

THE JOURNAL

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Trust your better instincts, and be just—J. G. Whittier.

IF—

THERE yet remains a remnant of the public resources. The lands are mostly gone. They were squandered.

Most of the great timber resource has disappeared. Much is monopolized. All but the national reserves is beyond reach of the average man.

The water powers have been less preyed upon. The development of hydro-electric energy is only recent, and that alone accounts for the fact that many of the streams are yet a public asset, to be used for the benefit of all the people, instead of for the benefit of a few monopolists.

It is necessary to have a public policy to encourage fullest and freest use of these resources. The natural opportunities that God and Nature placed on the earth in the form of forest streams, lands and mineral deposits, should always be within reach of those willing to use them for the public benefit at a reasonable price.

The fight in the National Conservation Congress at Washington is not a controversy between national control and state control. It is a fight between conservation and anti-conservation. If the program of Pinchot is carried out the people will save and have for themselves and their posterity the remnant of their national heritage.

If the opposing program prevails, the great natural wealth in forests, mountains, streams and lands will be gobbled up, monopolized and used for exploiting mankind. If the opponents win, the remnant of the splendid birthright will be made private property for the enrichment of the classes and the enslavement of the masses.

If those demanding state control succeed in securing a surrender of national control, we shall all live to see the gates to the forests, streams, and deposits again thrown wide open, and a restoration of the old order of squandered resources and exploited people.

A SOUND DECISION

THERE is no question as to the soundness of the supreme court decision declaring that the workmen's compensation law is not operative as to insurance features until June 30, 1914.

It has never seemed to The Journal that there was room for any other view. If there had been no referendum, the employer would have had ninety days from the adjournment of the legislature and fifteen days additional, and the workmen fifteen days longer to select, respecting the law.

But the referendum intervened. It was not determined until November 4 that the act was approved by the people.

Section 15 of the act absolutely provides for the insurance features of the act to take effect "June 30 next following the taking effect of this act," and section 12 contains the identical provision.

By the terms of the state constitution the act did not become effective until approval by the people November 4. Only June 30, 1914, could be the "June 30 next following the taking effect of the act." The deferred date is better anyway. The commission should welcome the interim in which to prepare for operating the system. There are rules and regulations to provide. There must be a system of accounting. There must be a form of pay roll and an opportunity to gather an efficient working force. There must be time to educate both employers and employees as to the advantages of the act.

There is a world of work for the commission to do in the brief seven months until June 30, 1914. There is information, there is experience and there are statistics to gather and place before those in whose interest the law was enacted. Even in the period as extended, there is scarcely time to do all the far reaching work that lies before the commission.

RAILROADS AND FARMERS

PRESIDENT RIPLEY of the Santa Fe railroad paid a nickel apiece for peaches in Kansas City. The next day he saw a farmer taking a wagonload of this fruit to the hogs. The hogs were fed the peaches because the farmer, like many others along the Santa Fe road, had to do that or let the peaches rot on the ground. There was no means for sending the fruit to market.

Mr. Ripley looked at the pig food and thought of the peaches he had bought at five cents each. Then he decided that the small farmer and the railroad could work together with mutual profit. As a result of this experience the Santa

Fe president has notified farmers in Colorado and other states served by that railroad system that if they will continue raising garden truck and fruit next year the railroad will establish a special refrigerator service adapted to their needs.

Through this means Mr. Ripley believes he will overcome the present problem confronting many farmers—losses suffered because local markets are glutted and the expense of selling in small quantities at distant markets, which consume the difference between cost of production and the selling price.

The new plan provides for the operation of special refrigerator cars, which on given days will pick up small fruit and vegetable consignments. These shipments will be taken to terminal points, where each variety of fruit or vegetable will be loaded in carload lots and then taken to market.

The incident is valuable in that it illustrates the proper relation between railroads and producers. Railroads depend upon the territory they serve for increased earnings, and earnings will not grow as they should when the producer is not furnished adequate facilities for getting his products to market.

The Santa Fe's special refrigerator cars may not return profits from the start, but they will assist in building up a prosperity which in time will furnish tremendous income for the road.

THE TELEPHONE GIRL

WHEN "central" gives you the wrong number and possibly shows resentment at your impatience, remember what she is up against. The telephone girl is only human.

There are about 125,000 of these girls in the United States, and their average term of service is three years. The average girl works eight hours a day, answering about 140 calls an hour, the number running to 225 during busy hours. The operator sits at a switchboard covered with numbers, each number having a small signal light.

When the person calling raises his receiver, a light flashes on the switchboard and this light continues to burn until the girl plugs the number and receives the call. She then plugs the number called for, and this light burns until the called person answers. When both receivers are finally replaced on their hooks, both lights flash.

To complete one call means four flashes of light. Figure it yourself, the girl's eyes are exposed to from 600 to 1000 flashes of light every hour. No wonder her eyes are fatigued. No wonder her nerves are on fire. Piling impatience upon the mental and physical strain to which she is subjected does not sweeten the girl's disposition, for she is human.

