

THE JOURNAL

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It is a serious thing that we should see the full beauty of our lives only when they are passed or in visions of a possible future.

THE SESSION'S OPPORTUNITY

ONE OF THE large duties before the legislature is the subject of taxation. In his message Governor West points out the situation in a way that would seem to appeal to the members.

Through a period of two years, a legislative tax commission delved into the subject, and as a part of their findings, two measures were submitted to the electorate as constitutional amendments at the last election.

The governor suggests that the passage of the poll tax amendment at the last election opens the way for the legislature to frame a bill for submission at the next election.

One reason why many measures go on the Oregon ballot is because legislatures often fail to assume a legislative leadership that commands general respect.

DOUBLE HEADED GOVERNMENT

AS ACTING GOVERNOR, Senator Bowerman read a message to the legislature. He recommended a state board of control for conducting the state institutions.

What does he propose for the governor to do? What the secretary of state? What the state treasurer? These three with, in some cases, the state superintendent of public instruction, now have charge of the state institutions.

In arguing for his board of control, Mr. Bowerman says, "There is neither reason nor justification for the present method of managing state affairs."

"The public has the right to expect and demand that public money be expended with the same judicious care exercised by an ordinarily prudent business man," says Senator Bowerman.

is also why the public objected to the appointment by Mr. Bowerman of a superintendent for an eastern Oregon asylum two years before the asylum was completed, and to the payment of a salary in an office in which there are no duties.

DAIRY LEGISLATION

IN ANY PROPOSED legislation, it is important that no hardship be worked on the great butter and cheese-making industry of the state. It is highly essential for that branch of the dairy business to be conserved and safeguarded.

In any legislation providing for a state-wide tuberculosis test, this branch of the dairy business should be carefully consulted, and its interests be scrupulously considered.

The State Dairywomen's association has itself proposed a state wide tuberculosis test under certain conditions, and has named a legislative committee to act with others in the matter of legislation.

The place where it is essential to have drastic action with reference to consumptive cows is in the vicinity of Portland. It is here that population is congested. It is here that inspection and surveillance is necessary.

A NEW SENATE

IT WILL BE almost a new senate that meets after March 4. It will also be a better senate.

The defeat of Burrows, the death of Elkins, the disappearance of Hale and the retirement of Aldrich take away from the body four figures who have been potential in making the senate a bulwark of privilege.

Four other iron clad stalwarts retire in Keen of New Jersey, Scott of West Virginia, Depew of New York, and Dick of Ohio, all of whom will be succeeded by Democrats.

LEGISLATIVE CLERKS

THE RESTRICTION of the number of legislative clerks to those actually needed and provision that they shall be competent, seems a rational proposal.

It is common knowledge that the clerkship industry was formerly an open and notorious graft. Numerous persons in clerical positions rendered little, if any service.

In the height of the abuse, the cost of the clerkship graft amounted on one session to more than \$27,000. It was more than the pay and mileage of the members.

stipulations they will have nothing for which to make explanation or apology.

NO NEED TO WORRY

WHAT THERE is no need to worry about the future food supply of America, is the opinion of Victor H. Olmstead, chief of the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture.

He claims that the mean production per acre of wheat, corn, barley, oats and potatoes has been increasing for many years, and that in the case of some of these products the increase has been greater than that of population.

This is a timely note of official optimism. The capacity of American soil is practically boundless, when better methods of using it are applied.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS

THE experimental stage of postal savings banks in the United States has begun. Their extension from one in every state to one in every town and village will be soon in evidence if their history in other lands is to be paralleled here.

In May, 1861, Gladstone's bill for their establishment in England passed through parliament after long debate. In September, 1861, English postoffices opened their books to receive deposits.

In the great speech in parliament which converted opponents of the measure into supporters Gladstone used these arguments: Not only will it aid thrift among the toilers throughout the land, but it will serve to make the chancellor of the exchequer independent of the city, by large and certain command of money in great sums for national emergencies.

