

THE JOURNAL

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It doesn't matter how many tumblers you have in life so long as you do not get dirty when you tumble.—Huxley.

CITY EXPENSES COMPARED

FIGURES compiled by the census bureau show that the cost of governing cities is steadily increasing. In 1911 it cost \$928,211,013 to govern 193 American cities with populations of 30,000 or more.

There are 38 cities in the United States with populations of 100,000 to 300,000, and the census bureau's figures on these cities are interesting locally because Portland is one of them.

In 1912 the total receipts from revenue were \$9,626,973 in Portland. Only two other cities of the same class had greater revenue receipts. Seattle had receipts of \$11,401,021, and Kansas City's receipts were \$9,801,069.

Under the census bureau's classification of "payments for the cost of government" Portland's total of \$12,469,020 placed this city second only to Seattle, whose total was \$13,234,476.

Portland's current expenses were \$3,410,355, compared with Seattle's \$5,474,296, Kansas City's \$4,767,752, Denver's \$4,694,341, and Louisville's \$3,512,010.

Portland was second in this group of cities as to money expended on permanent improvements. This city's total was \$7,763,395, compared with \$7,790,950 spent by Omaha.

This city was third in the list as to bonded indebtedness, Seattle being first and Jersey City second. However, this comparison is somewhat misleading as to the entire list of 38 cities.

The per capita receipts from revenue were \$41.50 in Portland, the per capita expenditures were \$53.16, and the per capita net indebtedness of the city was \$11.65.

FIRE INSURANCE RATES

KANSAS has a law regulating fire insurance rates, and the act's constitutionality is being tested in the United States supreme court. Kentucky has a similar law, and its validity will also be tested.

The insurance companies contend that a state has no power to regulate rates charged by a private business concern. It is asserted that if a state can fix fire insurance rates it can regulate charges for any professional service or for any commodity.

establish or destroy the arbitrary power of underwriters and the associated companies to fix rates. It has a further significance, for if the supreme court holds that Kansas has the power to regulate rates, the decision will be an opening wedge in establishing the right of a state to regulate the charges of any private business when that business becomes so general that it can be construed to be a public service.

THE CURRENCY BILL

SENATOR HITCHCOCK of Nebraska offered an amendment to the currency bill, the vote on which will be a fair indication of the alignment of senators.

The proposed amendment limits the number of regional banks to four and substitutes public ownership of the stock and government control of these institutions for bank ownership and government control provided by the bill.

The Hitchcock amendment follows the recent suggestion by Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City bank, New York. The big Wall Street banking houses are unalterably opposed to the regional reserve idea.

There is little probability that the Hitchcock amendment will appeal to a majority of the senators. The Chicago Tribune has taken a poll of the senators on this proposition.

The only proposition on which there may be a split in the Democratic ranks is that guaranteeing bank deposits. It is said a number of conservative Democrats will vote against this provision.

It is now apparent that a Democratic caucus was necessary to secure currency reform. The Democrats have the power and the responsibility. They should not shirk the latter by refusing to use the former.

OHIO'S COMPENSATION ACT

OHIO has what experts pronounce the most advanced workmen's compensation act in the United States. The law goes into effect January 1, after which it will become mandatory upon every employer of five or more persons to protect his workers with state insurance.

The Buckeye state has entered the liability insurance field on a large scale. It is estimated that more than 20,000 employers, whose employees aggregate more than 1,000,000, will be affected by the new law.

The law includes in its list of beneficiaries public employes—not officials—of the state, counties, cities, townships, villages and school districts.

A feature of the Ohio plan is a provision in the law which reduces the rate of insurance of an employer in the degree that he prevents accidents, instead of compelling all employers of a given class to pay the same rate.

The new law clothes the industrial commission with broad powers in the matter of regulating the hours of labor and of requiring safety appliances. These powers include the right to say how long women and children shall work, and also the right to gather data upon a minimum wage for female workers.

ference between the two states is that Ohio makes state insurance of workmen compulsory, while in Oregon it is optional.

