

THE JOURNAL

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TAFT AND OREGON

MR. TAFT is a lame third in the verdict of Oregon voters. It is a discouraging outlook for those in the state who have followed his fortunes and done his bidding. It is not a protest against the man, but a vote against his administration. Oregon accepts Mr. Taft as an amiable, well-meaning gentleman, who lost his steering gear when he entered the White House.

But Oregon is an insurgent state. There were more than two insurgent Republican votes Friday for every standard vote. Even the voters who cast their ballots for Mr. Roosevelt, thought they were insuring. The great number who went on record for Senator La Follette are insurgents who have their political bearings and know the insurgent game. Various blunders by the president lost him the Oregon delegation. When he journeyed here on his latest visit, he trained over-exclusively with the ancient pillars of assembly, and that was a blunder. He toured the state without a word in approval of the Oregon system, and though he was strictly honest therein, that was a blunder.

MEN AND RELIGION

FROM the 19th instant to the 24th instant, there will be held in New York a congress of the Men and Religion workers and speakers which will come the nearest to a continent-wide showing of religious forces that was ever seen in North America.

Not merely are delegates expected from every Protestant church, but also representative Christian men chosen by the local Men and Religion committees of 100.

The starting point of the congress will be the reports of the nine commissions which, for months past, have been engaged in inquiries, each in its own field, and in formulating these reports, which will be printed in advance for the members of the congress, to prepare them for the discussions.

The titles of these nine reports will enlighten us as to the points of contact these men recognize between the church and the world. 1. Social Service. 2. Missions. 3. Boys' Work—or rather work with boys. 4. Evangelization. 5. The Rural Church. 6. Bible Study. 7. Men and Religion Message. 8. Christian Unity. 9. Christian Publicity.

Week of the Atlantic. With that message as the motive of the journey, and with the backward look on a long and arduous life of service to God and man, one can well believe that the summons was willingly, as we are assured it was calmly, met.

MOTHER

IN giving to William H. Thompson the custody of his nine-year-old son, despite the mother's pleadings, Justice Marquand in the supreme court of Brooklyn recently uttered this opinion: A mother is not necessary to her child. All children are selfish. They think about themselves only. They make no account of their own pleasure except away from the mother. They quickly forget her and she affects their lives only as she can serve them. They are not as well without her as she is without them.

That is the opinion of one man. It is not the universal opinion. The greatest influence for good in the world today is the MOTHER. It is the mothers that keep the world as good as it is. The mother is God's most perfect handiwork. She is the life of the nation.

Most mothers are better qualified than fathers to take care of children. There are occasionally bad mothers, of course,—mothers who throw their little children out into the world with a kick and a curse,—but these are exceptional cases. Most women who bring a child into the world may be trusted to make a good citizen of it—if it lies within their power.

The teachings at mother's knee are never entirely effaced from the soul of man. We believe with Napoleon that "the future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother." We recall Madame Campan's famous reply to the emperor: "What is wanting in order that the youth of France be educated?" asked the great general. "Good mothers," was Madame Campan's quick answer.

The child who is raised without the proper influence of a loving mother is handicapped. There is always something missing in its nature, there is always a dark and empty void that aches and aches. It is like a pale plant that springs up in a cellar. It has been cheated of that most precious heritage to humanity—the magic touch of a mother's hand.

A noted sociologist says: "One thing there is noteworthy, the frequency with which boys and girls get into trouble where there is a step-mother or step-father. The number of these cases is so great as to be set down as one of the causes of delinquency and crime in youth. Exceptional natures will do a mother's work as well as his own mother, but not the average nature." Physicians tell us that the instinct of every new-born babe is to return to the shadows from whence it came. It has to be coaxed to live. It is only mother love that is potent to hold the little stranger on earth. This is why motherless children so often die, and so seldom thrive, even when they live. This is why the mortality is so high even in the best regulated baby asylums. Every child needs the mother's cuddling, the mother's baby talk, the unfathomable love light in the mother's eye.

The other day they buried a mother. Hers was an unpretentious funeral. Twenty years ago she was deserted by her husband and left penniless with four children to support—one a babe in arms. A very common story. Over the back-breaking wash-tub, on her knees with her scrubbing-brush, beside the midnight lamp with her sewing, she brought them safely to young manhood and young womanhood. She was their food, their fire, their shelter, their love, their life. A very common achievement of mothers.

