

THE JOURNAL

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When clouds are seen, wise men put on their coats. When great leaves fall, these water is at hand.

AMERICAN Journalism lost one of its commanding figures in the passing yesterday of Joseph Pulitzer, proprietor of the New York World and St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Since Horace Greeley, no man has exercised a greater influence on American political life through the medium of a newspaper. No journalist other than Greeley has had a clientele of readers who so implicitly trusted his utterances.

A glimpse at the measure of his success is gained from the fact that scarcely 40 years ago he was a poor reporter and compositor in St. Louis, while his fortune is now estimated at \$30,000,000.

The Pulitzer building in Park Row is on the site of a former hotel from which Mr. Pulitzer as a young man was elected while trying to catch a few hours of needed sleep in the lobby. He had then no other home.

Burning with humiliation, Mr. Pulitzer left New York for the west, and not many years later returned, bought the hotel and made it his home, the spot on which stands the present home of the New York World, a newspaper that in point of national influence, is almost without a rival in America.

The bound from the one position to the other, achieved in a little more than the period we count as a generation, was the product of Mr. Pulitzer's profound newspaper genius.

Mr. Pulitzer was both a writer and an executive. To the last days of his life, though he had been totally blind for more than 20 years, he maintained a general direction of his newspaper properties. He made the editorial page of the World a leading feature in which incisiveness, independence and virility have created a type distinguishably its own.

Cabing to his coworkers on the World from Europe on his sixtieth birthday, April 10, 1907, Mr. Pulitzer said: "Express to the editors, managers and entire staff my warm appreciation of their excellent and successful work for an institution which should always fight for progress and reform; never tolerate injustice or corruption; always fight demagogues of all parties; never belong to any party; always oppose privileged classes and public plunder; never lack sympathy with the poor; always remain devoted to the public welfare; never be satisfied with merely printing news; always be drastically independent; never be afraid to attack wrong, whether by predatory plutocracy or predatory poverty."

seen will the Portland Railway, Light & Power company get? What will the present locks then be, but old locks?

The truth is, that a lot of fancy values are being thrown in the way of the government project at Oregon City. If private owners were paying taxes there on the values they set for rights of way and other things needed by the government, there would be a perceptible lowering of the tax rate.

Owners of rights of way on the east side of the falls talk in millions. Owners of the locks on the west side speak in hundreds of thousands. When it wants to employ a very small portion of this water course for the benefit of all the people the government is almost made dizzy by the eagerness of the figures.

The absurdity of the whole spectacle is revealed in the apparent belief by these claimants that the Willamette river was originally created for the sole benefit of a few men who set up claims to vested rights at the falls. Here, for instance, is the Portland Railway, Light & Power company, besides its enormous use of water power, demanding \$400,000 from the public for the locks. Yet its whole property, water power and all, would not be worth a dollar but for the public.

ANOTHER NEEDED REFORM WHEN questions are taken into court as to the validity of patents and the rights of patentees, judges are called on to decide them who are often-times completely unversed in the points in issue.

For many years patentees and judges have suffered in silence, but at last Federal Judge Hand has openly protested.

The patents before him involved the manufacture of chemicals. The judge said: "I cannot stop without calling attention to the extraordinary condition of the law which makes it possible for a man without any knowledge of even the rudiments of chemistry to pass upon such questions as these."

In Germany they do quite differently. There the courts summon technical judges to whom technical questions are submitted and who can independently pass upon the issues without blindly groping among testimony wholly out of their ken.

How long we shall continue to blunder along without the aid of unpartisan and authoritative scientific assistance in the administration of justice, no one knows, but all fair persons not conventionalized by provincial legal habits of mind ought, I should think, to unite to effect some such advances."

It is a pity that the costs and delays involved in the submission of patent suits cannot be more often avoided by resort to one form or another of arbitration. The New York Chamber of Commerce provides an official list of available arbitrators, among men who are experts in all lines of both business and industry, from which list those engaged in questions involving patents or any other line of industry may select their tribunal.

petition with private operators, but avoids all shortage of fuel on the west work. It operates a model plant under the direction of the engineer of the reclamation service.

For safety of the workers, suits are arranged to avoid the possibility of entombment. A modern system of ventilation keeps the air fresh in passages 2000 feet below the surface of the ground.

