

THE JOURNAL AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS... SUBSCRIPTIONS: DAILY AND SUNDAY... THE PIONEERS

THE PRIVATE GRUDGES OF A WOULD-BE BOSS

IN ITS hounding of men, the Oregonian supplied two regulation examples Sunday. It made an unfair, unreasonable, unjust attack on Dr. C. J. Smith, Democratic nominee for governor. It made no charge. It merely slurred and insinuated. There is no charge it can make. The nominee is too clean a man for the Oregonian to find anything to charge him with.

It can only insinuate and slur. It can only resort to the tactics of the slanderer. It can only indulge in cheap backbiting. In the same issue, the Oregonian attacked Governor West. It has now pursued him for more than three and one half years. It hounds him because he has gone east for a vacation. It says: "He went east three months ago delivering an address on prison reform. On some such errand, he practiced his bad business for the state, but he had no real state business requiring his presence there. Nor has he now."

Here is an implied charge that the governor of Oregon is a faker, that he misrepresents the facts, that he goes east on false pretenses, that the things he does are with sinister motives, and that he is utterly unworthy of confidence.

It is a sample of the persecution of Governor West which the Oregonian has wantonly carried on ever since he was elected. It is the same kind of malevolence with which the Oregonian hounded poor old John H. Mitchell. It followed him to the grave and bullied him as he lay in his coffin.

Whatever may be private judgment as to Governor West, nobody can point to one taint in his public life. Not one man in the state accuses him of dishonesty. Nobody charges him with wrong-doing. By his vetoes at the 1911 legislative session he saved taxpayers \$613,874. In the same way at the 1913 session, he raised the total savings to more than a million. But for the senate and house machines, he would have largely increased the 1913 savings.

Throughout his administration, he has defended the common school fund. He has tried to save the swamp lands from spoliation. He has been a leader for state irrigation. He has done all he could to secure law enforcement.

There may be room in some matters to question Governor West's judgment. No man is infallible. But there is no room to question his worthiness of purpose, his integrity, or his absolute desire to faithfully and efficiently serve the people of the state.

For this, the Oregonian calumniate him. It strives to put him in the outlaw class. Its malignity is boundless. Even the fact that he seeks no office makes no difference. It goes on with its brutal persecution as though it were mere pastime.

In doing so, there is no public aim that it is trying to serve. There is no constructive purpose that it is trying to forward. There is nothing but a private grudge against West just as there was a private grudge against Mitchell.

In the same way, the Oregonian began its persecution of Dr. Smith for nothing. It had nothing in the world to attack him with. It makes no charge whatever.

Dr. Smith is beyond open attack. He is an untainted man. His character is without weakness, his reputation without blemish and his name without scar. All his life he has lived as an honorable citizen, a kind neighbor, and a patriotic man.

His horizon is broad, his purpose pure, his aim the development and betterment of Oregon.

Why pursue such a man? Is he the only candidate who had campaign expenses in the late election, or in other elections? How much money is the Oregonian's private candidate for senator going to spend? How much have other candidates for senator and candidates for governor spent? Did anybody ever see the Oregonian raise the issue before?

Why was Dr. Smith singled out among sixteen candidates for governor before the primaries as the only man to be attacked? Why only Smith when the Oregonian knew that there were candidates in the field at the same time that were putrid?

Let the people of Oregon take notice, now and here, of this hounding of Dr. Smith by the Oregonian.

Let them think over its hounding of Mitchell, its hounding of West, and let them fairly and squarely ask themselves what they think about it.

A similar system, its purpose being to provide incentive for equipping factories with safety devices. The casualty companies have been making a futile fight against workmen's compensation laws. They are here to stay. They are designed to benefit the employer as well as the workman, to make it possible that every dollar paid for insurance shall go into the channels of compensation rather than into agents' commissions, attorneys' fees, court costs and big salaries to officials of the casualty companies.

FRUITS OF SPECULATION ONE of the most serious assessment problems in the West is the undervaluation of vacant land held for speculation. Such was the declaration in Portland Tuesday of Professor Bullock, head of the department of Economics in Harvard University. He added:

I know of no other way to discourage speculation in vacant land. The time is rapidly approaching when a portion of the unearned increment of land in our American cities must be taken for the support of government. Every provision of law outside the city has any interest in it. It always, in fact, seemed grotesque legislation for the state legislature to pass a measure providing pensions for Portland police.

If there is one thing more than another that would seem to be none of a legislature's business, it is the question of whether Portland should or should not pension its police. There could scarcely be more absurd act than the spectacle of a member from Curry or Harney voting Portland city taxes into a pension fund for Portland employees.

Nobody will ever know, but it is highly probable that foxy legislative candidates, as a means of securing police support for their nomination or election, promised inside members of the police that the pension would be provided by legislative act. Probably in carrying out the pledge, the law was passed, affording a luminous example of law-making by legislators in Oregon.

Veteran policemen, as a reward for efficient service, should have a pension. But the state legislature is not the place to get it.

WILD-CAT COMPANIES CANADIAN FINANCE, published at Winnipeg, says that oil companies in the Calgary district are offering the public shares amounting to \$50,000,000. Other companies with authorized capitalization of \$150,000,000 are formed or forming. The total stock which the public will be asked to take is estimated at \$350,000,000.

Canada is passing through an oil-stock craze. The Winnipeg paper says shares are being traded in at from one-tenth of par to ten times par and over. According to experience in oil districts elsewhere, 250,000 wells must be drilled in the Calgary district to

A FEW SMILES

One day Jones burst a button from his serge coat, and on leaving for the office on the following morning he asked little bride if she would repair the damage. "I will," she said. "I will, if you will give me a new serge coat," answered Harry. "Did you sew on that button?" "No, dear," came the startling rejoinder of wife. "I couldn't find the button, so I sewed up the buttonhole."

