

THE JOURNAL

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All who joy would win must share it... Happiness was born a twin.

THE LEGISLATURE

The people of Oregon are looking to the newly elected legislators for a business session. They have done the same before, mostly with disappointment, in the sequel.

Nothing is without a cause. It is far more troublesome for the electorate to pass laws than to have it done by the legislature.

That is what is needed to correct the abuse of the initiative. That is what is needed to lessen the use of the initiative.

SHOULD FARMERS MERGE?

At the recent convention of the Farmers' National Congress a proposal was made that the congress should unite with the National Grange, the Farmers' Union and the Southern Cotton Growers' Association.

It was argued that the influence on legislation, favorable to the farmers, of a composite body of such magnitude, and on the whole movement for bettering the condition of the farmer, would be far greater than that of the separate bodies.

Consolidation, unification, concentration are in the air. Even the churches have entered the race.

Effective organization would be of consequence to farmers. It is one of the topics preached at every farmers' meeting and in all the farming papers.

THE FRIEDMANN CURE

The experienced learned long ago not to be too credulous respecting new and startling cures. For years, there have been periodical announcements of cancer cures.

There is denial by the Journal of the American Medical Association that the case of Dr. Friedmann's serum has been proven. It even asserts that the remedy is not a serum.

It says that in experiments on guinea pigs complete protection has not been obtained. It says there are no indications that it has been possible to cure guinea pigs by this method.

is not sufficient warrant for any other attitude toward Friedmann's treatment of tuberculosis than one of critical neutrality and judicious skepticism.

There is no higher medical authority in the United States than the Journal of the American Medical Association. Naturally, it is very prudent in accepting announcements of wonderful discoveries and chooses a position of critical neutrality.

A CRISIS

The highest collaborative body in the world is in great travail. Solemn and sacred responsibilities hang heavy, and the heart of statesmanship palpitates like the bosom of a wind-broken broncho.

Feeling the fervor of a great Christian cause, the Democratic senators, grim and warlike as ancient crusaders, are set in their purpose against giving a job to a Republican.

If the nation is not stirred to its depths, it ought to be. In such a crisis, what matters it if there is a Money Trust with its tentacles stretching from the North Pole via Wall street to the southern cross, and from the morning star through J. P. Morgan's bank to the setting sun?

In this latest and greatest crisis let it be remembered that our own and only Ralph Williams is on the job at Washington to look after federal patronage, and that the government will still live.

EXPRESS OR PARCELS POST

ON DECEMBER 5 the first advertisements of the allied five great express companies appeared in 400 newspapers.

They are not proposing to allow the government to freeze them out of business without a struggle. The Adams, American, Southern, United States, and Wells Fargo Company have combined in an advertising campaign.

Another advertisement explains the ability of the express companies to give good service to the public. It will be interesting to see if they follow the postoffice lead in publishing zonal rates of charges, or in some equally simple way enable the patron to calculate in advance what he will have to pay.

It is possible that the companies may undercut the government in express rates to the large cities and towns. The Parcels Post business that connects the farmer with the consumer or with the storekeeper in the next town is out of their reach unless the very unlikely happens and a new system of delivery is undertaken.

TOPHEAVY EDUCATION

BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER says "we are reaching out too far in our high schools." He says "children are being taught there what we used to learn in college." He says, "too much is undertaken in the way of higher education that should not come until after the university stage is reached."

Here is confirmation by high authority of a conviction that multitudes have long held. We are universalizing the high schools and exalting the colleges into super universities far above and far beyond the reach of average people.

Less than one per cent of those in quest of education in the country are in the college degree courses. We have made our colleges so distant and difficult of access that their privileges are attainable only by a select and limited few.

Our way to a career via the college route is through eight years of public school, four years of high school, four years of college, and if the activity is to be in a profession, three or four years in law, theology or medicine.

object is lost sight of. The primary purpose of education is to gain the power to become an effective personality. The measure of this effectiveness of personality is the whole test of the efficiency of the educational system.

