THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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It is good discretion not to make too much of any man at the first, because one cannot hold out in that proportion. —Bacon.

NO SPECIAL ELECTION

A SPECIAL referendum election next November would be of doubtful expediency.

There are measures the legislature ought not to have passed. But they are not of sufficient moment to justify the expense of a special election. In fact, most of the measures on which a popular vote would be desirable have been kept out of reach of the people by use of the emergency clause.

There, for instance, is the spoilsmen's act, for inaugurating Tammany methods in the state house. It was driven through the legislature by the senate bosses by their threat to otherwise defeat the compensation bill. But it cannot be referended. The act, in its emergency clause, declares that it must go into effect as soon as signed by the governor, because "necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety."

Many would like to referend act making the state highway engineer a subordinate in the office of the state engineer. It is a bad measure. It was passed solely in the interest of politicians and others that do not want the state protected against such contractors on public work as are crooked. But the next legislature will probably see the folly of the change and repeal the law.

Many would like to referend the various appropriation bills. But it cannot be done. The appropriation bills are kept out of reach of the people by the emergency clause. The emergency clause, in fact has become a handy tool for nullifying the referendum, and to the extent that its use has become a near scandal.

There are occasional reports of a possible referendum of the prohibition bill. It would be a futile undertaking. There has been no change of sentiment by which the 36,000 majority for the prohibition amendment has been wiped out. On the contrary, it is practically certain that in a referendum, the prohibition bill would carry by a heavily increased majority. This is said to be the view of most of the leaders among the liquor men, who are against the referendum plan.

With the handy emergency clause snugly shielding all appropriation bills and most of the vicious bills from interference through the referendum, a special election is scarcely warranted.

REPRESENTATIVE HUSTON

THE late house at Salem was an honest house.

That statement was made in an address before the Portland Association of Credit Men, Wednesday, by Representative Huston, who was a member of the body. He added.

There was not a half dozen scrubs in the bunch. There was no machine organization in the house. There was no boss. The members would not even vote for measures to please their friends. Every measure was judged on its merits. But in the senate it was different.

This is almost the universal verdict. The members of the lower chamber made a serious effort to restore public confidence in representative government. They would have succeeded but for the high handed manipulations of the bosses in the upper chamber. In spite of the presence on the floor of a number of excellent senators, in spite of the efforts of such senators in behalf of honest and intelligent legislation, in spite of the great opportunity presented for high legislative service, a galaxy of star performers, operating under Tammany methods and devoted to a Tammany spoils system, disorganized the session and added new odium to representative government in this state.

Representative Huston's statement is a true and valuable contribution to the annals of the twenty-eighth legislative session in Oregon.

WHAT SEATTLE WOULD DO

CONTRIBUTIONS to the Celilo celebration fund are not in generous measure.

Do Portlanders under estimate the occasion? Do they accept it as a mere passing frivolity? Do they think it a sort of cross between a football game and a Sunday school picnic?

There is a profound meaning to the proposed celebration. It is not a mere week of play, but an accentuation of a great event. The opening of the Celilo canal is a premier happening. It will be a great fact out of which Portland will be connected with the vast interior by the cheapest known transportation.

It is a factor of far greater economic importance to Portland than would be the advent of a new transcontinental railroad. It absolutely places in Portland's hands the power to bind the great empire of the Columbia basin to her by ties that no other city can ever break.

What would San Francisco, or Seattle, or Los Angeles do in acknowledgment of the occasion if a Celilo canal were opening to either of them the great trunk line waterways of a Columbia?

The contributions for celebration would not be told in hundreds of dollars, but in tens of thousands.

YOUTH AND MUSIC

IT WAS a happy, careless throng that came in the cars up Broadway and jostled its way into the Heilig yesterday. In the May morn of youth, near 2000 pupils of Jefferson high and some of the grammar schools, filled the streets with laughter as they trooped from the cars and tripped into the playhouse to hear the final rehearsal of the Portland Symphony orchestra, preliminary to tomorrow's concert.

If no other end were served by the symphony music, the happy hours given gratis to the lads and lasses and the elevation of thought incident to the melodies of the masters are a high public service which the Symphony orchestra renders. Let them have these things while they may, for "Time murders our youth with its sorrow and sin, and pushes us on to the windowless inn."

