFFICIALS

IT IS AGREEABLE to read in most of our state exchanges warm praise for the city officers of the past year. In several cases it happens that the newspapers differ in politics from the mayors and a majority of the councils whom they commend, but due credit for good work is given, nevertheless. Years ago this would not have been so, or at least not to nearly so great an extent. Then, as a rule, a local paper always had praise for officials of its own party only, and censure for those of the other party regardless of their official actions or the results. That this is never or rarely the case now is a gratifying indication of the growth of political independence and fairness, and of regard for facts, the truth, in the "country" press.

To one who can remember back 30 or 40 years, the change in this respect is a revelation of great and significant progress. It reveals a growing sense of obligation on the part of the press to the whole people, rather than to any part of them, or any party, as well as greater enlightenment and regard for the truth. It further shows more of a disposition to recognize and appreciate and commend the faithful, useful services of local officials who really and unselfishly endeavor to serve the people well as no doubt most county and city officials of Oregon do. And

if counties and cities can get such men to attend to their affairs, what party they may adhere to is a matter of no consequence whatever.

A PROSPEROUS CORPORATION

THE AMERICAN Telephone and Telegraph company's profits last year were \$150,000,000. The stockholders are feeling "fine and dandy." They have convincing and conclusive evidence of prosperity. No wonder Mr. J. P. Morgan has secured or is trying to secure control of so vastly profitable a concern. By still more economical management, and perhaps an increase of rates, it might be made to yield even greater profits.

The multitudes of patrons of this public service corporation have no occasion to be envious of or hold any grudge against the people who have made these enormous gains on comparatively small investments. We would all be glad to be in their places, and unless there has been violation of law the profits are legitimate. A few men have simply taken advantage of one of the numerous opportunities this great country affords for legally exploiting the public, and so long as the public stands for it, complaint is futile and foolish.

But if the public chooses, and if it can manage to elect men to office all along the line who will look out for its interests, rather than those of the public service and other corporations, it can compel this one, and others, to perform the services in which they engage at reasonable rates, such as will yield only fairly liberal profits.

Millions of people use the telephone and telegraph daily; these agencies serve everybody, and are therefore of a quasi public character. The public has a right to regulate and control them, as it has to regulate and control railroads. If rates are extortionate, unreasonable, the public has a right to reduce them.

The investors should be treated not only fairly but liberally. They are entitled to good profits on their investment, and to encouragement for their enterprise. But such great profits raise the presumption that the public is being greatly overcharged for the services performed. This is a matter for investigation, and if such be found to be the case the public should demand and fix and enforce reasonable rates.

In emphatic resolutions, Mount Fannie grange of Cove, Union county, announces its opposition to the assembly and declares its allegiance to the direct primary. The sentiment is that other granges of Union county will take similar action, and that sentiment among the members is unanimous against the assembly. Evidently these farmers who the assembly promoters say haven't sense enough to select fit candidates are too smart to be bamboozled into support of an assembly that, on its face, is an attempt to destroy the direct primary. Later on it will be discovered that the Oregon farmers and Oregon workingmen are not the gullible ignoramuses that the assemblyites believe them to be. They are not only quite as intelligent as the assemblyites, but they have in addition a hearty respect for constitution, laws, statutes, courts and the ordinary canons of good citizenship.

Secretary Ballinger is and always has been altogether right, and his record is absolutely clear of the slightest misconduct, while Pinchot is and has been all along in the wrong. This is known and declared by President Taft, Attorney General Wickersham, and Aldrich and Cannon. It is known and will be so found by the joint committee of investigation to be appointed. So, in substance, says the Oregonian. The matter has been already decided, in advance of any investigation. The minds of the members of the committee are fully made up. Every word or document favorable to Ballinger will be believed; every one unfavorable to Pinchot will be disbelieved. This appears to be the attitude of the administration and of the Aldrich-Cannon organs.

Without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case of an injunction sought against paying an east side street, having no knowledge of its particulars, we may yet remark as a general proposition that such proceedings are not to be looked upon with favor. There may possibly be a case where paying a street will damage a piece of property abutting thereon, but it is difficult to imagine such a case. And almost invariably the cost of the pavement is exceeded by the increase in the property's value. Fortunately, a few mossbacks can no longer prevent street improvement in this city.