OREGON CITY'S ELECTION

MEMBERS of the legal profession say that, as a general proposition, law is crystallized common sense. Judge Campbell seems to have adopted this definition in his decision, refusing to declare void Oregon City's election which resulted in making that city "dry."

The supreme court will decide between the two judges. The issues were the same in both cases. The Salem case was decided by the lower court on the contention that cities whose elections occur in December must vote on local option either at the December election or at a general state election in November.

This difference of opinion is a question for lawyers and judges to decide, but there is a larger proposition in Judge Campbell's ruling which appeals to the ordinary individual. He held that the liquor interests' demand for an order setting aside the county court's declaration of the election's result came too late.

There were no charges of fraud in the election, and Judge Campbell refused to review the action of the county clerk or of the county court, holding that in the absence of fraud allegations the presumption is that the law was observed.

Whether or not Judge Campbell has stated the law, the fact is clear that a majority of the people of Oregon City voted for the town to be dry, and that by the only known test it should remain dry until there is another vote.

SMUGGLING BY AEROPLANES

SMUGGLING by aeroplane is giving much concern to the revenue authorities of France and Germany. It is said that the transportation of goods across the border is a simple matter for the flying tax evader.

The Paris newspapers predict a considerable reduction in customs revenue for the ensuing year. They say the French government has already lost large sums of money because of the aeroplane smugglers.

It was inevitable that the flying machine should be used for evil as well as good purposes. Few inventions by man have not had the same experience. However, the remarkable thing about the aeroplane is the apparent fact that it is being put into practical use by lawbreakers before it has developed an established economic value in law-abiding pursuits.

THE EMPTY STOCKINGS

HALL there be empty stockings in Portland Christmas morning? The Journal thinks there should not be; it is convinced there will not be if Portland people realize what an empty stocking means.

Various individuals are busy preparing more cheer for those who are already cheerful. Various organizations are busy in an effort to carry the Christmas spirit into homes where it may, not go unappreciated. The Journal stands ready to assist such worthy enterprises.

Now is the time to think of the poor, the ill, the unfortunate. Now is the time to relieve distress. Now is the time to come forward as supporters of the great cause of happiness. It is so easy to make others glad. There are many charitable organizations in Portland, any of which will willingly act as your agent.

SMALL CHANGE

The world is ever fuller of wonders. The bargains are all right—if one has the price to spare. Mrs. Pankhurst and her coterie of militants seem to be playing out.

Most men elected to office do better, after all, than those who were beaten would have done. Of the 1793 kinds of advice that are of no use, that to Christmas buyers is probably most useless.

"Oregon is one of the loveliest places on earth," declares a noted author. So say almost all perceptive people. It seems that members of the Von Kien family were unusually smart, yet couldn't take care of themselves.

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw says President Wilson lost a great opportunity by not recommending woman suffrage in his message. Well, the suffrage question is taking care of itself, and our present president has not acquired the habit of jumping into the band wagon with the sole purpose of heading the procession.

Senator Root of New York was awarded the Nobel peace prize for 1912 because of his method of handling American-Japanese disputes. It is lucky for Root that he got the prize before his more recent efforts to pacify Republicans and Progressives were undertaken.

It is reported that Mr. Carnegie has given away all of his fortune except \$25,000,000. How fortunate it is that once a year we think of God's patient poor.

Letters from the People

In the message of President Wilson we find him squarely repudiating a doctrine of President Franklin Pierce. It is a doctrine of the recognition of other governments. In 1858 President Pierce said:

Safe Railroad Crossings

Portland, Dec. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Another life was needlessly added last Tuesday to the already gruesome number of fatalities that have occurred at the railroad crossing on the corner of W. Williams.

R. A. Booth's Candidacy

Portland, Dec. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I note that Mr. Magliard is advocating the candidacy of R. A. Booth of Eugene for the United States senate, and it seems to be a local affair, without the unanimous support of the people or the legislature.