STATE HIGHWAY AID

APPROPOS of the claim of Clatsop and Columbia counties for state aid in the completion of the Columbia highway it is pertinent to recall that an effort was made at the session of the late legislature to pass a measure providing for state aid.

A bill known as the Brown bill was introduced in the lower house but it was beaten by a large majority. Among those who voted against it were the representatives from Clatsop and Columbia counties.

Although Multnomah county pays over one-third of the state taxes it was the understanding that Multnomah was to receive no state aid, its quota of the tax to go to the outside counties.

Another measure to aid counties was the bill providing that counties and municipalities might assist in road improvement outside their boundaries. The bill passed the house but was killed in the senate.

The introduction of these bills showed a willingness on the part of those leaders in the good roads movement who were active in the campaign for bond issues in Clatsop and Columbia counties to assist in securing state aid for the hard surfacing of the Columbia highway.

From a purely selfish standpoint it was in the interest of Multnomah county that no new state aid legislation was had.

The large amount of money that would have been contributed by the county can now be devoted to the building up of its own road system, as is now proposed by the present campaign for a bond issue of $1,250,000.

If we were willing to spend the money on roads in outside counties, we ought, after their refusal to accept it, to be willing to spend it on our own roads.

JITNEYS IN CANADA

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, has about 350 jitneys operating on city and suburban lines. Consul General Mansfield says their average daily earnings are reported to be $8 for each car, an aggregate of over $80,000 per month.

This competition has reduced the earnings of the electric railway and also affected the city revenues, for the city gets a percentage of the streetcar company's earnings. The report of the British Columbia Electric Railway company, which has an exclusive franchise in Vancouver, shows a decrease of 1,138,333 in the number of passengers in January as compared with the corresponding month last year, when 3,364,062 were carried.

Mr. Mansfield says the city's loss in revenue from the streetcar company will approximate $30,000 at the end of 1915. But in spite of that argument the people of Vancouver are insisting that the jitney be allowed to continue in business and to grow in usefulness.

Mr. Mansfield says that in Vancouver the sympathy and popular support of a majority of people who depend upon public service for transportation is with the jitney.

OUR NEW FRIENDS.

PRESIDENT WILSON has set May 10 for the proposed Latin American trade conference at Washington. Among the participants will be leading bankers of the United States and the finance ministers and influential bankers of Central and South America.

In announcing the date Secretary McAdoo said his discretion in inviting bankers to participate in the conference will be exercised so as to insure the attendance of a large number of representative financiers. Congress has appropriated $50,000 for expenses, and it is proposed to use the money in securing a thorough understanding of financial conditions throughout the western hemisphere.

This conference should strengthen financial and trade relations between this country and Latin America. There could be no better time than the present for calling it, for the United States is in an exceptionally favorable situation to talk business and friendship with its southern neighbors.

The European war has forced South America to seek broader trade relations with this country and to rely upon our banks for financial assistance. The federal reserve law, almost providentially placed on the statute books when such a law was most needed, clothes our bankers with power to extend their influence southward. Our attitude toward Mexico has destroyed suspicion that the United States is ambitious for territorial conquest.

The coming trade conference will show that the United States has new and better friends than ever before in South and Central America. It will be demonstration of the fact that Woodrow Wilson's policies are for the direct benefit of legitimate business. Whatever has been lost through Mexico's internal disturbances will be more than made up by lasting friendships with Latin America.

WESTERN REVERSION TO TAMMANYISM

THERE is strong protest in the state of Washington against the party convention act. It is voiced by the Spokane Spokesman-Review, an influential Republican newspaper. It says:

The leaders of the Republican state organization seem determined to pass the Whitney measure over the governor's veto.

If they are not blinded by partisanship they will yet make discretion the better part of valor and drop their agitation for the reactionary and unpopular bills. The Democratic organization would like nothing better than a campaign in 1916 on that issue. Governor Lister's veto tends to draw the lines on this question, as the Spokesman-Review warned the Republican leaders when it predicted that so shrewd and practical a politician as the governor would seize so inviting an opportunity.

