

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. PUBLISHED BY C. E. ZACHSON, Publisher. Published every evening (except Sundays) and every Sunday morning at the Journal Building, 11th and Yamhill streets, Portland, Or.

Subscription Terms by mail or by address in the United States, Canada or Mexico: DAILY. One year, \$5.00; 6 months, \$3.00; 3 months, \$1.50. SUNDAY. One year, \$2.50; 6 months, \$1.50; 3 months, \$0.75. DAILY AND SUNDAY. One year, \$7.50; 6 months, \$4.50; 3 months, \$2.25.

That is the best government which teaches us to govern ourselves.—Goethe.

SOMEBODY PAYS

M. R. ARMOUR informs us that there is to be a decrease in the cost of foodstuffs. He says the reduction is caused by the large corn crop.

It will take more than a large corn crop to reduce the living cost to a reasonable level. It is not in foodstuffs alone that there is inflation. It is not even the price that the farmer and producer receives that accounts for all the high cost of foodstuffs.

The truth is that every known agency is in conspiracy against the consumer. From needles and hairpins to threshing machines and from a horse shoe nail to a pile driver or a Corlies engine there is combination for restraint of trade and the fixing of prices.

Big as it is, the Y. M. C. A. building is full to the brim. Just one short of three thousand active members. Nearly seven hundred voluntary workers on classes, committees, and the like.

Somebody has to pay this huge governmental total. Somebody has to pay for the warships, cannon, colonels and captains which make up 72 per cent of the national expenditure.

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OUT OF CATASTROPHE

SAN FRANCISCO'S fund for the proposed Panama-Pacific exposition in 1915 aggregates the extraordinary sum of \$17,500,000. It was raised to that figure Tuesday at a special election at which an issue of \$5,000,000 of bonds was voted for the purpose.

The incident emphasizes the splendid progressiveness of San Francisco. This enormous expenditure is by a city that was but recently in the throes of catastrophe. It was a stricken and paralyzed city of ruins and debris, devastated by earthquake and fire.

But, as if tested by calamity and suffering, a new city has been built on the ruins of the old. Catastrophe has been turned into prestige, and the potentiality of the new metropolis is far greater than was that of the city that was destroyed. It is as if fate had ordered a new deal, and destruction worked out a new destiny.

From such a financial backing, the Panama-Pacific exposition is certain to develop into a splendid event. The forces that assemble such an expenditure are equally certain to apply the other factors to make the exposition an affair of transcendent possibilities.

It will be an episode marking a revolutionary change in the system of transportation, and as such will be a theme to attract interest as it has never been attracted before. It

is another event imposing on Portland the duty of having her house in order to be viewed by those who are coming to see what the Panama canal is to mean to the land of the setting sun.

THE Y. M. C. A. IN PORTLAND

ABOUT sixty Portland men assembled at the Y. M. C. A. headquarters, at the new building on Sixth street on Tuesday evening, by invitation of the authorities. Many callings were represented—in fact the heads of the industries of the city, financiers, doctors, lawyers, journalists, philanthropists—and others, faced each other at the tables set in the auditorium, generally set apart for other purposes.

Probably all had given towards the erection of the building, but many to their loss it is spoken, had never been within its walls before. From time to time the Y. M. C. A. has circulated the printed story of its activities—rectifying factors whereon unexpressed but powerful appeals for wider and fuller support depended. But one visit to the busy hive, one sight of the industries of class rooms and laboratories, of gymnasium and swimming bath, just a short stay in the crowded restaurant, a talk with the employment bureau, which not only seeks but provides employment for the friendless or stranded man, a sight of the thronged reading rooms and of the library—all this was a revelation of activities and efforts, animated by spiritual life, of a manufacture of good citizens and good men, as one speaker well expressed it.

This one visit was worth scores of articles and pounds of print. But the invitation to go and see, to take any day, any hour for the impromptu visit, was urged and repeated and applied to every citizen of Portland. The result is sure and certain.

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CONFIRMATION

THE world moves. A disgruntled minority tried to restrict the rights of the individual in Oregon, and failed. The state refused to go backward. In an election at San Francisco Tuesday, the citizens there, instead of restricting, enlarged their rights and powers. It was an election in which the people's verdict, as it has always been in Oregon, is for clean government and higher civic ideals.

