

**PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF.**

**IN EARLIER DAYS**

By Fred Lockley.

**SMALL CHANGE**

Days are lengthening. Teachers and pupils are happy again. Sensible bankers; none of them is yelling "ruin."

**OREGON SIDELIGHTS**

The new Catholic church at Tillamook now nearing completion will cost nearly \$10,000. It has a seating capacity of nearly 600. It is built of cement brick and is finished in Oregon fir.

**SMALL CHANGE**

Portland people are generally generous, but doubtless there are some Scrooges. Of course there will not be one-tenth enough regional banks to satisfy all ambitious cities.

**SMALL CHANGE**

Prize sweet women as one may, the average Dad is a near-saint; he smiles during and even after the holidays.

**SMALL CHANGE**

In refusing a woman admission as a lawyer, an English judge ruled that she was not legally a "person." He should have been a judge. Of ever, several generations ago.

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Baker Democrat of December 21: The heaviest mail that ever went out of this city at one time was that evening, when 49 sacks were sent from the mails. The regular first class mail was packed for parcel post business exclusively, every sack being filled to capacity. The regular first class mail was handled in three large sacks.

The coffee club idea is making headway at The Dalles. The Dalles Chronicle says: "The very successful coffee club at Eugene has awakened an interest in like clubs in quite a number of Oregon cities. Such clubs have become not only successful but very useful in a public and social way in a large number of our towns and cities."

Tribulations of the rural carrier as set forth in the Gold Beach Globe: "Two hundred and fifty pounds of groceries were packed in twelve sound packages and sent to parties living at Clay Hill, Oregon, by mail carrier, says Mr. Lower. The mail carrier, says all he gets out of that kind of freight is the 'laugh' carried off from the river to the Athens postoffice."

**MEANING OF THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT**

From the Oakland Tribune. Everlasting joy and peace be to his or her business to bring joy to somebody's heart this Christmas and every Christmas that may come hereafter. The evolution of Christmas is the evolution of human fellowship.

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

**A Plea for the Toller**

Portland, Dec. 23.—To the Editor of The Journal—For nearly 2000 years the working class has been compelled to work for the mere necessities of life, and then in old age die poor, to be buried in paupers' graves unless provided for by their children.

**ROAD ADVICE**

ONE of the greatest problems in front of the counties of the state is the road question. It is estimated that there will be spent during the coming year approximately \$4,000,000 in the construction of new roads and bridges and the repair and maintenance of existing ones.

**YOUR MONEY**

By John M. Osikson. Some one told me the other day that when Abraham Lincoln married Mary Todd he went directly to the Globe Tavern at Springfield, Ill., to spend his honeymoon—and that he paid \$4 a week for the two. He didn't go anywhere else or spend more than \$4 a week on his honeymoon because he did not have the money to spend.

**HELP THE MINE**

Salem, Or., Dec. 22.—To the Editor of The Journal—Portland adopted commission government with the supposed object of making the administration more efficient, progressive, economical and direct, cutting down the cost of the city. The people having instituted such an administration, one would logically conclude that they would be fair enough to give the new system a fair trial, as other municipalities are doing.

**PROTESTS WOODS SAW LICENSE**

Portland, Dec. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal—Will someone please explain why the woodsaw men of Oregon want to raise the license for sawing wood from \$2 per year to \$100 per year? Doing so would not work a hardship on the woodsaw men alone, but the people of the city would have to pay all the way from 15 cents per cord to more to have their work done. Why not let everyone live at a reasonable rate?

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It is in the ordinary walks of life a man who is a more efficient citizen. It is also to be supposed that this janitor, being an honorably discharged soldier, is or should be a recipient of a generous pension. It should seem that he might have a right to a more efficient citizen take his place and close a painful episode.

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convicts all the assistance it is giving people outside the prison who are not resident students at the educational institution.

The Nebraska plan is significant, for it suggests the conclusion that when people outside prison walls accept their full responsibilities to others there will be some hope of depopulating the jails and penitentiaries.

**A NOBLE DECISION**

THE California tide land decision holds that tide and submerged lands are not subject to sale by the state, and that the parties purchasing such property did so subject to the right of all to use the lands for commerce, navigation and fisheries.

In affirming Judge Bordwell of the superior court, the highest court in the state declares that the commonwealth never had any power to grant patents for the 1200 acres of tide lands in dispute. The decision says the lands were acquired by the commonwealth in its sovereign capacity, and are held in trust by the state for the benefit of all the people.

