

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (except Sunday) and every Sunday morning at The Journal Building, 7th and Yamhill sts., Portland, Or.

Subscription Terms by mail or to any address in the United States or Mexico. DAILY: One year \$3.00. One month \$0.25.

ADVICE is seldom welcome. Those who need it most, like it least.—Johnson.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

THE voters elected to retain the death penalty, and the condemned men at Salem are to be executed.

Some other day, Oregon will abolish hangings. It may be long years hence, but it is a reform that will be adopted.

California and Wisconsin have about the same population. California has capital punishment, and Wisconsin does not have it.

In the four non-capital-punishment states of Maine, Rhode Island, Michigan and Wisconsin in 1910 the ratio of murders was 66.1 per million of population.

In none of the states that have been without capital punishment for a considerable period could the death penalty be restored.

Nobody wants hangings if they can be avoided. If it can be demonstrated, and it is being demonstrated, that life imprisonment is more effective than the death penalty, the vast majority of people will ultimately be for abolition of capital punishment.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC

THERE seems to be general belief that the railroads of the United States are preparing to present to the Interstate Commerce Commission a strong request for permission to raise both fares and freights.

They will base their argument on the admitted rise of expenses of operation, on the demands of the operators on several roads for increased wages, on the public demand for improved facilities and safeguards for travel, and on the requirements for new roads or extension of existing roads, and last of all but most important, on the diversion of capital which has been accustomed to invest in railroad securities into new and more profitable fields.

At this point the actual experience of a great railroad, traversing several prosperous states, managed with exceptional ability, in good order with its public, and handling an immense tonnage in freight and many hundreds of thousands of passengers, will be of marked interest.

The report of the Northern Pacific road for the year ending June 30, 1912, is just issued.

Mileage operated is given as 6031, a slight increase over 1911. The ratio of operating expenses to total operating revenue was 60.16, showing a decrease of expenses over 1911 of 1.04 per cent.

The earnings from freight carried were \$43,793,521, an increase of somewhat over 1 per cent. Passenger fares, mails, express, excess baggage and miscellaneous receipts brought the revenue for persons and property carried on passenger trains to \$17,890,245, being a decrease of 10.40 per cent from the previous year.

To operate this vast system 1416 locomotives, 1161 passenger cars and 43,220 freight cars of all denominations were required. Additions to rolling stock to be delivered this autumn consist of 10 locomotives, 13 passenger refrigerator cars and 3520 freight cars.

On new equipment \$1,183,764 has been spent this year, and in additions and betterments \$3,509,929.

The story of new bridges and embankments, of heavier rails, of double tracking, of new station buildings, of increased facilities of all kinds, shows a never stopping volume of disbursements taken care of from the earnings of the system.

company, and to the growing use of the automobile.

But \$845,990 was saved in cost of transporting freight by the increase of the average trainload from 461.45 tons to 510.54.

Freight earnings were increased by the transportation of 21,639 more cars of grain this year than last.

Dividends on stock have been maintained at the figure of the previous year.

The outlook for business in the now current year is excellent. Crops have never been better, and lumber and manufactured articles show marked increase of movement.

BEATEN

THE "majority rule" amendment is beaten. The returns are incomplete, but there is no doubt that an overwhelming protest against the measure has been made by the voters.

It is a fortunate thing for the people of Oregon that they resisted this stealthy attempt to deprive them of the initiative. At one time there was grave danger that the effort would succeed.

It was proposed at the moment when there was an extraordinary number of measures on the ballot, many of them complicated. This created dissatisfaction and led many voters to seriously favor the "majority rule" measure.

There was the additional peril that the title was deceptive. It purported to provide for "majority rule," and "majority rule" is everywhere accepted as the basis of self government. But, in reality, it provided for minority rule, as the citizens of Oregon would have quickly ascertained if the program had been adopted.

If the measure had passed, we should have been once more in the hands of the legislature. We would have been forced to accept in law-making only what that body would have been willing to concede to us, and all old time residents of Oregon know what that would have meant.

The Journal has been able to secure a list of the members of the Majority Rule League. No list of the contributors of the great sums of money spent in the campaign for the measure has been obtainable. Nor will it be. That is one of the secrets of the latest great campaign to destroy the initiative, and the managers will see that it remains a secret. The list of members of the league includes the agent of one of the biggest and best known corporations in the United States.