Replying to many inquiries, The Journal will again state that all persons living in this, the second congressional district of Oregon, who desire appointment as census enumerators, or information about the census, should apply to Mr. S. C. Beach, in the Lumbermen's building, Portland; and all such persons living in the first congressional district should consult Mr. R. J. Hendricks, Salem, Oregon.

Colder weather throughout the whole country than any yet is predicted for next week by Boss Weather Observer Moore. But weather forecasters are not infrequently mistaken, and with all due respect to the head of the weather bureau at Washington, we don't believe he knows what sort of weather we will get on

the Pacific coast next week. Our prediction is mild temperature and wet rains.

TANGLEFOOT

WEARING THE TROUSERS.
The schoolmaster said: "Now, children, tell me, if you can, who is the greatest man?"
"Why, don't you know?" inquired Bill, then defiantly bent a pin.
"Why, Mrs. Parker's mother of course. That's why she kept him in."

A CHILLY CLIME.
"Cold, huh? They don't know how to make cold weather in this country," said Plute Pete this morning. "Tell you what I saw in Prairie dog country, Wyoming. I saw it so cold that the telephone wires froze and you couldn't get more than a message through."
"Froze, but the words would jump up together at somebody's spots and you might be talking to somebody else's politics, say, and somebody else's conversation that had thawed out would come all up. I know one fellow that proposed to his girl and what she heard him say was a description of the killing of rats in the hair. And I guess there was a thousand complications as bad as that."

"In the spring the wires burst along the line and you could go anywhere most and get a funny sack full of gossip and profanity that was almost as good as new."
"Yes, it was certainly chilly. It was so cold and the ground was frozen so hard that we couldn't dig a grave. Know what we did? We dug a hole when a man died we put him out doors at night and let him freeze and the next day we would drive him into the ground with a plowdriver!"

Is January 8 Your Birthday, Too?

Senator William A. Clark of Montana, who was born in Pennsylvania, taught school, ran a grocery and got into the Butte mining field in 1872. He is 71 years old. He has the costliest marble mansion in Butte, and a fine estate in Montana. He is a descendant of Jonathan Edwards and intimate friend of Rudyard Kipling, was born in Brooklyn 48 years ago this morning. He publishes "The World's Work."

Burton Holmes, who has been press agent for the World in lectures and agent for 20 years, is 40 today. He is a Chicagoan by birth and one of the greatest rovers of modern times.

John T. Caine of Salt Lake City, who settled in Utah 54 years ago and helped make three of its constitutions, reaches the good old age of 81 this morning. He was born on the Isle of Man.

A. Frederick Collins, the Hoosier product, who is down in the records as the inventor of the wireless telephone, is 41. He married a Kansas girl.

Edmund Noble, newspaper man and foreign correspondent for 30 years and now weaving the world's philosophies into a "story of nature," is 57. He was born in Bonnie, Scotland.

Among the distinguished dead who celebrated their birthdays on this date are: General James Longstreet, called "Old Pete" in the Confederate army, who was wounded during the storming of Vicksburg in the City of Mexico in 1847; Nicholas Biddle, the Philadelphia financier, literateur and orator who was graduated from Princeton at 17, an editor and was president of the United States bank, a government institution, for 16 years; Willie Collins, novelist, who was born and died in London.

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 be published unless the writer indicates to the contrary. Letters should be brief as possible. Those who wish their letters printed when not used should indicate postage. Correspondents are asked to send their letters 200 words in length may, at the discretion of the editor, be cut down to that limit.

Mink Raises Plea Answer.
Seattle, Wash., Jan. 8.—To the Editor of "The Journal"—About a year ago you printed an article about a man having a large mink farm in Oregon. Could you give me his address or any one else raising mink?
ROBERT HANSON,
R. F. D. No. 2.