She was not beautiful in death. She was thin and broken and toll-sore. But, children and grandchildren, strong of body and clean of mind, followed her to the modest grave and mourned after their kind. Maybe "their minds were on their own pleasures." Maybe, "once away from her, they quickly forgot her." But, they could not "have grown just as well without her."

Great woman in the world, and, in size none out of 10, he will make answer. My mother. She it is who holds the key to the soul, she it is who stamps the coin of character on the nation, she it is the great miracle worker—the Madonna with the magic touch.

A REASON FOR CONCERN

THERE are those among its friends who are concerned about the direct primary. The nomination of Lafferty has added to the anxiety. Whether a candidate of the Lafferty type is nominated, confidence in the system is weakened. Whenever such a man is selected in the direct primary, a new argument is played in the hands of his enemies. There was fair warning to the voters of the district that Lafferty is an unfit. It was a warning of which there is ample proof in the state campaign pamphlet in which Lafferty uttered a falsehood as barefaced as ever came from the lips of man.

But, in spite of these warnings, Lafferty was winner in Friday's primaries. He was chosen in spite of his scandals. He was chosen in spite of his many degradations and crucifixions of the truth. He was chosen as the candidate of the Republican party in this district in spite of the confessed fact that he is a known unfit and undesirable in congress.

The people of Oregon do not want to go back to the old convention system with its abuses. The trail of scandal, futility and false government which that system brought is repugnant to an uplifted Oregon. But the direct primary cannot carry such burdens and be responsible for such products as Lafferty. It must yield better results or it will lose heavily of the strong support it now has. It must nominate better candidates than Lafferty or many who have stood staunchly by it will lose some of their confidence in the plan.

It is not, however, the fault of the principle of the direct primary, but very largely the fault of the people. The direct primary is only a tool. It is a splendid tool, but there must be men to work it. If the men use it wisely and patriotically, it will stand. But if they go on nominating Laffertys, they will so arm its enemies with clubs that they may yet gather strength to bludgeon it out of existence.

The Journal is for the direct primary, now and forever. The Journal has striven hard to save the direct primary to the people of the state, and it expects to keep on striving. But there is no power on earth that can successfully uphold the direct primary against the attacks that it must yet encounter. If the people go on nominating Laffertys.

HOW THE WORLD MOVES

THE World's Work tells us that from 1862 to 1912 the area under Republican government has increased from 8,900,000 square miles to more than 22,000,000—an advance of 175 per cent in half a century. Fifty years ago there were 87,000,000 people under Republican government, today there are over 112,000,000.

When dealing with ideas as well as forms there must be added to the above figures those of the British Islands and the Imperial Colonies. There the people rule even more decisively than in various republics strictly so called. It is to the democratic impulse that the developments in government are due.

Looking back on all these changes it may be remarked that they have come about, not by sudden invasion, conquest, and the violent imposition on subjected peoples of the republican form, but by the slow permeation through these bodies politic of the ideas of popular rule.

Another point to be remembered is that not only the peoples, but each and all classes of the people, have acquiesced in the new forms. Thus though reversion to earlier monarchical, autocratic, or oligarchical government has been often threatened, efforts to forcibly restore them have not succeeded.

To reform the law courts, to add strength to the temple of the nation, that all her citizens may live in it happier and more reasonable lives, to more evenly and justly distribute the great aggregate of the earnings of the people—this is patriots' work.

THE MINISTER'S TRAINING

A WELL-known religious paper came boldly forward the other day with the suggestion that it would be a good thing all round if every young minister in the Christian church should be called on, after he had graduated from college, to enter business life for a year or two before ordination. The paper went on, somewhat maliciously, to say that then a number of them would not be ordained at all—which would be no loss, and those who survived the test would have gained a knowledge of men and things, of the difficulties and temptations that meet us all in daily life, that would be of infinite use to the minister in after years. One well-known English bishop suggested lately that the best training for theological students would be a trip round the world.

Such a course of study by business life might be of advantage to the young minister in bringing him to the level of his fellowmen, of eradicating that spiritual pride which surely must be one of the hardest enemies to overcome. The rube and discipline of business life would surely instill both humility and obedience. But above all the mixing with his fellows on one and the same level would be a safeguard against sacerdotalism, the great infirmity of ministerial minds.

