

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
Published every evening (except Sunday) and Sunday morning at The Journal Building, 215 and 217th Sts., Portland, Or.

Subscription Terms by mail or to any address in the United States or Mexico
DAILY \$3.00 One month \$3.00
SUNDAY \$2.00 One month \$2.00

There is no vice so simple but assumes some quality of virtue on his outward parts.—Shakespeare.

A JUDICIAL JOSS

EVEN the bolts and bars of a prison cannot shut in a principle. It is not the jailed newspaper men that the country is condemning at Boise. It is the Idaho supreme court that is under almost universal censure.

The whole United States has taken note of the court's action, and scarcely a voice is lifted in defense of the judges. Everywhere it is being said that the jailing of the men without a trial by jury and without right of appeal closely concerns the whole question of human freedom, and that it presents an issue that must be speedily solved.

The weapon used by the court is a hand-me-down. When the government was organized, the contempt prerogative passed into vogue in American courts from use in the courts of the colonies. Its authority is the English common law dating back through centuries and made up mostly of judicial decisions.

That the court had the power to try its own case against the newspaper men, that it had the right to try them without a jury and deny them the right of appeal is not denied. Exactly such a power should be expected in a jurisprudence derived from such a source, a source in which kings claiming divine right often made the law and acted as super supreme courts. It is such a judicial system, modified only by the New York revision of 1848, and made worse in many ways by more judge-made precedents under which our litigation is conducted.

It is under such a system that our criminals are tried. It is such a system on which our courts are founded. It is such a system that many of our lawyers worship with the idolatry with which a heathen worships a joss. It is such a system that the majority report of the Oregon judicial commission says needs but little change.

THE POLICE OF LONDON

THE police of London number 19,000 men, that is, one policeman to 470 people. Greater London, under the charge of the metropolitan police, covers 69,942 square miles, or about 15 miles from headquarters in Scotland Yard to each point of the compass.

This small army is governed by one Chief of Police, five superintendents and fifty inspectors. The divisions of the force bear each a letter of the alphabet. The A division is of picked men. It guards the royal family and their palaces. It protects the Houses of Parliament, and bears the brunt of the attacks of the militant suffragettes. When the King goes to Windsor Castle men of the A division travel on his train, and watch against anarchists and other criminals. "A" division men are also on duty at the dockyards, and at the government offices.

The filling of vacancies in the force is by selection only. Soldiers who have served their army time with credit are given a certain preference. Until quite recently the London police carried no arms except the oaken staff or club. In the use of which they are carefully drilled. The Home Secretary is their nominal superior officer, but the Chief of Police is not interfered with in actual practice.

There is a great pride in the "force" common to all its members. Black sheep among 19,000 there must of necessity be. But scandalous relations between members of the police and the underworld of London, if they exist, have never been made the subject of public inquiry or attack.

and so to his parents is no rare sight in Whitechapel or Bethnal Green. In the very roughest neighborhoods the policeman stills riots and disturbances more by moral force and absolute fearlessness than by use of his truncheon. He resorts to physical force only as the last resource. Last year the London police made 127,317 arrests. They restored 14,711 persons to their friends, identified 6182 culprits by their finger prints, and put out 221 fires.

AT CCELLO

THE Pacific Northwest is intensely interested in pending congressional action respecting the Cello project. The engineers have recommended a continuing appropriation by which \$1,200,000 will be available March 4, and \$600,000 the following March. They report that with such sums available a saving of \$100,000 in the final cost would be effected and completion be expedited by at least six months.

The recommendations ought to impress congress. They ought to stimulate every member of the Oregon delegation and every member of the Washington and Idaho delegations to great activity. The \$1,000,000 that can be saved ought especially to impress congress. The project must ultimately be finished, and if there is a way to complete it at a saving of \$100,000, why not save the money? Mere reasons of business and common sense should impress any congressman with the importance of following the advice of the engineers.

Nor should the six months' saving of time be less impressive. The project must be completed some time, or all the millions spent on it be lost. If worth completing at all, why not complete it six months earlier, especially if in doing so \$100,000 of public money can be saved? A navigated Columbia river will serve the state of Washington with almost if not quite the same efficiency that it will serve Oregon. Nor will Idaho be far behind in reaping the benefits. The great grain fields of all three states, the livestock interests, the fruit and all the other industries will be aided into a far greater prosperity by the lowered freight rates that transportation on the improved river will bring.

No action that congress could take would do more to serve the entire northwest than would a proper care of the interests of the Cello project. No activity to which members of the Oregon delegation could devote themselves would better serve the state of Oregon.

THE LONDON CONFERENCE

ON DECEMBER 13 the London conference between Turkey and the allied states of the Balkans convened to discuss the terms of peace.

On December 3 an armistice had been signed, suspending the operations of the war, except as to Greece, which continued fighting. Turkey secured the armistice after being advised of the terms demanded by the allies, which included in the cessation of Turkish territory the ancient city of Adrianople and the Black sea coast already conquered and then held by the Bulgarian armies, and which was essential to the development of the hinterland about which there was no controversy.

