

THE JOURNAL

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A MILLION DOLLAR MARE'S NEST

The overhead expense of the Portland water department in 1912 was 8.55 per cent of the total cost.

These remarks are made by the Oregonian in an attack on the proposal to install water meters in Portland.

Even more to the point, Commissioner Daly recently attempted to change the system from monthly to quarterly payment of water bills.

And all this the Oregonian is using as an argument against metering the city.

His continued silence can be interpreted in no other light than as an open admission that the charges are true.

VILLA AND CASTILLO

MAXIMO CASTILLO, the Mexican bandit responsible for the Cumbre tunnel horror, has been captured by United States troops in New Mexico.

Castillo must be punished, but it is a foregone conclusion that the United States will not surrender him to Huerta, for such a course could be construed as a virtual recognition of the dictator.

It is such "million dollar" homeowners that want to repeal the three votes of instruction by the people to install a meter system.

YOUR WARNING

Imprisonment awaits those who fail or neglect to properly report their incomes to the collector of internal revenue by March 1.

and report the amount of their incomes to the collector of internal revenue by March 1.

The federal government is a stern collector and a severe penalizer. Violation of the income regulations by reason of ignorance of the law or otherwise is a serious business.

The Journal advises its readers of the \$3000 income class to lose no time in filling out blanks and returning them to the collector.

The present collections are for the period from March 1, 1913, to December 31, 1913, ten months.

All persons who received an income of \$2500 for that period in 1913 must report the facts by March 1 or be subject to punishment.

NOTHING TO SAY

JANUARY 29 last, The Journal charged Circuit Judge Robert G. Morrow with having made false affidavits in the collection of his salary.

The Journal charged that though Judge Morrow made oath that "no matters are pending before me as circuit judge that have been finally submitted to me for three months or more prior hereto" there were then a number of cases undecided in his court which had been submitted many months before.

He had nothing to say on the charge that he made oath that no case had been pending in his court for three months, when, in fact, the Hotel Bonding ordinance had been awaiting his decision for more than a year.

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He had nothing to say on the charge that he made oath that no cases finally submitted had remained undecided for three months when, in fact, the case of Anna Backstrom versus the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company had remained undecided by Judge Morrow for a period of more than ten months.

General trade is increasing in volume, and if 1914 proves to be another good crop year business and industry will be placed on a firm footing.

Much importance attaches to improvement in the financial situation. Large issues of high grade bonds and stocks have found ready purchasers since the first of the year.

All things considered, say the New York bankers, the money situation is as satisfactory as could be expected.

A TRAFFIC INNOVATION

KANSAS CITY'S street railway company has devised a means for handling crowds and relieving congestion caused by cars standing still while waiting for passengers.

Thirty-five front-end collectors are used in the evening, and a half dozen in the morning.

was a grudge against Villa, and he took this method of attempting to bring discredit upon his more successful rival.

If Castillo is kept a military prisoner in the United States, that fact will be noticed by the constitutionalists that they have a friend on this side of the Rio Grande who is waiting for them to prove their capacity for government.

MAD DOGS AND MAD MEN

IN THE midst of the rabies epidemic at Baker, some people refuse to muzzle their dogs and threaten action against the officials if their dogs are killed under the requirements of a city ordinance.

To refuse to muzzle dogs in a rabies epidemic is inhumanity to man as well as inhumanity to the dogs themselves.

Men are foolish to debate the issue. Rabies can be as certainly transferred as smallpox or any other familiar disease.

The whole subject will be presented in an illustrated article by Fred Lockley in next Sunday's Journal.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK

THERE is general agreement that business and financial conditions throughout the United States are improving.

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An Auditorium Referendum

Portland, Or., Feb. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—Things move so fast in Portland these days that it is perhaps better to try the referendum than the following suggestion than forever too late.

If the auditorium site is to be referred to the people, as the Oregonian more than once has suggested, let me apply the Oregonian's plan in getting names to the petitions.

Rejoinder by "A Hogrower"

Independence, Or., Feb. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—I sent a letter to your paper about 10 days ago which was printed under the title "The Hogrower's Viewpoint," and intended to drop the matter after expressing my views.

One test made by the company at a busy transfer point with the front-end collectors working showed that 282 passengers were loaded through rear and front doors in 304 seconds.

A FEW SMILES

"When you poke a toad, said old Farmer Hornebeck, philosophically, 'you can't tell which way the toad will jump, nor how far; an' it's just about the same way with the average jury.'"

The Wisconsin public commission in a recent order required that city's street railway company to have collectors stationed at transfer points during busy hours.

Kansas City people did not approve the innovation at first. But this sentiment was soon overcome, and the statement is made that now there would be a general protest should an attempt be made to return to the old system.

Letters from the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written only in plain English, and should not exceed 300 words in length and must be accompanied by a name and address of the sender.

"Discussion is the greatest of all reforms. It rationalizes everything it touches. It throws them back on their reasonableness. It crushes them out of existence and sets up its own conclusions in their stead."—Woodrow Wilson

A Protest

Portland, Feb. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In the Oregon Journal of February 11 appeared an editorial entitled "A Portland Failure," which does a grave injustice to the Northwestern Fruit Exchange.

It does not market Oregon apples and pears. Most of the pears grown in Oregon are produced in the Rogue River valley. Most of those are shipped by the Rogue River Fruit & Produce association.

We believe that The Journal has done an injustice to the Portland's exchange by reporting unwittingly, but the effect is none the less dangerous.

