

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

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Thieves at home must hang, but in the overgrown and bloated purse.

The wealth of Indian provinces, escapes. -Cowper.

IN 1912

OREGON will pass into the new year with a splendid confidence. By the test of the past, the future is assured. The business and industrial life of the state was never so full of prospect.

The status in the principal city is a fair reflection of the general atmosphere. Practically all the Oregon towns are in the same forward movement manifest in Portland. The metropolis is by necessity a general index to conditions throughout the state.

In Portland the same sustained growth characteristic of several recent years is fully manifest. Portland is one metropolis on the Pacific coast that has moved steadily ahead oblivious of the unrest and inactivity apparent in the rest of the country.

Portland's bank clearings for 1911 were \$557,464,848. Their sustained increase is revealed in the fact that in 1910 they were \$517,171,867; in 1909, \$391,028,890; in 1908, \$310,656,512; and in 1907, \$250,932,422.

Portland's postoffice receipts for 1911 were \$1,000,200. In other years they were: In 1910, \$925,163; in 1909, \$778,853; in 1908, \$680,813; in 1907, \$628,475.

Portland's building construction for 1911 was \$19,147,340. In 1910 it was \$20,886,202; in 1909, \$13,481,380; in 1908, \$10,405,131; in 1907 \$9,445,982. The figures for 1911 appear to show a smaller building activity than for 1910, but it is due to a change in the building code, under which the 1911 aggregate is decreased by about \$2,500,000.

This steady progress, as reflected by the foregoing barometers of business, has been accompanied by an era of statewide railroad construction, in which, including 1910, more track has been built than in the past dozen years. The completion of the Oregon Trunk, the opening of the Tillamook line, the construction work on the Mount Hood line, the opening of the road to Klamath Falls and the invasion of southwestern Oregon by the Reno road, are examples of new mileage brought into use.

The extension of the Oregon Electric, the assembling of forces for the line to Harney, and the extension of the Harriman system from Eugene to Coos Bay, are among the authenticated programs of railroad building, to which may be added lines told of in current rumors.

It affords a retrospect and an outlook that seem to augur unprecedented activity for 1912.

THE OLD YEAR

ACCORDING to Bradstreet's review, 1911 as a business year should be divided in two parts. The first eight months were generally a period of disturbance, short credits in industry, withdrawals from savings banks, tariff revision, crop scares, closely considered hand-to-mouth buying and slow collections. The last four months were a period of some relaxation, caution, growth, more cheerful feeling and a disposition to look on the brighter side of things. The civil suits under the Sherman law are set down as contributing to the uncertainty, but the adjustments under supreme court decisions and interpretation of the law by inferior courts in the reorganization of some of the large corporations are assigned as a contributing cause of the more cheerful aspect.

It is recited in the review that though cotton was a larger crop than in other years, the lower prices brought the net returns down to a lower aggregate than in 1910. With trust prosecutions hanging fire the tendency was apparently to fear the worst, while the actual judicial decisions seemed to bring an almost undue feeling of cheerful relief. The gloomy views of Wall street while the forebodings were on, gradually extended to other lines and sections of the country, but not affecting the south until low cotton prices made their appearance.

Speculation, whether in stocks or commodities, was closely restricted throughout the year, but in spite of this, new stock flotations were of large volume. Bonds sold better than in 1910. Short time obligations were actively bought, and the close of the year finds most stocks higher than at the opening.

Domestic trade was large, but not of a record volume. Repression was in evidence in buying, stocks of goods were kept down, and small and frequent rather than large orders were the rule.

But basic conditions were sound,

economies were practiced and credits were not apparently over extended. Such was 1911 as Bradstreet saw it, as reflected in an extended review of the year printed in yesterday's Journal.

THERE IS ONE MISSING

ONE day while a little girl was herding her goats, she fell asleep. And while she slept she dreamed. And, as she lay there dreaming, a Hottentot came up and looked at her lying in the hot sun. Then, he walked off and caught one of the fattest little goats, and held its mouth fast, as he stuck it under his arm.

He looked back to see that she was still sleeping, and jumped down into one of the "sluts." He walked down the bed of the "slut" a little way and came to an overhanging bank, under which, sitting on the red sand, were two men. They cut the kid's throat with a long knife, and covered up the blood with the sand.

