

THE JOURNAL

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PUBLISHED BY C. S. JACKSON
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THE METER PROBLEM SOLVED
AS A result of his long experience as a clerk in the East Side water office, R. R. Morrill announces in the Oregonian that no meters are needed in Portland.

He tells us that he remedied the shortage of water in 1909 and 1910, by simply sending out four inspectors on bicycles after six o'clock each evening, and the Oregonian points with pride and triumph to his statement.

If, with four inspectors, Mr. Morrill actually remedied the water shortage in 1909 and 1910, and if he can do it again on the same terms, and if it is really true that there was no water shortage on the East Side in 1909 and 1910 after Mr. Morrill and his inspectors got into action, the thing to do is to secure Mr. Morrill's services again.

That Mr. Morrill can be had, is revealed in a letter to Mr. Daly on file at the city hall. It is from Mr. Morrill, and it says:
I have considerable time at my disposal and while I have not written this letter as an application for a job, yet, if you should conclude that the city could use my services, and things were agreeable, I would be likely to get back into the harness.

Evidently, the irreparable blunder of Mr. Daly in his administration of the water department has been that he failed "to get back in the harness" the man who has proven that the great water shortages of 1909 and 1910 were mere myths because with only four inspectors he saw to it that everybody had an abundance of water.

THE HART BRIBE CHARGES
TWO months have elapsed since Commissioner Hart charged that attempts had been made to bribe him in connection with the engineering contract for the Interstate bridge. He insisted that three attempts were made to influence his action by proposed use of money, the amounts in each instance being specified.

Though the charge was made public January 2, 1914, and though a grand jury has been in session almost continuously ever since, no indictment has been returned. The grand jury has adjourned, and we are told in the day's news that the charges made by Commissioner Hart are turned over to the succeeding grand jury.

The public would like to know what the sequel means. The machinery of the law is established to sift out just such accusations as were repeatedly and publicly made by Mr. Hart. Mr. Hart holds a public position of large consequence in one of the most populous and one of the richest counties west of the Mississippi river.

Does the continued ignoring of these accusations mean that the authorities charged with the duty of probing these attempts at bribery doubt the word of Commissioner Hart?
Or does it mean that the authorities do not think an attempt to bribe a public official engaged in an important interstate work, of sufficient criminal importance to challenge their attention?

THE PURE FOOD LAWS
THE United States supreme court has given a new interpretation to the pure food and drug act. That tribunal has decided, in effect, that putting poisons into food is no offense under the law unless the poisons injure people who eat the food. The mere fact that deleterious substance is present is not sufficient; it must be in sufficient quantity to impair health.

This decision will revolutionize administration of the law. The authorities must prove in each case that the article complained of is actually injurious. The work of the department of agriculture will be affected, and the decision's influence will be felt in states where health officers have sought to exclude food manufacturers containing benzoate of soda or other preservatives.

Something must be wrong somewhere. Most preservatives used by manufacturers of food are not harmful in themselves. They are dangerous because they suppress evidence of deterioration. A bottle of catsup containing a preservative may be just as badly "spotted" as another bottle without the pre-

servative, but the former gives no evidence of its worthlessness, while the latter does.
The decision apparently places a premium upon adulteration, and that usually means the substitution of an inferior article. The intention of the law has been to protect the consumer, for the ordinary kitchen is not equipped with a laboratory for determining whether the dinner about to be served is made up in any part of decaying foods whose real condition is not apparent.

Something surely must be wrong when the highest court of the land places greater importance upon the rights of commerce than it does upon the right to be healthy.

CASH REGISTER PATRIOTS
REGARDLESS of pressure from within or without, President Wilson will not change his policy toward Mexico.

He is right. It is the Jingo and the adventurer who are for war. The contractors and jobbers are with them. The corrupt old politicians who grew rich out of the exegeses of former wars are for intervention. Every American owner and every European owner of oil concessions or land concessions in Mexico wants American troops to speed beyond the Rio Grande.

There is not a soldier in the lot. There is not a fighting man in the outfit.
All the clamor for intervention comes from persons who expect other folks' sons and brothers and fathers to go south and face Mexican machine guns. It is not the clamorous gentlemen in swivel chairs and comfortable upholstery who come from persons who expect other folks' sons and brothers and fathers to go south and face Mexican machine guns. It is not the clamorous gentlemen in swivel chairs and comfortable upholstery who come from persons who expect other folks' sons and brothers and fathers to go south and face Mexican machine guns.

How many American boys should be sacrificed to enhance the value of Mexican mines?
How much blood and treasure should the American people pour out to swell the dividends on Mexican investments?

