

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (EXCEPT SUNDAY) AND EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT THE JOURNAL BUILDING, FIFTH AND YAMHILL STREETS, PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at the postoffice at Portland, Or., as second class matter. Postpaid at special rate of 50 cents per year.

HOUDING WEST

THE constitution of Oregon says: "He (the governor) shall have power to grant reprieves, commutations and pardons after conviction for all offenses except treason."

The provision is in full force. It is the organic law of the state. The legislature has still further increased the executive prerogative as to pardons and reprieves by providing indeterminate sentences for prisoners, sentences of say one to ten years which provide for convicts to be paroled.

The Oregonian, returning this morning to the homing of Governor West, says the executive has "set aside the law." Is it the Oregonian or the constitution that is wrong?

The constitution, article five, section fourteen, says: "He (the governor) shall have the power to grant reprieves, commutations and pardons after convictions for all offenses, except treason."

It will not admit that it is wrong when it said West paroled prisoners, who were paroled from the prison 21 months before West was elected governor and nearly two years before he was inaugurated.

It will not admit that it distorted the facts about the Mexican convicts. It will not admit that it published bald falsehoods in misrepresentation of the facts about the convicts who built a road near Sublimity, Marion county.

It will not admit that it has distorted the facts and deceived the public about every act of West's whenever and wherever it was possible to do so.

It has not admitted the fact that Louis W. Hill wired the western governors disclaiming the criticisms of them attributed to him by the Oregonian.

It will admit nothing, correct nothing, change nothing, because it is in the business of rummaging the sewers and delving into the lowest depths of misrepresentation to bound Governor West.

CHINA AND THE POWERS WITH the presentation by the consults of the six great powers to the representatives of the infant republic at Shanghai of a note politely emphasizing the necessity of early peace in the Flowery Kingdom affairs there enter a new phase.

It is a threat of intervention was intended to be conveyed. It was, of course, hidden, in diplomatic language. The United States are said to have taken the lead in bringing about concerted action.

But surely, if for no better cause than the safety of the many foreigners in China, the idea of intervention by the powers should not be permitted. The army needed would of necessity have to be provided by Japan first, and Russia second.

ablaze, and the foreigners in China would be the first victims of a popular outbreak to which the Boxer riots would be child's play.

ROSE EYTINGE

THE last curtain has been rung down over Rose Eytinge. For her, the lights are out, the orchestra gone and the theatre empty.

Few careers have been more remarkable. She sprung from the depths, and ascended quickly to the summits of fame. Untrained and little schooled, she went on the stage at 14, and in spite of an interim of married life meantime, she was at the topmost round on the heights of the stage, playing support to Edwin Booth at 24.

Before 30, fame to her had become a bauble. The uncouth girl of a Massachusetts home, had become the sought associate of great men and great women everywhere.

Splendid in mental and physical charms, her talents and culture easily placed her in the front rank of her profession, and kept her there in the golden days of the American stage.

It was a strange fate that brought her declining days to a poverty often bordering on want. It was almost startling that when necessities pressed most heavily, she was the same imperial woman as when she stood on the summits of the stage, and that no word of complaint ever fell from her lips.

In her passing, a "reminiscence of the theatre" takes her last cue, and leaves behind a tremendous example of how cheap is fame and how often the bucket is dropped into the well and brought up empty.

THE RUSSIAN TREATY

THE treaty of 1832 is dead—thanks to the action of both senate and house. Whether a more acceptable treaty with Russia can be negotiated—there's the rub.

On one hand are the facts that Russia desires to be in treaty relations with the United States, both for the sake of keeping her place in the family of nations, and that business relations between her citizens and ours may continue on the "most favored nation" footing.

Russian diplomacy is proverbially resourceful in arts and crafts—most give it a harsher name. One thing sure is that nothing but self interest will influence any treaty that the Russian diplomats may negotiate.

Their deliberate purpose has been to hold down the Russian Jew to the lowest level of life—by practical imprisonment within the pale, by shutting universities, colleges, and schools in his face, by excluding him from the ownership of land, by encouraging or tacitly permitting the massacres and outrages with which the world rang.

The answer of the Jew has been to shake the dust of Russian soil from his feet, and emigrate by hundreds of thousands to happier lands. Russia is the loser, though her people shut their eyes to the light.

If the president and the state department can wring any concessions in favor of the Jew from his Russian oppressor the unlikely, the most improbable, will have happened.

FAKE ADVERTISING

CRIMINAL proceedings have been instituted in New York in a case of fraudulent advertising. Curiously enough, the case was brought at the instance of the Advertising Men's league of New York City.