Teacher—A lady divided a pie among four children. John, Mary, Jane, and Willie. John got one half of the pie, Mary got one fourth, Jane got one sixth, and Willie got one sixth. What did Willie get? "Bright Boy—Huh! Willie got stung!" Judge.

Little Francis was not to be fooled twice. Heavy black clouds had massed in the east and west, the lightning was flashing fiercely between the clouds, and the incessant rolling of the thunder.

Francis was terribly frightened, and his fond mother had gathered her young hopeful and tried logically to ease his fears for child. "Don't be afraid, darling. There's nothing to fear. God sends the thunderstorm to clear the air, water the flowers, and make it cool for us. Now, don't cry. You won't hurt your eyes, and everything will be better when it's over."

The little fellow listened intently, and his mother finished he looked up at her gravely and said: "No, no, mother, you talk exactly the way you do to the dentist when he pulls the tooth."

Mr. Beltoh's Questions. Readville, Or., June 17.—To the Editor of The Journal—E. W. Beltoh deems that his two questions on the liquor business remain unanswered. Perhaps it is because the answers take an over word in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender in full. He asks: "What questions have been ignored. He tells of an incident in Los Angeles, when the city, in order to meet an expense, raised the liquor tax. He asks: "What is a law with a principle that ought to be protected and maintained both for civic and moral reasons. Though offered advertisements boosting the Canadian oil stocks, The Journal has steadily refused them because it does not want to be a party to the wildcat Canadian speculation."

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 500 words in length, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender in full. If the name of the sender has the name published, he should so state.)

"Discussion is the greatest of all reforms. It rationalizes everything it touches. It throws them back on their responsibilities. It has no reasonableness. It ruthlessly brushes them up against the facts. It is a conclusion in their stead."—Woodrow Wilson

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The manufacture or sale of alcoholic liquors had been placed under the ban by the founders of the Christian religion, or if we were taught by the ablest and best known of Texas lawyers, will join their efforts and add to their plea for full taxation of all improvements, full taxation of all other property, including bank deposits, money loaned, stocks of merchants and manufacturers, and household goods. Mr. Ring's address is 1215 1/2 street, Portland, Ore. He has written to the mayor and council calling attention to the fact that these forms of property are escaping taxation. Mr. Ring is already known as an authority on the principles of taxation and has done much to clarify the subject. His letter to the Houston council is a plain statement of the discrimination in favor of small home-owners and against renters and is his previous writing, and in a different form.

Mr. Ring takes the position of one who insists on strict enforcement of all existing tax laws. Since bank deposits and money loaned by banks are not taxed in Houston, he calls attention to the state laws restricting their taxation. He declares that the "sprinkling of single tax cranks to the effect that a systematic effort to tax credits—money loans—amounts to a double tax on the money loaned, and as security is also taxed as well as the money loaned on it, and that the whole burden of such taxation in the long run falls upon the borrower in increased rates of interest." He further ridicules "the most brazen claim of all made by these pestiferous mail contents, that a tax on any kind of property is a burden on human industry increases its cost." In advocating

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE Besides being no less renowned than the victor of the battle of Waterloo, the taxpayer a great deal less.

To vary the monotony, those on whom the victor might swoon, the vicious dogs and muzzles the files.

It was bound to come, following the recent theories of the automobile bandits have robbed a farmer.

One of the consolations of being a congressman now is the high quality of ball being played by the Washington team.

Militant suffragettes of England must hush as they did can be found in the fact that the summer recess have cribbed so many of the circus advertisements.

Those who have tears to shed over the business depression are hurrying to shed their own that bumper wheat crop is harvested.

When the weather bureau gets past the point where it merely says "hot weather and takes to creating it, then life will be worth living.

Why not give the college graduates a chance to run the world according to the theories of the "Principles of Circumlocution"?

Possibly one reason why circuses do not pay as well as they did can be found in the fact that the summer recess have cribbed so many of the circus advertisements.

Solomon's line, "How beautiful are the feet of a woman when she is shod in shoes rather than the shoes of the feet."

It is predicted that this will be a record breaking month for June weddings, and consequently, it will be a record breaking month for June divorces.

Samuel Danziger in The Public Co-operation of a very unwelcome kind is the subject of a letter to the speculators should they carry out their threat to invoke the courts against the Houston system of taxation.

Mr. Ring takes the position of one who insists on strict enforcement of all existing tax laws. Since bank deposits and money loaned by banks are not taxed in Houston, he calls attention to the state laws restricting their taxation.

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TRUSTS AT BAY

From the Seattle Sun. More or less effort is being made to poke fun at what opposition organs are terming "Wilson's psychological depression." But Mr. Wilson would be a fool, which nobody will say that he is, if he ignored the element of psychology in matters of this kind.

It is the same group of newspapers, some of them, the efforts of the administration that in the real part of 1907, brought on by the very practices that Wilson is seeking to end, were heard shouting, "Psychology! Psychology! There is no doubt of the widespread effort being made to force the belief on the country that there is hope for immense prosperity in allowing the railroads to increase the rates. Apologists for such a program will say, 'It is the same group of newspapers, some of them, the efforts of the administration that in the real part of 1907, brought on by the very practices that Wilson is seeking to end, were heard shouting, "Psychology! Psychology! There is no doubt of the widespread effort being made to force the belief on the country that there is hope for immense prosperity in allowing the railroads to increase the rates. 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