This is lost sight of by most of our professional educators, and it is our professional educators, obsessed with all manner of fads and fancies, that fashion our educational system. They are substituting an attempted profundity of knowledge for the keenly developed personal power of expression, address and penetration that is the primal purpose of an education and the true equipment for success in human affairs.

IN THE DAYS' NEWS

IN BROOKLYN, the male members of a wedding party gathered in a saloon, and after freely celebrating the union of their friends for an hour or so, proceeded to shoot up the place. One man was so badly wounded that he will die, and another will carry the scars of battle through life.

At Denver a man was sentenced to imprisonment for life. He was a genial whole-souled man with a host of friends. He was always ready to help the needy, to do his part in caring for the sick and assist in lessening the sufferings of the unfortunate.

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LIFE SAVING AT PANAMA

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For nine years the French struggled with the problem of construction of the canal, through pest-ridden cities, and through fever infested swamps and jungles, where life was a gamble and death an ever present specter.

The annual mortality rate under American control started in 1905 at 25.8 per 1000, rose to 41.7 in 1906, fell to 28.7 in 1907, showed the wonderful reduction to 13 in 1908, to 10.6 in 1909, to 10.9 in 1910, and to 11 in 1911.

Yellow fever has been routed—for six years no case has appeared. From malarial fevers the annual deaths per 10,000 employes have fallen from 87.9 to 9.6. The annual malarial sick list began at 821 per 1000 but has been reduced to 187.

The general death rate per 1000 living in Panama, Colon, and the canal zone has been reduced from 48.3 in 1906 to 21.4 in 1911—that is to an average less than that prevailing in many American cities.

Every one knows that these spectacular successes are due in the main to the persevering and energetic application of the discovery of the poison carrying powers of the mosquito. These noxious insects have been practically exterminated in the canal zone.

By the time a youth has run this gauntlet of education, he is almost ready for the grave. Some of the best and most virile years of his life are gone before he is ready to begin. It is a stretch of time and a requirement of money expenditure that places higher education beyond the resources of all but a narrowed group.

WHOSE BUSINESS?

THE opening gun has been fired in a campaign to abolish alimony. The chief crusader is George R. Esterling of Denver. He proposes to band together the grass widowers of the country and carry the fight into the highest courts against payment of alimony to ex-wives. He says: "I believe that it is unconstitutional to practically fine a man for life for making a matrimonial mistake."

rectness of Mr. Esterling's theory. Who should support the children of this matrimonial mistake? Should the abandoned wife do it? Or is it the county's business? Or, is it nobody's business?

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in the department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length, and must be accompanied by a return address, and the sender. If the writer does not desire to have the name published, he should so state.)

Why Seek to Compromise? St. Johns, Or., Dec. 17.—To the Editor of The Journal—Some time ago a writer in The Journal took occasion to rebuke radicalism and extol the wisdom of pursuing the "golden mean," and mentioned Abraham Lincoln as an exemplar of his high ideal, apparently forgetting that Lincoln only attained the position of the most radical abolitionist, who were mobbed for their ideas but a short time before by the "golden mean" advocates of the north.

It seems like an occasional person is madder on Christmas time than ordinarily. To demand a great war indemnity of Turkey is taking most of her country looks like "robbing a blind man." In these times a farm laborer, or "the hired man," needs to be a man of considerable intelligence and education.

The word "pioneer" is much misused; a man who came to Portland 20 or 25 years ago is not much of a "pioneer." Representations of green grass and roses in bloom are more appropriate than snow scenes, for Christmas time in this region.

Green's Fruit Grower, a monthly published at Rochester, N. Y. printed this month a picture and eulogistic sketch of Mrs. Olga G. Baldwin, who is a niece of the proprietor, C. A. Green.

A Jacksonville, Fla., Judge sent a man to jail for profanity, but released her that could attend religious services. That seems a good reason.

THE USE OF TOBACCO

The consideration of tobacco and its dangers has heretofore been largely based on the amount of nicotine contained in the smoke. But there are other products of tobacco which must share the responsibility. Among these are carbon monoxide gas, prussic acid, and formal and some others. Although all of these compounds are admitted to be poisonous, their danger depends on the quantities in which they are taken. Recently investigations have been made of some of these toxic products, and the results are of considerable interest.