"The Republicans can not afford to go before the voters next year on a controversy against the governor's objections as he has stated them in his veto messages. It is entirely true, as the governor says, that—

"The whole tendency of the bill is to throw party restrictions around candidates, and bind them closer to party regulation and control, when, as I view it, the tendency of a great majority of the voters is to get farther away from such restrictions. It makes the party platform the basis for support rather than the character of the individual who may be a candidate. It takes away the right of a candidate to exercise his judgment in legislative matters, and tends to place control of legislation in the hands of machine or organization bosses of the majority party."

That is an irrefutable analysis of the vetoed act. In point of fact the men who sponsored the Whitney bills practically advance a like analysis as their argument for them. They word it differently, but the meaning is the same.

The tendency of such drastic party control was recently exemplified in Portland when members of the county organization went to county officials and demanded the right to name a number of deputies. This was proposed to the county clerk, who refused. It was demanded of the county treasurer, who also refused.

It was outright machine program. It was a plan to place offices at the disposal of the organization, or county bosses. It is the groundwork of invisible government. It would have succeeded in Portland if the party convention plan just established by the Washington legislature had been in operation in this state, for the county officials would have been thereby made answerable to the party bosses instead of to the people.

The Spokesman-Review quotes from the author of the Washington act to show what the purpose of the bill is. It says:

Mr. Whitney, author of the bills, said in a communication to the Spokesman-Review that their object is "to strengthen party organization and responsibility." And, further—

"If a candidate wishes to be **responsible to the public and his own conscience**, he should start a party of his own and file under its designation. What we are interested in is to make the party the responsible agent and to secure unity of action."

In other words, legislators and other public officials, under this doctrine, would be answerable to the state organization of the party. It would become their duty to look to the directing boss of the party organization for their orders. Candidates who might want to be guided by public opinion and their own conscience would be curtly told to go off and start a party of their own.

If the Republicans are wise they will express their disapproval of Mr. Whitney's doctrine and the bill just vetoed.

The sinister purpose in the measure is attested by the authors own words above quoted: "If the candidate wishes to be responsible to the public and his own conscience, he should start a party of his own." That is a bold claim. Why should not a candidate be "responsible to the public?" Why should he not be responsible to his "own conscience?"

What sort of doctrine is it that a public official should be responsible, not to his own "conscience" but to the "conscience" of a party machine? What sort of a system of government is it as is here boldly sponsored, in which a public official is to be responsible, not "to the public," but to the party bosses?

The Washington measure is extraordinary. Its bare-faced proposal for a restoration of machinism in political action and party control approximates the audacious, and constitutes a most remarkable attitude.

Evidently drunk with the power of its overwhelming numbers in the legislature, the Republican majority went mad with a delirium for retura of a political order that is everywhere going into the discard.

The spoilsmen's bill in Oregon and the party convention bill in Washington are entitled to the hearty felicitations of Boss Murphy and Tammany Hall.

THE JOURNAL NATIONAL EDITORIAL

A NEW WORD NEEDED — THE "GENTLESTATE"

By REV. DR. CHARLES FRANKLIN THWING
President Western Reserve University.

SO COMMON today are the phrases "world war," "the war lord," "the allies' war," and "war conditions," that they and similar phrases have become commonplace. In opposition to these, and in analogy with that great word "gentleman," we might well bring into general use the word, and adopt the condition of, the Gentlestate.

What, whence, whither, is the Gentlestate?

The Gentlestate should exist for all its citizens, and its citizens should exist for it. Reciprocity of rights and duties should be the rule. Unlike the Warstate it does not have rights only. The Gentlestate may be the center of the source of power, but if it possesses giant strength, it is too great to use it like a giant. It seeks to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly. It has none of the chauvinism of the war lord.

• •

If it has enemies, it treats them as if they were to become its friends. It has too much good sense to be responsive to insults and too much generosity to bear malice. It is not a political bully. It is too eager about the great things to be annoyed by small irritations, too much concerned about the good of all to be keen about any lack of respect to itself. It seeks to see the large as large, the small as small, the ephemeral as of the day, and the lasting as permanent, being ever guided by a sense of proportion.

It respects the rights of other states with the same honesty and integrity which it merits from others. It makes few or no demands. It has no occasion for self-defense. It seeks only to have merit. It is tolerant of others' weaknesses, patient toward their limitations, never finding in either weakness or limitation an excuse for its own aggrandizement. It is free from all blustering. It seeks to enrich as well as to be enriched, to enlarge as well as to be enlarged, and it vastly prefers to be the victim than the agent of any misinterpretations or wrong doing. Its protective policy is to shield the weak, and its free trade theory is to give every other state more than it demands.