Meanwhile, there will be other attempts to deprive the people of the power to make laws. The system is hated by powerful interests and powerful men who insist that all legislation should be by proxy and that the people are incompetent. It will be a long time before the fight for the defense of the initiative will be finally won.

NEW YORK INDEPENDENT

THE Independent announces this week that the well known weekly has changed owners, but not policy.

The paper has a history of 64 years. It was founded in 1848 by Henry C. Bowen. He died in 1897. The control passed then into the hands of his son, Clarence W. Bowen. He now retires in favor of Hamilton Holt, a grandson of the founder, who for the past 10 years has been the managing editor.

Dr. William Hayes Ward, who has been editor of the magazine for 45 years, continues in the position. The other members of the editorial staff remain under the new management.

Speaking in general terms it is hardly a matter of public interest when a weekly paper in this country changes hands. But the Independent has a long list of distinguished men who have served it during the 64 years now closed. Those most familiar are Henry Ward Beecher, Wendell Phillips Garrison, Justin McCarthy, Washington Gladden, Maurice Thompson and Bliss Carman.

Many of the greatest writers and politicians of America have found in its columns expression for their thought. The tone of the political discussions in the Independent has been uniformly dignified and sane, the views of the paper on the whole conservative.

During the campaign just ended, the Independent has upheld the cause of President Taft, but its advocacy has never been acrimonious or bitter against either Colonel Roosevelt or Governor Wilson.

The references of the Independent, week by week, to foreign, and especially to British politics, have kept its readers thoroughly informed. Its sober and serious columns have been lightened every now and then by charming fiction, and well told tales of travel.

HELPING THE FARMERS

HOW best to help the farmers to obtain the money they need to put into practice the lessons on improved farming was the late issue urged by President Taft.

President Taft proposes that a visiting committee of two farmers from each state go to the countries which have made practical progress, to visit farmers in their homes, to see the conditions of life and work under which they live. They are to get at the inside working of credit societies and farmers' cooperative banks in Germany, and of the Credit Poultry loaning system in France.

There are two suggested plans. One is that favorably considered by the American Bankers' association. That involves the establishment of

land mortgage banks, which shall lend money to the farmers at low interest and for long terms on mortgage of their lands.

The most significant feature in our industrial situation is the continued extraordinary activity of iron and steel, the production of which is breaking all records.

The principal buyers, having placed heavy orders for rails and equipment, this demand is almost certain to continue for some time to come, and many plants already have orders on hand which will keep them fully employed throughout 1913.

Lents has voted to become a part of the city family of Portland. It is an increase of 8000 to 10,000 in the population of the city. The district should now be accorded all the conveniences and advantages that were held out as a reason for annexation.

Iowa and Kansas have joined the Wilson column and Illinois is in doubt. But for the foreign-born voters of Chicago, Illinois would have been a Wilson state from the beginning.

The Mother. From the New York Globe. Jack Johnson has arrived. He was a success in this success worshipping age. He had whipped the best man the white race could set up against him and had become the world's champion.

The loan system may be a good thing in its way, but it is only an incident. Forcing farmers to sell in a free market and buy in an "owned" market is a moral and an economic crime.

PRE-ELECTION ESTIMATES

THE claims of rival candidates often shrivel under the withering influence of the ballot.

Pre-election estimates of strength, especially when made by candidates themselves, have a confirmed habit of dwindling under the decimating exigencies of the polling booth.

Portland has had one example of sanity in the withdrawal of candidates who listened to the representations of friends and retired from the race for the public welfare.

Death of Vice Presidents. From the New York World. In the history of this country seven vice presidents have died in office.

ONE COMMISSION CITY. PORTLAND asks for commission government, but doesn't get it. Memphis, with a population of 131,000, has just closed its third year under the commission plan.

There are five commissioners of whom the mayor is one. He serves as presiding officer. Each man has one department under his special charge, but the responsibility of the commission is joint in handling the affairs of the city.

The first point made is the increased activity of all employees, and the spirit of devotion to duty in each department.

