

THE JOURNAL

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It is a sad thing to begin life with low conceptions of it. It may not be possible for a young man to measure life; but it is possible to say, I am resolved to put life to its best and noblest use.—T. T. Munger.

A STAGGERING COST

RESIDENT TAFT'S last official word to his countrymen respecting their business is a request for \$1,105,206,963 for running the government one year. It is a sum more than double the annual expenditures sixteen years ago.

Senator Williams recently declared in the senate that ours is "the most extravagant government maintained and dominated by the white race on the face of the earth."

Only 17 years ago, Grover Cleveland ran the national government for \$650,000,000 a year less than it now costs. The average expenditures are now nearly three times as much as during Cleveland's second administration.

Only 25 years ago, Grover Cleveland ran the government for but one-fourth the present annual cost. Economy, retrenchment and reform have been unknown and unpopular words in the federal government in recent administrations.

AN INCOME TAX

THE fact that a Federal income tax is to be imposed on the American people, to make a material addition to the resources available for the Federal budget, will invite abundant discussion on details.

Whatever may be decided as to the incidence of such a tax—that is, what exemptions for wage earners, or of incomes of small amounts from realized property may rightly be allowed—there are certain features common to all income taxes.

All assessments must be based on returns and information supplied by the individuals themselves, subject to revision by the authorities when such returns, on examination shall appear to be defective, incorrect or fraudulent. Generally, each man will be his own assessor.

gradations corresponding with the increase over the minimum income. It is to accord with the generally accepted idea of today that the rich should be taxed more heavily than the poor.

GATHERING RECRUITS

EVERYWHERE, the white slavers are working with awful activity and audacity. A well dressed young lady of 20 was walking down a well known London street, partly residential and partly a fashionable shopping center.

Two "nurses"—they were procuresses—aided her their way to a place in the direction she was walking. They walked on with her, and presently fell in, one on each side. Then they began to hustle her along, telling her she must come with them.

In Chicago recently, a pretty girl of seventeen was seized by two strange men and thrust quickly into a waiting taxicab, just as she was about to enter the gate to her home.

In Collingswood, B. C., a department store girl was hounded by a man and one day in the store, when he had persisted in his attentions, she confided her troubles to an apparently extremely respectable woman customer who was standing by.

Nobody knows what home may be touched by the awful blight at any time. Nobody can tell why parents are so little concerned at the awful activity and audacity of the slavers.

FARMERS AND THE NATION

THE foundation stones on which modern farming in the United States rests are the Morrill act, under which an agricultural and mechanical college was established in each state, and the Hatch act, creating an experiment station in connection with each college.

Since those beneficent acts came into operation instruction in the sciences of the farm has reached every state. In its generosity the doors of those colleges have been opened to the students of every nation by the United States, on equal terms with our own children.

The colleges were designed, first of all, for the farmers' children. The experiment stations dealt with and for the active farmer. Action on his part was required to make him a beneficiary. But there were thousands of farmers still standing in the ancient ways.

CHINESE REFORMS

IN ANTICIPATION of a visit from Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the statements made by Dr. Morrison, a few weeks ago, regarding reforms already accomplished by the new government of China, are of special interest.

pressed as to the stability of the government. And even yet, in face of the wonderful achievements of the first year of the republic, recognition from powers professing friendliness to China is still withheld.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the contributor. If the editor desires to have the name published, he should so state.)

DUTY OF WOMEN AS VOTERS

Friend, Or., Dec. 14.—(To the Editor of The Journal)—By a plurality of votes cast on that measure, woman suffrage carried. Thus, the women and girls of Oregon are virtually thrust into the arena of politics, in spite of the pleading of true womanhood, to again vote the measure down.

THE WAR ON

THE movement for repeal of the free toll provision of the Panama canal law is on at Washington. A news dispatch in Sunday's Journal says United States senators are receiving through the mails from all over the country requests and arguments for repeal of the provision for coastwise exemption. It adds:

The analysis of the vote in the senate published this week shows plainly that the Canadian Pacific railroad and its allies, the transcontinental railroads of the United States, are back of this demand for repeal so they may continue to dictate the freight rates between the coast.

All the high sounding talk about treaty agreements is hush. The Hay-Pauncefote treaty was not made for the benefit of the people of the United States or for the benefit of the railroads of the United States.

DEALING WITH VICE

Portland, Or., Dec. 15.—(To the Editor of The Journal)—The fulfillment of acting on the part of the city government, should be apparent to all who reason. That has been the default in nearly all past efforts to put down the vice conditions in our city.