THE CHINESE SWARMING

IT is assumed by most of us that China is a huge reservoir of population, filled to the brim, and that one cause of the famine, which the whole world is called on to relieve, is that there are more Chinese than their country can sustain. This impression grows on us from the reckless dealing with human life, both by the bandits and rioters ravaging the country and wrecking the towns, and by the officials, from Yuan Shi Kai down, who repress the outbreaks by cutting off heads by the hundred.

A different idea comes from a letter of correction from S. Pollard, of Chaotung, in Yunnan, West China, published in the last issue of the London Nation. Mr. Pollard says that it is estimated that the three provinces constituting Manchuria, can, with proper cultivation, sustain 200,000,000 of people. Now the population is very sparse. Large numbers of Chinese farmers from the south are now entering Mongolia, and are reclaiming long neglected lands. In the western and southwestern provinces of China proper there are also immense tracts waiting for tillage. There is in those provinces an immense area suitable for cotton, sugar, rice, and corn without a single inhabitant.

These statements of an eye witness require his own explanation. By virtue of the fertility of many districts a small area has supported families for many generations. More rice, wheat and other cereals were produced in good harvest than the population could consume. And there were no railroads, and on the canals no motor boats or tow boats, to remove the surplus. So there was constant alternation between abundance and scarcity. Life ran in deep grooves, with neither outlet nor extension.

Like a huge beehive in spring-time, swarming the mud had come. Young China brought from the west new ideas and outlets for life, for skill and industry in the mine, the factory and the railroad. The breath of that life moved on the face of the waters, and the nation awoke.

This correspondent tells what he has himself seen in many recent journeys. He predicts, with the return of peace and the establishment of the republic first, the spread of the railroad in all directions, then the opening up of mines of coal, iron ore and many other minerals, and the wide extension of factory industries to which the Chinese are specially called.

Tanglefoot

By Miles Overholt. THAT SWAT. Though there's harmony and music in the gentle rhythmic swish of the line that's drawn so tightly by And there's more or less enjoyment in the bottom of a boat When some other guy is rowing and you're flopping on his coat. And though other folks may giggle; they may even show surprise At a kid in my rowing pleasure; it is that of swatting flies.

Letters From the People

Articles and questions for this page should be written on only one side of the paper, and be accompanied by the name of the writer, which will be published, but is desired as an indication of good faith.

Grange Road Bill

Oregon City, R. F. D. 2, April 17.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In the Daily Journal of the 16th inst., I see the mention of a proposed good roads bill formulated by Sweet Home grange, which I am very much interested in. This plan comes nearer the right thing than anything we have had yet, I think. The good roads bill is all right in its way and I think it is the best we can get. Then if this Sweet Home grange bill did not furnish any county with as much funds as it wanted it could issue some bonds, if necessary, to make up the balance and road machinery to sell will be ready to go. A state bonding system on us. And while they will be enjoying the effects of it for many years to come, we will be the ones that will have to pay the fiddler's bill. Any county judge or commissioner or any other county or state officer who will encourage or assist in adopting this state aid road bill in its present form should never have the support of the taxpayers of the state or county. I don't see the whole thing as nothing but a huge graft.

I think the Sweet Home grange bill would be better if they would appropriate the whole state fund that would be raised by the one mill levy (which would amount to about \$90,000 per annum) among all the counties, in accordance with the number of miles of roads in each county, and not make any apportionment in accordance with the assessed valuation of the counties, from the very fact that Multnomah county is the smallest county in the state and has the best roads already of any county in the state, and it has one-third or over of the assessed valuation of the state, and does not need such a heavy apportionment each year as it would get if you apportioned one-third of the state fund according to valuation (which would be about \$100,000 or over each year). It would be better for the residents of Portland to assist the other counties of the state a little more, and thereby increase the production of the state, and get the counties to get their products to market, and thereby materially lower the cost of living.

