THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

E. B. JACKSON.....Publisher

Published every evening (except Sunday) and every Sunday morning at The Journal Building, Fifth and Yamhill streets, Portland, Or.

Entered at the postoffice at Portland, Or., for transmission through the mails as second-class matter.

TELEPHONES — Main, 7173; Home, A-6051. All departments reached by these numbers. Tell the operator what department you want.

FOREIGN ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE, Benjamin & Kentnor Co., Brunswick Building, 225 Fifth avenue, New York; 1007-08 Boyce Building, Chicago.

Subscription Terms by mail or to any address in the United States, Canada or Mexico:

DAILY.

One year.....$5.00 | One month.....$ .50

SUNDAY.

One year.....$2.50 | One month.....$ .25

DAILY AND SUNDAY.

One year.....$7.50 | One month.....$ .65

There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

SUMMARY OF THE MESSAGE

THE president begins his message with a statement concerning the arbitration of two international disputes, thus placing the movement for peace between nations in the forefront in point of importance. Then follow many hundred words relating to foreign affairs, which though not trivial, are of slight interest to the average citizen.

Next he discusses the maximum and minimum feature of the tariff law, and especially our tariff relations with Canada. He seems to be in favor and hopeful of freer trade with that country, which is a position that should be beneficial to both countries. A high tariff wall between the United States and Canada is international folly. He urges a marine mail subsidy, but it is doubtful if such a law can get through congress this winter; it certainly cannot during the next two years thereafter.

The president points out various reductions in expenditures that have been made and urges further economy and more businesslike methods, especially in the customs service, which suggestions the country will heartily approve.

The president's comments on the Payne-Aldrich tariff act are weak and evasive. Most of the adverse criticisms of that law, he says, are unfounded, and he makes no specific recommendations regarding schedules which even he admits are objectionable, but passes to a lengthy argument in support of the board of tariff commissioners, a body that may do some good work, but cannot legislate.

There is need of only a "skeleton army" the president thinks, "with an excess of trained officers." This will please the officers, though they desire a large army so as to make a showing of having something to do to earn their salaries.

Considerable space is given to the Panama canal, which the president predicts will be completed before January 1, 1915, at a cost not exceeding $375,000,000, and he urges its fortification.

The country will be pleased that the president reverted to the subject of reform in judicial procedure, under which head he says:

"One great crying need in the United States is cheapening the cost of litigation by simplifying judicial procedure and expediting final judgment. Under present conditions the poor man is at a woeful disadvantage in a legal contest with a corporation or a rich opponent. The necessity for the reform exists both in United States courts and in all state courts." He thinks the United States supreme court itself should take the lead in this reform and says he "cannot conceive of any higher duty that it could perform than in leading the way to a simplification of procedure in the United States courts," and he would allow less opportunity for appeals.

The president renews his former recommendations for an injunction law; advocates postal savings banks; criticises the abuse of the franking privilege; advises the adoption of the parcels post system on rural delivery routes; makes no definite appeal for a larger navy, and recommends recognition of Peary's exploit.

Reclamation is discussed at considerable length, and he favors the leasing of coal lands, without title to them being given to coal mine operators, pointing with approval to the system in vogue in Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania. He would adopt the same policy with respect to oil, gas and phosphate lands.

On the subject of water power sites he recommends legislation that will prevent combination of many power sites in few hands, the control of which "would enable the holders or owners to raise the price of power at will within certain sections; and the temptation would promptly attract investors, and the danger of monopoly and extortion would not be a remote one;" and he says it is the duty of the government "to see to it that in the utilization and development of all this immense amount of water power, conditions shall be imposed that will prevent extortionate charges, which are the usual accompaniment of monopoly." He thinks that government control of water power sites on public lands does not interfere with the rights of the states.

A commission government for Alaska is rerecommended. The pension abuse is mildly criticised. The agricultural products of the country are of "stupendous value" —$8,926,000,000, which is $305,000,000 larger than last year. More money is needed to fight forest fires. He favors a law giving the executive power to enforce the 8 hour law as to all government employes, in all cases. Many hundreds of words are given to District of Columbia affairs. The president favors a law giving the Interstate Commerce commission authority to ascertain the actual physical value of all railroads.