It is now your duty to vote. Let us act with our ship of state and let us vote for the bill which was lighted November 5, 1912, so that we may again resume our forward journey.

One Way to Raise Valuations. Independence, Or., Dec. 12, 1912.—To the Editor of The Journal—Among the good things that happened at the last election was the burial of the single tax proposition beyond resurrection, and now it behooves us to set about to procure such an equal and just assessment and taxation of the property of the state.

ONE WAY TO RAISE VALUATIONS

Portland, Or., Dec. 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—Your editorial under the caption, "It Didn't Pay," can evoke but one responsive thought—"No, it doesn't pay."

California also protests against ballot titles so hazy and mystifying that nobody can tell what they mean. On this page, the Fresno Republican discusses that issue vigorously and entertainingly.

SMALL CHANGE

Say, Mr. J. Bull, it's our canal, isn't it? If it becomes too late to be early, be as early as you can. Perhaps some of the infants of today are finding it a comparatively easy Christmas.

THE NEW YORK WORLD SAYS

Europe has dropped the Blue Danube waltz for the Balkan Turkey Trot. A British critic says Mark Twain was "the poorest specimen of the man of letters known."

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Two women quarreled, and the husband of one has been sentenced to 10 years in a penitentiary for killing the husband of the other. But the quarrel can go on.

NEW YORK DAY BY DAY

Did you ever hear the story of Sylvia Ann Howland's will? Sylvia Ann Howland, an aged spinster, died in New Bedford, Mass., in 1863, leaving an estate of more than \$200,000.

Of course, we would have to have a law authorizing the county to do this, and then after the county had taken in a few pieces of property that was valued too low there would be no more trouble in getting a correct assessment.

THE THIRST FOR BLOOD

Portland, Or., Dec. 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—I, like Governor West, think it will be years before capital punishment will be abolished.

ALWAYS IN GOOD HUMOR

That's fair don't it? muttered the burglar, as his shin came into contact with a chair and overturned it. And he spoke the truth. It had fair done it.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS

His satanic majesty invented politics. When you get the best of some megalomaniac you see them at their worst. A married man is never at a loss to know what to do with his money.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

The men of the Methodist church of Brownsville have organized a society of the Methodist Brotherhood.

Estacada Progress: So great is the travel between Estacada and Portland now that the cars are crowded every trip. Three coaches are frequently needed, especially for the evening trips after 8 o'clock.

Lebanon Tribune: It is not often one sees his own work of twenty years ago. The Santiam News is quoted from the files of the Solo Press, of twelve years ago when the editor of the Tribune supplied copy for that paper.

Canby Irrigator: A stranger in our midst would be surprised if told the amount of business done by some of our well known establishments. Where will one find in a city the size of Canby as many business houses as are here, and all handling an enormous amount of trade?

Hubbard Herald: A new floor is being laid in the Armory ball room of the Oregon City. The floor will be scraped, sanded and made as smooth as can be made. It will then be waxed and polished.

Gresham Outlook: Two flat cars were loaded with sand at the big gravel pit on the Mount Hood road last Saturday by eight young men from Cottrell. The sand is intended for a football field at Cottrell station.

Astoria Budget: The Bidwell-Hayden company is making slow progress on the big dam for the 100,000-gallon storage reservoir at the headworks of the Astoria water system.

The Part That Whisky Plays. From Colliers. At the last election West Virginia voted for a constitutional amendment, to take effect July 1, 1914, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of liquor in that state.

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Headlines

From the Fresno, Cal. Republican. Thomas V. Cator, president of the San Francisco board of election commissioners, will ask the legislature to submit a constitutional amendment putting proposed city charter amendments under the same rule, as to title now imposed on legislative enactments—that the title shall completely state every subject in the enactment.

We fear that Mr. Cator is courting confusion worse confounded. His purpose is to prevent deceiving voters by misleading titles. But if he can devise anything less intelligible to the voter than the titles commonly prefixed to our state laws and constitutional amendments, he will have to exercise a great deal of ingenuity.

There is only one sure way to make these titles and ballot descriptions intelligible. That is to hang all the lawyers. That being, however, too drastic, it may be sufficient to make it a felony for any lawyer to write the title to any law. Let the lawyers write the bodies of the laws themselves, if they must. The laws are intended only for the perusal of the supreme court, and they might as well be written in Mandarin Jargon, if that is the language the court prefers to read.

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