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This Gentlestate is considerate in thought and feeling, without either hardness or mysticism, cordial without effusiveness, forceful and direct without harshness, firm in its convictions without obstinacy, of the highest and broadest idealism, ever exercising a good will without giving any impression of weakness. This Gentlestate has no armies and no battleships for attacking on either sea or land. Its chief fortresses are the cardinal virtues, and the cardinal graces of faith, of hope for humanity's future, and love for humanity itself.

"Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

"Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

"Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." —Copyright, 1915.

Wheat.

From Collier's Weekly.

The first thing to remember about wheat is that it is one of the world products, raised everywhere, used everywhere, easily and cheaply shipped, durable and highly standardized. Its price is a world price. Anyone doubting this can get valuable information from the bankruptcy records of the various attempts to "corner" wheat. The market price, fixed by world conditions, is the great regulator. We have had dollar wheat in this country for some years past, and under the stress of war conditions we now have dollar-fifty wheat. This price is largely based on war speculation. Great areas in Europe are growing nothing, and farmers are shooting instead of plowing. On the other hand, the allied fleets have been hammering at the Dardanelles forts to let Russian wheat out of the Black sea, the Argentine region is becoming a heavy exporter, and India has increased its wheat acreage for this season by 2,500,000 over last year. The sudden drops on the Chicago board of trade, running as far as 9 cents per bushel, show what the speculators think of the market's uncertainties. The relation between wheat and flour and bread as usually made constant by contracts running months ahead, and it is fairly safe to say that increased bread prices are due to loose marketing conditions and to mere hoggishness rather than to dear wheat. In this line, just as in dry goods and others, we have too many "business" men who make any change a pretext for boosting prices and then try to maintain these prices by bluff, coercion and fraud. The remedy is publicity and law enforcement. It is too early now to talk of an embargo on wheat or of government fixed prices. The principle of supply and demand is still at work.

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 in length and must 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.)

"Discussion is the greatest of all reformers. It rationalizes everything it touches. It robs principles of all false sanctity and throws them back on their reasonableness. If they have no reasonableness, it ruthlessly crushes them out of existence and sets up its own conclusions in their stead."—Woodrow Wilson.

A Homesteader's Troubles.

Rivers, Or., March 7.—To the Editor of The Journal—I am a homesteader in central Oregon in a locality which is called the high and dry desert and a desolate and very frosty country, especially in the months in which crops should come into maturity. Those months are June and July, which have been very frosty. As to the government and county helping this dry and freezing community, they cannot do much. There are men, or professors from some experiment station, but they do not know anything about this country; neither do they know what it will grow. We as homesteaders in this locality, have tried almost everything that it would be possible to grow out here, and everything will grow but nothing matured, so a person might have to sow the next year, or even to feed. We have tried rye, spelts, oats, barley, wheat, flax, clover, alfalfa, timothy and other cereals and grasses. They all grow but the frost gets them. So I say if the county, state or government would use the money they pay such a professor from some experiment station or college, in getting seeds of the above mentioned to the homesteaders in this locality, without cost to them, they would do more good than any way I know of. For when something proves good it will not be kept a secret, and the one who finds that good article will tell his neighbor, who will tell two of his neighbors, and so on, and it will increase very fast and also will be published in the newspapers.

We don't want to be taxed on our homesteads to pay for that professor. Let him get a homestead and buy his own machinery and horses, and do his own grubbing and cultivating and be taxed and buy his own seeds. Then such a professor will not know quite so much to tell others, when they have not the means to get such machinery and do such cultivating. For we all profess a lot, and even more than we should. So I say let all the professors have a chance. Here is their opportunity, to learn and then pass it on. As one in this county said, "Then let him look wise, and we will smile a little with him, if he then can." Anybody can farm or run a ranch if he has the other man's pocketbook to take out of. P. G. R.

State Reclamation in Oregon.

St. Johns, Or., March 8.—To the Editor of The Journal—The editorial in your paper of March 6, in which you took the position that the Oregon legislature made a mistake in not appropriating the sum of $450,000 as an inducement to the government to appropriate a like sum for irrigation purposes, was read with great interest.