From December 13 to the present day the Turks have played the game of delay to the full, trusting to the chapter of accidents for incidents to break up the Balkan alliance, and to develop friction between the European powers. In all their hopes the Turks have been disappointed, and they are now at the end of their diplomatic devices.

If the war is resumed the fall of both Adrianople and Monastir is imminent, with the result of the freeing of the Bulgarian army of not less than 60,000 men from Adrianople and of Greek and Servian armies from Monastir of at least equal numbers. The capture of Turkish troops to an aggregate of nearly 100,000 men is involved in these successes of the allies. The only Turkish army left in the field will be that at the Tchatalja lines, which will be confronted by forces greatly its superior.

It is reported that the life of the aged Austrian Emperor is drawing to a close. If he dies before peace is concluded a most serious danger will have to be met, not only by the Balkan kingdoms, but by all Europe, when his successor, imbued with the idea of overlordship of all European states and slaves, mounts the throne. At that point unity of purpose for peace between Germany and Britain will be put to its severest test.

CUT AWAY THE DEADWOOD

GVERNOR WEST'S suggestion for a repeal of the dead laws is a good one. Every lawyer knows that the code is burdened with antiquated statutes and senseless measures that have no proper place in the busy commonwealth of today. Many others, enacted in a time of primitive conditions, are primitive in their horizon and are a hindrance rather than a help in the promotion of justice and good order.

Thus, we have in Oregon a statutory requirement that a criminal can be prosecuted on only one charge, and that the prosecutor must elect in the beginning on what accusation he will stand in conduct of the case. The effect is that as the case proceeds, the testimony may unfold in such a way as to show the defendant guilty on other counts that could have been made the basis of prosecution, but actually escape a verdict of guilty on the count selected. Or, he may actually plead guilty to charges that could be advanced and be acquitted on that on which he is prosecuted.

In the federal statutes there is a different provision. Half a dozen counts may be advanced and the jury return a verdict on any or all. A. J. Biehl, for instance, was convicted in the United States court Saturday in the Columbia River Orshards case on three of the four counts on which he was indicted. In the state courts he could have been convicted on but one, and it would have been necessary to select that one before the prosecution began. The pruning knife can be used to advantage in cutting away the deadwood in the Oregon statutes.

gets better together as an entirety, as one complex instrument, more responsive with each concert to the beat of the conductor. A word of appreciation may be allowed to the musician who yesterday filled that important post with fairness, decision and insight into the beauties of the master works that he directed.

Letters From the People

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

The Problem of Unemployment.

Klamath Falls, Or., Jan. 7.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Not long ago, there appeared in The Journal, an article dealing with the number of people in Portland who would have to depend on charity for their livelihood throughout the greater part of the coming year. It appears that all, or nearly all, are sound in body. Nearly all are able to work. Why is it that in one of the most favored sections of the state many people are unable and willing to work are compelled to depend on charity for a living? Is it because there is not sufficient capital?

Evidently not. In Portland there is more capital in proportion to population than anywhere else in the state, but there are also more paupers. It is as a distinct problem to find employment for the unemployed as it is to find work for the employed. Men with means are leaving for Canada before their money is all spent, and workmen who have saved a little are following their example. Of those who remain, the more skilled find it difficult to obtain employment, at wages but little in excess of their actual necessities, while the least skilled are wholly unemployed, are forced to depend for their existence upon the bounty of the public.

Is this condition due to population having exceeded the limits of subsistence? If so, why induce more people to come? Why not steer possible settlers elsewhere or advise them to remain where they are, at the least until they be to a minimum wage scale for women. If the land of Oregon will not produce enough to support its people? Does anyone honestly believe that Oregon is too barren to support its present population? If not, then why are so many people able and willing to work and inhabiting the most favored section of the state, compelled to depend on charity for a meager existence?

Let The Journal answer: "In ten years, there has been an enormous growth and an enormous advance in land values in Portland. Whom has it helped, and whom burdened? "In ten years, tenants have, through rise in land values, been compelled to pay a rent double, treble, or quadruple their former figure, and are being driven out of their homes. Higher rents have increased the problems of business and made survival more difficult. They forced low salaries for employes and a more slender margin of profits for the business man.

On the other hand, the owners of realty have had fortunes thrust on them almost unexpecting and wholly without effort, risk or outlay. Some of the affluent came over night as a free gift from a bountiful fate. It is a mathematical axiom, that if some obtain results without working, others must work without obtaining results.

Just so long as the owners of land are permitted to absorb for their own enrichment the values which The Journal intimates have been "contributed heavily" by the industry of others, just so long must this condition continue. This has been the history of every country in the world and is the ruling condition today, except in those few places where a check has been put on unlimited speculation in land, and it will be the fate of Oregon unless the people see fit to change the constitution.

But reforms come slowly, and it just possible the people of Oregon will not permit a change in this respect until after many settlers who would otherwise come here have drifted across the line into Canada. It is not customary to lock the stable until the horse has gone. The remedy is no longer a theory; it is a fact. It will be found in the single tax, which is as effective as it is simple. It requires no material change in our present machinery of government and will become operative immediately the people say so.

