

THE JOURNAL

Published every morning (except Sunday) at 10 o'clock, except on Sunday, when it is published at 11 o'clock. The price is 10 cents per copy. The subscription price is \$3.00 per annum in advance. The advertising rates are as follows: One square (10 lines) for one week, \$1.00; for two weeks, \$1.75; for four weeks, \$3.00; for eight weeks, \$5.00; for twelve weeks, \$6.50; for sixteen weeks, \$8.00; for twenty weeks, \$9.50; for twenty-four weeks, \$11.00; for thirty weeks, \$12.50; for thirty-six weeks, \$14.00; for forty-two weeks, \$15.50; for forty-eight weeks, \$17.00; for fifty-two weeks, \$18.50; for fifty-six weeks, \$20.00; for sixty weeks, \$21.50; for sixty-four weeks, \$23.00; for sixty-eight weeks, \$24.50; for seventy-two weeks, \$26.00; for seventy-six weeks, \$27.50; for eighty weeks, \$29.00; for eighty-four weeks, \$30.50; for eighty-eight weeks, \$32.00; for ninety-two weeks, \$33.50; for ninety-six weeks, \$35.00; for one hundred weeks, \$36.50. The above rates are for display advertising. For classified advertising, see the rates on the inside of the front page. The Journal is published by The Oregon Daily Journal Company, 100 North Commercial street, Portland, Oregon. The telephone number is 1000.

AN IMPOSSIBLE CHARTER

It is waste of time for the official charter to be submitted to the people in its present form. It contains one provision that would cause the instrument to be overwhelmingly rejected.

That provision is the requirement that petitions from ten per cent of the voters shall be necessary to apply the initiative or referendum, and that petitions shall be signed only at the city hall. These requirements are so radical an attempt to restrict use of the initiative and referendum that any charter embodying them will be overwhelmingly rejected, as it ought to be. If the official committee proposes to stake all its gratuitous labor on this provision, it might as well hang its charter on a weeping willow tree and save itself and the public further concern.

Nobody knows as yet what changes we may want to make in procedure under the initiative and referendum. The system is yet new, and we shall understand it better and better with continued use. The most that we know, so far, is that it is a splendid thing, and that we are going to keep it and defend it against mutilation.

We have learned that the system must be protected from crooked canvassers for signatures to petitions. From further use we may find other minor changes necessary. Sometime, the friends of the system might even see fit to change the percentage for use of the initiative or referendum.

But at this stage in our experience, a proposition to raise the percentage to ten and require all signers of petitions to go to the city hall, will, as it should, arouse widespread resentment and intense opposition. Even though the rest of the provisions in the official charter be meritorious, this extraordinary and reactionary scheme will give them all a black eye. It will not only destroy all chance of passing the official charter, but will provide for its burial under an avalanche of ballots.

What is more, the official committee, in proposing this change, has gone beyond the scope of the work for which it was constituted. It was appointed to propose a scheme of commission government, not to cripple the initiative and referendum.

BETTER APPLES AT ALBANY

The statement is that the fruit in the fifth annual apple show at Albany is of better quality than in any former year.

It is the evolution of the industry. It is the change that results from studied endeavor to produce better fruit.

Time was, in Oregon, when the orchard and its products were as little cared for as the wild grass on the prairies. In their season the trees put forth blossoms and later yielded their fruitage. Some of the product was picked and the rest fell on the ground, to lie there and decay. There was no considerable market, even at 25 to 50 cents per bushel.

But Oregon apples have been put on the world map. They are sought for the dining tables of the rich with little concern as to price. It offers a new reward, and the orchardist has gone about his work with a quickened interest and scientific methods. At the apple shows he offers his fruit in rivalry, with the result that the quality at the Albany show is better than in former years. Incidentally, apples will continue to show improvement. Orchardists are learning how, and the growing markets pay the price. And the apple shows here and there, contribute their share to the stimulus for improvement.

YESTERDAY'S ELECTIONS

Once more the White House has received news from the country. Nowhere does yesterday's verdict afford comfort for the standpat principle.

Normally, Massachusetts is heavily Republican, having elected a Democratic governor but twice in 50 years. The campaign there was strictly on national issues with the Republicans eagerly accepting the standpat principle, demanding continuation of the high tariff, and calling upon Republicans to stand by the administration. For the Democrats, Governor Foss and the Democratic platform took the progressive position, and governor Foss was re-elected.