As a member of the committee on irrigation, I took the position, in the house, that it was worse than reckless extravagance not to use the waters of the mountain streams, now running to waste, to reclaim the sagebrush and sand and thereby add to our prosperity and an increased number of homes; but many of the members, just as earnest, honestly thought that to make an appropriation of $450,000 for irrigation purposes would be a violation of their pledges of economy. I felt that to aid reclamation work would lessen the number of the unemployed and greatly add to our prosperity, and aid in the bettering of labor conditions in the state; but we cannot all see alike. Healthy agitation, such as you are giving this subject, will ultimately result in a reversal of present sentiment, and the time will come, and must come, when the state will engage extensively in internal improvements. I doubt if there is any line or kind of improvement that will bring as much profit to the state as the reclamation of our desert wastes. D. C. LEWIS.

A Criticism.

Hood River, Or., March 11.—To the Editor of The Journal—In this morning's Oregonian I read, on the editorial page "The Greatest Form of Insanity Is Confidence in Human Nature." I guess I'm crazy, then, and always have been to some extent.

Under the heading: "The Wages of Sin," the editor says, in speaking of the death of a New Haven girl, "There could be no doubt of her suicide," and in speaking of the immorality of her employer, who had two families, he says he "lived a double life" and "must have been haunted by the fear, shame and guilt which attend such conduct."

Now a preacher might say and possibly believe this, but how about the "wisest man," Solomon, with his $30 or 1000 wives and concubines, and how about many men and women who live "double lives" and don't show any worry in face or form, while oftentimes their victims do?

The editorial homily ends by saying: "The wages of sin is death, if not to the sinner himself, then to those whom he blights by his association."

This may be sound theology, but I can't see how the editor and I myself, and in fact everybody else, have not died long before this, except little children. J. M. BLOSSOM.

Agricultural High School.

Salem, Or., March 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—Is Portland building an agricultural high school? When will it be ready for occupancy? E. EDWIN.

[Portland is not building an agricultural high school. There has been discussion about installing an agricultural department in one of the Portland high schools, but the school board has taken no action on the matter, for or against. If an agricultural department should be approved, it would probably be placed in the new Franklin High school, which will be built the coming summer, as it is the only place where sufficient ground space is available.]

Gorgas on the Vacant Lot.

From the Ground Hog.

Surgeon General William C. Gorgas recently said: "I believe in land value tax, I think, because my life work has been that of sanitation. In a city, such as Panama or Havana, the vacant lots and unimproved neighborhoods were the localities which always gave us most sanitary trouble. I was soon convinced that if any scheme were brought about whereby it would be disadvantageous for speculators to hold vacant places out of use, this scheme would be of the greatest value for sanitation. It was not possible to effect this change in method of taxation in the cities referred to. I discussed this method of taxation a good deal with the officials of Panama, urging upon them the desirability of a tax levy of this kind to cover expenditures brought about by the sanitary work. I finally got the Panama authorities around to the point of seeing the justice and advisability of such methods, but the organic law would have to be changed and this always takes time. I hope that something of the kind may yet come about in Panama."

Vulnerable Submarines.

From the Boston Globe.

The question whether surface vessels could cope with submarines is being answered largely by events. Two German submarines are reported sunk, one by English destroyers off Dover, the other by the ramming of the British steam collier Thordis.

About the latter there was some doubt for a time whether the Thordis could prove her contention that she had destroyed the "tin fish"; but these claims have now been admitted by the admiralty owing to injuries to the keel and propeller of the vessel revealed in a dry-dock examination. Her master's report of the affair smacks somewhat of the curt brevity of "We have met the enemy and they are ours." It concludes: "Did not see the submarine after that, but saw oil floating on the water. Proceeded on voyage."

Navigators beneath the wave insist that, by a curious fallacy in the public mind, the risks of under-water navigation are overrated and the risks of accident are underrated. For instance, one peril which has beset the maneuvering of the submarine hitherto is that, in coming up after a dive, there may be collision with the keel of a vessel in that period between the time when the submarine reaches a depth of 30 feet beneath the surface, and when the periscope can get far enough out of water to give warning of the proximity of vessels. This is just as much a peace risk as a war risk.

