

THE JOURNAL

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THE MESSAGE.

WITH a charming frankness and delightful simplicity, Woodrow Wilson laid his first regular legislative program before the country yesterday.

It urges farm credits. It advises legislation to supplement the Sherman law for dealing with trusts.

It urges government railroads for Alaska. It recommends an employers' liability law for railroads, and makes other suggestions.

No proposals could be more timely. No program could be placed on a higher plane.

After freeing industry and freeing credit, the president proposes three great purposeful measures: Regulation of trusts, establishing farm credits, and national direct nominations.

Along with them is the Alaska program, a program touching most intimately the welfare of the whole Pacific coast, and to a less extent bearing directly on the possibilities of the whole country.

Every proposal in the message is a practical plan. Every suggestion is with a serious thought. Its whole effect will be to greatly increase the public faith in Woodrow Wilson and greatly strengthen international admiration of the nation's chief.

ANOTHER GREAT LINER

LONDON was recently astir over the arrival in that seaport of the largest merchant steamer that ever traded at the British capital.

The vessel is the great White Star liner Ceramic, of 18,431 tons, 655 feet long, 89 feet wide and 43 feet depth of hold.

In passing through the Tilbury lock to reach the Tilbury dock she has in length but 45 feet of room to spare and in width but 10 1/2.

The depth of water over the inner sill of the lock is 33 feet and the steamer's draught was 31 1/2.

The Ceramic is to be a regular visitor to the port of London. An extension of the Tilbury dock with accompanying sheds for her great length is nearing completion.

Her present arrival was from Australia, whence she brought a huge cargo of wool, tallow, hides and enormous consignments of frozen meat and butter.

The vessel is the biggest carrier of perishable food in the Australian trade. She has seven steel decks, elaborate subdivision and an emergency dynamo on the upper deck that will keep the wireless going in case of need.

Inside of her are 13 large insulated compartments for the carriage of perishable produce with the prodigious capacity of 310,000 cubic feet.

To handle the cargo there are no fewer than 28 tubular steel decks, and the steam winches are 29 in number. Amidships are the passenger accommodations, providing quarters for 800 persons.

The arrival of this great liner at the port of London is of tremendous interest in Portland. The journey to Tilbury dock, 25 miles from the ocean, is up the river Thames, and the river Thames is about the size of our own Willamette.

With a mammoth steamship of 18,431 tons plying regularly to the port of London through the river Thames, what may not be the boundless port facilities of Portland, the second river in the United States, and one of the greatest waterways in the world?

BLAZING THE WAY

THE United States supreme court has filed an important decision affecting the copyright laws.

The court says these laws cannot be used in behalf of a copyright monopoly, that the government's purpose in giving an author protection which will safeguard his right to revenue from his own production does not include power to fix in advance the price at which books may be retailed after they have been purchased from the publishers.

The decision is in line with a recent ruling affecting the patent laws. In that case the supreme court held that when a patented article is sold

to a retailer, the retailer is not bound by an attempted contract limiting him to the sale of certain specified supplies for use in connection with the invention.

The patent decision was in the Dick Mimeograph case, and it was held that sellers of these mimeographs may sell supplies other than those furnished by the machine's manufacturers.

In the copyright case it was decided that wholesalers of copyrighted books cannot dictate the retail prices at which these books must be sold.

The supreme court is blazing the way for effective anti-trust legislation. It is inconceivable that law should be effective only in behalf of the few and against the many.

There has been a misuse of the patent and copyright laws, and this misuse has been tolerated by the people in spite of the fact that their rights were abridged.

President Wilson has called attention to the abuse, showing that the actual effect as to patent laws has been to discourage initiative and suppress competition.

Trust abuses have multiplied largely because the people permitted it. The people felt the burden of increasing prices, but were unable to locate the cause.

Now the entire trust system is being laid bare, and it is notable that the supreme court, whenever it gets the chance, is ruling against trust methods.

OUR STUPIDITY.

PROPOSITION is said to have developed in the county board of adoption of the Somers system of fixing assessment values.

It is difficult to understand why. In local governments we are collecting more than a billion dollars a year.

It is as much in three and a half years as the value of all the gold mined in the United States from 1792 to 1909 inclusive, a period of 118 years.

It is more than the cotton crop, or more than the wheat crop of the United States.

Yet, there is no public activity in which processes are so haphazard as in assessments. In nothing is there so much guesswork.

One piece of property is assessed at one-third of what it sells at, and another at one-tenth. There is no equality of valuation, because there is no organized or intelligent system of assessing.