The fact that the action of certain kinds of tobacco has been attributed to the prussic acid in their smoke has induced the Wurzburg hygienist, Professor K. H. Lehmann, to investigate the charge. He has found that the amount of this compound produced depends somewhat on the rate at which the tobacco is smoked. The slower the current of air through a cigar, the smaller is the amount of prussic acid which is formed.

There is No Difference. Portland, Dec. 17.—To the Editor of The Journal—What, if any, is the difference in sea level between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans at the Panama canal, and why is this so? Authority is given us that the difference is 40 feet, but the same to be no one who knows why this is so. C. B. H.

Sea level is the same, but confusion may arise if one considers tidal fluctuations as a stage of water. The tidal movement on the Atlantic side is much less than that on the Pacific side, but this does not affect that element in the case that is expressed by the term "sea level." On the Atlantic side the bathymetry of the tidal fluctuation is less than two feet; on the Pacific side it is 20 feet. Note that the difference is a tidal difference, not one of sea level. The explanation of tidal differences varies in the various sources. All encyclopedias have copious elucidations of these interesting but highly complicated phenomena.

Relic of Tippecanoe Days.

Molalla, Or., Dec. 17.—To the Editor of The Journal—I note in the columns of the Sunday Journal an item relating to a Spanish radish grown by W. W. Smith of Clackamas, weighing four pounds. I raised a White China radish weighing nine pounds, which is the largest radish I have ever seen. All who saw it declared they had never seen anything in the radish line so large. Can anyone beat this radish? C. R. SHANER.

Claims Largest Radish.

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COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

What a masher needs is mashing. These days, to childhood, are long. A good dinner is a fine thing, but there are even better things.

Suffragettes have been a terror to braver men than Rockefeller. Many entertain faint hope that this will be a different legislature.

The progressives of the Elgin butter board beat the government to it. However much they sell, the stores will have no end of bargains left.

There will be no extra charge for carrying microbes by the parcel post. We may soon read of the severe disciplining of his wife by Jack Johnson.

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OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Burns Times-Herald: The Lavan neighborhood had a rabbit drive last Saturday and succeeded in killing about 1800.

Baker Democrat: Baker's Y. M. C. A. building is one of the handsomest structures in this state. It is about completed and its interior furnishings will soon be installed.

Carlton Sentinel: Some of the papers have been bragging about late summer vegetables. Carlton is not behind any place in that regard. Mr. and Mrs. A. London had fresh roasting ears from their garden Tuesday.

There's nothing slow about the Gardfield Country club members. The addition to the club is finished, with porch 8 by 30, and a horse shed 30 by 60 feet in the rear. After the road meeting, December 21, there will be music and a social session.

Bandone Recorder: M. G. Pohl showed us a Mexican stiletto that was found by the road workers on Sixth street. The Mexicans one time mined for gold in the black sand here and were run out by the Indians. It is probable the stiletto was lost at least 65 years ago.

Corvallis Gazette Times: Judge Moses gives the order that county roads shall not be made the dumping ground for refuse from Corvallis, or any other burg. Neither the roads, nor the sides of the roads may be used for such purpose, and teamsters violating the order will be arrested and fined.

Eugene Register: Mrs. Mary Griffin has carefully cared for a handsome variegated holly tree for 10 or 12 years, and it was a beauty. Sunday night some vandals completely stripped the tree of its beautiful foliage, and she was left with a Christmas wreath. How anyone could celebrate the birth of the Christ-child with this stolen holly is more than we can conceive. It was a dastardly trick.

Grants Pass Courier: Those Spokane men who came here during the week and went out to the great copper fields to the west were naturally surprised at the immense deposits of mineral that await the coming of transportation. In their country railroad were built on nothing more substantial than prospects. Here we have mountains of ore so rich that it could attend religious services. That seems a good reason.

Always in Good Humor

COULDN'T BEAT THAT. From Exchange. An American was boasting to an Irishman about the fastness of American trains.

"Why, Pat," said the American, "we run our trains so fast in America that the telegraph poles look like a continuous fence."