In specific progress of the past year, the commission cites, reduced telephone charges and better service, better streetcar service and regular inspection, abatement of the smoke nuisance, subways for railroads entering the city, arranging with the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad for a new bridge across the Mississippi river, by which the city secured \$50,000 in cash and free passage for pedestrians and vehicle traffic, municipal baths, ornamental lighting of the chief streets, getting rid of poles and wires in the streets.

To the foregoing may be added a new garbage crematory handling fifty tons daily, and plans for a second in the eastern part of the city. Also a vigorous health department, which includes not only supervision of the food of the city, and enforcement of true weights and measures, but education of the school children in matters of health and hygiene and regular inspection of the city schools and attention to sickly children. Special care has been given to the city hospital, also, and the immunizing of more than 30,000 by typhoid vaccination when an epidemic was threatened by the overflow of the great river, is reported.

Without mentioning details on the police force, the fire department, and a new system of collecting taxes which is reducing the previous cost of \$18,000 a year to \$7500, the ultimate financial result to the city of commission government is this: The rate of taxation was \$2.54 in 1905. In the three years of commission government the rate has been as follows, \$1.75, \$1.59, and this last year \$1.58.

OPTIMISM IN FINANCE

"WHAT the country needs," said Henry Clews, three days before election, is a gradual downward revision "of the tariff"—in a manner that will create the least possible derangement.

Further, "our own money market is firm, and likely to remain so for some time to come."

Mr. Clews also says: The most significant feature in our industrial situation is the continued extraordinary activity of iron and steel, the production of which is breaking all records.

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COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE. Some day South Portland will get a bridge. Too many bond propositions, say the people. Now less politics and more business and improvement.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS. Condon Times: John Mollargue rates the city position on a couple of acres of land near Condon and sold the crop this week for \$500.

Why "Bulgars" instead of "Bulgarians"? But "Bulgars" is shorter. The Greater Portland plans were endorsed, now go ahead with them.

Some of its professed friends are the worst enemies of the Oregon system. Representative Hawley has long been the beneficiary, politically, of good luck.

Too great and not sufficiently guarded municipal expenditures, say the voters. The three sets of chairman claimed everything, of course, until the polls closed.

Among the millions of apparently intelligent "suckers" are patrons of "suit clubs." The man who didn't vote has no license to complain of what is or is not done by officials.

We Americans are by no means perfect, politically, but it isn't probable that we are not as good as some other people. The riverfront street amendment to the charter, adopted Saturday, may be as an instance proving that the voters know a good thing when they see it on a ballot.

WONDERFUL WINGED VEHICLE

The past summer has been the realization in France, after a long series of an entirely new system of mechanical traction, writes C. F. Bartlett in Leslie's.

For some time attempts have been made to solve the problem of "aerial traction," as it is technically called, by which vehicles are moved not by force applied to turning the wheels, but by a propeller working in the air, which pushes or pulls the vehicles as in an aeroplane.

Things were at this stage when M. Filippi, a French inventor, who has devoted years to the study of aeronautics in general, came to the conclusion that existing theories on the action of helicopter propellers were all wrong and that a new principle was needed.

Gun Toting in Canada. From the Montreal Star. The wholesale confiscation of illicit weapons in Montreal is a good beginning, but only a beginning.

Japan's Women's University. From the Japanese-American Commercial Weekly. President Naruse of the Japan Women's university of Tokyo is now in America on his way to Europe.

The Nation. From the Chicago News. Keeping the people of a great city in a relatively healthy condition is not the simplest and easiest thing in the world.

Looking After the Interest. From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The United States has just paid a Kansas man \$3.10 due him as a soldier since 1865.

Shooting an Aviator. From the New York World. Doubtless the most spectacular event in the history of aviation was the shooting of the airman Popoff by the Turks and the disablement of his machine while aloft over Adrianople scouting for the Bulgarian forces.

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A Prediction Fulfilled

Editorial in The Oregon Daily Journal, July 28, 1912. It is as certain as things mortal can be that Woodrow Wilson will be the next president of the United States.

Wilson has back of him a party that is more compact and united than it has been since 1892. Opposed to him are Mr. Taft with the Republican nomination and Mr. Roosevelt with a third party nomination.

Nobody knows in what proportion Taft and Roosevelt will divide up the Republican vote in the various states. Neither will draw perceptibly from the Democrats.