When the little girl awoke it was almost sunset. She sat up very frightened, but her goats were all about her. She began to drive them home. "I do not think there are any lost," she said. When she brought her flock home, a fat old Boer put his stick across the door, and let the little girl's goats jump over, one by one. He counted them. "Have you been asleep today?" he said, "there is one missing." Such is the story that a great writer has told us.

Every few days a little girl is missing at sunset. She is usually "one of the fattest little goats" in the herd, untaken in all that tends to insure a young girl's safety.

One after another victim is added to the staggering list of the lost. One after another has "its mouth held fast," and is "stuck under an arm." And, as the facts are gathered, the clues traced down, it usually happens that mother "has been asleep that day."

But, when the child disappears, mother awakes from her dreams and looks about. For days and days she grieves and mourns and beats her breast. Her little girl is gone. Maybe she went via "the overhanging bank, under which, sitting on the red sand, were two men;" maybe she has been lured into that black night-life that often ends by the carbolic acid route.

Small comfort for the agonized mother, then, are those dreams and those hours of rosy sleep! Small comfort, then, is her blind faith in the Innocence and ignorance of her little girl! Small comfort, then, that testimony of a stranger "she often told me of an old man, as she called him, who gave her presents or took her to theatres," or the words of the man to whom her lost daughter's last sentence was, "I'll write to you just as soon as I know where I am going." Such are the stories that the great newspapers tell us day by day.

GEORGE PEABODY

THE man who really blazed the trail on which wholesome philanthropists in America have followed was George Peabody, born in Danvers, Mass., in 1795, and dying in London in 1869.

More will be heard of him from now on. The trustees of the Peabody fund established by him with an amount of \$3,500,000 for the promotion of education in the southern states, are appealing to the public and to friends of southern education in particular, for \$1,000,000 to complete the perpetual endowment of the Peabody college for white teachers at Nashville, Tenn.

Since 1875 this college has been the central and leading normal school in the south. There is no state institution, say the trustees in a published statement, which can do the work of the Peabody college for teachers. By the terms of the trust the time for winding up its affairs has come. These trustees have already given a sum of \$1,000,000 from the fund. In the dissolution of the Peabody fund the trustees have made available \$500,000 more, provided the remaining \$1,000,000 to complete the proposed endowment is raised from other sources.

George Peabody showed in his benevolence the same wisdom and foresight that governed him in the world of business. His fortune was amassed in London, where he was the founder of the firm of George Peabody & Co., bankers and merchants.

To help relieve the distress of the respectable poor in that metropolis Mr. Peabody built immense rooming or apartment houses. In them the families of the working class found homes of several rooms, with baths and other fittings, contributing to comfort and health. The rents charged were no more than were then paid for dirty and unwholesome cottages and hovels in the districts where the Peabody homes were built. But such rents sufficed to maintain the buildings, provide for their oversight and perpetuate their usefulness.

On Mr. Peabody's fortune there was no talent.

EXORBITANT FEES

COUNTY JUDGE CLETON is fully warranted in resisting the payment of exorbitant fees to attorneys and others in probate matters. Twenty-five hundred dollars each was allowed by the company to the heirs for the death of four Greek laborers killed on the United Railways. An attorney asked for a fee of \$500 each and added stenographer's and administrator's charges.

Judge Cleton cut the fees to \$400

each and refused to allow any other charges beyond those provided by law. He might even have gone further in the limitation of the fees and have still been on the side of justice.

The fact that the heirs live in a distant country and have no means of defending their rights in an American court is a weighty reason for the probate judge to protect their interests. It is to render such justice that probate and other courts are established.

THE RECORD OF 1911

THE greatest event of the year, touching four hundred million people, is the re-birth of China. The last 100 days of the dying year have seen the fire of revolution catch province after province, until in the assembly that proclaimed the republic and chose the prospective president, 18 provinces, and those the most populous and most advanced in the whole empire, responded to the call.

The great cities of the south have raised the flag of the republic. Nanking is chosen as the new capital. It is a world power whose birth is witnessed, breaking the bonds of superstition, corruption, oppression, and ignorance.