"Do they, now?" said Pat. "Well, sir, I was wan day on a train in Ireland, and as we passed first a field of turnips, then wan of carrots, then wan of cabbage and then a large pond of water, we were gain' that fast I thought it was broth."

Nothing Material.

"Pa, what's art for a sake?" "That, my son, is what makes your ma pay \$200 for a Paris hat."

Pointed Paragraphs

A mother is always surprised to learn that her daughters are as old as they are.

Gossips have motor cars beaten to a frazzle when it comes to running people down.

There are more fool men in the world than blind ones—which may account for the average girl's desire to be beautiful rather than intellectual.

Take a few minutes off to think it over and you will be surprised at the amount of time you devote to foolishness.

"Last Minute" Gifts

Lose Half Their Pleasure

Half the pleasure of a gift is lost if it is received late. When you receive a gift two or three days after Christmas you know it is a "last minute" purchase. And no one likes to feel that an expression of good will and friendship is an afterthought.

See to it that your gifts are on time. See to it that they are chosen with such care and forethought as will make the recipient very happy.

Remember that while the service-giving facilities of the stores have been doubled in many instances, they are still overtaxed at this time. In the rush and strain of the last few days some one may be disappointed, and apparently forgotten.

There are abundant gift ideas and suggestions in The Journal's Christmas advertisements. Make out your complete list of gifts tonight, then purchase them tomorrow, between 9 a. m. and noon—the three golden shopping hours.

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Crime and Punishment

From the Salem Journal. It is the first law of nature that any violation of her laws must be punished and she is inexorable in executing this law. Man, in his weak way, has patterned after this example, and has provided, or attempted to provide, punishment for the violation of his laws.

There are provided, penalties, not always adequate, for three new cases in which it seems impossible to make the punishment fit the crime. For instance, man has decreed that for the crime of murder the penalty of death shall be inflicted, here in Oregon by hanging, in some other states by other methods, but the penalty in the only way is cash. Now, admitting that the death penalty is justified where a man commits a murder, how can a man be punished for committing a second or third murder? It would readily be admitted that a man who murders a mother and her four children, for instance, commits a much heavier crime than he who murders a man, but one of the children. Yet, if for the last named crime he should hang, how are you going to punish him for the other murders? There was a time under the laws of our English forebears that many crimes were punished with death. Stealing sheep was one, but that was before the days of the tariff on wool—which now protects the sheep owner if not the sheep—and there were innumerable others.

There are some crimes worse even than murder. When some big brute, horribly diseased, strages some girl, still a child, is it not worse, more heinous than the snuffing out of life itself? Why not, then, extend the list of crimes punishable with death, if that punishment will prevent or tend to prevent crimes?

For thousands of years, so far back as history or legend goes, mankind has decreed death to the murderer, but has murdered been stopped or diminished? The Oregonian, speaking of capital punishment, editorially said: "It is better to have the law respected and protect society in the only way it can be protected or can protect itself." Does it make the law respected, or does it stop the crime of murder to hang a man? Does it serve to prevent others? That is a very doubtful, and certainly far from proven.

The writer is not opposed to capital punishment in some cases, for there are friends in the form of men—to whom society owes nothing—and the more quickly they are removed from the world the better, for they are social parasites, and their presence is a constant reminder of the law of the jungle. Murder cases, too, where it would seem that the punishment of life imprisonment, with no hope or chance of pardon, would be greater than that of death.

Punishment is provided for one of two reasons, either as a deterrent to others, or for the reformation of the offender. In the case of the death penalty it surely is not for the latter—it must be inflicted then for its deterrent qualities, and in this line history and experience shows it to be an utter failure. Watch the Oregonian's news pages, for instance, and notice how many murders are committed in Oregon and on the coast, within the week following the quadruple hanging that took place here yesterday, and of which the whole country took general notice. See how much of a deterrent this has been, and see how many more than the average number of murders have been committed in that time.

Outside of stopping the man who is hanged from committing other murders, capital punishment is surely not a deterrent. Let us then, frankly admit that we hang men, not to put them where they can do no further harm, and cease putting ourselves on the back, and throwing bouquets at ourselves "because we are protecting society and deterring others from crime."

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