State Socialism

Portland, Dec. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal.—And now we are to have government ownership (state socialism) of the railway mail cars, telephone, telegraph, express (through parcel post), Alaskan coal mines, timber and water powers (in forest reserves), and even Alaskan railways.

Taxation in Clackamas County

Clackamas, Or., Dec. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I have read in The Journal an article on tax assessments in Oregon, at an average of 65 per cent. That may be true, but Clackamas county is different altogether.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Percy Brown, Silverton booster, quoted in the Salem Statesman, says his town has spent \$250,000 on public improvements in the past three years.

Brownsville's Commercial club has 50 recruits as the result of a membership contest just closed. A banquet will be held Tuesday night to celebrate the augmentation.

This shows how good a booster the Milton Eagle can be. "This valley can boast of thriving raspberry trees, persimmons, almonds and raspberries, the latter part of November. The Walla Walla valley for climate—and also the products."

The Ashland Record, describing a caravansary to be established at Ashland for homeless men, says that the real reason has been fitted up with a stove and will be made tolerably comfortable. The boys will be expected and compelled to clean up the place.

From the Detroit News. The pronouncements of a president are not infallible. He does not speak ex cathedra. His decisions are reversible by his successors or by the people.

THE NEW DOCTRINE OF RECOGNITION

That was the doctrine of recognition as followed by this country. It continued to be the "established policy" until now.

But there arose another president who did not agree with this easy-going method of extending the right hand of fellowship to every buccanner and assassin who fought the way into power.

That is the new doctrine. President Pierce's doctrine was woven of indifference to the liberties of the people of Spanish-America. Woodrow Wilson's doctrine is woven of concern for their liberties.

YOUR MONEY

I saw somewhere the other day a crisp, true saying:

Any one who spends less than he earns, saves the difference, and who pays as he goes is on the plain road to independence.

Pointed Paragraphs

Self-love is not only blind, but it's incurable.

No woman ever looked at matrimony from a man's point of view.

Most of us spend more time than money—for good and sufficient reasons.

Many a clerk fails to see an opportunity because he keeps his eyes on the clock.

It takes an experienced traveler to tell about the things he saw that he didn't.

A conceited man is never so happy as when he is given an opportunity to place his conceit on exhibition.

IN EARLIER DAYS

By Fred Lockley.

During the past 20 years I have talked to scores of forty-niners. I have met them in abandoned and long forgotten mining camps in Idaho and Montana, on the park benches of San Diego or Los Angeles, at Jacksonville, at Sumpster, on the banks of the Yukon, at Anvil Creek, and in homesteaders' cabins in remote districts.

Recently I spent an afternoon with Roy Mulkey at the Soldiers' home at Cosburg. Cy is a forty-niner. He is more than forty-niner, he is a forty-eighter, for he visited Captain Sutter at his fort where the city of Sacramento now stands in July, 1848.

As a kaleidoscope is made from dozens of bits of many colored glass which together form a harmonious whole so the by the forty-niners I am going to try to present a picture of the days of old, the days of gold, the days of "Late in November, 1846, a party of emigrants consisting of 14 families from Missouri arrived at Sutter's fort. One of the men of this party named Weimer at once enlisted as a soldier under General Fremont and was sent to Santa Clara for the winter. Weimer, with her seven children remained all winter at Sutter's fort."