It is easy for politicians to blow trumpet blasts for war while warming themselves at their own firesides and clipping coupons from Mexican securities.

FIGHTING IN ALBANIA
HOSTILITIES have begun in that part of Albania claimed by Greece but awarded to the new kingdom by the treaty of London. Prince William of Wied, Albania's new ruler, insists that Greece obey the resolutions passed by the London conference, and it is probable that Prince William's demands will be backed up by the powers.

Vienna dispatches say fighting in the disputed territory is a daily occurrence, but there is sufficient evidence to warrant the belief that another disastrous war will not follow. Europe is evidently determined to impose peace upon the Balkan states, and it is doubtful whether Turkey's precedent in retaining Adrianople despite the award of that city to Bulgaria will be repeated.

Events are reassuring. Emboldened by recapture of Adrianople, in Turkey recently purchased a dreadnought from Brazil and began preparations for another conflict with Greece for the recovery of important Aegean islands awarded to the latter country. It was rumored that Turkey and Bulgaria had formed an alliance and that another general war was imminent.

But the French government refused to sanction an Ottoman loan of \$140,000,000 until there were definite assurances that none of the money would be used for aggressions against Greece. Turkey remained stubborn for a time, but finally to get funds has forced the Turks to abandon their plan of conquest. The Aegean islands lost to Turkey through the first Balkan war are irrevocably lost and the Turks have quit blustering.

The firmness of France with Turkey will have a quieting influence. It is evident that the powers are acting in harmony, and it is probable that pressure will be brought upon Greece to enforce the treaty award of disputed Albanian territory. Threats of war in that corner of Europe are too depressing upon business everywhere to be tolerated.

WHITHER DRIFTING?
HOW far can school boards go in the purchase of property at excessive prices without being subject to intervention by the courts?

Judge Bradshaw held Saturday in the case of C. S. Jackson versus R. L. Sabn et al to permanently restrain the school board from paying excessive prices for land, that, while the evidence showed the board was paying a very large price for the property, it did not show a carelessness or laxity of business principles sufficient to constitute constructive fraud.

It was a victory for the school board. But does it mean that school boards may pay extravagant prices for lands for school purposes, and that so long as there is no fraud, there is no way to stop the mounting figures?

The suit to restrain the board from paying excessive prices for land was a case of mere luck that the tin roof above the girls' heads was old, making it possible for one man standing upon the other's shoulders to break a hole through it.

There was no such luck for the 144 entrapped employees who lost their lives in the awful Asche fire in New York two years ago. Doors were locked there, but the goddess of chance had not provided a rotten tin roof. Those factory operatives, the majority of them young girls just budding into womanhood, lost their lives. The 25 Chicago girls were saved by luck.

Why is it that the law's strong arm permits so many employers to devote all their energy to accumu-

lating the last penny and at the same time to depend upon chance for the safety of human beings?
Is it civilization or only a veneer, when girl workers are led into these slaughter pens with their sacred lives staked on the perilous chance that a spark will not fall on their side in case of a flagrant fire?

Why, after so many deadly warnings, are employers permitted to continue betting the lives of employees against the few dollars required to provide ample fire escape?

Continual fault finding with President Wilson's Mexican policy and sneers and jibes at him, because he refuses to take action that would lead to war; and, at the same time, professing opposition to war, is illogical, unreasonable, puerile, pusillanimous and unpatriotic. Former President Taft significantly indicated the other day the awful nature of the calamity that war with Mexico would be.

In his patient policy of avoiding it, if possible, the president should have every citizen's support.

THE trouble in dealing with offenses and crimes against foreigners in Mexico is that nobody is officially responsible. Politically and diplomatically, there is no Mexico.

Now, the Oregonian has Governor West chasing some unknown federal office. How he does worry it!

Letters From the People
(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in the department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 200 words, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, so that we may be able to return answers to those who desire them. We reserve the right to edit communications for brevity and to publish them as we see fit. Names of contributors will be published unless otherwise stated.)

Discussion is the greatest of all reformers. It rationalizes everything it touches. It robs principles of all false sanctity and throws them to the winds. It is the only force that has no reasonableness. It ruthlessly crushes the idols of the masses and leaves only their own conclusions in their stead.—Woodrow Wilson.

Text Books in Portland Schools.
Portland, March 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—The members of the school board are now considering the adoption of text books in our schools.

The gentlemen of the legal fraternity are taking themselves too seriously. They are placing a lot of fiction in the valuation they place on their services. The proposed fee in the mortgage foreclosure is preposterous. If legal services are worth so much, how is Portland ever going to remain solvent and support her 900 lawyers?