Submarines may be less vulnerable at some points, but they appear to be more so at others. The risks seem about evenly divided.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Push and pull are a hard pair to beat.

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Even a man may be emotional—if he isn't married.

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Gas is used in pulling teeth and selling mining stocks.

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It isn't a secret if a woman hesitates in the telling of it.

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Some grown folks are harder to amuse than some babies.

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Even a coat of arms doesn't always hide the family skeleton.

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Occasionally a woman plays a practical joke on a man by marrying him.

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Credit is all well enough until the bill collector begins to come around.

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A woman is fairly well satisfied as long as there is something that she wants and can't have.

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When the average man has occasion to boast of his past he selects a part of it that others have forgotten.

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Nothing would humiliate daughter so much as for her beau to drop in unexpectedly and see her looking natural.

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After a young man has called on a girl at least three nights in one week she imagines there is an odor of orange blossoms in the air.

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Probably the worst thing about rich relations is the way they look down on you because you are not rich enough to look down on them.

• •

In a large world like this you may occasionally run across some fellow who has all his dues paid up. When you do you probably will find that he is a bachelor.

• •

When a crowd goes out on a fishing trip there is always some earnest fisherman along who remembers to take hooks and lines. The balance of them think only of the necessaries.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

The Eugene Radiators, assisted by students of the university, will make their appearance March 18 and 19, in "Brown of Harvard." The Radiators are planning a very active season.

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At $3 each, the Pendleton East Oregonian believes coyote hunting should be profitable business, and thinks it possible the rabies epidemic may, through the bounty, be brought to an end.

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Klamath Falls' unimproved streets are to be dragged and smoothed for the summer, in which operation the city will try out a new type of grader, which, if satisfactory, is to be added to permanent equipment.

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Miss Delia Northey, Hood county librarian, has tendered her resignation, effective June 1. She came to Hood River about three years ago, and has been the moving spirit in the creation of the county library and its branches.

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"Medford," says the Sun, "should greet the visitors of 1915 after a bath and with a new change of linen. There is nothing more true than that cleanliness is next to godliness, and that an improvement in physical being induces a similar improvement in spirit and point of view."

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Eugene Guard: Eugene's efforts to capitalize a lace factory are attracting attention in neighboring cities and our people may find inspiration in friendly comment by the newspapers. There is small probability that a project which has been so enthusiastically started shall fail. We would not like to admit defeat.

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Baker Democrat: The last work on the eradication of one of the oldest houses in Baker was done when the house formerly occupied by Mrs. Margaret Frazier was torn down to make room for the new undertaking chapel on Auburn avenue, between First and Second streets. The house was erected 37 years ago, on the Schellworth homestead, when Baker was in its infancy.

TWO YEARS OF WILSON

From the New York World.

On the fiftieth anniversary of Lincoln's second inaugural, Woodrow Wilson completes half his presidential term.

These two years of the Wilson administration have helped to make more history than any other two years since Lincoln. The coming two years of the Wilson administration must inevitably be the most momentous period that this country has known since the Civil War.

It is a fact of enormous importance that this crisis finds in the White House a president who is completely master of himself. Being master of himself, he is master of his party and of his administration.

There is no kitchen cabinet. There are no back stairs advisers. There are no secret influences that pull and sway the policies of the executive. No underground wires run from the White House into Wall street or into the headquarters of any political committee. Men may agree with Mr. Wilson or disagree with him; they may like him or they may dislike him; but everybody knows that he and he alone is president. Everybody knows that during the remaining two years of his term he and he alone will be president.

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A very unusual man, meet to cope with a very unusual situation in the affairs of mankind—a president who in all his official relations displays neither vanity nor resentment, nor anger nor personal ambition. If he has friends, their friendship counts for nothing in the affairs of state. If he has enemies, their enmity weighs nothing in the balance of government. He seeks neither to reward the one nor to punish the other.

So evenly does he hold the scales that the members of the diplomatic corps, with all their highly developed facilities for obtaining information, have never been able to learn where the president's personal sympathies lie in the great conflict that is now devastating Europe. Whatever his individual opinions may be, he has smothered them in the responsibilities of his office.