"Early in the spring Weimer was sent with three others to get the effects of the cannibalistic Donner party and in June his arm of service with Fremont having expired, he returned to Santa Clara. Captain Sutter and J. W. Marshall, who were building a sawmill at Coloma, Mr. Weimer was to oversee the work of the Indian laborers while Mrs. Weimer was to do the cooking. Among the Americans who were working on the mill were W. Marshall, who was in charge of the work, Henry W. Bigler, W. M. Cannon, Asahel Smith, Bennett and Scott, who were skilled carpenters, Stephens and Barger and Johnson and Brown who did the rougher work such as felling the trees and whipsawing the lumber. Weimer with his crew of Indians, the Indians and a few Mexicans, a mill race. Each night Marshall turned the water in to help carry away the dirt and to enlarge the race. On the morning of January 24, 1848, after turning the water off so the men could resume their work on the race, Marshall noticed a yellow tinge to the water which was still trickling from the mill. He picked up several of the larger pieces. Marshall did not know what they were but thought they might be copper or gold. He handed one of the larger pieces to Mrs. Weimer, who said, 'I'll put it in my little yellow kettle and see if it will color.' She made soap that day and in the bottom of the soap kettle she found the bit of yellow metal as bright as ever."

"Marshall gathered an ounce or more of the substance ranging in size from a pinhead to a kernel of corn and took it to Sutter. Sutter told him that it was gold. Captain Sutter tried it with some nitric acid procured from the gunsmith. It was not affected. He then weighed out enough on a scale to balance three Mexican dollars and submerged the scale pans in a bowl of water. The scale pan with the yellow metal proved to be heavier than the other. Sutter told the man that it was gold but urged them not to mention the fact till the mill was completed.

The workmen put in all their spare time picking up the nuggets and coarser gold dust. A teamster secured a spoonful and tying it in a rag went to the very strip about allowing his men and particularly the Indians to have liquor. Two Mormons, named Sam Brennan and George Smith, had a little store called the "Shirt-tail store. They traded liquor, tobacco and trade goods for hides and tallow. The teamster from the mill went to their store, and when he came back he threw down his rag in which was the gold dust. In payment, a dispute arose as the teamster continued to assert that it was gold. Finally he said: 'If you think I am a liar take it to Captain Sutter and see what he says.' Smith did so and came back and accepted it in payment for the bottle of brandy. The news was out.

Henry Bigler at the mill put in all his Sundays picking up nuggets and found that he could find them almost anywhere along the river. He wrote to some of the other boys in the Mormon brigade, among them Martin, Green and Stevens. They told Hudson, Green and Pfeiffer, who discovered what was prospecting and discovered what was called the Mormon claim. In one later day they picked out of the cracks in the bed rock where the water had washed the gravel away over \$250. One of the party found that by putting the gravel in an Indian basket made of grass and shaking it in the water the roots and shavings would wash away and gravel and dirt would remain. The others secured Indian baskets while those who couldn't get Indian baskets used wooden chopping bowls or secured tin milk pans so the discovery of the miner's gold pan, like the discovery of gold itself, was an accident.

Late in the fall of 1848, on the Knapp ranch in Tuolumne county, a nugget was found weighing 336 ounces, worth over \$5500. In 1849, on Sullivan's creek, a miner unearthed a nugget weighing 498 ounces. Big nuggets were reported from many sections. A nugget worth more than a thousand dollars was found near Georgetown in Illinois gulch in Hudson's gulch. W. L. Wade, of Salem, Or., picked up a nugget on Scott's bar worth over \$2000. A boulder of gold quartz was picked up on Elmer, but that brought in the first gold. Elmer's mine near Elmer's camp, in Calaveras county, yielded a nugget weighing 2340 ounces was found. The lucky miner who stumbled on it sold it for \$43,534. W. A. Farish found a nugget at Sierra Buttes which weighed 1395 ounces and for which he received \$17,455 and so from Hangtown. Feather river, from Scott's bar and French ravine and from dozens of other localities came the word of rich diggings and each new discovery but added to the fame of the gold fields and brought thousands of eager gold seekers from the four corners of the earth. About 25 per cent of California's population were men and they were all young men. There were no gray haired forty-niners in those days. Sutter was ruined financially. His possessions were swept away. He lived on a small pension in Pennsylvania and died in 1885 in Washington, D. C. The "Marshall" party, an unhappy redoubtable band buried at Salem, Or. None of them who discovered the gold, reaped the benefit of their discovery.