Contents for East Side Site

Portland, Feb. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—Why not the auditorium for the east? And why not build it on the east side?

What would the Pacific coast amount to without the hog industry? If Mr. Thompson comes out to the hog yard this spring, let me put him through the mill of earning what money he needs to pay his grocer the proper profit, and I think he might change his opinion.

Those Men of Visalia

Portland, Feb. 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—In Thursday's Journal there were two items which I consider quite interesting.

At least twice New York state has tried, through legislative enactment, to prevent the loan shark from preying upon the poor.

Why do you not suggest this plan, certainly those who have profited from the growth of the city are willing to do something for the city in which they have spent their lives and which has been so good to them.

A Letter to Mr. Thomas

Oregon City, Or., Feb. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have seen in The Journal a letter written by G. S. Thomas. Kindly permit me through your paper to address Mr. Thomas as follows:

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

Union county will furnish about 100 papers of federal income tax, in the opinion of the collecting agent, as quoted in the La Grande Observer.

Corvallis, with less than one-third of the taxpayers voting, has turned the taxpaying of Baker City over to the proposal was for a \$75,000 bond issue.

Evangelist Putnam has opened religious services at the Christian church in Clatsop county, and has a number of power, and also an accomplished cornetist.

Because Eugene is not to be found in an atlas recently ordered, the Eugene library board has notified the publishers that the book is "held at the company's disposal."

Medford has used in the past year over \$5000 more in advertising than in 1912, according to a report of the Medford Chamber of Commerce.

Salem's Commercial club is in correspondence with the city regarding a Denver furniture concern which represents that it intends either to locate in Salem or to start a business with another factory there.

Almost every one of the 18 bidders for the Baker \$85,551 water bonds for the two pipe lines recently authorized by the city of Baker City offered premiums, the highest bid, according to The Herald, being for \$285,452. Interest on the bonds is 5 per cent.

The Men's Liberal club has been organized at Salem, with the object of forming an open forum, or social center, for the city.

Clatsop Quillery water attractions as "splendid water facilities, unlimited timber supply, dairy pasturage the entire year, etc., etc."

CANAL-TOLL CORRESPONDENTS ANSWERED

From the Pittsburg Press. The Press has received two valued and most interesting letters from readers in regard to the Panama canal tolls matter, dissenting from the opinion expressed in these columns on Tuesday and Wednesday evening that the United States government should repeal the section of the canal act giving free passage to American coastwise ships.

Both our correspondents, significantly enough, use the same ground, namely, that the American ships which the canal act as it now stands will favor "not owned by the nation but by private individuals."

When it is considered that our own starved shipping trade (unsubsidized) has for years been making an unequal struggle to exist against the competition of foreign shipping.

TO PROTECT THE SMALL BORROWER

By John M. Oskison. At least twice New York state has tried, through legislative enactment, to prevent the loan shark from preying upon the poor.

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A Letter to Mr. Thomas

Oregon City, Or., Feb. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have seen in The Journal a letter written by G. S. Thomas. Kindly permit me through your paper to address Mr. Thomas as follows:

Why do you doubt? Where is your faith? Have you not any more faith in your beliefs than to be afraid that someone will prove to you that Christ was not a God, and that there is no hereafter?

A Timely Suggestion

Portland, Or., Feb. 15.—To the Editor of The Journal—Why do you not suggest in your editorial columns that some one whose wealth has been made by the growth of Portland and who has more money than they need give to the city a site for the auditorium.

IN EARLIER DAYS

"I arrived in Portland in the fall of 1850," said W. R. McCord. "I was to have come out with Ebenezer Birney who was planning to build a sawmill in Oregon."

"When the captain of our train heard of it, he said, 'Oliver Birney has caused more trouble than all of the rest of the company put together. To turn your backs on him is the last straw.'"

"When we got to Soda Springs the train broke up, the captain and many of the others taking the 'southern route' for the California gold mines."

"The cholera struck us on the Big Blue Earth river in Nebraska. We left some of our party there in shallow graves by the side of the trail."

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Pointed Paragraphs

Never threaten to kiss a girl. Get busy.

Keep one eye on your enemies and two on your friends.

Some men mistake a decanter for the fountain of youth.

Few men are able to appreciate a good joke—on themselves.

Some girls are shy about marrying men who are shy of ready money.

The man who believes in luck is very likely to develop into a loafer.

She may find it easier to fool him than to keep him fooled.

The older a man grows the less wisdom he discovers in himself and others.

Many a man has real money in his pocket because he doesn't own an automobile.

Noah may not have been as wise as Solomon, but he knew enough to go in when it rained.

One-half the world knows what the other half is doing because they are neighbors.

Probably not one woman in a hundred is built after the model she would have selected had she been given the opportunity.

Blessed is the man who discovers in the hour of his adversity that he has not more friends than he thought he had—but he is scarce.

The Ragtime Muse. Double life. How foolish of the bigamist! To lead his double life! For now here can one safely list a duplicated wife or husband. This doubled is his daily grievance! Of trouble, toil and strife!

He needs a double salary. Unfalsifyingly to draw. He needs a double superfluity. Of sand within his craw. To need respect, honor, help. A double main-in-jaw!

To meet a double temperament. He needs a double mood. I will not mention double rent. To house double brood. But what about the ailment. Or double standard food?

No bigamy for me, I pray! Now, do not think me wrong. No, do not think me wrong. To call forth this rebuff. Still, as for me, one wife, I say—And one is quite enough!

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