

THE JOURNAL

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IN PORTLAND TODAY

CONFERENCE of the state, county and municipal health officers of Oregon is in progress in Portland today.

Who would stay the hand of public health regulation? Who would demand pure milk for its children? Who would withhold from the state or city the high privilege of defending its people against poisonous foods?

A Greek steamer recently arrived in New York, infected with spinal meningitis? Six died from the disease during the passage. But New York was prepared to combat the disease with specific curative serum.

Five years ago, New York would have been poorly prepared to offer a check. Within that time a cure has been developed. The death of four-year-old John Rockefeller McCormick led to the discovery through the action of the child's grandfather, who endowed the Rockefeller institute for the study of the disease.

The incident of the child's death yielded another marvel of preventive medicine. In a surprisingly short time yellow fever has been wiped out in Havana and Panama, and the Canal Zone has become a health resort.

Vaccination in Manila has banished smallpox in five years, so that hospitals that sheltered hundreds of patients in Spanish times had not one last summer.

In 1890, 27,815 persons died of diphtheria. The proportional number in 1909 would have been 40,000. The actual number of deaths in the latter year was 10,258. The lessened number is due to the discovery of diphtheria antitoxin. It has saved 30,000 lives in a single year.

An equal number of deaths from consumption are being prevented, as compared with 1890, by precautions against contagion and by the open air cure.

Every conference, every movement for research, every reasonable effort at health inspection and regulation, is an endeavor to conserve human life. It is a struggle to put the man above the dollar. It is first aid to poverty, for it is poverty that is most often the helpless victim of disease.

THE COAL STRIKE

WITH the passage of the minimum wage law introduced in parliament by the government, the great coal strike enters a new phase. The men have secured the principle for which they struck. If they refuse still to go to work for want of a definite declaration in the law of the figure of the minimum wage—although the provisions for the commissions in the various coal fields to establish the figures are immediate and go into operation forthwith—the miners place themselves in a most responsible and unenviable plight before the country.

Chancellor Lloyd-George quoted from the question submitted to the miners prior to the strike, and on which their strike action was based. "Are you in favor of ceasing work for the principle of a minimum wage?" This "principle" is distinctly stated in the new law.

It appears that the coal operators have unanimously agreed to open their mines, and that the conservative leaders of the men, headed by Ramsey MacDonald, M. P., have urged, in fact demanded, that the men return to work.

So the great strike will, it is to be hoped soon pass into history. The suffering and poverty of the strikers and of those dependent on them will be but a bitter memory, as wages, all the higher for the reflux from the closing of the mines, resume their flow among the families of two million workers. But the relations of capital and labor in Britain will enter a new phase with the enactment of the minimum wage law as a new force in economic relations in the old country.

EXPLAINED

PRESIDENT TAFT has frequently demanded a reform of our court practice and procedure on the ground that our judiciary favors the rich litigant. The aggregate wealth of the beef-packer defendants acquitted at Chicago Tuesday is nearly \$200,000,000.

Charles H. Carey, a lawyer, recently said to an assembly of lawyers in Portland: "Under our codes, an elaborate system of technical rules of pleading has grown up. Much time is wasted upon demurrers and motions which are filed in near-

ly every suit. Technical rules which confine parties to definite issues are obstructions to ultimate justice. Courts and lawyers now make justice a secondary consideration. They proceed on the theory that the rules must be adhered to, even though the result is to bring victory to the party who ought not to win, and they have built up fine theories of the law under which precedent must be followed to absurd conclusions."

NOT GUILTY

AFTER nine years, ten months and seventeen days of legal proceedings the beef packers "are declared not guilty." Testimony at the trial, reached after nearly ten years of legal moves, showed that the packers secretly met every week under the name of "Postoffice Box 243," on the sixth floor of a Chicago office building; that the object of the weekly meeting was to fix the sale prices of meat and the buying prices to the growers; that the United States was divided into districts and designated by letters of the alphabet, and that one of the purposes of the secret weekly meeting was to determine how pack 243 was to be shipped by each packing concern into the different districts.