Though there were 39 measures on the San Francisco ballot, the people voted with intelligence and discrimination. They passed an effective system of initiative, referendum and recall. They voted to prohibit the printing of the party designation of the candidate on the primary ballot. They provided for such a change in the order of names on the ballot that each candidate would in turn stand at the head of the list.

They voted to elect half the officials at alternate elections, making the terms four years, so that the ballot would be shortened to one-half its present length. They voted to give the people the power to recall a public service franchise at any time. They voted down a long list of measures, using the ballot with keen discrimination for the defeat of doubtful propositions. As in San Francisco, so it is in Oregon, and so everywhere. The average citizen is so very intelligent, and the collective judgment of the average citizen is sound. A ballot verdict by the whole electorate is, whenever the issue is squarely presented, always on the side of good government and exalted civic standards.

In his Labor Day address Roosevelt said: "It is the duty not merely of the wage-earner but of the public, to see that he has safe and healthy conditions under which to work. No worker should, as a condition of earning his daily bread, be compelled to risk life and limb, or be deprived of health, or have to work in bad and dangerous conditions."

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A PROTEST

THE STREETS of a city belong to the public and should not be vacated except for extraordinary reasons. They belong not to the present generation but to the generations that are to come after.

Several Portland councilmen are going to resist the vacation of 13 parts of streets sought on the east side of the river by the O. R. & N. They regard the vacations as bad public policy, and in that contention they are backed up by the best economic thought on municipal life.

The Return to the Towns. More evidence of a return to the townships is being shown. Youngstown, Ohio, 72.3 per cent; El Paso, Texas, 14.9 per cent; Canton, Ill., 52.2 per cent.

OIL

PROBABLY, SOME day, in the future, oil in big quantity will be struck in Oregon. Perhaps in Malheur county, perhaps in Polk county, possibly in Clatsop or Baker or Marion. Where the far-sunk oil sea lies is a mystery, known not positively until they begin to spout through orifices in the earth's crust.

Make Travel Safe. The latest report of the interstate commerce commission deals with the number of accidents in which passengers met death or injury on American railroads in the last year. The report shows that 2894 were killed and 23,374 injured in approximately 12,000 collisions and derailments.

KEEP PLAYING

If you've got the game and you're wise, keep playing. Duck through the center and give it a spin. If you're a crack, you'll squirm through the jam. Let your trick be a smash. If you're a crack, you'll squirm through the jam. Let your trick be a smash.

PRISONERS WHO FARM

An interesting report has just been issued on the result of the investigations which were made by four of the royal commissioners on the poor law into the working of labor colonies in Holland, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland.

HOW TO WRITE

From the Chicago Tribune. Meredith Nicholson, much of whose work has figured among the "best sellers," says in a recent interview: "I have always felt humble when asked for my method of work. I suppose I ought

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

Small change. Lodge may be dislodged. Roosevelt's attitude is awful. Campaign cigars are quite out of date. It is the season for hard winter prophets.

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ORIGON SIDELIGHTS

Bonanza electric lights. Enterprise had a fine dairy show. Bandon is to have a box factory. Falls City keeps improving steadily. Josephine county went dry by 13 votes.

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ANGLEFOOT

The girl was rich, the duke was not. But off he swore he loved the maid. Her father sawed the coil he got. The duke thought he was overpaid.

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November 17 in History—Suez Canal Opened

Today is the anniversary of the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. In those days the ship canal was considered a wonderful undertaking, and it cost an enormous amount of money to complete. But much of the \$100,000,000 was spent in bribes and excessive discounts. It also cost the lives of thousands of men.

The Suez Canal was not new in history. Thirty-five centuries before Suez, the father of Hammurabi had dug a canal through the isthmus of Suez, connecting the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

On November 17, 1858, Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne of England; the seat of government was removed to Washington in 1800, and the treaty between the United States and China regarding navigation in the Far East was signed.

Hitchcock's New Handshake. From St. Louis Post Dispatch. A new high handshake, brought by Postmaster General Hitchcock on his visit to St. Louis, was his contribution to the local political situation.

Materialism. (Contributed to the Journal by West Marsh, the famous Kansas poet. His prose poems are a regular feature of this column in the Daily Journal.) I gazed upon the noble oak that threw its shadow far and wide, and to the husbandman I spoke: "That tree should be your boast and pride. For once a thousand years it stood—a thousand years of sun and rain—the sole survivor of the wood that one time clothed this verdant plain."

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