

THE JOURNAL AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (except Sunday) and every Sunday morning at the Journal Building, 125 Broadway, Portland, Ore.

Ah, but who shall say what justice is? 'Tis a man-made thing—doubtful at best, because we can't look all around or any man's act. Only God Almighty's justice can be trusted.

WILSON AND COLQUITT

The criticisms of Woodrow Wilson by Governor Colquitt of Texas are diverting. They also give us the measure of Governor Colquitt.

Little was known of the Texas executive until he appeared as the president's critic. Now we know and can weigh him. His attack on the great constructive work of the Wilson administration, an administration that has already won one of the highest executive and legislative distinctions ever attained in American history, is a perfect indication of the mental calibre of Governor Colquitt.

In addition to this, there is testimony from Texas as to the character and home standing of the president's assailant. The Dallas News supplies it as follows:

It is an old saying that they who are least able to do are most ready to find fault with what others do. The competent always incurs the envious envy of the incompetent.

Those outside of Texas who have read the fourth revised edition of Governor Colquitt's trade against the president will not be surprised to state the point of this observation that those of us in Texas, for outside of Texas there are few—and it is hardly worth the trouble of mentioning the governors this state has had in recent years, Governor Colquitt has proved himself pre-eminently the unfittest. The affairs of Texas were never so grossly mismanaged as they have been during the four years of his administration. It would hardly exaggerate to say that the elevation of Mr. Colquitt to the governorship of this state has shaken the faith of thousands in the ability of the people to choose their servants wisely.

Indeed, if one were to rank the misadministration which Governor Colquitt has brought on Texas, it is probable that the weakened faith in the feasibility of democracy, resulting from his misadministration, his intellectual limitations and his infatuation of himself, would be counted a graver and more condign consequence than the high and mighty into which he has brought our governmental affairs.

Manifestly, it is not strange that Governor Colquitt criticizes President Wilson. It is the incompetent passing judgment on the competent. The mournful failure of Colquitt as an executive in Texas is explanation of why he condemns the highly successful career of Woodrow Wilson as chief executive of the United States. By testimony from his own home state, Governor Colquitt anathematizes the excellent Wilson way of doing things, because he doesn't know when things are well done. The Dallas News continues:

If it may not be said that the president is fortunate in having inherited the political ability of Governor Colquitt, it is solely because it is only Texas people who are in a position to know how infinitely preferable to his administration is his disapproval. The country seems to have been pretty thoroughly "circuited" by Governor Colquitt's opinions of the president. The press bureaus and the Republican papers are all in agreement that that fact offers the Democrats an opportunity. They have only to give equal circulation to a political biography of Governor Colquitt to make certain that the country's admiration of the president will be raised and intensified.

Taking it all around, President Wilson ought to be perfectly satisfied with the episode. He is, by the statement of the Texas paper, in that fortunate position in which he is, much to be admired for the enemies he has made.

DESTROYING MANKIND

STATISTICS gathered by the national board of health show that 2,518,800,000 doses of habit forming drugs were consumed in 1913 by people of the United States. The figures show that the average consumption was more than twenty-five doses for every man, woman and child in the country, and the board says that "this estimate is somewhat low."

Announcement of the figures is accompanied by an appeal for state laws which will assist in suppressing the traffic in narcotics that are destroying mankind throughout the country. Under present conditions, the difficulty of controlling the traffic is very great.

New York has a drastic law, but the board declares that drug addicts in New York City are being supplied with narcotics through the mails or by express from other states. These people can secure practically unlimited supplies by crossing to New Jersey. It is declared that a complete record of all sales made by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers is imperatively necessary, and that without such legislation the effort to reduce the traffic must prove abortive.

It is a subject for consideration by legislatures that are soon to meet in most of the states. Federal laws, unless there are also state laws of the same character, cannot prohibit the evil. The consumption of habit forming drugs is increasing throughout the country. Wisdom directs that the traffic be suppressed. If it is not there must be large additions to our jails and insane asylums.