On the African continent Italy has seized the last country on the borders of the Mediterranean unowned or uncontrolled by a European power. But the army of 40,000 men with which she attempted the conquest of Tripoli is needing heavy reinforcement. The king of Italy has announced the addition of Tripoli to the Italian kingdom, so the die is cast and she must go on to the bitter end.

Russia in Persia has stretched the agreement with Britain to cover invasion and ruthless war in Persian territory which the two great powers had bound themselves to protect. Persia lies helpless at her feet.

In the summer of 1911 France, Germany and England reached the very edge of war. Armies numbered by the million, and navies armed with the most modern engines of destruction, would have met in deadly conflict, and a hundred millions of civilized and Christian people would have given their best to slaughter.

The slate of disputes may have been cleaned, by the settlement between France and Germany. But jealousy and ill will between Germany and England remain.

Mexico has passed in 1911 from the autocratic presidency of Diaz to the constitutional and progressive presidency of Madero, who was duly elected on October 1. The abortive insurrection of General Reyes having ended in December with his surrender, Madero and his government are now free to restore internal order and to encourage commerce and industry throughout the Mexican republic.

In Great Britain the long continued attempt of her house of lords to dominate legislation, and to make ineffective the endeavors of the Liberals for more popular government, has ended by the surrender of the lords. The restricted powers of the upper house henceforth enable them only to obstruct the passage of liberal measures during the life of a single parliament. The coronation of King George in Westminster Abbey on June 22 marked the continued loyalty of the British empire. The Indian Durbar in December was the proclamation to the world of the resolve of Britain to maintain her overlordship in the Indian peninsula.

In the labor world the past year has been full of industrial unrest. In June the British strikes began. Seamen in British ports to the number of 20,000, struck for higher pay and the recognition of their union. In early August the dockers' and laborers' strike in London saw 70,000 involved. It spread to Liverpool, and the railroad and streetcar men took part. On August 17 a general strike of railroad men was called and 200,000 responded. Under promise of a royal commission to investigate and relieve their grievances, the men returned to work in four days, but not until the entire nation was in distress and famine was in sight. At the height of the strikes 400,000 men were out. The commission acted as conciliators. Substantial increases in wages were given, and the federation of the railroad unions was recognized. Considerable advances of wages were given the unskilled strikers.

The rising cost of food in France and in Austria led to rioting in the streets which was suppressed with difficulty.

In this country the year has been marked with strikes of shopmen on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad, on the Illinois Central, and on the Harriman system. In all of these recognition of federated unions has been a burning question.

The revolt of the people against the exactions and control of the trusts found determined expression in 1911. Long pending suits against Standard Oil and the tobacco trust came before the supreme court, which decreed the dissolution of those giant oppressors. Both of them submitted in form to the court orders, and proceeded to split themselves up into their component parts. But the control of the parts remains

in the same groups of capitalists that owned the parent holding companies. During the year the Atlantic Steamship company, the National Electric Lamp company, the powder trust, the steel wire trust, the soft coal combine, the United States Shoe Machinery company, the lumber trust, the anthracite coal carrier, the wall paper trust, the bath tub trust, the Southern Wholesale Grocery association, and the United States Steel corporation, have all been brought into the light of day. Against some of them old suits, dragging for many years, have been advanced to hearing and decree of dissolution. In other cases the defendants have pleaded guilty and have been punished only by small fines. Some of the suits are new. Other trusts, like the International Harvester company, have submitted themselves to either dissolution or readjustment of their corporate existence. In December the accused meat packers of the great Chicago corporations were at last brought to the bar of justice, and their trial is proceeding as the year closes. President Taft announces that during his term 37 anti-trust suits have been brought.

The reciprocity treaty with Canada was born, grew up, and died in 1911. Duly signed by the president and passed by both houses in July last, it was killed by the Canadian elections on September 21.

The general arbitration treaties between the United States, Great Britain and France having been negotiated by the president with the ambassadors of England and France, were submitted for approval to the senate in due course, and referred to the committee on foreign relations. The committee divided, and the majority reported against acceptance in the form proposed. The senate adjourned on August 2 without action. Protests have been raised in the press generally, and in the churches universally, against the senate's action.