The Sherman law declares it unlawful to engage in conspiracies in restraint of trade, provides fines and jail sentences for violations, and it has been in existence since 1890.

Livestock is a product of the farm. The annual products for which the farmers receive about \$6,000,000,000, cost the consumers \$13,000,000,000. Who gets the huge difference between what the farmer receives and what the consumer pays?

By reports made under the requirements of the New York stock exchange, the annual business of the six great packers is \$945,000,000 a year. The profits, exclusive of the National Packing company, according to these reports, were \$23,379,644 in 1911. With the profits of the National Packing company added, the yearly earnings of the trust are \$25,000,000.

The detailed figures are impressive. Swift & Co. grew in sixteen years from a ten million to an eighty million company. After paying heavy dividends, regularly, Armour & Co. have piled up a surplus of \$73,000,000.

The net profits of Armours in 1911 were \$9,808,305; Swift & Co., \$8,000,000; Morris & Co., \$2,171,339; Sulzberger, \$1,800,000; Cudahy, \$1,700,000.

These huge figures of earnings, and the evidence at the trial as to how the profits were made, explain why the Sherman law was passed more than twenty years ago. That law was endeavor to save the great system of distribution from becoming unjust to some men and over generous to other men.

The United States possesses one fourth of the world's visible supply of gold and silver. Our bank deposits aggregate sixteen billions of dollars. Our bank assets exceed twenty-three billions. No other nation approaches these figures.

But nearly one half the individual deposits and bank assets of the nation is in only three states—New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Forty-eight states create the wealth, but only three states have almost half the money.

The verdict in the packers' case at Chicago partly explains why. Other explanations are the rich picking of the land rents, the extortions by trusts, the special favors of the tariff, free gifts of franchises, a carnival of stocks, bonds, charters and coupons, and finally, the unpardonable wickedness of over capitalization.

The verdict in the packers case is a challenge to the best statesmanship of the nation.

FLAX AT LAST

FOR about thirty years it has been known to a small inner circle that flax for fiber could be grown successfully in western Oregon. To popularize that knowledge, and to extend the growth and use of the plant from the specimens of the garden or plot to its place in the rotation of the farm, and to the regular production of the factory, has met one obstruction after another. But efforts have never ceased, and it seems that at last they are to be successful. They should be, since not only soil and climate have to concur, but the flax plant must be accepted as a regular crop in the rotation of the modern scientific farmer before it takes its place as one of the best profit earners from the land. These conditions can be found in western Oregon today.

It is but recently that the cultivation and handling of the flax plant has been remedied. Where in this scantily peopled Oregon could be found the hands of women and children that in other countries pluck by the roots the flax, and in bundles, steep it in the retting ponds near by the growing fields? The lack of them forbade the culture here until bold innovators learned to grow and ripen the plant, to mow it with the recognized machine, and then to pass it through new machinery on the field to clean and bind the fiber ready for its transfer to the mill. So only could low wages and slow labor be dispensed with, and machinery and skilled labor be set at work.

The farmer, too, has been converted to the adoption of flax as a rotation crop that, properly farmed, helps, not hurts the fertility of his

ground. For this the agricultural college has to be thanked.

But it is the appearance here of the American Linseed company and of their Western Linen mills of Duluth as contractors with Oregon farmers to grow flax under contract with them, it is the manufacturer, the business man, accepting the opportunity of the beautiful and high-standard flax of Oregon for factory use, that insures the development of flax culture here. The opportunity is unquestionable, since the market is here and is expanding. We shall appreciate the new movement the more that it involves breaking down of walls heretofore surrounding a trust-controlled industry of great profit.

THE TARIFF BREAKDOWN

THE world is to have example of the minimum wage law in actual application, and on a large scale. It is a new policy in government, brought into life by that transcendent commoner, Lloyd-George.

Lawrence proved the breakdown of the tariff as a wage protector. Even under the highest tariff in all time, Lawrence gave us European pauper labor on United States soil.