In every other line we are applying efficiency to government. We are changing systems. We are perfecting codes of administration.

It is in taxation alone that we have done little or nothing to improve. We are still guessing at values. We are to collect nine million dollars in Portland next Spring, and there are those who want it done by hit and miss.

We are going to take nearly \$29 out of every \$1000 of taxable property in the city, and there are those who want the valuations that are the basic fact for this great gathering of taxes to be by mere chance, by mere accident, by a happy-go-lucky process.

We cannot afford it. We cannot afford to be so stupid. We cannot afford to permit the taxing power to be used in injustice and immorality.

RED CROSS SEALS

PURCHASERS of Red Cross Seals contribute to no ordinary charity. It is a mistake to assume that men and women using the seals help only the poor who suffer from tuberculosis.

Generous use of the seals will help the afflicted, but it will do more—it will assist in a campaign of education, and education is the solution of the tuberculosis problem.

The campaign is in progress throughout the United States. It is a campaign having for its object the double purpose of assisting the consumptive unable to assist himself and of protecting the healthy against infection.

Cities impose quarantines against smallpox, measles and diphtheria. Money raised by public taxation is used generously to prevent the spread of these diseases.

But proper methods for preventing infection from consumptives are of comparatively modern origin. Organized government has not yet realized its responsibility, nor has it the means to carry on a comprehensive campaign of education.

An effective anti-tuberculosis campaign concerns itself not only about the sick, but its other great object is to prevent the well from becoming ill. Carelessness, in most cases attributable to ignorance, accounts for the spread of consumption.

The tubercular person does not know how to live properly. Fresh air and sunlight are necessary. Nourishing food is an essential. The consumptive must be impressed with the fact that his sputum is the virus which makes others ill, and that under no consideration must he spread this danger at home or in the streets.

That is why the Red Cross Seal is effective. It visualizes the danger of the great white plague.

THE HETCH-HETCHY BILL

SAN FRANCISCO'S demand for the right to draw its water supply from the Hetch-Hetchy valley in the Yosemite National Park is an issue in the United States senate.

A bill granting this right passed the house last September by a vote of 183 to 43, and the senate is to vote on the measure next Saturday.

San Francisco wishes to create a 35,000 acre lake in the Hetchy

valley, 140 miles southeast from the Hood River News stating that a grange had been organized at Parkdale, Hood River, with 63 charter members, "making the largest grange ever chartered in the state."

Linn county challenges the statement, and Hood River, with the glory of world wide fame, does not need to take any glory from us along grange lines.

In February, 1902, I organized Morning Star grange of Linn county with 101 members, the largest charter list in the state up to that time.

I am informed. The largest grange in Oregon now is Evening Star of Portland. The succeeding summer that grange built a fine hall, 30x60 feet, and on the first Saturday in April, 1903, Linn county Council, P. of H. was entertained by Morning Star, at which National Master Aaron Jones was an honored guest.

To show what a grand banquet "do things" 20 different kinds of cake were served and an equal number of different pies.

Going from Linn to Yamhill county, we organized Dayton grange with 101 charter members, the national master officiating. I, as state deputy, got the credit with the national secretary.

In February, 1909, Banner grange of Scio, Linn county, was organized with 204 charter members, claimed to be the largest west of the Mississippi river, and it was reported to me so far as most of the work was done up to that direction; but at the third and final meeting I was called to Forest Grove on account of the death of my brother, Levi C. Walker, born at Forest Grove February 1, 1850.

Thus it is that J. H. Scott, county deputy, closed the charter list of Banner grange for me, and I later reporting to the national secretary. It was a matter of great regret that Banner grange some years later became dormant, and also did Mayor George Morning Star still shines with a brilliant light, though not so strong numerically as at first.

Last Saturday it entertained the Linn county Pomona grange, with a good attendance, in spite of inclement weather. A very pleasant time was experienced, and at the evening session the fifth degree was conferred upon 12 candidates.

Linn county granges extend holiday greetings and a "God bless you," to all the granges, and are expected to be the grandest, among all helpful lines of all the years of our glorious history in our work, not only to educate and elevate the American farmer, but to help all the people through our cardinal principles, education, cooperation and sociability, the last often called the grandest.

CYRUS H. WALKER, Chaplain Oregon State Grange.

WATCHFUL WAITING.

EVEN as President Wilson faced both houses of congress and discussed his Mexican policy, far to the southward seven of Huerta's generals had deserted their troops, and were fleeing for the United States border.

The besieged city of Chihuahua was falling into the hands of the rebels, and the whole of northern Mexico had been abandoned by Huerta's troops.

