

THE JOURNAL

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ITS SOBER FACTS

MIGHTILY and majestically, almost disdainfully, the esteemed Oregonian expresses question as to the authenticity of a Journal news dispatch respecting the meeting on board ship of General Diaz and Huerta's representative off shore at Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Let our neighbor not be pained. It was scooped on the news of Diaz's arrival, and has tried the old dodge of discrediting the real news. Concluding a man-milliner dissertation on the episode, the Oregonian says loftily:

Incidentally, the captain of the gunboat was fired for the stupid blunder of losing his course, all of which was set out in the dispatches from Vera Cruz yesterday by the Associated Press, which confines itself to sober facts and leaves fiction to the popular magazines and its rivals.

Sure it does. There, for instance, was the high dive from the Broadway bridge in which the Oregonian romantically caused a fireman to leap intrepidly into the dark and mystic river far below and save a drowning man. Ah, it was wonderful, wonderful, and the Associated Press "which confines itself to sober facts" wired the details abroad and had them published in all its newspapers.

As the Oregonian, "which also confines itself to sober facts," described it, the bold fireman swung off in a long, graceful dive, fathom over fathom into the Willamette, where after smiling the drowning man with one fell swoop, the noble fireman towed his helpless victim 100 yards to shore and then said to a waiting world, "Oh, shucks; cut out that hero stuff."

It was the darriest dive ever made by a lifesaver. It was a perfectly dashing performance—a regular liver invigorator and pulse warmer. For one thrilling day it electrified this town as the stunned people gazed admiringly at the Oregonian's picture of the hero and echoed back its words that its phony lifesaver must have a Carnegie medal.

Then, the summer's prize production of romantic fiction turned out to have been purely imagination and the hero a myth.

But, it was not discovered until after the Associated Press, "which always confines itself to sober facts," had wired the details broadcast over the country and scored a great beat on its rivals.

A NAVAL HOLIDAY  
SPEAKING at Manchester last Saturday, Winston Churchill, first lord of the British admiralty, elaborated his proposal for a "naval holiday" which he made when introducing the naval estimate this year. He urged that Germany and Great Britain set an example which would have its effect upon other great European powers.

Germany now proposes to build two large battleships in 1914 at a cost of \$30,000,000, and England's program calls for twice that number of ships at twice the cost. There is only one way by which the annual expenditure for bigger battleships and larger guns can be reduced, and that is by international agreement, said Mr. Churchill. Therefore he again proposed that England and Germany agree to abandon their battleship programs for twelve months.

more ships has increased no one country's domination of the sea. Mr. Churchill may be ridiculed because of his naval holiday proposal, just as Mr. Bryan was ridiculed when he urged a movement toward international peace based upon principles of right and justice. But the world is becoming more intelligent. It is beginning to realize that big battleships and big armies retard a nation's prosperity under the present competitive system of matching waste against waste.

RUSSIANIZING OREGON

ONLY three civilized countries on earth are without a workmen's compensation law. The three are Turkey, Russia and the United States.

The 1913 legislature passed an act that removed that part of the United States comprised in Oregon from the class of Russia and Turkey. While the measure provides automatic payment of compensation to injured workers, it still leaves them the alternative of going to court for damages.

It is a law that is believed to be the best that present human experience could evolve, and as such has the indorsement of the legislature, the press, the public, the governor and all thoughtful observers interested in human welfare.

But it is held up by referendum. Attempt is being made to beat it. There are secret and sinister interests that want Oregon workers kept under the same harsh and heartless conditions that prevail in Russia and Turkey.

That is to say, these hidden interests want to break down the automatic compensation act and force the injured worker to go to law for personal injury damages. They want it to remain as now, the individual against the corporation, the man against the soulless entity which knows no humanity and has no thought of human welfare.

It is proposed to keep the iron in the heart of the worker, by compelling him to go to law, where all the odds, all the drawbacks and all the delays are against him and his family. It is insisted that the worker have no automatic redress, but like Russia and Turkey, force him into the courts, where he is at the mercy of the prosperous gentlemen who have fed so long on the misfortunes of maimed and mutilated workers and profited so richly on the funds that the compensation law would give direct to the wives and little ones.

Are we going to vote to keep Oregon in the class with Turkey? Are we, by beating the compensation act, going to keep the workers of Oregon Russianized?

If not, then vote on the side of the workers—and women and children; vote for life lines and justice to the weak. Vote 3-3-3. Yes.

THE SQUEEZED PUBLIC

CONSIDERATION of the Strobel purchase was postponed by the city commission yesterday.