For more than 100 years we have insisted, through the tariff, that it is a function of government to protect the wage of workers. With the tariff myth exposed, it is now the duty of government either to abandon the wage earner or to adopt a protection that will protect, and such a protection is the minimum wage. Lloyd-George has pointed the way in this, as in other great human problems.

The states should grapple the problem of a minimum wage. They should try to do for all the workers what the unions are trying to do for a few of the workers.

THE TOOL OF DEATH

THE Portland pistol ordinance became operative January 29, and Chief Slover says that in this short time, "it has proved its worth."

He says policemen are under ironclad orders to enforce it strictly. They ought to be active in its enforcement, for whenever they disarm a crook they remove one menace to themselves.

They know the thugs. They know the criminals. They know the men who make a living with a cocked revolver. If they apply the pistol law relentlessly, they will make Portland an inhospitable and an unprofitable field for gun men.

There should be a similar law for the state. There should be an anti-revolver law in the nation. It is the estimate of observers that concealed weapons are responsible for half the killings.

KEEPING UP THE FIGHT

AFTER exhaustive inquiry, the Milwaukee Bureau of Economy and Efficiency reported that almost half the bad qualities of milk as it is finally consumed, are due to bad care by the housewife. That, however, was in a city and a state where dairy inspection and regulation have passed to high efficiency.

There is endeavor in Portland to educate consumers as well as dairymen. Both are at fault. It is of little use to provide for clean dairies if the housewife leaves a pan of milk open for flies to poison it, or leaves it in close proximity to decaying vegetation that will contaminate it. It is likewise useless for housewives to be particular in the care of milk if the milk has already been contaminated in a dirty dairy.

A lecture last night at the Young Men's Christian Association was instructive to dairymen. Another next Saturday night at the same place will be instructive to consumers. Each is part of a series of similar lectures to be given at the same place in the same behalf.

The lectures are by Chemist Callaway of the city health department, who has shown great efficiency in the campaign for pure milk. There will also be other speakers.

Portland is still far behind in the character of her milk. More than 1000 dairies supply milk to this city. More than 120 deliver from their own wagons. The revolution of transforming all these sources of supply into the perfectly clean establishments, that they ought to be, requires time and enormous effort.

But the education is going on. The processes of administration in the city are cumbersome and inefficient, but the officials are all exponents of pure milk, and working for it.

It is a fight that must not be given up until complete efficiency is finally reached.

A Los Angeles woman sued for divorce because her husband licked her every time the home team lost. After a careful scrutiny of the prospects, she determined not to risk the season of 1912.

Why don't some of his friends argue in behalf of Senator Stephenson in the senate debate over his case, that like Carnegie, he is rich and was only trying to get rid of his money?

By a vote of 40 to 34 the senate voted yesterday for Stephenson of Wisconsin to hold his seat. Is the action to serve as a precedent for the retention of Lorimer? The latter voted for Stephenson's retention, and the gallery laughed. Of course, Stephenson will vote for Lorimer to

remains on the job. The country wants to see how much further the senate will go in voting that election by purchase gives fit title to a senatorship.

Colorado gave its delegation to Taft yesterday, by a vote of nearly three to one. His hat, which the colonel cast into the ring, is being shot to a frazzle.

There are charges of diabolical political conspiracy in the New York primaries, and for once Tammany seems not to have participated.

Letters From the People

Communications sent to The Journal for publication should be addressed to the Editor, 225 Third Street, Portland, Or. Communications in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender.

Assessments in Multnomah. Portland, Or., March 25.—To the Editor of The Journal—On March 17, you published the text of my letter to the board of state tax commissioners, in regard to certain assessment methods in Multnomah county, and on March 24, you published the commission's answer to me. I will thank you for a little additional space, that the matter may be more clearly understood.

Constructing the assessment law upon my request, the tax commission held that land in acreage on March 1, but platted by the owner after that date and before the completion of the assessment roll of that year, may be legally assessed according to the description from the record plat. In support of this conclusion, the commission quotes the Cooley on Taxation (page 735, footnote), to the effect that "where land has been regularly platted into city lots, an assessment by the acre as before is bad."