While the message might have been boiled down a good deal, it is in the main, one which the mass of American people will approve.

THE DOCKS COMMISSION

AS FINALLY constituted the public docks commission is, George Cornwall, Ben Selling, Charles B. Moores, F. W. Mulkey and H. L. Corbett. It should be able to render the city of Portland a transcendent service. It has $2,500,000 at its disposal. For its guidance it has the knowledge that 27,076 Portland citizens participated in the balloting on the docks measure, and that 18,771 voted for it and but 8305 against.

The vote was the second one rendered on the docks issue, a former one standing more than two to one in favor of public docks. Both followed a full and free discussion of the subject, with both sides to the controversy ably presented. This is history from the record, and it means that the electorate fully understood the issue, and that the citizens of the city are firmly and overwhelmingly committed to the policy.

From these facts the members of the commission will perfectly understand their duty, and what is expected of them. Under the law by which they are created as a public body, they have extraordinary functions. Their hands are free, and their opportunity for constructive endeavor very great. They have unlimited chance to leave the impress of their intelligence on the city of Portland, and by the character of the work they may do to identify their names prominently with the history of the city.

No public body in the state is more notable, and none confronted with a weightier responsibility. It is an extraordinary privilege to be a factor in fashioning the water front of a great metropolis. It comes to few men to be clothed with authority to fix the enduring framework around which a great commerce is for all time to revolve. It falls to few careers to have placed at their disposal enormous sums of public money and enormous powers in applying those sums to permanent public appointments.

The members of the commission should, and doubtless do, enter upon their work with a deep appreciation of their opportunities and responsibilities. Portland commits a weighty issue to their keeping. They should build to honor Portland as Portland has honored them.

WEIGHED AND FOUND WANTING

MANY members of the present congress will never "come back." They are attending their last session. Among them are most of the leaders of many years. The people have repudiated them, and not without sufficient cause. They did not serve the people in many particulars. They yielded on most occasions to the demands and pressure of special interests inimical to the public welfare, and were false to or neglected the interests of the mass, the common people. Like Belshazzer they imagined themselves securely intrenched in place and power, whatever they did or failed to do, but they have seen the handwriting on the wall. The people have said "You have been weighed in the balance and been found wanting; your power will be taken from you." And so, on March 4 next, a larger number of them will perforce bid a sad farewell to the halls of congress and the places that have known them so long will know them no more.

Will the new men that are to take their places do better? Will they be true to the people? Will they serve with fidelity to the great trust reposed in them? The country will watch to see. They should have learned a valuable lesson from the November elections, and realize that if they are not an improvement on the men they replace, they too will be rejected as soon as the people get an opportunity. For the people are determined to have better, truer service.

THROWING LIFE LINES

ONE OF THE most effective philanthropies in the country is the Red Cross stamp sale. The agency by which it is carried out is the Visiting Nurse association, and no service is more efficacious. For every dollar's worth of stamps sold, 100 cents worth of aid is rendered to the needy.

The net sale of stamps in Oregon last year was about $8000. With it, 23 tuberculous poor were treated in the Portland Open Air sanatorium, and started on the road to recovery. It is a story of 23 human lives literally saved, and of 23 human beings restored to useful endeavor.

In addition more than 100 tuberculous poor were sought out in their homes, and given all the relief that science, modern information and the means at hand would afford. One nurse from the association devoted the whole year to this labor of deliverance. From the free clinic at the People's institute, consumptive patients were traced to their homes, and were there instructed in sanitation, were taught the gospel of fresh air and sunlight, were informed in the important lesson of food and treatment, and in many an instance were rescued from the embrace of the great white plague and started on the road to restored vitality and life.

No charity is more charitable. No work of relief does more to relieve. The rescue of the suffering is in this work the safety of the healthy, for the malady is infectious.