It is the proposition for acquiring an acre of ground for the Terwilliger Boulevard at a cost of \$23,000. The land is owned by Fritz Strobel and with improvements, is assessed this year at \$5500—\$4500 on the land and \$1000 on the improvements.

To pay even double the assessed value would be bad enough. The mad riot we have maintained of paying three to ten times the assessed value is assuming the proportions of a town scandal.

Ninety per cent of the property in Portland, probably, is assessed at 55 or 60 per cent of its true cash value. Ninety per cent of the property owners would be willing to accept double the assessed value for their property.

be allowed to talk mentorious bills to death.

There should be ample opportunity for debate, but Senator Kern is right when he says a serious doubt exists whether the benefit to be derived from limitless discussion exceeds the loss which comes to the country from the holding up of legislation which is greatly needed.

WHY WE ARE GOUGHED

FOR the salaries of its members, the Sulzer impeachment cost the state of New York \$41,987.50.

Each member received \$37.50 per day for 29 days.

It was a most generous compensation. It was money made easy. It was remuneration with small consideration for the men who must provide the money with which to pay it.

The looseness with which public money is flung around in the state and city of New York largely accounts for Sulzer's lack of scruple in applying campaign funds to his personal uses. It abets Tammany's recklessness in demanding public contracts and in ousting governors who refuse or neglect to let the boss run things.

It is strange but terribly true that people, by their own lethargy, invite grafters to prey upon them. Their own inattention to public affairs tempt selfish interests to obtain undue advantages and pluck the public to a frazzle.

The listlessness of the public and the connivance of a subservient press permitted the foundations to be laid long ago for the public's land along the Portland waterfront to go into private monopoly, where it is now used as a means of exacting extortionate demands from the people. In one dock site, property that the original private claimant got for nothing from the state was bought back by the public at the end of a lawsuit for \$310,000.

It is the pretty price we pay for our trace-like public indifference. It is an easy method we have of getting ourselves gouged and plucked.

After all, it is largely the people's own fault that they are the easy prey of graft and grafters.

THE LATE MR. PANKHURST

FEW men are asked to wait fifteen years for their obituaries to be written, but that is what happened to the late Mr. Pankhurst, at one time husband of the militant suffragette. Columns have been printed about the widow and her two daughters, and it is only fair that Mr. Pankhurst have a small portion of public attention.

The New York Sun's London correspondent has looked up Mr. Pankhurst's history and finds that he was a barrister and an indefatigable lecturer. He was a progressive politician, active in the cause of popular education and woman suffrage, a home ruler as far back as 1875. In fact, Mrs. Pankhurst is said to have gotten her first ideas on woman suffrage from her husband.

Mr. Pankhurst was a busy and energetic man, continually on the platform advocating reforms of various kinds. Although he was in the limelight constantly, Mr. Pankhurst's efforts were not appreciated by his political friends. He was twice defeated for parliament as a Liberal and three years before he died he met his third defeat as a Labor candidate. He was something of an agitator on his own account, finally becoming converted to Socialism.

The man's personality, combined with his repeated defeats, may have had their influence on Mrs. Pankhurst, for the Sun's correspondent says he was a frail, little man, with weak eyes, a straggling beard, a squeaky voice and a nervous manner. He looked as if he might have been henpecked. He was an eager, fussy talker and was always terribly in earnest. He was apparently incapable of a joke.

live it. Everybody shunned her. If she went to any social gathering the crowd near her began to dwindle and she soon found herself alone. She had sympathy, but no companionship, no friends unafraid of contagion.

The struggle to convince people that she was healthy, as normal as other girls, embittered her. Church acquaintances shunned her, but she received a letter from the keeper of a bawdy house saying she would be welcome there. She did not act upon the suggestion.

"I have taken an inventory of my life and I can see no ray of hope," she said upon returning to Chicago. She has written to number of leper colonies in the United States asking a position as a nurse. If she cannot get employment in America she will go to an island near Canton, China, where nurses are needed to take care of lepers.

The case of Marie Colliers illustrates the experiences of too many girls. She had touched pollution, and therefore she was shunned even though physicians said she was clean. Church people avoided her, but the underworld beckoned. Companionship with the decent was denied her, but a welcome awaited this struggling girl in jungletown.

The time may yet come when girls, even though they have mixed with the unclean, will have real friends. The doctors said Marie Colliers was not to be feared, but society made her an outcast. She sees no hope, nothing in the future except return to a leper colony. And yet her fate is not comparable with the sentence too often passed upon girls attempting to restore their womanhood by seeking association with virtue.

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 writer. The writer does not desire to have the name published, he should so state.)