Aviation entered a new phase in 1911. The day of spectacular glides and spirals is passing. A class of scientific men—engineers and sailors—is developing long distance flying along safe and sane lines. Postmaster General Hitchcock sees possibilities of mail delivery by aeroplane in the not distant future.

Postal savings banks have become a national reality in 1911. The smaller cities and towns having been supplied, postal banks were opened on August 1 in New York, Chicago and Boston.

The year closes on the denunciation by the United States of the treaty with Russia of 1822—in protest against the unvarying, unjustifiable and insulting exclusion from that country of American Jews. The honor of the nation demanded that her citizens of whatever birth or race be protected in the exercise of treaty given rights.

THE BIBLE

THE American Bible society is in its 96th year. But with its age its power and influence grows. It issued last year, from the Bible house in New York, and from its twelve foreign and nine home agencies, 2,331,722 volumes of the scriptures. It circulates the Bible in more than 100 languages. Of the 1,623,394 copies issued from the agencies of the society abroad the majority was in the great Asiatic languages.

The estimated expenditure of the society for the coming year is over \$700,000. Of this \$250,000 must come from the free will offerings of the people.

With its still older sister, the British and Foreign Bible Society of London, the American Bible society is ever increasing the flood of copies of the one book that never grows old, and is the source of faith of all Christian people today.

It is impossible to imagine the modern world without the Bible. It has entered, insensibly, perhaps, into our literature, our homes, our institutions and our individual beliefs. But it is no less a vital force with millions now than in the old days when its few printers and publishers were hunted from city to city, and paid for their work with their liberty and their lives.

If it be objected that the effect of Bible issues in enrolling converts to Christianity is not comparable with the number of millions of copies put into the hands of the people there is one good answer. The gauge of value, not of numbers, must be applied.

We do not forget the story that Gipsy Smith told of his conversion. He was one of a class of twenty who answered an evangelist's appeal. What of the nineteen others? He did not know. But who shall say that the preacher failed since Gipsy Smith stood fast by his profession and has carried the gospel message round the world. So of the Bible. The book may lie unopened and dust covered in the homes of too many of us in these days. Yet what would he do without it whose resolve is set on a better life? What of those who have loved and lost and who look to the Bible only for a revelation and a hope for the life beyond?

Men may differ in religious beliefs. One may strive to serve his master and his fellowmen in one way, and one in another. But all may, and they do, agree in both belief and action that the Bible society

must and shall receive support, adequate to its growing needs.

PET POODLE PLAGUE

FROM Paris comes food for thought for those lost souls who lavish their affections upon canines. A disgusting human ailment, known as "dogmouth," has broken out among those females in the French city who have formed the disgusting habit of kissing dogs.

The only indication of the disease in the dog is a desire to rub their muzzles against things and sneezing or coughing unduly. But, when contracted by the human, the symptoms are virulent. The mouth becomes inflamed and swells terrifically. In extreme cases the inflammation spreads over the face to such an alarming extent that the eyes are closed. The afflicted one suffers intense pain, is feverish, and often delirious. Unsightly festers and sores come about the mouth and nose and spread all over the mucous membrane.

A few cases of the disease have appeared in London, but, as yet, there have been no signs of its spread to the United States. American doctors, however, are everywhere admonishing people not to fondle their pets, and above all to refrain from kissing them. People are urged to keep pets from licking the hands or faces of children and to discard that bad habit in so many American families, of allowing the dog to lap up the remaining morsels on a plate or dish. Even when the dish is carefully washed afterward, the germ is liable to remain and be conveyed to the human who follows in the wake of the canine.

In Paris one woman has been greatly disfigured about the mouth as aftermath of the pernicious plague. Ugly scars have been left and her physician has declared that they will increase rather than disappear with time. In another case the throat of the victim was so swollen that strangulation was narrowly averted. Other distressing instances of depleted health and hideous eruptive flagellations have been made public.

The misfortunes of dog-loving women are never of absorbing interest to right thinking people, and yet any enlightenment that may serve to lessen the drift toward such imbecilic tendencies is to be welcomed, always keeping in mind the fact that light is antiseptic.

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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.)

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