The whole scheme is a beautiful picture of brotherhood and deliverance. The Red Cross stamps are life lines thrown to those who are swiftly drifting beyond the reach of human help.

SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

JAMES SMITH JR., a multimillionaire who served a term in the United States senate from New Jersey, desires to represent that state, or rather certain manufacturing, financial and corporation interests in the senate again. The Democrats have a majority in the legislature, and Smith calls himself a Democrat.

If the newly elected Democratic legislatures should elect men like Smith in New Jersey and McLean in Ohio, they would so displease and disgust the rank and file of Democrats that the election of Democratic legislatures in northern states would be impossible and undesirable for many years to come. The defeat of the Republican party in the northern states that have been Republican for a long time was a protest against the election of just this type of men to the senate.

Smith is an ultra reactionary, a thorough machine man, a believer in the efficacy of boodle, an opponent of genuine tariff reform, or any other kind of reform, a man in entire sympathy with Aldrichism, and incapable of truly representing the common people of the mosquito state.

Governor-elect Woodrow Wilson is exercising considerable activity in opposing the ambition of Smith, and it is to be hoped that his great influence will be effective. Wilson is himself rather conservative, but he is a vastly more desirable type of public man than Smith, and strives conscientiously and patriotically to serve the people.

"BACK TO THE SOIL"

THE CENSUS figures, as far as reported, seem to show that the "Back-to-the-Soil" slogan has not as yet been very effective. The tide of movement is still toward the cities, instead of from them to the country. The cities appear to be growing faster than the country. This is to be regretted, but it should not lead to the discouragement of those who are urging most country people to stay there and improve agricultural methods, and some city people to get out into the near-by country and produce things from the soil.

Notwithstanding the rather disappointing figures, there is evidence that there is a considerable "Back-to-the-Soil" movement, or Stick-to-the-Soil sentiment, and that this sentiment and movement will grow, and become more apparent in the returns from the next census. In this portion of the country, at least, the country seems to be holding its own with the cities pretty well, and there are indications that it will develop even more rapidly than the cities during the next decade. Many large farms that were poorly tilled have been subdivided into small farms, and hundreds of others will be subjected to the same process during the next few years. Building of interurban electric lines will also cause an acceleration of this movement, and rapid development of interurban districts.

The "Back-to-the-Soil," or Stick-to-the-Soil campaign should be kept up vigorously. Scarcely anything is more important for the country than the greater peopling and production of the country. The cities will take care of themselves.

It will surprise many people to learn from the census returns that New England is gaining faster in population than several of the older western states. Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut have made greater gains—20, 26 and 22 per cent respectively—in the past decade than Michigan, 16 per cent; Missouri, 6; Indiana, 7.3; Ohio, 14.7; and Kansas, 15; while Iowa shows a slight decrease. One reason is that New England catches a larger proportion of immigrants than the western states do.

During November the receipts at the federal assay office at Seattle were $1,558,234, an increase over the corresponding month last year of more than $800,000. The receipts since the establishment of the office up to December 1 have aggregated $199,049,061, nearly all of which has come from Alaska and the Yukon country. The assay office has handled about 500 tons of gold, and hundreds of tons will yet come down from the frigid but auriferous north. We surely got a great bargain in Alaska.

Not only is Mr. W. O. Minor of Morrow county to be congratulated on his success in raising fine stock, but the people of the state, and of that part of it in particular, are also to be congratulated on having so enterprising, progressive and useful a citizen. At the recent livestock show in Chicago he took several high prizes and sold a large number of young Shorthorn cattle at an average of $380 a head, one two-year-old heifer bringing $675. This does much to advertise Oregon favorably, besides putting well deserved money in Mr. Minor's pocket.

The recent alleged pessimistic utterance of Mr. J. J. Hill is deprecated by the banking house of Henry Clews & Co., in its current circular, which says it created a much stronger impression than it deserved. It is admitted that values of all kinds have been inflated and that the country is passing through a reactionary period, but while Wall street feels somewhat depressed, the situation is improving, and things are not so bad as Mr. Hill was reported to have pictured them.