Commissioner Watson Wins

The Oregon supreme court has upheld the contention of Corporation Commissioner Ralph Watson in his defense of the Blue Sky law against the attacks of those anxious to destroy the measure.

The law undertakes to stop the sale of fraudulent securities and restrain the manipulations of bogus and swindling operators. The measure has been under attack ever since its passage by the 1913 legislature, and throughout has been as resolutely defended and its provisions as determinedly applied by Commissioner Watson.

Among those who have been trying to kill the measure is George E. Stillings, president of the National Mercantile Company, a ton-tine money lending scheme, of Vancouver, British Columbia. Watson began a fight to force compliance with the Blue Sky law as a measure of protection to the people of the state. Stillings refused to obey the law, defied the commissioner, and brought suit in the federal court to have the law nullified.

The Stillings scheme had been driven out of Missouri by the attorney general of the state. Stillings then went to Massachusetts, and undertook to operate his scheme there. In his Massachusetts operations, Stillings collected from people throughout the United States more than \$800,000, some of it from Oregon. When Stillings was arrested for his operations, he had on hand \$11 in cash and 16 cents in stamps. He served two years in jail for his work.

From Massachusetts, Stillings went to Vancouver, British Columbia, and organized the Mercantile Investment Company which Commissioner Watson has been struggling to bar from operating in Oregon. Watson won in the federal court, and in yesterday's decision, won in the Oregon supreme court. The commissioner has, in fact, not only applied the law impartially and effectively, but has defeated all of the several attempts to kill it.

If there had been a Blue Sky law in Oregon these many years with an efficient commissioner to enforce it, there would have been no losses by Oregon people of \$800,000, plucked from them through United Wireless, \$1,500,000 through Columbia River Orchard bonds, and other hundreds of thousands by various swindling corporations.

There are strong reasons why there is a constant scheme to cripple the Blue Sky law. Stillings and his scheme is one of them. Another is the huge fact that in the first 13 months the administration of the Blue Sky law by Commissioner Watson drove out of the state, \$59,000,000 of doubtful and bogus securities that were being sold to Oregon people.

As a result of the attack by Watson on the National Mercantile scheme, Stillings, its president and promoter, is now under indictment by the federal grand jury at Seattle for maintaining a lottery.

THE BROAD VIEW

IT IS gratifying to The Journal to observe that the large property owners of Portland in the matter of highway improvement are taking the broad view that what is good for the state at large is good for them as individuals.

It is on this principle that a large number of them, representing about one third of the taxable property in Portland, have united in a recommendation to the state legislature that a one mill levy be added to the state highway fund for a period of two years, covering the assessment for the years 1916 and 1917.

It is understood by them that the money so raised is to be apportioned to the various counties, excluding Multnomah county which is able to improve its roads without state aid. By increasing the present levy of one quarter of a mill an additional mill the sum of approximately \$2,500,000 will be raised for the two year term.

As the levy for 1915 has already been made none of this amount will be available before June, 1916, when the first installment of taxes for that year comes in. By that time it is hoped that Multnomah county will have her roads in such condition that connection with the other counties can be made.

The plan should meet with a hearty reception by outside counties who will thus derive great assistance from the increased fund arising from Multnomah county, which pays approximately one third of the state's taxes.

Of course there is a selfish motive behind the plan and that is this. The donation to outside counties would return to Portland in the shape of enlarged business development. The money expended in road work would flow into the local towns and cities, whose

merchants in turn would forward it to the wholesale merchants of Portland for more goods. In road work most of the money is spent for labor and it remains in the county and state. By building up the outside country Portland is building up itself. Money put into permanent roads is not a tax but is an investment.

ORGANIZE THE CHARITIES

FOR a long time, we shall have the poor with us. The Bible says "ye have the poor always."

In time, we may give men justice, and not need charity. But it is a long, long way to that time. We may work for it and toward it, but we shall not live to see it.