On the other hand, the fight between Taft and Roosevelt has disgusted thousands of Republicans who will turn to Wilson out of sheer contempt for the situation.

Other thousands of La Follette Republicans will turn to Wilson because he is the only La Follette progressive candidate.

A change of only 6 per cent of Taft's vote to Bryan in 1908 would have given Ohio to the Nebraskaan. With Taft and Roosevelt dividing the Republican strength of that state probably into halves, Wilson is certain to carry Ohio.

A change of only one-seventh of one per cent of Taft's vote to Bryan in 1908 would have lost that state to Taft. In the head of but a fraction of the Republican party, there is not the slightest chance for either Taft or Roosevelt to carry Indiana.

Even in New York, where Bryan is always weak, a change to him of only 11 per cent of the Taft vote would have given him the electoral vote of the Empire state in 1908. With Taft and Roosevelt both appealing for a halved Republican vote, and with Wilson certain to secure the principal portion of the great detachable vote, Wilson's victory in New York is already won.

A change to Mr. Bryan of 15 per cent of the Taft vote of New Jersey in 1908 would have thrown the state to Bryan in 1908, will give Wilson more than the 266 electoral votes necessary for his election.

Taft carried Missouri in 1908. A loss of one twenty-fifth of one per cent of the Taft vote of that year will give the state to Wilson in 1912. Nor is it at all unlikely that Wilson will carry most of the great states that are ordinarily overwhelmingly Republican.

The change from the Taft vote necessary to throw the electoral vote to Wilson in such states is surprisingly small.

In Delaware it is only nine-hundredths of one per cent, and in Illinois 14 per cent. In Iowa a change of 13 per cent will throw the state to Wilson. In Kansas 9 per cent, in Maine 23, in Massachusetts 21, in Michigan 21, in Minnesota 22, in New Hampshire 16, in North Dakota 21, in Oregon 19, in California 20, in Connecticut 20, and in Idaho 15.

The presidential primaries demonstrated that Mr. Taft is a weak candidate. Even the spectacular speaking campaign of a president and an ex-president, with the most dramatic stage settings ever seen, failed to bring out more than half the Republican vote in the primaries, a fact demonstrating that neither Taft nor Roosevelt was strong.

Roosevelt's bolt from the Chicago convention, his refusal to allow his delegates to nominate anybody but himself, his rejection of the plan of naming Hadley or any other compromise candidate, and his final withdrawal from the Republican party, have enormously weakened the hold of the Bull Moose candidate on Republicans.

There is not the slightest chance to defeat Woodrow Wilson.

Always in Good Humor

SAILED RIGHT BY IT. Dark was the night, save for the light of the stars; and the sea ran wild. The skipper stood on his bridge, and besides him was the boy. (Note.—Not the boy on the burning deck, but another.)

"Here, my lad," said the skipper, "you take the wheel. I'll be back in a few minutes. Just you steer by that star up there and you'll be all right. The boy did so, and for a few minutes all was well. Then, of course, he muddled things, and presently the appointed star was shining at the stern of the boat instead of at the bow.

Then the lad raised his youthful voice and shouted excitedly: "I say, sir, come and give me another star. I've passed that one!"

A FABULOUS AGE. From the Ladies' Home Journal. Spratts—Miss Elder is much older than I thought.

Outrigger—Impossible! Spratts—Well, I asked her if she had read Aesop's Fables, and she said she read them when they first came out.

DISCOURAGING. From Chicago Record-Herald. "What reason have you to think my daughter will marry?"

She says she is willing to make any sacrifice for me. "That's no sign she loves you."

"What is it, then?" "An indication that she's crazy."

Pointed Paragraphs

Query: Is a bride self-possessed after her father gives her away?

The more a man practices economy the less popular he will be.

Give us contentment and we care not who invents perpetual motion.

The first time a young man falls in love he doesn't land on his feet.

When a man does talk sense at least half the people don't recognize it.

It's the same old story, leap year never did live up to its prospectus.

A man who is always complimenting a woman is an awful liar, and she knows it. Still, she believes him.

When a woman finds herself the head of the household she does it to invest in a new hair for the head.

Probably there is method in a lady's madness. He may not care to take chances of injuring his health by working between meals.