The term "tide land," as defined in the decision, embraces lands on ocean, harbors and navigable streams between mean low and high tide. The majority opinion declares that at any time the state decides that any of the tide lands are necessary for commerce or navigation, it has the power to take them away from the purchasers.

On this point, Chief Justice Beatty says: "Although outside purchasers of property taken away might be entitled to compensation, still they may have been compensated already by the increased value of the land inside the harbor line, if it were shown the property inside had increased in value."

The claimants to the lands in dispute who must now forfeit their supposed title, are the Southern Pacific Company, the Banning Interests and the Wilmington Transportation Company. The state contested the validity of their titles on the ground that tide lands cannot be sold by the state, that tide lands lying within two miles of an incorporated city cannot be sold, and that lands below the high tide mark and in navigable water cannot be sold.

Whether there should be four or forty regional reserve banks is a matter about which honest men can disagree. What the basis should be, on which great issues of currency are founded is a question over which honest men can differ.

But whether the political leaders of a great party that has been entrusted by the people with power should keep their pledges is a matter about which there can be no disagreement among honest men. Unless political parties commissioned by the people to administer government keep the faith, unless those who triumph at the polls redeem their covenants with the people, Republican institutions are a fraud and our governmental system a failure.

There can be no representative government except in an empty mocking name when the people are promised reforms with pledges that are not kept. There can be no genuine successful government under the ballot box and a constitution if the people are humbugged, tricked, and hoodwinked with unkept promises.

Whatever anybody may think of the new currency bill, nobly can deny that it is a fulfillment of one of the great pledges made by the Democratic party to the country in 1912. Even should the bill fall short of the expectations of its framers, in its great object lesson as a redeemed party pledge, it will still stand as one of the most splendid Christmas offerings ever bestowed by a chief executive and a congress upon a self governing country.

In the faith that has been kept in the pledged covenant to reform the currency that has been fulfilled, an example of honest government and good faith has been set that no political party in this country will ever dare disregard.

It is a bill that is not only a conspicuous example of redeemed promises, but it was framed and passed in the open. It was bought by no campaign contributions. It was underwritten by no captains of finance and its passage brought about by no system of intrigue.

Its provisions and its prospects are so appealing that 37 Republicans, 12 Progressives, one Independent and all the Democrats but two, joined in its passage, giving a splendid illustration of the new freedom at Washington in the great corrupt lobbies are dispersed, legislation liberated and congress made free.

Not in a generation has there been so much to renew national faith in responsible representative government.

**EDUCATION FOR CONVICTS**  
NEBRASKA has decided that convicts in the state penitentiary shall have some of the advantages of an education. There is to be cooperation of the board of control, the state university and prison officials in an effort to equip the convicts so that they may have a different outlook upon the world and a better opportunity to make good when given freedom.

The state university has made arrangements with the board of control whereby the state will furnish the books and the university will conduct a correspondence course for the benefit of prisoners. The course will include arithmetic, American history, grammar literature, book-keeping and agriculture. It is proposed that the university give the

Those who did not use tobacco received handkerchiefs. And "they were cheerful all the morning."

Their dinner consisted of poor elk, "so spoiled that we ate it through mere necessity," some spoiled pounded fish and a few roots. And yet they were cheerful. This record of the first Oregon Christmas is evidence that the day is what the spirit makes it. We think Christmas is not celebrated properly unless there is an overabundance of gifts, unless the table groans under the weight of rich food nobody should eat. We lack the pioneer spirit, the ability to be cheerful under adverse circumstances, and the determination to make the most of our present lot.

The Lewis journal is the best Christmas sermon ever preached in Oregon. It teaches the brotherhood of man, the doctrine of cheerfulness, the advisability of abiding faith in the future when we ourselves are doing all within our power to shape our lives for a better future.

**ASAHEL BUSH**

THE fall form of the pioneer journalist-banker of Oregon will appear no more on the streets of Salem.

For three score years, the impressive figure of Mr. Bush was a familiar object in the busy business life of the capital city. Thousands came and thousands went in and out of Salem, but the head of the great banking house lived on, spun out and toiled on. Children were born into the world, grew to maturity and were called to their last account, but the great genius of finance went daily to his desk and remained a part of the vast financial structure of the community.

No journalist of his time was his equal. Some of the epigrams that he wrote, some of the sharp sarcasms he uttered in the political campaigns of his newspaper days are still repeated by the old timers of the state.

As banker and financier, he was without a superior. The masterful mind had a keen insight into men, a gripping, compelling grasp of affairs and these twin faculties of mind made his way to fortune easy and his power for substantiating his community vast.