While the nation's chief was telling the assembled senators and congressmen that Huerta's "power and prestige are crumbling, and the collapse is not far away," the president's words were thunderously emphasized by mounting events and rebel victories south of the Rio Grande.

It was as if ordained by fate. The assembling of congress was by accident so dated as to stage the message at a time when events in Mexico would make the occasion a final and triumphant vindication of the administration's Mexican policy of watchful waiting.

It was a policy that could not fail. It was the only policy that for the present could be compatible with civilization, American traditions and national ideals. Its fundamental soundness is expressed in the president's message in these words:

Even if the usurper had succeeded in his purposes, in despite of the constitution of the republic and the rights of its people, he would have set up nothing but a precarious and hateful power, which could have lasted but a little while, and whose eventual downfall would have left the country in a more deplorable condition than ever.

It was the keen foresight in the White House that looked beyond immediate events and visioned the wretched occurrences that would have taken place if Huerta had been permitted to remain in his position unchallenged. He would have been a direct temptation to every revolutionist in Mexico to overthrow him and succeed to the government.

He would have been an example to all the countries south of the Rio Grande that constitutions are nothing, and can be set aside by murder; that republics are nothing, and may be overthrown by artillery; that supreme courts are nothing, and may be abolished by edict of a tyrant; that the legislative branch is nothing, and legislators may be jalled with impunity by the wave of a despot's hand.

The contest between the White House and the Mexican palace has been a contest between an exalted statesman and a drunken desperado. Those who took the side of the desperado blundered.

President Wilson's announced abandonment of the customary New Year's reception is the third instance of the kind since Washington. The function was omitted once by McKinley on account of the death of his mother, and once by Cleveland when a death occurred in the cabinet.

The estimates for running the federal government the ensuing fiscal year are \$1,108,000,000. It is still true that about 70 per cent of the cost is for past wars and preparations for wars. What a splendid realization it would be if the swords should be beaten into ploughshares and our battleships be converted into an American merchant marine!

Once it was the goose that laid the golden egg. Now that performance is regularly pulled off by ordinary barnyard hens.

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 200 words, be legible and signed, accompanied by the name and address of the sender. If the writer does not desire to have the name published, he should so state.)

"Discussion is the greatest of all reformers. It rationalizes everything it touches. It rids principles of all false sanctity and throws them back on their responsibility. If they have no responsibility, it riddles them, grubs them out of existence and sets up its own conclusions in their stead."—Woodruff Wilson.

Largest Oregon Grange. Albany, Or., Dec. 1.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Under the heading, "Oregon Sidelights," in a late issue of your valuable paper appears an item

from the Hood River News stating that a grange had been organized at Parkdale, Hood River, with 63 charter members, "making the largest grange ever chartered in the state."

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CYRUS H. WALKER, Chaplain Oregon State Grange.

Opposing Certain Amendments.

Portland, Or., Dec. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal.—The following is a condensed version of the proposed charter amendments referring to street improvements and paving plant, and is in the exact words of the published edition except for the elimination of immaterial parts.

"The council shall have power at any time to suspend the proposed improvement, but no improvement shall be instituted, and before (or after) the making of assessment therefore, to ascertain the probable cost of such improvement, and to provide a fund for the payment of the same, in whole or in part, out of the moneys of the city, or to suspend the council may determine.

"This fund may (shall) be created by issuing improvement bonds therefor, which shall be limited in amount to the probable cost as ascertained by the council; provided, however, that after the completion of the improvement, additional bonds may be sold (no limit) by the council to cover the actual cost, if it be ascertained that such cost is greater than that previously estimated."

In the amendment providing for the city paving plant, the following appears:

"The council of the city of Portland is hereby authorized to lay, construct, or reconstruct street pavement, and to make any kind of street improvement or repair that may be deemed to be in the best interests of the city, and to expend the moneys of the city for the purpose of carrying out the above provisions in the future by a council with a mania for extensive paving expenditures even against the wishes of the property owner, should be sufficient reason for defeating the charter amendments referring to street improvements and possibly 'angerous powers.'"

The present system provides at least some security as to the total cost and the quality of the work, which is at least worth the slight saving which it alleged the proposed system will produce.

GEO. RAB.

Liquid Yeast Recipe.