"Discussion is the greatest of all reforms. It rationalizes everything it touches. It breaks down prejudice and shows the back of our reasonableness. If they have no reasonableness, it rubs out their own conclusions in its stead."—Woodrow Wilson.

Favors Workmen's Compensation.

Portland, Or., Oct. 25.—To the Editor of The Journal—I notice an article in the October issue of the Oregon Manufacturer, entitled "Interesting Letters on Workmen's Compensation Act," containing letters from Inman-Poulson Lumber Company to R. J. Rooney, secretary of Camden, N. J., and replies to same from the secretary of the Manufacturers' Association of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Employers' Liability Commission. I am, however, of the opinion that an industrial accident board somewhat similar to that to be formed in the state of Massachusetts would be a better plan than the one our state has now. I find by the records returned to us from the courts that they are not acting entirely in accordance with the provisions of the act, and I find by the records returned to us from the courts that they are not acting entirely in accordance with the provisions of the act.

"I feel that an accident board, especially trained to know and understand the nature of the work, and having as their sole duty the settlement of uncertain questions, would yield a more satisfactory result than our present method."

As the editor states in speaking of the commission, "This body was provided to serve without salary and to report impartially the conditions, responsibilities and the causes of industrial accidents, and the result obtained from the administration of their law by the employers, the casualty insurance companies, and the courts is not all that one could desire."

Inman-Poulson Lumber Company in their letter state, "The Oregon state legislature having recently passed a compensation law, which we think will prove extremely defective in its provisions and being much impressed with the simplicity of your act which we have advocated, we will appreciate any information you can give us as a result of its operations during the past 20 months."

It is to be regretted that the enactment of the Oregon compensation act does not meet the needs of the injured workers, as the statement of the editor of the Oregon Manufacturer and the only objections that have been published, and they do not state where in the defects or objections lie.

Surely they cannot object on account of the cost of administering the act by a commission, as the Washington law has been administered during the two years it has been in effect at a cost less than 3 per cent in other words for every dollar paid in under the Washington act, 21 cents has gone to the injured worker, as set apart to provide for future payments to him. As against this according to the report of the Oregon insurance commission for the year 1912, out of every dollar paid to the injured worker, 80 cents was paid to injured workmen and for cost of litigation, and 23 cents was retained by the insurance companies. And only a small per cent of injured workmen are paid by the insurance companies. Just as few as possible would be paid. It is reasonable to expect that the Oregon act will be administered as economically as that of Washington. Surely Inman-Poulson Lumber Company have no reason to object for this reason, as the records of the Washington state industrial insurance commission show that during the two years it has been in operation the firm of Inman-Poulson Logging Company, which is the name and style under which the Washington records are kept, has paid to the injured workers the sum of \$322,25, and there has been paid out to their injured workers

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Law-making seems to be often a bungle, however done.

October seems to be trying to outshine and outflow May.

Not very many people, even women, go to hear Mrs. C. C. Croner.

The hen that cackles these days makes very enjoyable music to their owners.

What a jolly the Mexican question had not been turned over to the editor of the Oregonian.

The older a person becomes the more money he needs, because without it he has few friends.

Make that election fund big, early; of course the show will be far better than ever.

There's hope yet for the down-and-out man who can sincerely smile and be sensibly sociable.

Some men are born to money; some have it thrust upon them; others acquire it, and all this leaves many poor devils out.

Trying to support two wives, a local man got into financial difficulties. But many a man has done that trying to support one wife.

Colonel Roosevelt seems to have been the main part of the Progressive party vote, and that is the only man still valiantly at Armageddon.

Political parties are "all split up" in Illinois—and elsewhere. "Split" in his heaven, and this greatest country of the world is fairly peaceful, progressive and prosperous.

Campaigns now are for aid against measles, rather than mere anti-political parties. But, thanks be, there are always games and movies.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

The Recorder says it is informed that Bandon is building faster than any other town on the coast. "And still," says the Recorder, "no boom."

An ordinance has been passed at Bandon providing that no person shall walk on the streets of Bandon and wherever streets shall in future be improved with hard surface pavement.

"The season just closing," the Foraker News-Times is happy to announce, "has been one of great abundance, and newcomers from Kansas and other hard and drought-stricken districts have been attracted to our country's prosperity."

On October 22, 1882, according to the Astorian, in its 30 years ago column, the G. R. & N. dock was assumed to be the property of the late Joseph Grimmer, and his company, had arrived from Los Angeles, and an order for a fire alarm had just been placed.

McIntireville News-Reporter: Arthur Berndt, aged about 10, picked up 30 sacks of potatoes one day this week on Joe Matley's place. The boy did all the work alone, and the sacks were emptied his own buckets. He was paid 3 cents a sack and went home with \$1.00 in his pocket in the evening.