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At this period in their first term most presidents have been carefully calculating their chances of renomination and reelection. Nobody knows whether Mr. Wilson intends to be a candidate for reelection or not. Not a member of the cabinet, not a member of congress, can say of his own knowledge that the president desires a reelection or that he would not refuse a renomination. What all of them know is that the president would not stoop from principle to win either a renomination or a reelection.

That is where his great strength lies. That is where his great usefulness lies in this crisis. It is easy to rattle the sabre. It is easy to make the welkin ring. It is easy to be spectacular and sensational and theatrical. It is easy to be a demagogue. It is easy to juggle with the fate of a nation when no man can foresee what the next day will bring forth. But it is not easy to be calm and restrained and judicial. It is not easy to face every responsibility without prejudice and without passion. It is not easy to hew straight to the line of first principles, regardless of applause or censure or praise or denunciation. It is not easy to be sane when the world has given itself over to madness.

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The enormous good fortune of the people of the United States in the storm and stress of these coming years is that their chief magistrate is sane—the sanest mind today that is intrusted with the responsibilities of government anywhere in civilization.

THOMPSON OF UNIONTOWN

By John M. Oskison.

Josiah V. Thompson of Uniontown, Pa., is nearly 61 years old. He was born on a farm, went into banking at Uniontown, and developed an ambition.

With the smoke of great manufactories all over western Pennsylvania, and with myriads of coke ovens in operation and building, this man began exploring the state for coking coal lands. These he bought and sold at a profit to the coking people.

He found that he had a special aptitude for finding coal suitable for coking—and he found, too, that the longer he held such land the more valuable it became. His ambition broadened; he would become the coking-coal king of Pennsylvania.

From Monday morning to Saturday night, week after week, year after year, Thompson began to concentrate on his work—if he got nine hours of sleep from Monday to Saturday he counted himself lucky. He secured control of the First National bank of Uniontown, became president, and began to use the bank's deposits to finance his coal land deals.

Always he added to his holdings, selling only when the price was exceptionally high and when he must have money for further purchases. Then came the contraction in the steel industry that meant a falling off in the demand for coking coal; the rumor got about that Thompson's bank was in a bad way; the government investigated and sought to reduce the amount of loans made to the bank's president, and recently the bank was closed.

With the closing of the bank went Thompson's command of ready capital. He owed millions. But he also owned many thousands of acres of coal lands whose nominal value was many times the total of his debts.

So the matter stands as this is written. The old man of Uniontown says that the financial powers of Pittsburg and of New York are in a conspiracy to get away from him his coal lands at their own figures. In his struggle to save his lands he is sleeping less than ever and working desperately on plans for bridging over the crisis until the steel business is again prosperous.

Greed versus greed—it is a struggle that the average American can watch in mere enjoyment of the strategy of financial generals.

A FEW SMILES

A stalwart young fellow applied for a position on a farm. As he walked into the barn he addressed the farmer: "Hey, mister, will you job me?

"Will I what?"

"Will you job me? Make me work yet?"

"Oh, I see. You want a job," said the farmer. "Well, how much do you want a month?"

"I tell you. If you eat me on red farm I come for fife dollars, but for twenty-fife dollars I eat myself at Schmidt's."—National Food Magazine

At a luncheon Dr. Lyman Abbott sat beside a suffragist, who harangued him on the importance of woman.

With his urbane smile Dr. Abbott endured the young lady's eloquence till the coming of the coffee. Then he ventured to say, very mildly:

"The importance of woman? The importance of woman? I have heard nothing but the 'importance of woman' for the last hour. Yet surely Scripture teaches us that woman is but a side issue!"

Salesmen—This is our new patent buttonless tan boot sir—"Banana Skin" brand.

Customer — What ever makes you give it such a peculiar name?

Salesman — Because, sir, it is yellow, and so easy to slip on.

OREGON THE OREGON COUNTRY

"IN EARLY DAYS"

By Fred Lockley, Special Staff Writer of The Journal.

Recently I took lunch with W. H. Packwood of Baker, Or. Not only is Mr. Packwood interesting because he is the last living member of the state constitutional convention that met in Salem in August, 1857, but because his memory of men and events of Oregon's territorial days is wonderfully clear.