In Ohio, the issue was whether the coming constitutional convention should be progressive or reactionary, and the progressives won, mak-

ing sure the adoption of the initiative and referendum in that state. It is the kind of a system that Mr. Taft a few years ago resisted in Oklahoma.

In New Mexico, where the Republicans wrote a reactionary constitution and made it so strong that even the administration would not accept all its features, the Democrats have elected all state officers.

In New Jersey, the legislature is Republican, but the members were elected on a platform in harmony with Governor Wilson's progressive plans. That some of the Republican members-elect were more acceptable to Governor Wilson is evidenced by the fact that he refused to go into Essex county to speak for the election of twelve Democratic nominees controlled by Boss Smith.

In Philadelphia, Senator Penrose appealed to the voters to stand by the Taft administration, by support of the regular Republican ticket, but the progressive Republican nominee for mayor was elected.

In general, it was an unimportant election, but the result carries numerous omens. They confirm the view that standpatism cannot hope to win in 1912. The Republican party must return to its ancient moorings by substitution of progressive leadership for standpat leadership or it will be hopelessly beaten next year.

THE CAMERON RECALL

Whether or not the Cameron recall is advisable remains to be demonstrated. It depends upon who is to be the opposing candidate. It depends upon whether or not the recall proponents undertake to displace Mr. Cameron with another Mr. Cameron.

If the new man is to be another phony official, it is just as well to leave Mr. Cameron in the office until his term expires. It is utter waste of effort to displace one incompetent with another incompetent. One weakling can go through the process of prosecuting without prosecuting as well as another.

There are many lawyers in Portland, and in the lot there ought to be one who is the making of a model district attorney. Among them there ought to be one who would accept the office and administer it as a public trust and not as a private snip.

The people of Portland are weary of pussy-cat officials. They are ready to turn to a real district attorney and give him their confidence, and a reward. They would like to bestow the position on a man vigorous in the performance of duty, stern and impartial in the application of the law and rigidly honest with himself and the public.

A fearless and honest prosecutor would do more to fumigate rotten officialdom, eliminate graft and enforce decency than can be accomplished by any other means. The district attorney has the power, he has the law, and if he has the will and common honesty, he can do the rest. Heeny dispersed and jailed the big thieves in Oregon. Folk jailed the big grafters in St. Louis. Their work made both national figures. The rewards that await an honest and able district attorney make the position worth the effort of any man.

But it is useless for proponents of the Cameron recall to come forward with a peewee candidate. He might be worse than Cameron.

BRITISH INVESTMENTS

The London Economist has recently compiled a table showing British investments in their colonies—Canada, India and Ceylon, Australia, South Africa, and other possessions. The total reaches \$6,255,551,427. Outside of investments in the United States British capitalists have invested \$3,730,000,000 in the various states of Latin America.

These figures disclose the strong interest that Britain has in maintaining the peace of the world. There is no corner of this wide earth, opened, rubber plantations set, harbors and wharves constructed, cotton to be planted, tea or coffee to be raised, but there ubiquitous John Bull presents himself, purse in hand, with no limit, provided, there is money in sight.

Whether arbitration treaties pass or not, whether the mad race with Germany in super dreadnaughts is carried to a finish or is brought to a reasonable end, Great Britain's ships of war will continue to be found in every harbor and, and be within call at every disturbed port, policing the high seas.

DEMONSTRATION FARMS

Two or three points of interest came out in the meetings of the Conservation congress at Kansas City. Professor C. G. Hopkins of the University of Illinois insisted that reclamation of land was not confined either to dry farming on the one hand, or to the irrigation of arid lands on the other. The most insistent reclamation must have reference to the millions of acres of depleted and partly exhausted lands lying at the doors of our greatest markets and already favored with abundant rainfall. These are the soils that are crying for investigation, which should be accompanied by the installation of experimental farms, with their expert managers.

Following this came an address from Mr. Gross, president of the National Soil Fertility league. His question was this. We have a vast fund of knowledge, reposing in our state experiment stations and agricultural colleges. Vainly have we

been trying to spread this knowledge where it will do most good—trying, belittling, the building of conventional, and lecturing at farmers' gatherings. Good as all these means are, they do not suffice. Into every farming community there must be sent a trained agriculturalist, a man who knows what to do and knows why he does it. When this man meets the farmer on the soil then results follow. The farmers want this information, and in such shape that they can use it. It is the duty of the federal and of the state governments to supply it.