CONVICT LABOR ON THE ROADS

THERE APPEARS to be general approbation of the proposed bill for using the labor of convicts on the preparation of material for and working on the public roads of Oregon.

From the point of view of the state it supplies labor which is not thereby diverted from the farm and other industries depending on constant and regular work of men.

From the point of view of labor it removes the undesirable and unwise competition of free with convict labor in a common market.

From the point of view of the convict it supplies him with a healthy occupation in the open air, not degrading in its essence, and providing, in exchange for the mechanical work in the stove foundry that which may call for some exercise of sense and ingenuity.

A CANDID ADMISSION

INVEIGHING against all progressive political legislation, and especially primary nominations and direct election of United States senators, the Los Angeles Times candidly admits that: "In the old days when there was a senator to be elected the candidate himself appeared at Sacramento with his sack and entered the lists to bid against all comers for the job he was seeking."

The Times does not go so far as to approve the practice of "the old days," but thinks the new system of primary nominations and of electing senators chosen by a popular vote is worse.

only 12 murders were committed last year, an average of one a month, while in Seattle, less than one twenty-fifth as large, there were 33 murders, or two and two thirds per month. There is somewhere around 70 times as many murders, in proportion to population, in Seattle, as in London.

The new senator from Maine, Charles F. Johnson, will have the distinction of being the only Democratic senator from the New England states, also the only one from that section since the retirement of W. V. Eaton of Connecticut in 1879.

Letters From the People

Commonwealth Conference at University of Oregon. Eugene, Or., Jan. 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—"For the Good of the Commonwealth" will be the slogan at the university on Friday and Saturday of this week.

California has put herself squarely into the politically progressive column. Many bills that have merit are not important enough to be enacted into laws.

Women can vote in the state of Washington, but apparently a majority of them don't care to do so.

Occasionally a brief spell of what eastern people might recognize as winter manages to blow in from the north or east.

According to a Los Angeles newspaper a man in that city in looking through his grandfather's Bible found a \$1 bill. But this may not induce many to search the scriptures.

Voltaire, as Poquelin had been in Moliere. Of the minor details of his sojourn in the Bastille very little is known. With a new police minister appointed, and through the influence of his father Francois was released on the 11th of April, having been confined almost a year.

SEVEN LITERARY PRISONERS

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From 1726 to 1729 Voltaire dwelt in England, and in 1750 on the invitation of Frederick II. of Prussia, went to Berlin to live. He remained there for three years, during which he enlisted the royal circle by his wit, and in 1753 he purchased two small estates, one at Ferney, on one of these, he passed the last 21 years of his life, sedulously pursuing his literary labors.

It was while in prison that he decided to change his name when he should be released believing that Arouet would be merged and forgotten in Voltaire.

It is a question of public policy to give the teachers simple justice by placing them on an equal footing with other public employees having equal responsibility.

Teachers and Civil Service. Portland, Jan. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal—"The movement to place the teachers of our public schools under civil service is a progressive one, and in my opinion it should be given the support of every right thinking person."

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Now Mr. Bowerman is only a senator. There was enough of it for a few snowballs. At last Oregon has a real elected governor again.

The Democrats in the Oregon legislature are not "fighting." The fuel dealers are about the busiest people in town these days.

It is supposed that the new senator from California is a man who works. California has put herself squarely into the politically progressive column.

Monroe man says that part of the valley is soon destined to be one of the greatest fruit sections of the state. Three large fruit growing corporations are making investments and setting out orchards.

Stayton is growing faster than almost any other small town in Oregon, says the Mail. In the past year a large number of new buildings have been constructed both in the business and residence districts.

By the time the committees are appointed enough bills will have been introduced to make work for 40 days.

Occasionally a brief spell of what eastern people might recognize as winter manages to blow in from the north or east.

It is 40 degrees below at Devil's Lake, and above at Portland. Take your choice. By the way, the name of the place seems to be an unjust reflection on the ear of the lower regions.