"Yes, I was on the committee that selected the territorial seal," said Mr. Packwood. "I was a delegate from Curry county, and I wanted something typical of my county so I suggested that an elk be used on the seal and my suggestion was adopted. To my mind the elk was noblest of all the game animals found on the Pacific coast. I have seen them from Cape Mendicino in California, to the Columbia river in Oregon. They are most numerous in the coast range. I remember one day in 1851, in the coast range over from Rusglan river, a dense fog settled down, so thick we could not travel, nor even see the mountain trail we were following. We were on the coast side of a high mountain. When the fog lifted and the sun came up, there was a band of elk standing under some large trees on the mountain side, not over 100 yards away. It was a grand sight. They discovered us and were away before we could get a shot at them. I do not believe there was any part of the coast where elk were so numerous as in Curry and Coos counties. They were very plentiful on the head waters of Coquille river, the north, south and middle forks. They ranged back to the Rogue river mountains and to the head of Cow creek, in large bands.

"In traveling they generally followed the divide, as in this way they could more easily discover danger and break to either side of the mountain for safety. They usually made a visit to the coast each year, and went back to the high mountains in summer; but in Coos and Curry counties they seemed to remain all the year round.

"In Curry county there were hunters who made their living for many years selling elk meat. They had contracts to supply the mills and people of Port Orford and Empire City and the coal mines, the same as men do now with beef. Gold Beach and Crescent City were supplied in the same way.

"At Port Orford Jake Somers was the principal contractor. He had a hunting dog that he never allowed to smell a track on the ground. He would go ahead of Jake with his nose in the air for scent. Elk river, Sixes river and Floras creek country were Jake's hunting grounds. With his dog he would locate a band. They usually run in bands of 40 or 50, like cattle. When danger is threatened or they become frightened they bunch up together, instead of running off singly. After finding them he would select and shoot down one or two, according to the size of the animal. He would do this as quietly as possible, so as not to frighten them, and he never allowed his dog to bark or run them. At the shot the band would bunch together and run a short distance. If not chased they would soon quiet down and begin to feed again. They nearly always feed and run in a circle. It may be large or small, according to whether the ground is flat or hilly. Before leaving, after killing his game, Jake would note the direction they were taking. In two or three days he would come back, and in place of following up their tracks, he would cut across the circle, his dog ahead with his nose in the air, and he would not be long in finding the band. In this way he sometimes would kill nearly all worth killing, before hunting a new band.

"In March, 1854, my old partner, George H. Abbott, and I, in going from Floras creek over to the south fork of Coquille, ran across five large bands of elk, which we estimated to have fully 800 head. In 1854 a bunch of Klickatat Indians with a band of horses came down and killed over 500 elk, principally for their skins. They jerked some meat and packed 20 to 30 horses out, loaded with skins and meat. This was the first year of settlement on Coquille, 1854. There were not many of us, but we resolved not to allow this to occur again, so in 1855, when the Indians showed up for their annual hunt, they were told they might go and kill a few elk to jerk and pack out, but no skins, as before, otherwise there would be war. I believe it was either Huffman or John J. Hill that notified them. They obeyed orders, killed and jerked a few elk and left. That was the last hunt for elk by the Klickitats in Coquille country."

The Ragtime Muse

Sonnets on Spring.

I.

Now Phoebus from high heaven casts his eye
Upon my neighbor's ash heap and seeks out
The bones that, quite forgotten, scattered lie
Where Helen's dog has tumbled them about;
He glances through the window, dull with grime,
And on the carpet marks each shabby place;
Across the curtains threads the path which time
Has made through yielding stitches in the lace.
The window garden, once a cheerful spot,
A soap box filled with mud and weeds appears
Beneath his glance. The primrose in its pot
No more delights; it is a thing for tears.

II.

Feeling the breath of spring, poor Smith will seek
The old clothes man to sell his overcoat;
He'll either have pneumonia in a week
Or suffer from an overtonsiled throat.
Now, foolish Mabel, still of tender years,
Will don silk stockings and the latest pumps
And presently shed quantities of tears
Because her heels have gathered painful bumps.
See the fleet athlete, very lightly clad,
Who ventures forth upon a five mile sprint
And passers-by now watch and call him mad
The while he gallops through his daily stint.
Yes, spring is here. I'm very glad of that,
Although my wife demands an Easter hat.

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