Portland, Or., Dec. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal.—For the benefit of a recent inquirer, I offer the following recipe for liquid yeast:

[Take a handful of loose hops and boil in enough water to cover them; also boil some water in tea kettle. Pare and grate three large or four medium sized raw potatoes and add enough water to cover them. Strain the water from the hops on the potato, and add enough boiling water to make a little thicker than very thick starch. Let stand until cool enough not to scald yeast, then add one dry yeast cake dissolved in water and less than a half cup of salt and two thirds cup of sugar. Let yeast rise in a warm place until yeast does not rise any more. I stir it down several times, then put away in glass jars. Don't fill jars too full, as they may overflow. Use a large coffee cup of yeast to three loaves of bread, or to start more yeast. After the first, can use some of this yeast in place of dry yeast. Keep in a cool, dark place, but do not let freeze.

Please tell me how to pronounce "ptomaine." Is not the "b" silent?

E. W. C.

(The colloquial pronunciation is "to-main," with accent on the first syllable, and the standard dictionary prescribes the correct "to-main," with accent on the first syllable, long "a" in the second and short "i" (slight) in the last.)

A Sojourner Gives Counsel.

Portland, Dec. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Is it any wonder that the people of Portland are disgusted with the liquor traffic as conducted in this city? The saloon cannot be considered necessary. The brewery sells plenty of beer, and the landlord gets the highest rent for the saloon. The stranger who comes to your city sees saloons on four corners. That is not a boast for Portland.

What are they making out of this? The brewer and landlord monopolize the market. The stranger who comes to your city sees saloons on four corners. That is not a boast for Portland.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

It won't be "early" to buy them much longer. The congress is dead. Live the congress. Why not individual or neighborhood sold storage plants? Easier to buy now, and perhaps better bargains, than later. Plenty of turkeys left for Christmas—for all who desire and can afford them. Will as many as 50 per cent of the voters vote next week? Almost all voters should.

Some newspapers want the president to give everybody all he knows about everything every day. The people last year refused to abolish capital punishment, yet murderers are committed just the same. If Salem is to remain "dry" there must be more necessity than ever for pure water there.

The higher eggs or other good but not absolutely necessary things become, the more do people want them. As if Americans could not do enough kicking over the stove tariff law, some foreigners are complaining about it.

"The water's fine," say young women swimmers in the Willamette. Most people will take their word for it, without personal experimentation. That it is possible for a person to have an exaggerated idea of the value of eggs is indicated by the theft from a store of a large number of eggs and nothing else.

Mrs. Pankhurst's visit to America was not nearly so successful as the slight attention she attracted. She picked up \$20,000 to take back with her; not as much as hoped for, but yet worth the trip.

Some absolute necessities, for some people, principally young women, are so scarce in this country that they can't be kept down. They pay from \$4 to \$8 an hour for instruction in the tango dance.

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THE PEOPLE ARE WITH PRESIDENT WILSON

Testifying as to President Wilson's standing with the country at large, Sumner Curtis, Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald, writing under date of November 24, says:

"President Woodrow Wilson is nearing the end of the most extraordinary of extraordinary sessions of congress, in which all that he planned and expected has not been accomplished, and is approaching the opening of a regular session, the results of which are problematic, with the general good will that underlies his administration, when was a general confidence that is decidedly significant.

"It seems to be the good fortune of President Wilson to have inaugurated, after a long stretch of history, another era of good feeling. There is no doubt, in fact, as to its inauguration, and the only real question is as to its duration.

"The signs are fair. Here in the high place it is true, one may hear muttering about probabilities, but the smash-up over the currency issue and one may listen to doubts regarding the administration's Mexican policy, with some hesitation as to whether there is any real danger of a party split, or of party complications which pessimists foresee.

"The significant thing, however, is that back in the trade centers and the rural sections the people exhibit a feeling that encourages the executive and the really remarkable feature of the situation is that such is the public attitude with respect to a new president burdened with unusually important problems of a character that ordinarily would excite partisanship.

"They always say that Washington is the poorest point in the country from which to see the nation. Let us then do the judging from what appears on the surface here, but from an expression of feeling as voiced from afar. Scores of private letters have been written to persons here by friends in distant states which show that President Wilson has the confidence of his political opponents as well as of his political supporters of the past. The general correspondence has been asked to collate many of these letters, and it is the purpose here to present a few sample excerpts, taken at random, as tending to tell a story that hardly requires comment.

"Of the appeals court of Illinois, writing to a Washington friend, says: 'A prominent Republican politician said the other day that he had been in Washington a great deal of late, and that "Wilson is the best president this country ever had."'