Chicago teamsters have struck for an increase of wages from $12 or $15 to $18 a week. The latter figure seems not unreasonable. If a man has a family and has to pay rent he can scarcely procure the bare necessaries of life for $12 a week.

A Seattle man paid about $300,000 for an orchard of 237 acres in Rogue River valley, upwards of $1200 an acre, and presumably got a good bargain. When money talks thus loudly it can be heard away back east to the astonishment of the natives.

Letters From the People

Deplores Range Wars.

Portland, Dec. 6.—To the Editor of The Journal—The trouble the range stockmen are having with the settlers and government in parts of Oregon and Nebraska is unnecessary, and shows the need of proper regulation of grazing upon public land. There has been many bloody fights between the range stockmen for possession and control of certain parts of the public range. Fighting for something that neither had a legal right to.

During their wars their herds or flocks were often badly damaged. If they would stop and consider the cost they would look for a cheaper solution of the free range problem. The destruction of property, cost of lawsuits, not counting the many murders, is a heavy rent to pay for free grazing. The range stockmen can no longer control the free range by force, and it is to their interests, as well as the homesteaders, to have grazing law enacted.

The range should be leased to the settlers and stockmen, and the amount to each should be limited, so all who wish and are entitled to a share can get it. W. K. WHITMORE.

Personal Liberty Ideas.

Portland, Dec. 6.—To the Editor of The Journal—I recently read of a sweet young lady in this city who had taken out for herself naturalization papers, thereby becoming a full fledged American citizen, sworn to defend our flag. It was also stated that she does not care to vote and is willing to relegate that duty of a true citizen to her brother. I would like to have it explained how this double and twisted loyalty works, and where is the authority for one human being to turn his or her God given faculties over to another?

Now, with me, it is different. Like Saint Paul I was born free. My forefathers defended this country against oppression and tyranny with their blood, and if oppression has crept in and my inalienable rights have been wrested from me, no one can fill my place. I can only stand on guard the best I can and defend my rights where I may until such times as my brother politician wakes up and restores to me that which was taken from me.

Before the last election we heard a great deal about "personal liberty." If we took away the rum traffic we interfered with a man's or woman's personal liberty, forgetting that if it was retained, the wife and children in the drunkard's home were robbed of their personal liberty, and "the greatest good to the largest number," theory, has become a myth.

But, I am a stickler for personal liberty. I love to breathe the pure air of Heaven in this, my own country, uncontaminated by any foul air that might prevade the atmosphere. I am passing down the street and just ahead of me is a creature in the semblance of a man, puffing away at a cigar, and volumes of smoke are sailing over his shoulder direct to my mouth, eyes, and nostrils, and against my inclinations and desires, I am compelled to swallow some of the same before I can get away from it, notwithstanding the fact that scientists tell us that niccotine is a deadly poison.

Again at another time I am passing down a street on business intent, and upon reaching a corner I am stopped by a funeral procession and as I am held there by no desire of my own, the crowd surges around me and I find that a cigarette smoker is stationed at my left hand, a man with a cigar on my right, while just in front of me is another with a pipe of a thousand smells, while I, wedged in as I am by the crowd, am compelled to exercise my personal liberty by keeping still, and swallowing everything that comes my way, well knowing that if many another woman were in my place she would go home sick, unto death with a raging headache. We meet them in the elevators, also the street cars, where there is a good law prohibiting smoking, but the smoker comes into a crowded car, and removes the pipe or cigar from his mouth, but allows it to smoke away as fast as it can to the disgust of the lady next to him whom I heard remonstrate with him only to be rewarded with a stare, for is he not exercising his personal liberty?

Again I go to church, happy in the thought that I may worship God according to the dictates of my own conscience, where lo, a man, a stranger, comes along and sits beside me as he has a right to do, for is he not exercising his personal liberty? But oh, poor me, I forget to count my blessings and am utterly unable to fix my thoughts upon the God I love, because of the foul breath laden with the recently smoked—and I come down in my thought from the heights of power to transitory things, and begin again to wonder—where is my personal liberty? NEAL B. INMAN.