Evils of the Profit System

The Daily Star, April 19.—To the Editor of The Journal.—The greatest evil of the profit system is that it is today as to contend with in the profit system. It is the fountain head; it is the source from whence all evil originates. Profit is the price the consumer pays for the goods he consumes. It costs the Standard Oil company but 3 cents per gallon, he can be said to be doing nothing short of paying three quarters of his money for a commodity that costs him 3 cents. It could be expected that the United States treasury would very soon evolve into a state of bankruptcy should it be found doing the foolish thing of paying 150 cents for all of the gold dollars it could produce. What stage can society ever expect to attain while such a deplorable condition of affairs exists as above mentioned?

We may ask why it is we have the liquor traffic in our midst? I can say we cannot get away from the fact that its presence is directly attributable to the enormous profits derived therefrom. The Swedish government offers us a model as to the rational method of handling the liquor traffic. After high license, low license and no license had been tried, the matter was turned over to the Socialists for solution. Beyond all hopes of the most sanguine, it was found that in 13 months drunkenness had been lowered 65 per cent. Their method of procedure was to let the government take hold of the liquor business and employ men to dispense near the place of production as possible. Because of "the profit system" men are compelled to enter the industrial field, as employers are able to secure their labor power for less than they can hire men to work for them. They in turn are supplanted by their children.

New Bonding Proposition

Newberg, Or., April 19.—To the Editor of The Journal.—There are two classes of people who may be in favor of issuing interest-bearing bonds, the city man who does not have to pay taxes to keep up country roads, and yet to whose interest it is that the roads should be good, as it may increase his business, and the bond speculator, who has money to invest in good interest-bearing securities. These two we may count on as favoring interest-bearing bonds. If the interest-bearing bond proposition were the only way to raise money, I suppose we would have to be satisfied, but I believe there is a better plan.

Let the state or counties issue non-interest-bearing bonds; deposit them with the United States treasury as security; draw face value in national bank notes, even if the state or counties have to take out a national bank charter and transact a general road banking business. The notes issued would be distributed to the counties as they are needed for the same purpose. All good and reliable mortgages held by private parties, if possible, and loan to farmers and others on approved security, at not less interest than the charged borrower, that road fund be deposited by face. Interest to go into road fund for public use in place of going into private purse to swell private fortunes; bonds to be paid in installments, say \$100,000 per year. The Jackson county farmer, Mr. Scott's plan, it is like we were calling a halt on this interest-bearing bond business. We are asked to the limit already—without making the burden heavier, we should rather lighten it.

The Connoisseur

From the Washington Star. Joseph E. Widener, being congratulated in New York on the excellence of his father's pictures, smiled and said: "Yes, my father has been a discreet collector. He is not like the New York millionaire whom Sargent visited. "Sargent was taken by this millionaire through a gallery of dubious Rembrandts, Titians, Raphaels and Murillos. "Mr. Sargent," the millionaire said, gazing pompously at the long lines of vast, dingy canvases, "I have decided to leave my pictures as some public institution. What institution would you suggest?" "I suggest," said Mr. Sargent, "an institution for the blind."

SEVEN GREAT CONSPIRACIES

Catiline's Conspiracy. In his youth he attached himself to the party of Sulla, but his physical strength, passionate nature and unscrupulous daring soon gained him an independent reputation. In spite of the charges that he had killed his brother-in-law and murdered his wife and son, he was elected consul in 68 B. C. and governor of Africa in 67. Sallust, the Roman historian, in his "Conspiracy of Catiline," puts the following words into the mouth of Catiline: "I will address to his soldiers in justification of this conspiracy against the state: 'Who in the world, in that has the feeling of a man, can endure that these men should have a surety of riches to squander in bridgework and leveling mountains, and that means should be wanting to procure even the necessities of life; that they should join together two houses or more, and that we should not have a party to call our own? They, though they purchase pictures, statues and embossed plate; though they pull down new buildings and erect others, and lavish and abuse their wealth in every possible way, yet cannot be satisfied with their efforts of caprice, exhaust their purses, and are left to us but a miserable existence.'"