"From a letter written by a circuit judge in Wisconsin, a prominent Republican, the following is culled: 'Everywhere I hear commendation of President

saloons on four corners; also drunken barkeepers, while on duty, at least. I do not think it would be expedient to make Portland dry at this time, but the assurance of restriction, faithfully carried out, would help legitimate hotel investments.

You are trying to make Portland a seaport—a real metropolitan city. In Pennsylvania we went all through this same moment that is today in Oregon. They had no trouble in Pennsylvania since 1887. Why? The saloons are regulated by law. There is high license, with \$3000 bonds and 12 citizens signing the application. Licenses are now refused by the court—a good system.

Seattle acted two years ago on the corner saloon. Corners are now reserved for business. Portland will have many strange wars in the next two years. What are you going to show your guests? Saloons?

With good roads, beautiful homes, why not harmonize with city? What the city will lose on saloon licenses, the hotel in the downtown district can afford to pay at \$2000 per license. But Portland is not Milwaukee.

ALEXANDER HUTCHINSON.

YOUR MONEY

By John M. Oakison.

When a company buys land for from \$4 to \$5 an acre, spends, say, \$50 an acre irrigating and developing it, and then asks you to pay \$500 an acre for it, do you think it likely that you are getting a good bargain?

It wasn't more than three or four years ago that promoters of apple orchards were doing exactly that thing; and to judge by the number of acres sold to small investors in the cities a lot of you evidently believed that such a proposition was worth grabbing.

Now is arriving the time of regret for your optimism. Let me cite a sentence from a recent advertisement in the Chicago papers signed by a lawyer who has undertaken to gather facts concerning one apple land promotion in Montana:

"In trying to sell you orchard you find that you had to compete with

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

An item reprinted by the Dallas Itemizer from its issue of November 28, 1887, conveys the information that in 1850 the total tax for Polk county was \$3,300 and the total tax for Polk county was \$3,300.

The voters of the Hood River school district have authorized the construction of a gymnasium building that may cost as much as \$18,000 and will contain quarters for domestic science and manual training departments.

The Toledo Sentinel man turns up his editorial nose at the Corvallis hen that laid 303 eggs a year. This unlikely feat, the editor of this paper has an old iron gray hen that frequently goes 303 days without laying an egg of any kind. We have never noticed that she ever misses a meal, however.

William F. Arnold is now editor and manager of the Lapine Inter-Mountain. In his salutatory he admits he may have a few words to say, but he claims that, just the same, he's going to keep on lighting matches. He gives token of becoming a vigorous hostler when he justly calls "this wonderful country."

Eminently correct observation recorded by the meteorologist of the Roseburg Review: "Only three more weeks of winter in the Willamette valley. Soon after January 1 the days will begin to grow perceptibly longer. It is by that, rather than by the severity of the weather, that we shall note the passing of the winter."

"Now for that coffee house, and every other measure to guarantee work to every resident of Salem who wants to work and has no job, is the sentiment with which the Salem Statesman inaugurates its part of the campaign for an institution that has been tried out at Eugene with wonderful success, and which it is proposed to establish at the capital.

Eugene Guard: The Liverpool Courier suggests that the presence of the Prince of Wales at the opening of the Panama-Pacific exposition, with the approval of the American people, would obliterate to a great extent the ill feeling caused by the refusal of King George V. to attend the Panama-Pacific exposition. The Courier editor must have an imagination that runs on ball bearings.

"For more than 60 years I have lived in Salem," said Mrs. Eugene Breyman. "I was born in Manchester, Eng., in 1843. I came with my parents the following year, to the United States. We came on a sailing vessel. It took us 40 days to make the trip. When I went aboard the ship I could only creep, but while crossing the ocean I learned to walk.

"We moved to Iowa, where I lived until I was 21 years old. In 1861 I came to Oregon, coming by way of the Isthmus of Panama. From San Francisco to Salem I came by stage. It took eight days. We caught in the old-style Concord coaches with the body mounted on thoroughbrasses. After the second night out I was so tired I found it difficult in sleeping. We traveled night and day. The only place where I stopped over night was at Roseburg.

"My maiden name was Margaret E. Skiffle. My brother, John Skiffle, had come across the plains to Oregon in 1850. His son, Jap Skiffle, who was born while coming across the plains, lives here in Salem. My brother John had a farm on French Prairie, and my sister, Mrs. Henry Ricker, lived in Salem. I stayed with my sister for two years here in Salem, and then went with her to Walla Walla. In 1864 I came back to Salem for a visit and stayed with Mrs. I. N. Gilbert. A young man named Eugene Breyman was boarding with Mrs. Gilbert. He and his brother had a general merchandise store in the Moore's block next to