The next point insisted on was that the township, or the precinct, must be made the unit for the work of institutions and of the farm experts. The county is altogether too large. By decentralizing this work there will be the chance of competition in results between the smaller units.

The ultimate intention of this whole movement is the increase of the productivity of the ordinary farm. The means is the instruction and the interest of the individual farmer. It is the stimulation of discontent with conditions of the farm as they are now, and the study of the means of betterment.

MAKING HISTORY

Ohio elected a majority of progressive delegates to her constitutional convention. It insures the incorporation of the initiative and referendum in the organic law of that state.

As fast as normal states vote on the system, the people adopt it. Unless the supreme court intervenes, the system will swiftly take its place in most of the states. If the court holds it unconstitutional, the country will be plunged into an agitation in which direct legislation will become an issue overshadowing all others.

The whole world is in a movement for more popular forms. Popular governments are becoming more popular. Autocracies are disintegrating. Russia, better than any other, maintains the authority of the throne, but even Russia is being forced into concessions.

Wherever discussion prevails, the evangel of freedom is active. The Young Turk sent an autocrat into exile, and reared near his throne a constitution and a parliament. Mexico drove out her autocratic Diaz, and rehabilitated popular government by election of Madero.

Revolution swept through Persia, and established a beginning in self government on the ruins of the old dynasty. In England, the house of lords is stripped of its ancient authority, and enlarged power conferred through the ballot box on the popular body.

The Portuguese dynasty vanished in thin air, and a republic has risen on its ruins. Even while the echoes of a transformation on one side of the earth are still audible, the thunder of conflict are heard on the other side, and benighted China cuts her way through all opposition, and overturns the Manchu throne.

The world had its Dark Ages. It had its Renaissance. It had its Reformation. It had its movement for freedom in the American, French and other revolutions.

It has now its movement universal for enlarged freedom and more popular rule. The toppling thrones, the new constitutions, the falling dynasties and progressiveness in the United States are the beginning of a new world epoch. They are history in the making.

SUFFRAGE IN ENGLAND

It is very easy to be wise in other people's business. Therefore it occurs to many critics on this side of the water that Mr. Asquith is losing the chance of his life to pacify the women who have been making his life miserable in past sessions. What would have been easier than to insert in his new suffrage bill a clause for women's suffrage, when he was proposing to make voters of every adult Englishman.

If the majority in the house of commons had voted the clause out, Mr. Asquith would have made peace with the women, and things would have stood as they were.

Now there will be fresh outbreaks of provisions, and stone throwing at the ministers' windows, mobs, arrests, starvations in jail, and all the rest of the pyrotechnic displays that mark an active suffrage campaign.

The ministry will need all their time and energy to take care of industrial insurance and home rule.

With an acting judge indicted and the recall urged on another public official, Portland may yet supply new recruits for vaudeville.

The Drexels have a \$30,000,000 baby. But a Kentuckian committed suicide because his wife presented him with a pair of twins.

In a recent speech ex-Speaker Cannon was still defending the Payne-Aldrich tariff. Mr. Carnegie should send him a hero medal.

A Los Angeles woman claims to have received 212 offers of marriage. Possibly there are 212 men who are still happy.

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should not exceed 300 words in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender.)

Fruit at Low Cost.
To the Editor of The Journal—I wish, through the columns of your paper, to tell your readers how to get apples almost free of cost. (Of course I mean those of your readers who can't afford to pay city prices.)

I was out to the end of the Monte-

ville station today (Monday) and there saw apples and pears rotting on the ground. Also a great many of the trees were cut down and the apples and pears were thrown away. There were Greening, King, Baldwin and others. One man told me that he had a sack of apples and pears and that he would give them to me for every bushel I picked for him. These apples and pears are just as good as those that are sold at a high price. I saw a man, a little and only a little, and part of them are under a tree, but all of them are first class eating apples. The pears are also very good. I saw a man who was cutting down a tree and he was saying that he was going to use the wood for fire.