HEALTH INSURANCE
GREAT BRITAIN has a national insurance act under which one-third of the population, who have taken advantage of the law, receive medical attention paid for by the government. A year ago 15,000 doctors were enrolled under a provision of the law giving physicians the privilege of seeking government employment.

Today 20,000 out of 22,500 general practitioners are enrolled, and last year they divided nearly \$23,000,000 in fees. The average income of each doctor for services rendered the government was \$1150, while in London it reached \$1850 and in Liverpool \$1850. In addition to which there were further receipts for drugs and prescriptions.

Two-thirds of the population are not insured under the act, and these uninsured people probably paid as high for medical attention as did the insured. It is therefore estimated that the average physician's income in London is \$5000, in Liverpool \$5500 and in Manchester \$4500.

These figures, announced recently by David Lloyd-George, were compiled to show that the English system of health insurance, under which the doctors are limited in their fees, has worked to the advantage of the practitioners. Some make more than the average, some less, but the doctors have not challenged the statement that the system has raised the level of remuneration of the profession.

Sickness is one of the great handicaps of people in moderate circumstances. The \$23,000,000 paid English doctors by one-third of Great Britain's population in 1913 would have been a tremendous burden had it been borne alone by the sick. But the financial load was shared by the well. The doctors received smaller fees and worked harder, but their pay was certain.

TRUSTING TO LUCK
TWENTY-FIVE girls were trapped in a stairway when a Chicago dyeing plant was burning last week. A locked door and barred windows held them there. But two men tore a hole through the roof of the stairway and pushed the girls out.

It was a case of mere luck that the tin roof above the girls' heads was old, making it possible for one man standing upon the other's shoulders to break a hole through it.

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A FEW SMILES

"The day isn't far distant when the man in the flying machine will look down upon the sun-baked and arid prophetic youth."

"And let us hope, too," replied the lawyer, "that the flying machine will be a thing that'll fall down on him, too."

An enthusiastic angler was telling some friends about a fishing trip to a lake in Colorado, which he had in contemplation.

"There are any trout out there," asked one friend. "Thousands of," replied the angler.

"Will they bite easily," asked another friend. "Will they? Why, they're absolutely vicious. A man has to hide behind a tree to bait a hook."

The late Maurice Barrymore was the idol of the "limb" during his lifetime, and even now the members of that club take delight in his stances of his ready sympathy or sprightliness.

One day, so the story is told, he was more swinging down Fifth avenue when Sidney Rosenfeld, who had been waiting for him, all excitement.

"Oh, Maurice," he called, "have you heard of my misfortune?" "No, Barrymore sympathized; 'is the illness your family'?"

"Not that," said Rosenfeld; "but almost as bad. My little boy, five years of age, got hold of my new play and read 'I didn't know the child could read,'" said Barrymore—and continued his walk.—Everybody's Magazine.

ber, and that the undersigned has a telephone. He also says any such attempt to confuse or misrepresent on the part of any circulator of the recall petition.

Meanwhile the thing to consider is that the recall is endorsed by thousands of citizens who know exactly what they are signing, and the legal number, with a large surplus for good measure, will be in the hands of ALFRED D. CRIDGE.

It is not charged that Mr. Cridge or his hidden associates are encouraging the recall. It is charged that methods employed by some circulators of the recall petitions. But that signatures have been secured through the use of the public money benefit as is stated in Sunday's Journal.

The Virgin Birth.
Oregon City, March 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—The analogy drawn by "J. H. H. says" his personal experience and that of the Virgin Mary is decidedly unique, if not convincing. Undoubtedly when the Virgin Mary was born, she was "mother" to her parents "understood" exactly the real relationship, but when the child Jesus did the same neither Mary nor Joseph "understood" the saying "I was born of a woman and of the Holy Ghost." Therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Joseph was not a man, but a man who was "making a just man and not willing to make her a public example he was hindered to put her away privately."

If after such miraculous testimony the Virgin Mary is not to be considered a woman, but a woman who was "making a just man and not willing to make her a public example he was hindered to put her away privately."

The Arians of that day, the progenitors of the modern Unitarians, who denied the virgin birth, were a very odd case so long as it does not could fight as lustily, yell as loudly, and quarrel as bitterly as any of the others, but at that time of his life the emperor learned the other way, and so the Arians and his numerous followers were expelled, their doctrines stigmatized as heretical, and their books burned. It is also well known that the Arians, and several other relatives, suffocated his wife, Fausta, in a boiling hot bath and committed several other atrocities of that kind.