A Curious Episode.

From the Detroit Free Press.

The Chinese never asked anything of the Christian world but to be left alone. The Christian world came to their coasts with missionaries to convert them and with guns to help along the process of evangelization. Portugal, which first arrived, seized a part of their shore and fortified it, so that the good work could be protected from time to time by military operations. England, offended because the Chinese undertook to exclude the Indian opium which was poisoning their people, seized Hongkong. Germany, having driven the Jesuits out of her own territory, two of the latter, who had taken refuge in China, were fortuitously killed by the Boxers, and Germany's Christian indignation flew to arms; a German fleet and army were dispatched to the east, and a goodly portion of the province of Shantung was seized to avenge the deaths of the Jesuits. Wei-Hai-Wei, a Chinese port, which had been seized by the Japanese, was abandoned when the latter had to give up the fruits of their victory and England stepped in and occupied it. In the meantime the good work of evangelization went on under cover of European guns and every time a missionary was hurt, some European power levied damages upon the helpless Chinese.

And now Portugal, having become a republic, and imitated Germany by hustling the monks and nuns out of her territory, the Portuguese sailors and soldiers of Macao, which they stole from the Chinese, had a little revolution of their own, landed in the town, occupied the principal square, seduced the garrison to their side, marched to the convent and hustled the nuns out of town, who took refuge in Hongkong, coerced the governor into granting a number of extravagant demands, including the banishment of the priests and missionaries, and did their pleasure in all respects.

And so goes the Human Comedy. A fine conclusion to the farce would be the uprising of the Chinese people against the powers that had robbed them, the recovery of the coast points which had been stolen, the banishment of the last European from the coast, and the protection of the missionaries, monks and nuns against the people who had sent them there to impose their religion upon a people who were civilized when the European nations were cannibals. What a fine jest it would be to see the Christian missionaries protected by the Chinese government against the persecution of the Christian powers. Funnier things have happened in human history, which seems in some respects one long and hideous farce.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

A message of 5000 words, instead of 30,000 would have done as well.

It is only a revolution that succeeds that is right, as the world judges.

Drexel's altitude barometer, like the cost of living, had to come down.

The cut in meat can be seen in any meat market and also in all kitchens.

Adjournment will be one of the principal features of congressional action.

How many have kept New Year's resolutions so far? We see few hands up.

Another Chicago professor has advertised his silliness; he says women are not fit to teach boys.

Colonel Roosevelt will talk on politics at New Haven next Tuesday. He could restrain himself no longer.

It is a difficult matter to get at the long and short of the long-and-short haul clause of the new law.

"British gold" used to be a bogey in American politics. Now "American dollars" are so in Great Britain.

The Journal doesn't really expect many of the subscribers to read the president's message through.

Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden, and now Mary Garden is being driven out of virtuous Chicago.

A Pennsylvania justice of the peace personally gave a wifebeater a thorough whipping. His salary should be raised.

Also mail Christmas presents early. The postoffice and mails will be greatly congested for a week before Christmas.

But the March magazines, that will be out soon, won't tell whether an extra session of congress will be called or not.

Blizzard and big snow all the way from the Atlantic to the Rockies. Very mild and comfortable in Oregon, thank you.

A preacher says there would not be a church in the country except for the women. No, nor any men or children either.

A Lord Sandwich figures in the English election rumpus. With coffee or beer, he ought to be popular with the working classes.

There will be an unusual number of eulogies over lately deceased congressmen at this session. They should be limited to 10 minutes each.

As for mere man, he has a very poor chance at the Christmas bargain counters these afternoons. If he wants anything, he should be on hand when the stores open.

The greatest loss to the country in the death of members of congress during the past few months was the deceased Senator Dolliver. He was greater than all the others combined.

Colonel Watterson has disillusioned many pert paragraphers and other people by saying that he never used whisky or other liquor as a beverage; only wine and other light drinks, chiefly at dinner.