The telephone companies provide rest rooms for their employees. Sufficient air space and good illumination are furnished. Only young and healthy girls are selected, and yet their average term of service does not exceed three years. In attempting to please the girls develop headache, indigestion, exhaustion, nerve strain and insomnia.

Not all girls at the telephone are paragons of patience. How could they be? But enough are gently patient to make a real man a gentleman or a real woman a gentle woman, when the receiver is taken down.

MINING IN OREGON

THE United States geological survey has issued a report on Oregon's production of precious and semi-precious metals in 1912. The value of gold, silver, copper and lead sold or treated was \$849,886, an increase of \$180,870 over the 1911 output.

Statistics for eight years show that production of these metals steadily decreased from \$1,592,156 in 1905 to \$669,016 in 1911, the succeeding year showing increases both in the number of producing mines and value of the product.

Gold produced was valued at \$770,041; silver, \$57,081; copper, \$42,971; lead \$1769. The total production was derived from 210 mines, of which 156 were placers of various kinds and 54 deep mines.

The total output of gold was 37,250 fine ounces, an increase of 6609 ounces, the increase in value being \$136,634. Baker headed the list of producing counties, with a gold output valued at \$484,041, an increase of \$94,255 over the gold yield in 1911. Josephine county was next in rank, followed in order by Jackson, Lane, Malheur, Grant, Douglas, Curry, Wheeler, Crook and Coos.

The silver output in 1912 was 57,081 fine ounces, an increase of 11,860 ounces in quantity and \$11,138 in value. Baker county again led with an output of 39,140 ounces, valued at \$24,071. Josephine was next with a production of 10,774 ounces, valued at \$6626. With the exception of Douglas, no other county produced as much as 2000 ounces of silver.

There was no lead production in Oregon in 1911, but in 1912 the output was 39,317 pounds, valued at \$1768, from two mines, one in Lane and the other in Jackson county.

The mine production of copper was 260,429 pounds, valued at \$42,971, an increase of 167,293 pounds in quantity and \$31,329 in value. The copper ore carried gold to the value of \$12,742 and silver to the value of \$6491.

Attention is called to excess production of northeastern over southwestern counties, in spite of the

fact that the latter are considered an extension of the productive California gold belt. The explanation offered is that in the southwestern counties many mines are located on ground in railroad grants, title to which is in dispute. Capital will not develop the properties until validity of title is determined.

OUR PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

A COMMITTEE of the local bar association thinks it unethical for lawyers to advertise.

How utterly ethical we professionals all are! Even a dignified advertisement in the usual medium, stating our particular line of practice would, to our aesthetic souls, be vulgar.

Why, bless our refined hearts, it would shock our cultivated and cultured nervous systems to even think of our purified names in an advertisement in a public print with the statement of our professional function!

Of course, it is strictly ethical to mount a soap box on the street and deliver a political address as a means of advertising. Sometimes a lawyer actually runs for office without hope of election for the sole purpose of advertising himself and his business.

It is positively uncalculated and vulgar to advertise in a newspaper, but elegantly ethical to spread pictures of ourselves on all the old barns and bill posting walls in the county. It is low-browed and plebeian for us lawyers to state our business in a paid advertisement for the benefit of the man who wants to know our particular line of practice. But, to at least a few in our noble profession, there is polish, esthetics and ecstasies in getting into a newspaper a free notice with accompanying photo.

There is not a reason in the world why a struggling young lawyer, striving against odds to make a start, should not put a dignified statement of his specialty in the medium that history, experience and common sense approve as fit means for bringing together the man who has and the man who wants.

To the impartial layman, a main objection is the vested right of the old established attorneys. From their standpoint it is highly unethical for fledglings to butt in before the sheaves are all garnered.

DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR PLAN

IN MANY Oregon counties, it has often been the practice for a county court to contribute dollar for dollar with the road district in building or repairing roads.

A law by the 1913 legislature provides for the application of such a plan in Multnomah county. It is provided in the law that the county court may establish assessment road districts along any highway to be improved. These districts may be of any length, and may extend, not to exceed one mile on either side of the road.

Improvement of the road is ordered, and if within twenty days after publication of a notice of the proposed improvement, 51 per cent of the property in the district remonstrates, the proceeding is held up for a period of one year. If any remonstrators change meanwhile, so that 51 per cent of the property asks it, the improvement will go ahead.

It is, however, the manner of paying the cost that is the chief item of change. The court may assess up to 60 per cent of the expenditure against the county and the balance is taxed against the abutting property. It is said to be the plan of the court in Multnomah to have the county pay half and the land the remainder.

The landowner has ten years in which to complete payment in annual installments of one tenth his whole assessment. The interest rate must not exceed six per cent. The county treasurer issues certificates to run in lieu of the deferred payments of the landowner.

It is argued that without some such plan, land speculators get the full benefit of the improvement at the public expense without giving anything in return. It is also argued that men who are using their land where such an improvement is made in the roads, can well afford to bear say, half the cost, and still profit heavily from the improvement in the increased value of their holdings and in the greater facility with which they get their products to market.