I saw many trees of pears that had not been gathered, (large fat fellows) and they were, but nearly all of them were rotten. I saw a man who was cutting down a tree and he was saying that he was going to use the wood for fire. I saw a man who was cutting down a tree and he was saying that he was going to use the wood for fire.

One can go to East Yamhill and Eighth street on the Yamhill and Lewis and he will find a lot of apples and pears. I saw a man who was cutting down a tree and he was saying that he was going to use the wood for fire. I saw a man who was cutting down a tree and he was saying that he was going to use the wood for fire.

The time will come when the term "civilized warfare" as much used now, will be considered an absurd contradiction in terms.

Politics is the curse of the country, and it is not likely to be cured. But we could get along without politics. It is a necessary evil.

The farmers and workmen don't seem to be clamoring for advice from the college and millionaires as to how they should vote. The president of the railroad vote for president.

The railroad instruction or demonstration train was a fine idea, and is doing what that will bear great fruitage in the future years.

One California editor to doubtless in favor of woman's rights now, was publishing an article in his paper, was promptly acquitted by a jury of 12 women.

An indignation meeting of the Mothers' club of Woodlawn is to be held this week to discuss the recent case heard in the circuit court against W. F. Minard, a real estate dealer in the Worcester building. The charge against Minard was the seduction of a 14-year-old girl.

Minard admitted the pictures were in his desk, but said another man in the office left them there. He denied showing them to the girl. He identified each picture and the officers where they could be found. The officers found them as the girl related. One of the pictures was Minard's name on the back. The jury was out for an hour and found him not guilty. The majority of the jury was in favor of finding him guilty, but did not want to send him to the state prison. This caused the verdict of not guilty. Several women from the Mothers' club attended the trial, and it is reported a move is on foot to ask Minard to leave the city.

SQUAW SENDS RAILROAD FARE BUT NO CHANGE

Charles Bennett, a Unatilla Indian, released Tuesday from the county rockpile, after serving a 90 day sentence for bringing whiskey on a reservation. Bennett took the prisoner's oath several days ago and asked to be released, saying that he had no money with him to pay his fine of \$100 and costs. He was given an allotment on the time, and was sent to the county jail for about \$1.50. Meanwhile he wrote home to his Klookman, who is reputed to be rich, to send him a little money for expenses, and to get home. Several days later he returned, and was sent to him through the United States marshal's office. The envelope contained just \$5.00—the exact fare to Pendleton.

"No trust me," Bennett remarked disconsolately to Assistant United States Attorney Evans when he saw the amount of the enclosure. Mr. Evans gave him a nickel for spending money, which he said seemed to add to Charles's happiness as might have been expected.

TO AID IN BUILDING ROADS THROUGH FOREST

Tacoma Commercial club and chamber of commerce have wired to President Taft their support in the chief executive's recommendation that larger appropriations be devoted to the building of trails and roads through the national forest reserves, and particularly in the Pacific northwest.

The Tacoma organizations have also asked the Portland Commercial club to interest itself in the matter and use every influence it can in support of the movement, it being held that the accessibility of these reserves will prove of great importance in many ways. One feature set forth is that these trails or roads will serve largely to stimulate tourist travel.

The Portland Commercial club will take the matter up with the various commercial organizations of the state.

ADMITS HE FORGED PARISHIONERS' NAMES

A multiplicity of crimes was brought before A. K. Kline, judge of the circuit court, yesterday, when he was arraigned in the circuit court on a charge of forgery. A plea of guilty to the forgery charge was entered, and a sentence of 180 days in the county jail was pronounced. Kline is charged by the members of the church with collecting \$110 belonging to the church and keeping it. Another charge is that he forged four names of parishioners of the parish, and still another is that he borrowed from other members. After securing all the money possible, Kline left St. Johns. His wife and four children were with him. When he was arrested in Chicago two months later, it was discovered he had been living with another woman.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGES

It is better not to know than to know too much. This is the motto of the small changes. The small changes are the changes that are made in the small things. The small changes are the changes that are made in the small things. The small changes are the changes that are made in the small things.

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OREGON HIGHLIGHTS

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The States and the Railroads

From The New York World.
The Wall Street Journal has begun a series of articles on the railroads. The series is entitled "The Railroads and the States." The series is a series of articles on the railroads. The series is a series of articles on the railroads.

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