WOLFAIRE

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TANGLEFOOT

By Miles Overholt

WEAVE THE JOKE YOURSELF. A firm in New Jersey is preparing to buy the offcast Chinese queues and weave them into rugs. Seems like there should be a dandy opportunity to say something about hair-locks in this connection, but it is clear on beyond us.

BUT MEBBERE HIS' PHYSICIAN. A reputable London physician says that to be brilliant one must continually use the fingers. "The brightest men," he says, "employ the fingers on some kind of work constantly." Just a moment, please. Deaf and dumb man at the rear of the hall begs to state that he has used his fingers for every purpose all his life—signing hymns, swearing and asking the time of day—and he is still unable to make a living with his brains. So long, doc.

SOUTHERN SLOPE, MEBBERE. At McMinville there is a young man named Pleasant Orchard. His grandfather is not a Baldwin, but he makes a Baldwin. He is the apple of his mother's eye. But, anyway, that's a peach of a name.

The Consecration of Profits. In "Masters of Capital in America," in the January McClure's, John Moody and George Kibbe Turner tell the story of railroad control and also of the concentration of railroad profits among a few men.

From 1893 to 1906 the amount of stocks in the hands of the public increased only one eighth. The stocks in the hands of railroads were almost five times as great as in 1893. In 1906 the railroads held almost half of the stocks of the country; they had been replaced in the hands of the public principally by bonds. And ever when stocks of strong companies were issued to buy other stocks, the amount of stocks in public hands was still reduced.

And, last of all, the profits focused again upon the group of men who controlled the main property. It was not only that they held great blocks of dominant stocks through a rising market; but their information, as managers, continually showed them when it was wise to buy and to sell.

Fortunate was Morgan's of \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000 made in a grade-growth such as came to the allies of Morgan in the northwest from a Great Northern, which gave a group of men each scores of millions—seen by themselves almost miracles. To many they seem so abnormal as to be credited only to criminal methods.

When the Panama canal is completed the navy will spend more time on the Pacific side of the continent than it does now. The improvement of the navy yard at Mare Island, making it equal in all respects to the first class navy yards on the Atlantic coast, is sound policy. Meanwhile opportunities to save by cutting out the useless yards, and by keeping naval construction within a reasonable limit, should not be neglected.

The New Year

The old year's gods his misty way; the new year's with us, brave and gay. What will the new year bring, we ask, as we pursue the daily task? The answer to it all depends on divers little things, my friends. If we determine to do right, the year will treat us pretty well; if we elect to go astray, the year will soak us every day. All years are pretty much the same; they always play the same old game; when you are young they wear a smile, and then they snort around a while, and put some silver in our hair, and then they're gone. I don't know where they play no favorites, the years are equal to what we know of smiles and not on vows we make or break. As I live that when this year is gone you may behold the next year's dawn, with eyes serene, and calmly say, "The good old year that's slid away beat any year I've lived through yet—for I've done nothing I regretted."

Naval Headquarters on the Pacific. From the Milwaukee Wisconsin. It is proper that the harbor of San Francisco should be made sufficiently deep for naval vessels of the greatest displacement.

The matter was discussed in the president's cabinet yesterday, and Secretary Meyer said that he would personally ask for \$900,000 for improvements in the immediate vicinity of Mare Island. The war department has asked for \$510,000 for the dredging of Pinole shoal to 30 feet below water.

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Advice to Mr. Hoff

Probably he does not know it—and I sincerely hope he does not—but it is a fact that Labor Commissioner Hoff is being used as the instrument of a wholly unsavory gang for the persecution of one or two of Portland's business men. The labor commissioner has had warrants issued for the arrest of these business men on charges of violating the labor laws, which say women shall not be permitted to work more than 10 hours a day. Trials—in which not a little of evidence has been produced to prove the contention of the prosecution—have been followed by acquittal; and again the business men have been arrested on another trumped-up charge which ventilation in court has proved to be wholly untrue and malicious.

Assuming before that Labor Commissioner Hoff was ignorant of the manner in which he was used to satisfy a grudge, I will now assume that he will at once cease to be a cat paw.