The league has gone further and named a committee to gather evidence of all possible cases of fraudulent advertising to be placed in the hands of prosecuting officers. The organization hopes by the process to inaugurate a movement that will be country-wide in breaking up the fiction and fraud of those who by use of literature in the mails and otherwise impose upon the public.

Denunciation of fake advertising has been uttered by admen's organizations in Portland, and there is apparently incubating a consistent movement to protect the field of legitimate advertising.

There is no activity in which truth

is not a paramount necessity as well as paramount asset. It is recognized as such by the legitimate advertiser, and it is the truthfulness of the legitimate advertiser that helps the faker work his game.

Advertising in public prints and otherwise has come to be one of the great activities of the country. It employs some of the best talent, and pays heavy compensation in many instances. It is an integral and recognized part of business life, and it ought to be protected from those who debauch it.

POSTPONED

THOUGH 8000 citizens petitioned for it, Governor Hay of Washington has refused to call an extra session of the legislature for enactment of a presidential primary law under which the voters of that state might express their choice for president.

It is only a postponement of the reform. Temporary figures like governors and national committeemen may briefly stay, but they cannot destroy it. Present authority may deny to Washington voters the privilege of expressing their choice for president next year, but there will be other and different years.

The masses of the people in the state of Washington are insurgents. The most of the newspapers and most of the men in authority in the state are reactionaries. With all the reactionaries fighting him, the overwhelming election of Polindexer, the arch insurgent of them all, is token of the real sentiment and reflective of the anomalous situation in which the widespread request for preferential primaries is choked off, by executive authority.

It is manifest justice to give the voters the right to express their choice for president. If the plain people are fit to elect a president, they are fit to help nominate him.

And it is far more important to nominate a president direct than to nominate a constable direct.

HEALTHY PORTLAND

WE live in a healthy city, and it appears by the just completed report of City Health Officer C. H. Wheeler that it is growing still healthier.

The death rate of 1910 was found to be 11.20 per 1000 of population, based on the 207,000 inhabitants found by the last federal census. But the population is growing at a rapid rate. Taking the average growth of 18 per cent per annum shown by that census the population of Portland now is not less than 244,000. Then the death rate for 1911 is only 9.86 per 1000.

In 1910 there were in Portland 2335 deaths, but in the 11 months of 1911 only 2202. Adding the same monthly estimate therein shown the result will be 2406 for the year, so verifying the 9.86 per 1000 above given.

In 1909 the death rate in London was 14, in Paris 17.4, in Berlin 15.1. Among American cities the following may be noted. In New York 16, in Chicago 14.6, in St. Paul 11.4, in Denver 17, in Milwaukee 13.6, and in Boston 16.8.

It must never be forgotten that the far too high death rate among infants of one year and under throughout the United States contributes largely to the total, and that it is to saving the lives of these little ones the greatest effort must be directed. Pure milk, pure food, pure air, good drainage—these needs must be kept constantly alive, not only in our memories, but in the ever watchful care of the health authorities. It is in these matters above all that eternal vigilance is the price of safety.

NIAGARA'S VALUE

THE commercial value of power from Niagara now in daily use is \$18,959,000 a year. In ten years, it is \$189,490,000, or two thirds the assessed value of the property of Portland in 1911.

The power used in a year at Niagara is equivalent to that which would be developed by the use of 7,700,000 tons of coal. It is derived from the excess flow of the water and does not interfere with the appearance of the falls.

The figures are given out by the commerce commission of Niagara Falls, and are official. They afford a faint glimpse at the stupendous value of the water powers of the United States.

They are the white coal of the ages, and they should belong to the whole people. They will last as long as the rivers flow, and in every year of future history will become more and more valuable.

If Gifford Pinchot had performed no other service for his country, his agitation for the conservation of the nation's water powers should commend him to the lasting admiration of his countrymen.

polysaccharid carbohydrate of highly caloric efficiency." A lot of us thought so all the time, especially on occasions after having spent the night with it.

A large section of our citizenry will admire the forethought of the Missourian who willed \$500,000 to his heirs on condition that they don't invest any of it in mining stocks.

A Missouri judge holds that a marriage proposal is a privileged communication. Would he define divorce as a cessation of hostilities or mere judicial separation of the combatants?

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should not exceed 800 words in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender.)

A Vision of a Dream. Portland, Or., Dec. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—We are told in an old couplet that

A little nonsense now and then is washed by the best of men. And so I present what follows for what it is worth, and your readers must be the judges of that.

The election of president of the United States, next year, is now one of the matters of interest in the public mind, and the question is constantly up, "Who is to be the lucky, or possibly, the unlucky man?"