Boston Globe: Not only will the proposed 35 per cent advance in freight rates between the Pacific coast and Boston increase the price of oranges, but it will also put up the price of prunes.

Chicago Record-Herald: James J. Hill denies that he said a panic was coming, and furthermore, he insists that he sees no present cause for alarm. Some reporter must have eaten too much turkey and had a bad dream as a result.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Central Point is growing rapidly.

Medford man sold 15 10-acre tracts in Portland.

Klamath Falls boasts of being a good show town.

Work is progressing on Ontario's new $100,000 hotel.

Klamath valley may also become an apple country.

Ontario will vote on a new $40,000 high school building.

A new industry in Lebanon is a planing mill of large capacity.

There is prospect of a 40,000 or 50,000 feet a day sawmill in Scio.

The number of visitors this year to Crater Lake was over 5000.

Eugene's postal receipts increased 22 per cent in the past year.

Klamath Falls will try to get free mail delivery; ought to have it.

Many fruit trees and berry plants are being set out around Falls City.

Farmer near Banks sold a dressed hog weighing over 400 pounds for $50.17.

Tract of 600 acres near Willamina will be subdivided into small fruit farms.

One man will winter 12,000 sheep at Stein's mountain; has bought 400 tons of hay.

Estate of a farmer near Heilx, who came to this country penniless, is worth $125,000.

New variety of apple has been produced in Benton county called the Vanderpool.

Brownsville commercial club has been sick, but will live and do good work, reports the Times.

Canyon City Eagle: There is only one good piece of road in the county during the present muddy spell. That stretch of good road is the 100-yard stretch which was built last fall by the new road machinery.

L. A. Wright, mayor of Union, has a registered Jersey cow that cost him $150 a little over two years ago. From this cow's increase Mr. Wright has sold already $325 worth of stock and has the original cow left.

Portland parties have a 30-day option on a farm of 1200 acres near Cottage Grove at $65 per acre. It is their intention, if the deal is consummated, to subdivide this big farm, set it to fruit and sell in five and 10-acre tracts.

Lakeview has the distinction of having more automobiles in proportion to the size of the town than any other place in the United States, so says automobile authorities. Lakeview has about 1000 population and some 40 cars, or a car for every 250 people.

There have been 53 residences built in Ontario this year, besides some business buildings, and there are enough more under way to bring the list up to 60 for the year. Most of these homes are modern throughout and range in price from $2000 to $5000 and $8000.

The large number of road districts issuing call for meetings to vote a special road tax is evidence that the work begun during the present year will be carried forward in 1911. Those joining in the movement are entitled to credit for their public spirit, says the Hillsboro Independent.

Pendleton is the most centrally located of all eastern Oregon cities. It has 23 passenger trains running in and out of the city daily and it has hotel and restaurant accommodations possessed by no other small city in the northwest, says the East Oregonian. Hence Pendleton thinks it has claims on the new asylum.

December 7 in History—James Oglethorpe

Among the members of the British parliament during the rule of Sir Robert Walpole was one almost unknown to the greater portion of the people in the United States, but who deserves honor beyond most men of his time, and to whom the people of this country owe a lasting debt of gratitude. His name was James Oglethorpe. He was a soldier and had fought against the Turks and in the great Marlborough wars against Louis XIV. In advanced life he became the friend of Dr. Samuel Johnson, who urged him to write some account of his adventures.

"I know no one," he said, "whose life would be more interesting; if I were furnished with materials I should be very glad to write it."

Edmund Burke considered him "a more extraordinary person than any he had ever read of." John Wesley "blessed God that ever he was born."

In Oglethorpe's time it was within the power of a creditor to imprison, according to his pleasure, the man who owed him money and was not able to pay it. It was a common circumstance that a man should be imprisoned during a long series of years for a trifling debt. Oglethorpe had a friend upon whom this hard fate had fallen. His attention was thus painfully called to the cruelties which were inflicted upon the unfortunate and helpless. He appealed to parliament and after inquiry a partial remedy was obtained.