The case being as stated by the tax commission, it would logically follow that, if assessment of land is to be equal and uniform, the recorded plat, if used in any one instance relating to land platted after March 1, should be used in all instances. This has not been done.

There is left to me a mere shadow of an excuse for participation in voting for members of the legislature—or almost any other candidates.

Each presidential candidate—or their campaign managers—charge that the others are spending an immense campaign fund—and perhaps they all tell the truth.

SEVEN ROMANTIC MARRIAGES

Charles Dickens.

Few of the biographers of Charles Dickens dwell to any extent upon his romantic love affairs. They seem to have been as much a part of the many-sided character of the great English novelist as any other. Dickens' great accomplishments in literature seem to absorb all the attention and yet a little glance into his inner heart is most interesting.

There was a sentimental side to the character of Charles Dickens, which was to have developed very early in life. The French writer, Hervier, recalls an incident of Dickens' childhood as follows: "When the novelist was 5 years old he had a playmate named Lucy, a beautiful girl, with magnificent curls which hung down her back in golden curls. The little boy, gifted with an open and tender heart, at once felt for Lucy such an impulse of affection that he never forgot her. In fact, she is found later with her blonde hair in at least five Dickens novels."

But Dickens' first real love came when he was a young man not very far advanced in his teens. Among his acquaintances was a young bank clerk who was in love with the daughter of a banker by the name of Beadnell. His young friend took Dickens to call at the Beadnell home where he was received with kindness, and fell in love almost at sight with a third daughter, Mary.

Many writers are of the impression that "David Copperfield," one of Dickens' greatest novels, is really an autobiography of Dickens, and the "Dora" of the novel is none other than Mary, the banker's daughter. It is also claimed that she inspired "Flora Finching" in "Little Dorrit."

Dickens and Mary became engaged when the novelist was 18. The parents seriously opposed this match, having grown anxious at the thought of giving their daughter to a man without an established position in the world. Dickens was made to feel that his company was not desired at the home of the banker, and Mary was sent to Paris.

order. Walter H. Evans has the ability to prosecute and let us use this ability of his by putting him into the office of district attorney.

"As a quiet man who has in no way identified himself with any clique or faction, whose sole aim has been to serve the people of this district as a federal prosecutor, we ought to feel that it is a pleasure and a duty to give Walter H. Evans our earnest support."

"Roosevelt, the Egomaniac."

Portland, Or., March 25.—To the Editor of The Journal—"When we were three by an age when Rome encompassed but one man." Without the modifying expressions of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln or the promises of Roosevelt, the question resolves itself into this immediate proposition: "Shall the form of government be changed?" I hold that the third term does change the form of government. If any man does this, then he stands accused on one of three charges. He is altogether ignorant, he is altogether indifferent, or he is a monarchist. If he is ignorant, he should be instructed in the facts of history; if he is indifferent, he should be stimulated with patriotism; if he is a monarchist, he should be driven from the country as a traitor. If he spends so much breath, waste so much energy or weave so much argument, about a man's promises, or the meaning of a word, "Hit the bullseye; hurl the lance into the heart of the issue. Every honest and fair man knows that Roosevelt is a self-made ingrate. Retributive justice is sure, and pursue him now in cartoons, parodies, parades—holding the mirror up to nature. His disposition to change the form of government is treasonable, and his treatment of his friend Taft is traitorous. Those ought to, and will, consign him to obloquy. No Democrat, no Republican, no Socialist, no man is a patriot who would change the form of our government. A third term means a life term—then inheritance. The country has had enough of this egomaniac—Roosevelt."

Diagnosis of Discontent.

Portland, Or., March 25.—To the Editor of The Journal—In view of the sentiments expressed by your paper and those expressed by such organizations as the real estate board, the Rotary club and others relative to the I. W. W. movement, I am compelled to answer. There is not word written thus far except Dr. Brower's article in today's paper, that has treated this subject in moderation and reason. Why not endeavor to ascertain the cause of the "disease" of doctors and health officers run, pos-

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE.