Charity then is a present fixed activity. It is a part of our life. It is essential, therefore, to deal with it as inevitable and to seek to systematize, to practice and to efficientize it.

In last Sunday's Journal was an exhaustive and very clear presentation of Portland charities. It afforded most valuable information. It disclosed that there are charities in Portland in which, of the income, but 34 per cent goes to charity while 66 per cent is consumed in overhead expense. The per capita cost of the service to those aided, in some instances, runs into almost amazing figures. The salaries of the professional charity dispensers gnawed the heart out of the contributed funds.

The article revealed that an immense sum is annually contributed in Portland for the benefit of the poor. It is a sum sufficient, if the distributing service were organized and systematized, to amply care for Portland's poor. Enough overhead expense could be eliminated to more than double the amount that actually goes to the needy.

There are many superintendents, when one would be enough. Printing, heat, lights, telephones, rents and other incidentals are of multiplied cost because of the scattering of the work. Organizations overlap each other. Some of the needy go from one organization to another and get an undue share of aid. It is a wasteful and uneconomic arrangement.

In its experience with the Winter Relief Bureau, The Journal has learned that some of those most in need never apply for charity. It has also learned that sometimes helping the poor to help themselves is a more successful course than through gifts of money or provisions. The finding of positions, the adjustment of misunderstandings between landlords and tenants, the guarantee of rent payments, and wise advice to those who lack initiative, are many times even more valuable aids to the needy than are actual gifts.

Business men are constantly besought and bedeviled for contributions to charity. They do not like to give money with a doubt. Their purses would be more free if charity were better organized, and the leaks plugged.

A great deal of fine charity has been dispensed in Portland. Some of the organizations have made excellent showings. It is not the purpose here to criticize, but to build, not to tear down, that which is doing but to help organize the system into a more effective force for the relief of poverty and distress.

Nothing better could be done in this town than to have a permanent relief bureau at the head of all charities. Properly organized and administered, it could take the same contributions now received and more than double the sum that actually goes to the needy.

Is it not a plan to appeal to the sober judgment of thinking Portland?

THE 1915 LEVY

THE Multnomah County tax budget for 1915 has been definitely established. The Portland property owner will be required to pay \$23.10 on every \$1000 valuation.

In comparison with last year this is a reduction of \$3.90.

The principal reduction is made in the levy for the city schools. In 1914 the millage for this purpose was 7.5. This year it is only 5. There is also a reduction of 1.0 mills in the state tax. For county schools there is an increase of one tenth of a mill. For the general expenses of the county the increase is seventy-five hundredths of a mill.

The millage for the library and county high schools is the same as last year. For roads the reduction is two tenths of a mill. The Port of Portland has made a reduction of seventy-five hundredths of a mill and the City of Portland a reduction of two tenths of a mill.

Based on a total assessed value of \$355,741,385 the levy will raise the following amounts: For state purposes, \$1,175,096; for county purposes, \$2,014,449; for Port of Portland, \$369,315; City of Portland, \$2,518,960; School District No. 1, \$1,678,706.

In county purposes the item of \$537,186 for roads and bridges is included.

INTERESTING FIGURES

ESTIMATES of December exports and imports indicate that the month's trade balance approximates \$90,000,000. It means that each December day the United States sold to

the outside world \$3,000,000 more than was bought.

That is piling up a trade balance at the rate of \$1,000,000,000 a year. No other country at any time in history has approached such a record. No other country in any single month has matched our December trade balance.

Not less interesting is the fact that the comptroller of the currency reports 11,109,499 depositors in the country's savings banks. These people have on deposit \$4,936,591,849, an average of almost \$450 apiece. The number of depositors is nearly 250,000 greater than last year and the total deposits about \$210,000,000 greater. The 1914 gain was not so great as that of 1913, but the fact remains that humble savers found themselves much better off at the close than at the beginning of 1914.