In establishing so-called "orthodoxy" than any other influence.

The Immaculate Birth.
Portland, March 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—Your morning contemporary, the Oregonian, insists on being a religious newspaper, and that nothing more, and that it is non-Christian; but whatever it may be called, the Oregonian in season and out of season, is a mere propagating and spreading its own religious views on every subject that comes before it for review. A time there was when the Oregonian had a method of viewpoint of men and affairs, and what it pretended to be a newspaper giving general information on all subjects and especially on religious matters, but now it is a mere propagating and spreading its own religious views on every subject that comes before it for review.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE
The hens seem to know when the Lenten season comes.

Astoria may grow more in 10 years than it has grown in 100.

Let's not get into the silly-town class by a recall movement.

Probably Lincoln did not say one quarter of the remarks attributed to him.

Yet there is no danger that nothing will be left to reform or better by the next generation.

Everybody expects 1915 to be a big year for the recall movement, and it is to do the best and most possible in 1914.

Mr. U'Ren says he is not half through initiating laws yet; another candidate riding an originally good hobby to death.

He performs a man steadily and faithfully, but he has no cause to worry about what people are saying about him.

In a fraction of a teaspoonful of foodstuff shipped from San Francisco to Portland an inspector found 9,000,000,000 bacteria, which he thinks a few too many.

Advocates of corn planting might do well to remember that the golden rule crop adorns the hills our fathers trod; still let us for his golden corn send up our thanks to God.

An alleged grandson of the late King Edward is reported to have spoken to the throne of England, is a Spokane waiter. How he got and keeps a job is not explained.

From the Washington Star.
Senator Chamberlain is of opinion that the demand for the repeal of the free tolls law does not stand alone; it is connected with other matters, which will be pressed upon this government if that demand carries. If the government yields on the right of tolls, it will have to yield on other things, until American control of the Panama canal will practically disappear.

Originally, the free tolls proposition was pressed and carried on two points: (1) This government had the right to exempt its coastwise shipping passing through the canal from tolls, and (2) the American public would benefit from the exemption.

The leading opposition was from Republican sources, although both President Taft and Secretary Knox favored free tolls. Democrats in numbers voted for the measure, and their action was indorsed at Baltimore. In the platform drawn by the Democrats at the convention the Democratic convention through his influence, the matter received commendation, and the nominee of the convention accepted the convention's view.

Banking is not a private business. It is a public service, and it is properly subject to the inspection of officials we choose.

One of the partners in the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. testified not long ago before a committee of the House of Representatives that banking is not a private business, and that it is properly subject to the inspection of officials we choose.

It is a survival of a less complicated age, the private banker to take the savings accounts is one of the wonders of an irrational system.

Incorporated banks exist everywhere, practically either state or federal inspectors go over the books of incorporated banks at regular intervals, inspect their loans, and see to it that the reserve fund is maintained.

The state of the United States is the active ally of every depositor in incorporated banks; and experience has shown that such cooperation is needed.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

A hospital is to be established at Enterprise, in a new building that will be constructed especially for the purpose.

Bandon is the scene of an active campaign for recruiting the Commercial club. A fund for the publication of booster literature is to be raised.

Editors of the Huntington News, the Nyssa Journal and the Juntura Times are engaged in debate as to which town of the three is the "gate city" of eastern Oregon.

In the Polk county spelling contest for February Falls says if any are placed in the seventh and eighth grades, second in the fifth grade, and third in the fourth grade.

One hundred dollars has been given to the Boys' club toward their new bungalow clubhouse. The boys will soon call for bids for construction.

Woodburn Independent: A Nelson (C. M.) of Woodburn is doing a business of 50,000 pounds of onions to the warehouse. He stated that he raised 100,000 pounds of onions, but the net profit would be nearly \$500 per acre.

The Coos and Curry county fair has been dated for September 23 to 26. The directors have chosen these officers: C. D. Damsel, president; E. E. Roberts, secretary; Dr. M. O. Stemmler, treasurer.

The Port Rock correspondent of the Siletz Journal writes that he is skeptical as to the Port Rock theory being a promising country they "should insist that the highest grade of the amount of home products on sale, such as butter, eggs, cheese and home cured meats."

What is the situation today? If it differs materially from the former situation, who is responsible for the change? If, as is alleged, this government has been caught in a vise and is being squeezed, whose is the blame? If the tolls plank looked good at Baltimore 18 months ago, and has stood without Democratic challenge until now, what is the reason for the present plight?