Pinchot's New York Speech.
From the New York Evening Post.
... No burning public reformer can see his cause steadily and see it whole. He must be upborne and carried on by a large enthusiasm—a touch of things which he believes in. He must be a little bit of a fanatic, if you will—that makes him to overturn and come to a new question, and that leads him to a new place, but simply to take his stand because, God help him, he can do no other. Every genuine reformer confesses to a sincere admiration of him. With intelligence and a very passion for the public good, he has given himself to a mighty work. The sentiment which he has done more than anybody else to create, which is now widespread, is one that vitally affects the nation's future and the well of generations unborn. To rouse a wasteful people against a reckless using up of their resources, and to insist upon holding what is of the public domain, with its treasures of wood, water, and mine, and stream, strictly for the public benefit, is a policy at once prudent and inspiring. Mr. Pinchot has embodied it as no other man; and his success in inducing the last administration to take it up and give it prominence may well endure to the remembrance of a man who has wrought such good, we will not lightly find fault. He has deserved well of the country, and the country is now certain to give him a hearing.

Mr. Pinchot's words yesterday were undeniably those of warning. He evidently believes that the work of conservation is endangered. With much intensity of language he spoke of the forest bureau and to secret and unlawful means, upon what should be kept for the general use and enjoyment. Can you produce the evidence for his charges, and that it will be laid to rest before the congressional committee that is to be appointed to look into the whole matter. There need be no doubt that public feeling is now such that it will stand by any official who seeks to beat off from government lands all dishonest and greedy intriguers.

Farmers around Vale get much money from alfalfa seed.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE. Now, on bad, naughty insurgents, you won't get any pay.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS. Eugene's bank deposits are over \$2,600,000.

A La Grande man killed two big bears near Elgin.

Number of school children in Benton county has increased 23 in a year.

Springfield firm has imported hay from eastern Washington at \$2.50 a ton.

Premium of \$4000 has been bid for 1100,000 Cottage Grove 5 per cent bonds.

Many wheatfields in Lane county will have to be resown on account of freezing.

Builders of the Pacific & Eastern railroad in Jackson county are said to need 400 more men.

Preparations for irrigation on a large scale around Warner lake in Lake county are being made.

Though dry, Pendleton showed some increase in postoffice receipts, school attendance, real estate sales, etc., during 1909.

The year 1910 will see the biggest advance in stock raising and fruit production ever witnessed in Lane county, says the Guard.

One morning it was 22 degrees below zero in Pleasant Valley, Union county. But sometimes it is a pleasant valley in fact as well as in name.

While skating on a lake a big Alabamian broke through and went to the bottom. As the water was not over a foot and a half deep, she was rescued.

Over 50 cars of through freight and 60 cars of way freight were received in Vale during December, the record month, and this represents an estimate of \$20,000 in freight charges alone.

Many golden opportunities are lying dormant in the Jordan valley, awaiting the advent of the capitalist and home-builder in stock raising and highly productive agricultural pursuits, says the Express.

A Eugene man has a thoroughbred female Spitz dog, who is mothering a number of orphan kittens. She furnishes the milk for their sustenance and fights for them as she would for her own offspring.

Two California men who have bought a brickyard near Hillsboro contemplate putting in a \$6000 plant in the spring. They expect to turn out 50,000 brick daily and will manufacture both pressed and mould product.

Notwithstanding the fact that Douglas county has grown with wonderful strides during the past year, both in regard to population and wealth, says the News, the county school census shows a decrease of about 1000 children from 1907 last year to 1909.

J. M. Hawkins of Albany took three Pass about 35 sawmills whose annual cut of rough lumber runs from 10,000 to 20,000,000 feet, says the Outlook, and a large portion of their product is marketed here, where it is worked up by two box factories and two saw and door factories, and handled by two extensive lumber yards.

During the past month 50 wild cat, five bear and two cougar skulls have been turned in at the Clatsop county clerk's office for bounty. On a wild cat scalp the county pays \$1 and the state \$1 bounty, on a bear scalp the county pays a bounty of \$5, and for a cougar scalp the county pays \$15 and the state \$5, a total of \$25.

There are in the vicinity of Grants Pass about 35 sawmills whose annual cut of rough lumber runs from 10,000 to 20,000,000 feet, says the Outlook, and a large portion of their product is marketed here, where it is worked up by two box factories and two saw and door factories, and handled by two extensive lumber yards.

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