In my mind that question is settled, and it was settled in the best of men. On the night of June 17, 1911, just six months ago, I had a most vivid dream, or vision of the night, as it might be called, for there are dreams and there are visions. Dreams are dreams, and visions are the result of what we eat for supper, or some condition of body or mind, and are not to be considered as of value, or significant. Such dreams come from causes within the individual.

My dream was like Daniel's night vision. I had not seen it was that of Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey will be nominated by the Democratic party, and that he will be elected. I also saw, at the same time, a genuine Russian Christmas party of the Republican party, but that owing to divisions among his voters he would lose the election. I did not see clearly whether those who were dissatisfied with him would have a candidate of their own, or whether the messenger I was left on my mind that they would not.

Now, as to my dream, I know of no cause within myself that would have induced it. I had not been much interested in politics or candidates. Mr. Wilson is not my first choice for president. I could name at least five or six men whom I would prefer, and I think well of him. And as a student of public affairs, I would not dare to predict the outcome of a presidential election, even for a day. For I have before my mind Henry Clay's unfortunate Georgia letter, which last night I read, and which I also have in mind the Burchard article on "Rum, Romanism and Rebellion," just 40 years later, that defeated Mr. Blaine in 1854. A mere puff of wind may change the result, and Mr. Wilson's election on political judgment at all, but solely on the basis of my night vision.

One of Oregon's Problems.

Portland, Or., Dec. 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—The prohibition of retaining the multitude of substantial immigrants into Oregon is still much unsolved, although literature has been flung broadcast by railway companies, in glowing colors, and individuals, which, in glowing colors, picture Oregon as a land of milk and honey. This commendation of such seemingly substantial bodies induced thousands of small property owners to sacrifice their little homelands in eastern Oregon to the expense of the journey and their arrival find themselves hopelessly thrown upon the market with the unemployed.

An article of high quality needs but little advertisement. Its introduction will suffice to herald its merits. Under the aim of corporations to overstock the market with a floating element in competition to wage earners? Well, they seem to have gained their point, but the result is to convince the substantial citizen—the farmer—has in large measure with detrimental reaction of which Canadian emigration is ample proof.

Some 3,000,000 acres of railroad grant land in Oregon is held for sale. Instead of being sold to actual settlers for \$25.00 per acre. Reclamation and irrigation are handled with the same rapidity.

The lower court some five years ago. The patent still has to undergo an examination by a higher tribunal, which may doubt his fitness of being turned loose, and he will therefore be handed to the last of appeals. It is the most optimistic intelligence doubts that he will ever receive his passport; but should the miracle occur, it will be near a time when the sun grows cold and those who still struggle on this old earth will be constantly reminded, as a legend of some medieval age, when some inferior race huddled in the jungles herding swine for their captors, one of the latter might have written the old adage, "His next best ally is death."

The farmer, like the business man, has a ledger, which makes plain his standing in assets and liabilities, and when the latter overrun the former, even under skillful management—due to the purchasing price of the real thing, the dirt he bought at such unequal price—he will close his account and move to a zone where a man is a man, and where law is something more than a mere convenience for corporations.

A National Usury Law.

Portland, Or., Dec. 20.—To the Editor of The Journal—Income tax, single tax, high cost of living, class war, etc., are discussed in which our news columns and magazines abound. But why begin at the effect? How about the cause? The exponent of the big stick said, and repeats whenever he feels an extra stimulus to impulse, "Get busy. Don't talk unless you are ready to back it up by action."

How many of your dear readers are paying 6 per cent on a mortgage? How many 7, or 8, or 9, or 10, or 12, or 15, or 20, or 25, or 30, or 40, or 50, or 60, or 70, or 80, or 90, or 100, or 125, or 150, or 200, or 250, or 300, or 400, or 500, or 600, or 700, or 800, or 900, or 1000, or 1250, or 1500, or 2000, or 2500, or 3000, or 4000, or 5000, or 6000, or 7000, or 8000, or 9000, or 10000, or 12500, or 15000, or 20000, or 25000, or 30000, or 40000, or 50000, or 60000, or 70000, or 80000, or 90000, or 100000, or 125000, or 150000, or 200000, or 250000, or 300000, or 400000, or 500000, or 600000, or 700000, or 800000, or 900000, or 1000000, or 1250000, or 1500000, or 2000000, or 2500000, or 3000000, or 4000000, or 5000000, or 6000000, or 7000000, or 8000000, or 9000000, or 10000000, or 12500000, or 15000000, or 20000000, or 25000000, or 30000000, or 40000000, or 50000000, or 60000000, or 70000000, or 80000000, or 90000000, or 100000000, or 125000000, or 150000000, or 200000000, or 250000000, or 300000000, or 400000000, or 500000000, or 600000000, or 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