For over fifty years the farms, the business enterprises, the whole commercial and industrial life of Marion county and the capital city felt the touch and were stimulated under the cooperation of the remarkable banking establishment that Mr. Bush reared. Nobody knows the regiments and brigades of men that his aid in times of stress tided over or his kindly assistance at the right moment stimulated on to fortune.

Mr. Bush was one of the great pioneers of Oregon. The commonwealth as we have it, was carved out of the wilderness and handed down to us by such men.

When some good man gets into office and tries to get laws to help the working people, they are turned down by the majority, or put off from time to time until forgotten. For example, the law that makes the night work of men for 12 and then they keep putting it off for fear it might help a little. Is eight dollars and a few cents enough to live on? And they ought to have a little to save for a rainy day. I say so, and I think you would get the answer from the experience of the men now in our city.

How is this poor little girl, perhaps without home or friend, going to live on \$6? Then they ask why girls go wrong. Then the employer comes up—most employers, at least—and says, "We can't afford to pay them more." But whom are we kidding around in automobiles, and building new stores and factories, covering whole blocks and up in the air for hundreds of feet? Who pays for all these things? Ask the working people. We say—and we are not at all Socialists, say the men who should be paid not less than \$10 per week, and all men not less than \$21 per week, and if an employer can't manage to pay these wages, let him get out of business.

A certain gentleman in office in Portland has been trying to get six car tickets for 25 cents. Did it pass? No. It might help the working people. If all officials were like this man and our president and governor, things would be different. They are gentlemen who are not afraid to let you know they stand for the working people as well as capital. Surely God never meant that all the world should slave for a select few. People are waking up to this fact, and with capital are willing to meet us halfway. I think they will be compelled to. Wars upon wars have been fought over less important things than this making slaves of over 50,000,000 people.

C. H. HEDGPETH.

**THE JANITOR**  
Salem, Or., Dec. 22.—To the Editor of The Journal—Portland adopted commission government with the supposed object of making the administration more efficient, progressive, economical and direct, cutting down the cost of the city. The people having instituted such an administration, one would logically conclude that they would be fair enough to give the new system a fair trial, as other municipalities are doing.

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The real estate business in Portland has been brilliantly conducted. Some of the best brains in Portland played the game consummately and honorably. But in the end the truth is pressed home to us that booming the town and trading in lots will not build a city.

There must be something else. There must be payrolls. There must be commerce, not with our own back country alone, but with distant peoples. There must be an outlet and demand for our products such as is created by steamship lines connecting us with far countries.

To get these outside trade connections, there must be steamship lines, and steamship lines cannot operate on good will and fair promises. It takes money to buy coal and pay sailors. It requires dollars to sustain a steamship commissary.

Unless given cargo by Portlanders, steamships cannot ply to Portland. The Alaska line must have support or it will be withdrawn. Establish Portland business houses, un-entangled relations in the North and give their shipments to the local Alaska line, that line cannot live.

It is the trading cities of the world that become the richest and the greatest. If anybody doubts it, let them study the map. It is incredible that Portlanders will do otherwise than stand by the Portland-Alaska line.

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**Pointed Paragraphs**

A good manager can't be his own boss. In order to lay up money a man must salt down his coin. Just before Christmas the days are shortest—likewise most men. Men are like women in one respect—they are all more or less vain.

**Pointed Paragraphs**

However, a good natured friend is sometimes an enemy in disguise. A yellow car looks as lonesome as a defeated candidate after an election. A man is mentally strong at 60—if he can avoid filling his love with a silly friend of the species.

**Pointed Paragraphs**

Take a close look at the people you meet every day and rejoice that you were not born a cannibal. A soft-hearted man always gets the worst of it when he has occasion to transact business with a hard-headed one. Ten years after marriage if a man happens to tell his wife that he loves her she looks around for a soft spot in which to throw a fit.

**Pointed Paragraphs**

The Disappearing Hangman. From the Canada Monthly. The revivification of Charles Gibson, murderer, at the eleventh hour, reminds us again that capital punishment grows more and more repulsive to Canadians. The minister of justice declared that a careful consideration of all evidence had developed nothing to warrant a charge of sentence. Then a petition with 50,000 signatures was rushed to Ottawa, and Hangman Ellis lost another opportunity to add to his skillful stranglings. The likelihood is that Mr. Ellis will not be called upon again, and it will not be necessary to look for a successor when he retires.

**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 while. Cultivate this daily feature; you will find it profitable reading.