The prevention from sending debtors to prison did not alone satisfy him. Liberty was an incomplete gift to men who had lost, or perhaps had scarcely ever possessed, the faculty of earning their own maintenance. Oglethorpe devised how he might carry these unfortunates to a new world, where, under happier auspices, they might open a fresh career.

With this object in view, he obtained, on December 7, 1731, from King George II, a charter by which the country between the Savannah and the Alatamaha, and stretching westward to the Pacific, was erected into the province of Georgia. It was to be a refuge for the deserving poor and next to them for Protestants suffering persecution. Parliament, during the winter that followed, voted $50,000 in aid of the humane enterprise, and many benevolent persons were liberal with their gifts.

Oglethorpe completed his arrangements during the summer of 1732 and in November the first exodus of the insolvents took place. Oglethorpe sailed with 120 emigrants, mainly selected from the prisons—penniless, but of good repute. He surveyed the coasts of Georgia and in January landed and chose a site for the capital of his new state. He pitched his tent where Savannah now stands and at once proceeded to mark out the line of streets and squares. Next year the colony was joined by about 100 German Protestants who were then under persecution for their belief. The fame of Oglethorpe's enterprise spread over Europe. All struggling men against whom the battle of life when hard looked to Georgia as a land of promise.

The progress of the colony was slow. The poor persons, of whom it was originally composed, were honest but ineffective, and could not in Georgia, more than in England, find out the way to become self-supporting. With Oglethorpe there went out on the second expedition John and Charles Wesley. Charles went as secretary to the governor. John was even then, although a very young man, a preacher of unusual promise. He remained two years in Georgia and returned home secretly, owing to dissatisfaction among the colonists, to begin his great career in England.

Just as Wesley reached England his fellow laborer, George Whitefield, sailed for Georgia. He met with much greater success. After a time the colony began to prosper. Oglethorpe went to England in 1743 and was never able to return to Georgia owing largely to the fact that he had already sacrificed his private means for the welfare of the colonists.

Oglethorpe was in effect a philanthropist. Renouncing court pleasures and home comforts, he devoted his best years to humanity, helped the suffering and protected the weak. After his retirement from public life he became known as a patron of learning, and showed himself a model of courtesy and grace. Hannah More declared him the most remarkable man of his time. He died in 1785 at the extreme age of 96.

On December 7, Washington delivered his last address to congress in 1796. Today is the birthday of Hugh McCulloch, secretary of the treasury under three presidents (1808); Elizabeth H. Whittier, poet (1815); James D. Porter, the Tennessee soldier and politician (1828); Everett H. Barney, the American inventor (1835), and Nancy A. W. P. Wakefield, poet (1836). Today is the date of the assassination of Cicero, the Roman orator (B. C. 43); Marshal Ney, general under Napoleon (1815); Dr. John Aikin, author (1822), and Abbe Macpherson (1846).

TANGLEFOOT

By Miles Overholt

THE SHEEPHERDER.

He stood in the street, forlorn and alone,
And his pale blue eyes were sad.
And he mumbled the while in a mournful tone
Like a man demented and mad.
His clothes were tattered, his head was bare,
His hair was ragged and long,
He gazed around with a vacant stare,
Then mumbled this pitiful song:

"I'm a ba-ba-ba, I'm a ba-ba sheep,
I ba-ba a lonesome lay,
Sometimes I laugh, sometimes I weep,
Sometimes I gambol and play,
But I ba-ba-ba my whole life through,
I ba-ba from morn till night;
I'm the ba-ba man of the ba-ba crew—
That's right."

He follows the herd on a desert bare,
A dreary, lonely trail,
No human being e'er meets him there
And he follows in sun or gale.
The mournful cry of the mournful herd
Rings ever in his ears;
From month to month he says no word
And solitude stunts his years.

For he's the king of a wild domain
As he follows his mournful flock,
He knows no joy, he knows no pain,
And the echoes jeer and mock
When the ba-ba-ba of the ba-ba sheep
Disturbs the desert air,
And he hears "Ba-ba!" in his troubled sleep,
And he knows naught but despair.