Presumably, the Portland school board has in mind the fact that our attorney general always reserves the right to change his mind and that so armed, he not infrequently abandons his former opinion to a neglected and melancholy fate. He now holds that the board has the right to levy \$25,000 for its new plan of physical education and training, but who knows what change a day may bring forth? Since an illegal levy might give an obstreperous taxpayer room to hang up the whole levy with litigation, would it not be well for the board, as it proceeds, to be absolutely sure of its ground?

Tammany is talking about moves to prevent Sulzer from being seated as an assemblyman. Most of Tammany's present woes are the result of giving Sulzer material for playing the martyr. How long will that stupid organization continue to monkey with a buzz saw?

One of the nastiest streets in Portland is Broadway between Union avenue and the east end of

Broadway bridge. It is not unlike a poorly improved country road. Some of the country roads in Multnomah county are dryer and cleaner. What a street to be an approach to a bridge in the building of which \$1,586,921.90 of public money was expended!

It has become a popular practice for doctors to perform surgical operations for removal of moral defects. From the way some folks are performing, the doctors must, in some instances, have inadvertently removed the wrong bumps.

With word pictures of the tyrannous oppression of our conservation land policy, our own William Hanley yesterday moved all the ladies of the Conservation Congress to tears. Boo-hoo, Bill, boo-hoo; let's move to Russia!

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should not exceed 100 words in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender. If the writer does not desire to have his name published, he should so state.)

"Discussion is the greatest of all reformers. It dilutes everything it touches. It robs principles of their sanctity and thrusts them back on their responsible."—If they have no responsibility, it ruthlessly crushes them out of existence. Our conclusions in their stead!—Woodrow Wilson.

Land Monopoly. Portland, Nov. 19.—To the Editor of The Journal.—The articles appearing in your valuable paper concerning the need of population to develop the state, the vigorous language of some of our railroad magnates pointing this out, the editorials in The Journal and the land monopolist—all indicate a diagnosis of a disease, but the remedy is not to be pointed out the same way. Yellow fever has been practically driven from this country and Cuba, by the application of some common sense sanitary principles and the choice did not rest with made by men who were once denounced as fakery, quacks and tunatics. The evils of land monopoly are being realized. They constitute a worse scourge than yellow fever. It is a sign of the beginning and a sign of hope that we are beginning to see the evils to the land monopolist as yellow fever was traced to the mosquito and the refuse piles.

It is a much more difficult thing to get rid of yellow fever than to get rid of the land monopolist. Some people know how to do a very simple remedy, and has been proved in some of the thousands of times, but inasmuch as more people profit by land monopoly than ever gained by yellow fever, we have some very blind men who simply will not see.

We now encourage the holding of land idle, by our tax laws. We now discourage the use of land, by our tax laws. To him who holds idle our great natural resources we extend aid and comfort by low taxes on very low valuations; to him who attempts to use his land we extend the weight of our displeasure by annual taxes in proportion to the enormity of the offense.

If we want Oregon used by home builders and workers, we must reverse this process, gradually or suddenly. The longer we put off the reverse action, the more the land will be held idle. Pueblo, Colo., has just passed a charter amendment exempting all improvements from taxation for city revenues. Is not that a sensible thing to do, if Pueblo wants men with small and large capital to invest in improvements within her confines?

California may pass next year an amendment allowing any city to do the same. What will be the effect on other states? If Colorado and California cities avail themselves of such powers and stop themselves from doing what even a small town in California would do, I know of one real estate firm in Portland that contributed \$1,200 to help out the glorious work of suppressing an amendment proposed in Oregon along these lines. It needs that money now, too. Yet, in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, a similar amendment would be considered full proof of insanity.

The "land hog" is easily domesticated and turned into a booster if approached with the right kind of tax laws. ALFRED D. CRIDGE.

Rural Credits.

Hillsboro, Or., Nov. 15.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Correspondence in the press recently seems to center about the utility of rural credits and the capacity of country banks to make long loans to farmers. Editorials have been written on the subject, and a big interest in alleged advantages and utility of the mail order system come to the front. Between the Scylla of the country banks and the Charybdis of rural credits the disputants find the happy medium in the parcel post. It has evidently not struck any of the public combatants that the country merchant is a factor in the situation.

The farmer who does a mail order business sends a money order in advance for his order, in which he pledges, no bank transaction, no home trading, no reciprocal upholding of his neighborhood community, but the obvious mandate to pay the reckoning on the mail far from home. The country bank has no dealings with the work, and possesses a disposition to pay his bills without interest or threat of foreclosure, when the farmer has received the proceeds of his harvest and has it in his pocket. Often, too, he possesses a disposition to pay his bills on the country merchant has to borrow from the bank and to pay interest. In reality, he is a double loser there, for instead of depositing his money in a bank and drawing interest therefrom, he is carrying the interest on his own capital and investment. 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