The Eastern Oregon Mining Journal admires the ancient method of paying a \$575 nugget said to have been found in Nevada, not to overlook the fact that on June 11, 1913, at Bandon, a gold nugget (now in the First National Bank, Baker, Or.) was found, the value of which is \$108,750.

From an item in the Newberg Graphic it appears that ancient methods of paying for goods and services in certain localities in Oregon. The Graphic says: "Mildy Cady gets out early these mornings and carries a pig-oo-oo. He has a small field of corn grown this season for feeding his pig, and the sample ears left at the Graphic office are excellent."

BOY PROBLEM PRESSES FOR SOLUTION

From the Chicago Tribune. For years small merchants in certain sections of New York have been paying tribute regularly to organized gangs. They were taxed by these gangsters according to their earnings, which were thoroughly ascertained by the underworld characters. If a man refused to be bled by the gang he was promptly made an example of. If he had horses they were poisoned. His children were taken away and held until no place on earth seemed safe for them.

A few merchants who were bolder than the rest of their clan threatened to expose the gangs to the police. In cold blood the gangsters slew these rebels among their victims. Such terror have the desperadoes spread among the people in these districts in New York that no one dares to testify against them, so that when a member of such a gang fell into the clutches of the police he had to be set free because there was no one to prosecute him.

The fight on the youthful bad men is not a problem of Chicago as well. It is a problem of every big city. In New York gangsters blackmail small merchants. In Chicago they take to automobile robberies. A curious fact about these youthful bandits everywhere is

and set apart for future payments on account of an accident to an injured employee the sum of \$188.90, or \$88.62 more than the sum contributed by the firm to the accident fund. This is certainly 100 per cent efficiency. According to the statement of the condition of the Washington accident fund from October 1, 1911, to July 1, 1912, there have been assessments levied in class No. 1 (railroads) of \$2.43 per \$100 of payroll, of which only \$1.48 had been used, and in class No. 10 (lumbering mills, etc.) assessments levied of \$1.67 per \$100 of payroll, of which \$1.60 was paid out, this compared with the present casual insurance rate on same industries of \$1.50 and \$2, respectively, on \$100 of payroll, and in not one of the 48 classes into which the industries are divided was the percentage of losses incurred to premiums in excess of \$2.15 per \$100 of payroll. (Class No. 46, 20 per cent, was the only one that paid, but payment is being held up on account of litigation), disproves any statement that may be made as to excessive cost of administration under a commission.

The Oregon compensation act was drawn by a commission appointed by the governor, composed of three representatives each from the employes, employers and the grant, and the result was an act that meets with the approval of a majority of all three classes. It is more liberal in its rewards for injury or death than any law in existence in any country on earth, and there are only two reasons why it should not pass, one is the ambulance chasing lawyers, and the other casualty insurance companies.

There are only three civilized nations on earth without similar laws, Turkey, Russia and the United States, and I do not think the people of Oregon want to be classed in the march of progress with those of Turkey and Russia.

During the fiscal year ending December 31, 1912, there was paid for casualty insurance in the state of Oregon the sum of \$683,141.72, of which \$247,714.02 was paid the Aetna Life Insurance Company. This company or its agents have been very active recently in flooding the state with literature telling the voters why they should vote against the act. This is one of the best reasons I know of why they should vote for it.

The editorials from The Oregon Journal of October 8 and 9 should be read by every voter.

FRANK C. YOUNG, Manager West Side Lumber & Shingle Company.

Just Assessments. Portland, Oct. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal—The articles appearing in the Journal recently concerning the financial burden on the taxpayers of this city and county by speculators in waterfront properties should evoke the gratitude of the thousands of small home owners of Portland.

We have an assessor of this county who knows of a scientific method of arriving at the value of land. It works with human nature instead of against it. This system has been successfully applied in a number of cities in this country, its most striking effects having been witnessed at Hamilton, Tenn., at Cleveland, Ohio. It is called the Sommerfeldt, I believe. The Journal has had interesting articles about it from time to time. It is simply justice in assessments of land scientifically applied.

It seems to me that some of our wealthy citizens who are so ready with their wealth to further public good might well afford to contribute to a

IN EARLIER DAYS

By Fred Lockley. Just a block from the five-story pressed brick I. O. O. F. temple in Eugene is the residence of Mrs. Charles Croner.