These are interesting figures, having direct bearing upon the country and its people as a whole. The United States is rapidly getting into a financial position where it can buy back from Europe large blocks of our own securities, paying for them in exports. If December's trade balance is maintained, even for a few months, it will mean that every wheel in the United States must be kept turning to supply the demand for American products.

Letters From the People

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Discussion is the greatest of all reformers. It is the only one that does not rob principles of all false sanctity and throws them back on their reasonableness. It crushes them out of existence and sets up its conclusions in their stead.—Woodrow Wilson.

Cheap Money.

Newberg, Or., Jan. 4.—To the Editor of The Journal—I read with much interest John M. Oskison's article in The Journal December 31, entitled "Chance for New Sort of Promotion." Yes, I am in favor of such a proposition as he writes about, and believe such a plan can be carried successfully. I believe it would give people a chance to get cheaper money, with easier ways of paying back, and would give a chance to people to own homes who are unable to do so at present. I believe that this plan, ever to own them. There are now several companies doing business on the same plan as Mr. Oskison describes, and they have met with a success that is beyond the powers of the country do not welcome cheap money, and they usually succeed in putting such concerns out of business. I right now hold contracts in a company that, for the past three years, which is the time it has been doing business, has been very successful, making loans at 3 per cent and paying good profits as an investment. I have not carried out my own, banks and building associations, and fight those who do not welcome cheap money, and finally they have made such a howl that the government has taken up, and in order for the company to protect its interests, it has gone into voluntary liquidation.

I hope to read more of Mr. Oskison's writings on this subject, as he has struck a chord that I like very much.

C. B. WESTFALL.

The Unemployed and the Army.

Portland, Or., Jan. 5.—To the Editor of The Journal—This winter we are again having the problem of unemployment. Large numbers of men are on the streets of our city, and of every other large city of the land, without money and without work. Every day they are hungry and they are tired, and they have to beg for a bite to eat, they become more discouraged and less able to help themselves. Through disorganizing the army, we are rusting to worthlessness. And men who are earning their living have to support the men who are not.

At the same time the United States Army is in need of recruits. Its men are well fed, clothed and housed. They work only from four to six hours each day, outside of occasional sentry duty. If they do not do right, they are not well treated anywhere. Their pay is not large, but it is large enough to enable the man to get a home and to support his family. But the men who are unemployed are not so well treated. They are not fed, clothed and housed. They are not paid. They are not treated as men. They are treated as a class of men who are not wanted.

Why do not some of the unemployed enlist in the army? It offers an immediate remedy for their poverty, and a better living than the majority of them are getting. For three years they will be honorably employed and during that time, if they want to, they can fit themselves for a better life. It is not a place for the good-for-nothing who wants to loaf and carouse. It is a place for the man who is down and wants to get a new start.

GLENN R. KLEINBAU.

A Plan for Employment.

La Grande, Or., Jan. 4.—To the Editor of The Journal—In your issue of January 2 appeared an article on unemployment and conscription, by O. C. Henderson of Amity, Or., which is only in line with the system that produces just such a state of affairs as he refers to. In his article, I do not mean to leave it up to the men. The thing to do is to enact laws which will compel them to join the army.

Now, in place of having a system of conscription, the government could employ the idle men in the production of the necessities of life, which would increase the wealth and comforts of the masses. Mr. Henderson would force them upon the government by conscription, still keep them in idleness, and thereby increase the burdens of the taxpayers. He would increase the production of wealth and make more idle men for conscription.

It is not a fact that when we increase the number of living, either by taxation or otherwise, we are increasing government expenses by enlarging the army. We decrease our earnings and thereby reduce our purchasing power. If we increase the number of the laboring class at heart, and wish to inaugurate a good measure for the uplift of society, why not induce the government to engage in the mining of the people's coal in Alaska, instead of sanctioning a franchise by the present administration at cents per long ton? Again, why does Mr. Henderson not propose the establishment of government farms and thereby employ still more of the idle?

This method of employment, especially in the northwest, would create a vast amount of work, and

the outside world \$3,000,000 more than was bought.

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