The Wreck of the Wright

The Wright, a steamer from Alaska in Portland, was wrecked, was the only steamer to be wrecked in the world. She sailed January 21, 1912, and was on a coast at Nainital, N. C., but she was wrecked on the coast of Alaska. On the vessel were Captain Thomas A. Alway, 12 passengers and a crew of 23. The ship had set, and all alone. The steamer battled with the sea. Her plume of smoke in backward blown, her bowsprit and masts were bent, and her hull was cracked. Her engines were stopped, and she was left to drift. With maniac laughter, deep and low, The cooling water worked her way. A pallid sea bird wheeling sky, Shrieked to his brother sea below. Her hopes of flight of human prey! And yet the rolling desert broods The dreariest of nature's moods. Herd of all save bleak diannay. A sudden blanching strikes the sea, The windward, and the fearful twang. Of Neptune's trident hums a glee. Of might and wrath and agony. Her where the breakers boom and clang. Like flying shrouds from rified graves, The waves of wrath drifts on the waves. Whence ocean's slumbering forces surge.

Portland Cleaner

Portland, April 19.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In reply to A. P. Fleming knock on Minneapolis the other day about clean streets, street cars, etc., I want to say that Minneapolis has Portland beaten a long way in the cleanliness of her streets. They are kept clean at all times and are not left until night to be flushed as the method of Minneapolis. If Mr. Fleming ever noticed what a far better street car Minneapolis has, where you can sit on regular seats and not on side benches like they are here. He has also got to show me where the Minneapolis street cars are cleaner or where the employees are not polite, or that Portland has as good a street car service as Minneapolis. There are two things also that he did not mention. His street cars are clean on each side of the sidewalk and almost total absence of shade trees in Portland, except for the miles of unsightly telephone poles which might call shade trees. The other is the numbering of the streets. In Minneapolis the streets run one hundred to the block instead of the continuous system in vogue here. Anyone can tell a stranger there where a certain number is, which is a good deal more than can be said of Portland. His method of climate is a whole better in Portland and you certainly have a supply of water that cannot be beat. I am a newcomer here and expect to stay here, but I don't like to see any of the methods that Mr. Fleming is talking about thrown around when it is not true. Mr. Fleming did not mention the free garbage collection system there, either, so that people do not have any excuse to throw garbage or any other refuse into vacant lots, etc. yours truly, W. P. BROWN.

Patrol Sea Route He Says

McMinnville, Or., April 18.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Another appalling disaster with a fearful loss of life has just passed into the history, death in the deep. The question arises in my mind as well as others—could this most terrible loss of life have been prevented? I say yes. Practically all the liners run over the same course on the Atlantic from the American cities to European ports. This is particularly true of those that run the northern route where icebergs are most numerous. They are not dangerous to navigation. If not already in practice, my plan would be to have an international law enacted for the purpose of taxing all liners to keep a constant patrol of dangerous cruising constantly in this dangerous zone, sighting the icebergs, taking their location and reporting the same by wireless. Then all ships carrying wireless would be on the job long before they approached the berg. The result would be no more loss of life, ships and treasure.

Has Old Relics

Siletz, Or., April 16.—To the Editor of The Journal.—After reading of the old relic hunters write about it thought I would tell you of the relic I have. I haven't any knife, but have a pocket-book that is over 100 years old and a small hammer that my grandfather made when he was 18, and I am 80 now, which would make me about 140 years old. Now, who can beat that? C. K. MITCHELL.

The Connoisseur

From the Washington Star. Joseph E. Widener, being congratulated in New York on the excellence of his father's pictures, smiled and said: "Yes, my father has been a discreet collector. He is not like the New York millionaire whom Sargent visited. "Sargent was taken by this millionaire through a gallery of dubious Rembrandts, Titians, Raphaels and Murillos. "Mr. Sargent," the millionaire said, gazing pompously at the long lines of vast, dingy canvases, "I have decided to leave my pictures as some public institution. What institution would you suggest?" "I suggest," said Mr. Sargent, "an institution for the blind."

Pointed Paragraphs

And it's unlucky to be born that way. The deaf mute has his knowledge at his finger's ends. Many a man lies while standing up for himself. A man's opinions may be heavy and still carry no weight. Anyway, the average woman hasn't the cheek to raise whiskers. It doesn't advance a woman when she puts herself before a mirror. You can sometimes tell a wise man by the smart things he doesn't say. She is a wise girl who can train up a rich uncle in the way he should go. Many a woman lets her neighbors' affairs worry her more than her own. Much of that which is called pure "cussedness" is nothing but human nature. An easy way to flatter a young woman is to tell her she doesn't get any more than a bird.