JAMES LAIDLAW

THE death of James Laidlaw will be mourned by a large circle of personal friends and associates, gathered in a residence in Portland for more than forty years, and by a larger circle of business acquaintances with whom his duties as the British consul brought him into contact.

From 1847 to 1913 the British consulate has been under Mr. Laidlaw's charge, for the first 20 years as vice consul, since then as full consul. In a maritime city of Portland's growing importance, where so much of the traffic of the port is carried in British ships, the duties of the British consul are no sinecure. By Mr. Laidlaw such duties were discharged, not only with faithfulness, but with a notable absence of friction and with much consideration for others.

Mr. Laidlaw gave much thought and effort to the charitable and philanthropic work coming to him by reason of his official position, and there he will be much missed. In his personal character he was a faithful citizen of Portland, his home city. He was a member of the congregation of Trinity Episcopal church and an office bearer in the Vestry for many years. There his loss will be much felt.

THE PORTLAND ORCHESTRA

AT THE third concert of this season the Portland Orchestra again won the appreciation of a large and a mixed audience that nearly filled the Heilig Theatre. The program was admirably chosen. It had throughout the classical tone, but in several of the numbers combined much charm, lightness and grace with the essentials of music that has lasted or will last. And with music, as with books, that is about the only real test. The audience yesterday listened to the Beethoven symphony, which has behind its beauties a life of nearly a century, but is today as fresh and graceful and as satisfying as when first played by an orchestra in which many musicians whose names are household words were proud to take part.

Evidently the orchestra is growing in what is sometimes called ensemble, at other times team work. It

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE
But there's Jackson day this month, for Democrats.

Now the dear old tariff will come to the front again for six months or so.

It probably would be better to list about nine-tenths of the coming bills disincubating.

Some very rich men literally owe everybody, but they don't know it and can't see it.

The government note that caught the convicted dynamite conspirators stretched far and wide.

Man whom an accident befell "broke two legs in a fall from a scaffold. His other legs were not injured.

O well, it's likely to be nice out-of-doors for the attendants on the Christian Citizenship conference.

Is it better to have been "somebody" and fallen down and out than to have always been just "body"?

Back seat people are anticipating the annual January thaw. Hereabouts, any freeze-up is a matter of doubt.

Did anybody make a New Year resolution to condemn less and commend more; to think more of good done than of evil alleged?

Some express company managers say they can cut under the government's parcel post rates. Very well, then; but they wouldn't have reduced rates till the year 1918 except for the parcels post or on other compulsion.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

The city council of Enterprise has taken the first steps toward obtaining a Carnegie library.

Hermiston Herald: Considerable land is being sold. It is but another evidence of the fact that this section is good to the man who is looking for a safe investment.

Nehalem Enterprise: The Bay City council is to be commended for voting a 10 mill general tax, half of which is to be used for street improvements and the balance for general purposes.

To increase the town's water supply the city council of Astoria has let a contract for the drilling of a hundred-foot hole in the bottom of the excavation at the source of the city's gravity system.

Myrtle Creek Mail: With walnuts selling in the local market for about one-half cent each, would you seem that walnut growers are making money. They are making money, and there is little prospect of the industry being overdone.

Astoria Budget: A carload of cranberry vines has arrived from Cameron, Wis., for the Clatsop cranberry association and will be set out at once on the association's holdings at West. It is expected that 50 acres will be ready for planting between now and spring.

Very high class is the Medford Mail-Tribune's New Year's Annual. It is not so large as some others of the year, but lack of mere size is amply compensated for in the quality of matter and of execution. It is a well planned and well marked with the comprehensiveness, the studied preference to minute detail and is pitched in a high key. The illustrations are of more than ordinary beauty.

NEW LEADER OF A GREAT ARMY

By Louise Rice.

The oldest son of William Booth and Catherine Mumford was always looked upon as the logical successor to his father, though a distinct statement to that effect was never made. He has been called the Moltke of the Salvation Army, because of his tremendous grip upon the reins of its government; but for him, the exact and wonderfully detailed organization might never have existed, but so quietly has he worked behind the scenes that the general public does not realize, as yet, how powerful a personality has come into the world's limelight.

Bramwell, more than any of the Booth children, resembles his mother, even in manner, speech and expression. He has a softly rounded face, and a clear youthful skin, which is accentuated by his prematurely white hair. His platform manner is also that of his mother's; the penetratingly sweet and compelling one of his father.

It is in personal intercourse, however, that his greatest power lies. He is preeminently magnetic, when met eye to eye. His handclasp is subtly tender and warm, and his tactfulness is of that rare kind, which conceals itself about an apparent reliance upon others to do that very thing which he is, at the actual moment, effecting. His knowledge of all army matters is nothing short of phenomenal. Consult him on the most important scheme the army has ever evolved, and he knows all about it in personal intercourse, how ever, that his greatest power lies. He is preeminently magnetic, when met eye to eye. His handclasp is subtly tender and warm, and his tactfulness is of that rare kind, which conceals itself about an apparent reliance upon others to do that very thing which he is, at the actual moment, effecting. His knowledge of all army matters is nothing short of phenomenal. 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