"I have lived on this corner 53 years," said Mrs. Croner. "I moved to this lot when I was married. I was 12 years old at that time. My husband's name was C. C. Croner. His parents were German, though he was born while they were crossing the Atlantic ocean. We were married on St. John's day, between Christmas and New Year, 1860. I have lived my life and raised six children on this corner and now they want me to move. When my husband bought this corner lot on the corner of Oak and Tenth streets, he paid what was considered a good price for it, \$200. Recently the price of the lot has gone up, but one gets attached to a place, particularly when one has lived there for over 50 years.

My father's name was Prior Blair. Blair street here in Eugene is named for him. We crossed the plains in 1847. I was 4 years old at that time. My father and mother were from Kentucky and one of the first things I remember is being terribly scandalized by seeing a negro man walking with a white woman in fows on our way to Oregon. I didn't know that he was her husband, and she was his wife. When we were shocked. Our train had several captives coming out. The one who lasted longest was Captain Isaac Briggs.

My father was the first National Bank in a heavy rain. There was a cabin standing about where Villard hall now stands. A man named Shaw was living in the cabin. The men slept outdoors while the women stayed in the cabin. I was four and mother had a baby a year old. My mother drove a mule team which was rather unusual, as most of the others had ox teams. We settled at Pleasant Hill. I can remember distinctly when we moved on to our donation land claim and broke the ground for the first time with the plow. I used to go out plowing with father and when I got tired he would let me ride on one of the oxen. The first time I ever saw Tom Hendricks, the president of the First National Bank here, was in 1849. I was six years old and he was about eight. I was driving the cows home and was picking the best milk to walk, and was barefooted. Tom was barefooted, too. Whenever we happen to be at a party together, we talk over the old times.

"Mother had been married before and I had three brothers, named Wilkinson, Goulet. In the fall of 1848 father and my stepbrother went to the California mines. Father stayed a year, but he came home, as he couldn't make expenses. In the winter of 1849 the stepbrother decided to stay. We heard next year that he had died there and was buried not far from where Redding now is. He was buried a year, my mother and the children were the first to bury him. I took three weeks to drive to Portland with the team to get our groceries. The winter of '48 was a beautiful winter. Before going to work I had a horse and a mule, and had also a mule. With the beef that father left and boiled wheat, served with rich cream or butter and with coffee made of the best of the first National Bank here, I lived at Pleasant Hill for two or three years and then came to Eugene, buying John Aiken's claim. It is now known as the Blair farm. Mr. Aiken owned the claim, which he had a ferry. Father paid him \$600 dollars for his 640-acre claim. Bob Blair, my brother, is living in Portland.

"I have never been out of Oregon since I was born. I have never been to any other place than the Lewis and Clark fair, when I went to Portland. My boy wants me to sell this place and travel around the world, but I don't care a little, but I don't see why a person should go from a place they like to see a place they don't know anything about. I have never been to any other place, and again they might not, and I don't care to try it to see. I never had much schooling, but it has always seemed to me that getting married and raising a family was a pretty good schooling."

My mother's brother, Mr. Mulligan, gave 40 acres for the townsite of Eugene. Eugene Skinner gave the same amount. Eugene Skinner was a small man. He had been injured and it gave him the look of being a hunchback. He was quick tempered. His wife was a very good mother.

Mr. Mulligan, my uncle, was much younger than my mother. Mother raised him. He married here and had a large family.

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YOUR MONEY

By John M. Oskison. With the right sort of backing the plan which has been proposed in London for forming an association to investigate for a permanent French life insurance which is offered for sale ought to go through and meet with a big success.

It is in line with the modern tendency. As I have pointed out in this article before, France has already organized a very efficient association to do this service for French investors, and it is now proposed to open to the public the same service of statistics and information concerning companies, both French and foreign, which it has gathered in the past 15 years.

The suggested British association, if it goes through, will charge a very moderate membership fee; it will have a supreme governing council in London, and it will establish investigating bureaus in various parts of the British empire.

Its work would consist of reports to its members on the bona fides of every new corporation offering its shares or its bonds to the investing public. This, capitalization, the price of the property on which the securities are issued, the qualifications of the proposed directors of the corporation—these are points on which the association's agents would pass in their reports.

Those who form the council of the association, and through whom the reports would issue, would have to pledge themselves not to be swayed by any vested financial interest in any proposition submitted to the association for investigation.

Something like that, with the backing of our best firms, is just what we need to serve a very useful purpose in this country. Who will be the successful promoter of it?

Pointed Paragraphs

An erotist is an "I" specialist.

Even the union dentists believe in an open shop.

Wisdom comes with years—if folly leaves room for it.

The average man's ambition is to do something he can't.

The Woman's Page

The Journal each evening presents a number of striking features. Many of them are of exclusive interest to women; others are of general appeal.

They all are worth reading. Cultivate this daily feature; you will find it profitable reading.