Laying costs about ten times too much.

A model may not be a model young woman.

Looks like La Follette had recovered from that illness.

Now we get a view of water power monopolization close by.

Better be without an automobile than have one that you can't afford.

Moral: Don't believe the promises of applicants for public utility franchises.

A city like Portland needs the services of a high salaried corporation counsel.

The case seems to be that Portland wants a commission government but can't get it.

At least there could scarcely be a change for the worse in one office, probably two.

Isn't there any way to squeeze the vast amount of water out of the P. R. L. & P. company?

Any one of the many recent days would have made, as to weather, a glorious Easter Sunday.

When people become fully fit for self government there will be no more costly, wasteful, cruel strikes.

Monopoly always pretends to be good, until it gets its clutches firmly gripped on the body politic.

Many working people deserve higher wages and better treatment, but they are foolish to accept advice of the I. W. W.

Portland started to provide itself with a system of municipal docks now too soon, rather late, in fact, but better late than never.

Testimony desired by one attorney is considered incompetent, immaterial and irrelevant. Always all three—by the other attorney.

There is left to me a mere shadow of an excuse for participation in voting for members of the legislature—or almost any other candidates.

Each presidential candidate—or their campaign managers—charge that the others are spending an immense campaign fund—and perhaps they all tell the truth.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Monday, April 1, will be a race planting day at Ontario.

The Grand, a moving picture show house at Marfield, has been enlarged with a fireproof addition.

R. W. Bates, who until recently published the Roseburg News, has established himself with job printing outfit at Roseburg.

Monroe Leader: Johnny Fischer recently received 800 Early Crawford peach trees and will plant them on his farm in the Irish Bend.

Banks Herald: There is a movement at Roy to establish a store there on the cooperative farmer plan, and an organization has been made with some such scheme in view.

Rev. J. R. N. Bell, formerly of Baker, but now of Corvallis, will deliver the Easter address April 7 to the Baker commandery and visiting brothers from Pendleton and La Grande.

S. G. Ledford of Wasco, Wasco county, has drawn down \$10 bounty on the scalp of a late convict, the first on which bounty has been paid in Wasco, according to The Dalles Chronicle.

The Redmond Spokesman proposes a plan whereby an electric light and power plant may be established at Redmond depending for fuel upon juniper cleared from the new lands nearby. The benefits, the Spokesman claims, would thus work in all directions at once.

Baker Herald: The Rosemary number of the High School News, which he put out this year about April 1 and is planned to be the biggest one ever turned out. This number of the Nugget has been annually edited and published under the supervision of the Junior class.

Silver Lake Leader: In addition to caring for his general merchandise business and managing the Lake postoffice, E. A. Remington has found time to plant 40 acres of fall rye, 10 acres of fall wheat and prepare ground for 30 acres of spring rye and 10 acres of buckwheat.

Stayton Mail: The Mail has just completed the printing and circulation directory for the Spring and vicinity. It is a book of 38 pages and contains close to 1200 names, all patrons in Stayton, Clatsop, Tillamook, Clatskanie, Clifton, Meham, Scio, Jordan, Lyons, Marion, Seaside, Kingstons and West Stayton being included.

History of the Beef Packers' Case

From the New York World.

1902—May 10: Injunction asked against the beef trust. May 20, temporary injunction granted. September 20, beef trust demurred.

1902—May 27, injunction made permanent; packers appealed to the supreme court.

1904—July 25, Roosevelt ordered department of justice to push case.

1906—January 4, briefs filed. January 16, case argued. January 31, supreme court decided in favor of the government.

1907—February 21, subpoena issued for 165 witnesses. March 20, special grand jury met to hear evidence against the beef trust. March 23, Armour's superintendent indicted for tampering with a witness. July 1, seven corporations and 23 individuals in beef trust indicted. September 18, plea in abatement filed by the packers. October 23, claim made for famous immunity bath.

1908—March 21, immunity granted by Judge Humphrey.

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