The coming debate should develop all this. Congress, indeed, should insist that full knowledge of every feature of the question as it now stands. While in office President Taft and Secretary Knox preserved, as they thought, the national honor in the premises, and when Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan took office 11 months ago they were in agreement with the bankers in their construction of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty and with the law of congress bearing on the canal tolls.

There are men who did not favor in its original form the free tolls proposition, but who object, now that the law is on the books, to its repeal under which the state is to be burdened with a 1 per cent of tolls on the water charge of \$1, which is paid by the applicant. The state loans not to exceed one-third of the cash value of the land, exclusive of improvements. The notes are drawn for one year with a privilege of renewal for 10 years, provided the interest and taxes are paid and the borrower is not in default. These notes are not foreclosed any of our mortgages for the past five years, though we are foreclosing a few at present.

The state land board has shown that we had received \$489,100 for the sale of school lands during the past two years. We have outstanding school bonds to the amount of \$1,000,000. Including the school fund, the university fund and the Agricultural college fund, we have over \$6,000,000 loaned on good security. On the other hand, we have a deficit of 40 years, Summer Lake and Lake Albert. There are 45,335 acres in Summer Lake and 35,939 acres in Lake Albert. The state is to receive 50 cents per ton for all table salt or stock salt mined at the lakes. The first payment is due on January 1, 1915. The state is to receive 50 cents per ton for all table salt or stock salt mined at the lakes. The first payment is due on January 1, 1915. The state is to receive 50 cents per ton for all table salt or stock salt mined at the lakes. The first payment is due on January 1, 1915.

Don't put money into private banks. Every time you do it you help to delay the day of their abolishment. Banking is not a private business. It is a public service, and it is properly subject to the inspection of officials we choose.

Other newspapers have a right to insult the millions of men and women who have been born of a virgin, and who have a sensational view of the subject.

Pointed Paragraphs
A grass widow is never as green as she pretends to be.

A wedding ring sometimes represents an endless round of trouble.

A woman seldom nags her husband unless he is that kind of a husband.

They say that happiness is a habit. Well, here's hoping you'll get the habit!

No man ever lived long enough to do all the things his wife wanted him to do.

Some men wait for things to turn up, and some others turn them up while they wait.

Indifference is the one thing capable of freezing the milk of human kindness.

Many a man has let a good job get away from him because he harbored the delusion that no other man was smart enough to fill his place.

IN EARLIER DAYS

By Fred Lockley.
Among the first acts of Oregon's first legislative session was the accepting from the government sections 16 and 36 in every township of the public land in the state, which were to be sold to the state for the purpose of schools. House bill No. 31, which was approved by Governor Whiteaker on June 3, 1859, accepted for the state from congress a princely domain of school land. In addition congress gave to the state at the same time 72 sections to be set apart for the state university and 10 sections for the erection of public buildings. Congress also gave all salt springs within the state, not exceeding 12 in number, with six sections of land lying adjacent to each spring, to the state, and provided that 5 per cent of the net proceeds of the sale of all public lands should be paid to the state by congress for the making of public roads, and internal improvements.

George G. Brown has been clerk of the state land board since April 1, 1904. He entered the state land office on August 1, 1895. "Originally," said Mr. Brown, "we had 200,000 acres of school land, 100,000 acres for our state college and 45,000 acres of university grant land, with 500,000 acres for internal improvement. Of this, more than 1,500,000 acres of land were held about 500,000 acres still in our possession. The larger part of this land going to the state, most of it is going to make application from some point within the state. They usually write to this office asking if we have lands for sale. We usually designate a minimum of 100 acres, and if the applicant is approved they send us one-fifth of the purchase price and a certificate of sale is issued, which is a virtual bond for a deed. This receipt and description of the land, the purchase price, the amount paid and the amount due. One-fifth is paid at the time of purchase, and the balance is paid in five years with interest at 5 per cent and two-fifths on demand at 6 per cent. Usually demand the remaining two-fifths at the end of the term of the sale is subject to taxation. The owner can secure a deed from the state at any time by paying the purchase price and the amount due. If no payment is made or if no payment of interest is made within two years from the date it is due, the certificate is cancelled by the board, and the money is turned over to the school fund and the land is resold at the same or an advanced price.

The state land board has an attorney in each county, whose duty it is to receive applications and pass on the abstracts and assess the property on which a loan is sought. He is allowed 1 per cent of the purchase price, but a charge of \$1, which is paid by the applicant. The state loans not to exceed one-third of the cash value of the land, exclusive of improvements. The notes are drawn for one year with a privilege of renewal for 10 years, provided the interest and taxes are paid and the borrower is not in default. These notes are not foreclosed any of our