Miners work eight hours a day for six days of the week, and can earn \$100 a month over living expenses—they make on the average \$5 a day. Barracks are provided for the single men, with a mess charging 25 cents a meal. Neat cottages for the married men are found, at a rental of \$10 a month.

There have been no strikes or labor troubles, nor any death or serious accident from mining.

The mine is run only during the crop growing season, for four months in the year.

As an experiment, the government mine at Williston has been an entire success.

It produces coal at a cost of \$1.40 per ton, and saves 30 cents on every ton mined. It is in striking contrast with the \$10 a ton or more paid for first class coal on the Pacific coast.

THE STRAW VOTE AGAIN MR. TAFT got 50 out of 593 Republican and 124 Independent votes cast in The Journal's straw ballot. It is only eight per cent of the Republican vote and less than seven per cent of the combined Republican and Independent vote.

It is not probable that a ratio so unfavorable to Mr. Taft exists in the total Oregon vote. In a primary held tomorrow, he would doubtless make a much more favorable showing.

But there is no mistaking the meaning of the 543 Republican votes thrown against him while he received only 50 Republican votes. It is an astonishing protest. The men who went to the trouble, on a mere invitation through a coupon in a newspaper, to send in their ballots and voted for Roosevelt and La Follette are against Mr. Taft and very decidedly against him.

Portland has been built thickly up by building on leveling the city.

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COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

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Clear Cut Issue in Massachusetts

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Letters From the People

Comments on the Journal's editorial regarding the city's growth and leveling.

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SEVEN FAMOUS EXILES

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Tanglefoot

By Miles Overholt. It being our policy to carefully evade all references to the "Melancholy Days" of Uncle Sam, we have dared to substitute the following from the pen of an unknown contributor, reserving the right to disclaim collaboration or premeditated criminality.

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Tax Land Values

Portland, Oct. 27.—To the Editor of The Journal—You allow space for a reader of your paper to reply to various letters of those who assail the single tax method? The exigencies of the occasion, if no other, would demand the institution of the single land tax, for the same reason that the single tax is held by the nonproductive class, and you can see why the cost of living is thus increased.

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Discharged

Portland, Oct. 27.—To the Editor of The Journal—I note from the newspapers that "Gipsy" Smith is due in Portland early next month and the fact that the nice, respectable, high-toned churches are preparing a place for him to preach in come to me like a real laugh at a funeral. Of what use are high priced ministers and expensive churches when men right in this city are starting for friends and families to the "land of nod" and for food? And what good can Gipsy Smith do a soul who has struggled and prayed and suffered and starved?

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Will Mr. Henry Answer?

To the Editor of The Journal—"Single tax advocates are not on the assessor's books, consequently, they are not taxpayers and should have no voice in public affairs." This is Mr. Charles K. Henry's latest outburst. Isn't it disappointing? Had his lips been spent in tolling and snoring in order to gain a mere existence such a conclusion might be condoned. But Mr. Henry has

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Uncle Sam's Coal Mines

San Francisco Bulletin. Uncle Sam can operate a coal mine as successfully as he can dig a canal. This is not an expression of confidence. It is merely calling attention to something that has been convincingly proved by actual experience. Uncle Sam owns a coal mine in Williston, North Dakota. Out of his mine he gets fuel for a power plant. With the power plant he generates electricity. This electricity runs pumps which draw from the Missouri river the water needed to irrigate thousands of acres of arid lands.

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Mona Lisa

(Contributed to The Journal by Walt Mason, the famous Kansas poet. His prose-poems are a feature of this column in The Daily Journal.) Why was Mona Lisa smiling in a manner so beguiling? Folk say she had had what amused her for four hundred years or so. What was going on so funny that she sprung a smile so sunny? What occurred so laugh provoking in those days when she was loved by merchants advertising bargain carnivals, surprising, was she dreaming of a bunnet that would break the neighbors' hearts? Was she planning brave excursions in the stores, and such diversions, plundering the remnant counters in city's busy marts? Oh, that smile! We can't discover what it was that made it hover on the face of the lamented in the volucous vanished folk who viewed that smile as famous and the same can't blame us that we're all in love with Mona, who preferred a smile to tears. Is there in the realm of painting any picture of a smiling, mournful, melancholy maiden who's been loved as much as she? This smile goes down the ages, bringing lightning's dreary stages, bringing gladness to our voyage, like a sunbeam on the sea. George Matthew Adams.