On a sandy knoll he stands awhile
And looks across the plain,
Nor on his face the faintest smile,
And neither a sign of pain.
'Tis only a listless, lonely life,
And the minutes are much too long,
But mingled feelings within him rife
Bring forth his pitiful song:

"I'm a ba-ba-ba, I'm a ba-ba sheep,
I ba-ba a lonesome lay,
Sometimes I laugh, sometimes I weep,
Sometimes I gambol and play,
But I ba-ba-ba my whole life through,
I ba-ba from morn till night;
I'm the ba-ba man of the ba-ba crew—
That's right."

Railroads and the Cost of Living.

From the Philadelphia North American.

Here is something about the cost of living. It is a subject which concerns all but the idle rich. For even those so well-to-do that they do not feel the immediate pinch of high prices may be dependent on the common spending power for their business prosperity.

The cost of living is made up of innumerable items. When the price of any considerable number of these goes up, the price of nearly all the others moves in sympathy. It is the law of trade.

If from any cause whatever, such as increased freight rates, the retail merchant has to pay a fraction of a cent more for cotton goods than he did formerly, he is not likely to bear that loss himself. He passes it along to the consumer. That, too, is the law of trade.

To advance goods from 5 to 5½ cents is to add 10 per cent to that item in the cost of living.

If a merchant finds that the shoes in which he deals are costing 2 or 3 cents more per pair, he must either bear the loss, which might be very considerable in the course of a year, or else he must pass it along to the customer. If he does pass it along, it becomes at least 10 cents, but more likely 25, as prices in all but the very cheapest shoes usually move in quarter dollars.

The manufacturer, finding that the merchant has such a large margin of profit, proceeds to absorb it, for he knows that he in turn will have to hand it over to the leather trust or some other combination that can make its own terms.

The same rule applies when the price of the mechanic's tin dinner pail is increased, or his hat or broom or kit of mackerel or overcoat or wagon-load of lumber for that extension to his house, because of the many children with which he has been blest, or a high chair for the last baby, the old one having been worn out.

These instances illustrate in some measure how the proposed increase in the price of railroad freight rates concerns the common man, the mechanic, the clerk, the small merchant, the professional man. And because every increase in the cost of living restricts the buying power of the public, these instances also show how the proposed advance in freight rates threatens the manufacturer, the wholesaler and the big retail merchant.

Process of Education.

From the Harney Valley News (Rep.)

Word comes from Portland that an organization has been started there with the object of educating the people about Bourne and thus encompass his defeat for reelection. This is certainly a worthy object and should receive the indorsement of every Republican in the state who has the party and the interests of the state at heart.—Ontario Argus.

So! It is barely possible, friend Argus, that it is the "jack pot" politicians who will get the "educating" and not the people. The latter seemed during the recent campaign to be far better and more reliably educated about Bourne than the self styled "intelligent leaders" were.

The work of the "jack pot" which is now proposed to be raised by contributions from the enemies of Bourne will simply arouse the masses to a further and more emphatic "educating" of the dunder-headed bosses of the Republican machine gang.

Bad Breaks

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

I've made a million bad mistakes, I've made a million foolish breaks, in this wide world of wonders; and I expect to make some more before I reach that happy shore where no one ever blunders. And I shall not apologize, or squirt the briny from my eyes, or make long explanations; the breaks I made in other days are made—their ghosts I shall not raise, to swell men's tribulations. Of all the useless things men do, the blamedest is to stand and view the past with grief and wailing; the future, like a sunlit sea, is waiting still for you and me, so let us both go sailing. The future, like a minstrel gay, is singing of a pleasant way of scenes and days beguiling; the future, like a star-eyed maid (mixed metaphors, I am afraid) is beckoning and smiling. The man who marks the future's curves, and frets about the past, deserves the kicks that he'll be given; he likes to make a friend of woe, and so, wherever he may go, by woe he will be driven.

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