

THE JOURNAL

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ister of munitions, will be charged with the duty of supplying the army with the ammunition it needs, and all it needs. The significance of this change lies in the fact that the former chancellor of the exchequer is supposed to be the best man in England to handle labor problems.

Mr. Churchill will hold a comparatively unimportant position, as chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Mr. Balfour, who succeeds him as first lord of the admiralty, is one of the strong men of England.

The personnel of the new cabinet shows that the Liberals will retain chief responsibility for the conduct of government.

NO PLACE FOR POLITICIANS. THE proposal to partize the Portland city hall has been abandoned by the Republican county committee.

It is a wise decision. Politics couldn't possibly be of assistance in preparing the annual budget of expenditures. Partisanship wouldn't lower the cost of paving nor get a better quality of paving.

Filling the city hall with politicians wouldn't increase the efficiency of the police, nor add to the effectiveness of the firemen, or secure better regulation of public service corporations.

Putting politicians on the city payroll wouldn't lower the cost of government, but would add to the cost of government; wouldn't put municipal affairs on a more businesslike basis, but a less businesslike basis; wouldn't improve the tone of the city administration, but would lower the tone of city administration.

Ever since politics was removed from the city hall by adoption of the commission charter, people have a new confidence in their public affairs. They have a new confidence in their public officials.

By being divorced from politics, the officials at the head of the city government are free to devote all their time to city business. By being under no obligations to politicians, the officials feel that they owe obligations only to the people, and they, therefore, apply all their efforts to public affairs.

It is a condition that ought not to be changed, because it is an approximation of ideal government. It is a kind of government rare among cities, a kind of government that the people of most cities are longing for.

the 22,000,000 gallons in that pipe line would be \$2640 per day, \$75,200 per month and \$968,600 per year. Yet all the revenue the city gets from all the water delivered in both the pipe lines to Bull Run is \$880,000.

That is why Portland consumers have to pay 12 cents per 1000 gallons for water, while Milwaukee, Wisconsin, consumers pay but six cents.

AT REED COLLEGE. RECOMMENDATION for organized, centralized and coordinated philanthropy in Oregon State is made at Reed college.

It is one of numerous excellent suggestions that have come out of the conferences at that educational center. Radiating from that institution are many influences for the betterment of life conditions.

Prominent in the conference proceedings were the surveys by students and the reports of housing, sanitation and other life conditions in this city. These are intensely practical applications of educative agencies, and they are certain to ultimately exercise a strong and elevating influence in the moulding of Portland.

The recommendation for co-ordination and centralizing of Portland charities is sound and constructive. In five months of effort, in which such co-ordination and co-operation were applied through The Journal's Winter Relief Bureau, a vast and useful experience was gained, in which the waste of charity funds in overhead expense and duplication of work was powerfully exemplified.

Many applicants for aid under disorganized charity get double or triple allowances, while others go hungry and shelterless. Heavy contributions of funds never get to the needy at all, but are absorbed in rents, publicity, salaries and duplicated and often useless outlays.

The Journal's Winter Relief Bureau was coordinated, and in co-operation with various other charity organizations; and in the five months that it was kept in service the bureau carried charity to more than 800 needy families, which included more than 4000 persons.

And the whole lesson of that extended experience is an impressive and convincing showing that there should be no intelligent or effective charity work except by organization and co-ordination of all such activities under one centralized and intelligent head.

Assessor Reed figures that Oregon pays \$36,828,000 annually in government, state and municipal taxes. It is \$45.41 per capita on an estimated population of 800,000.

ment on the futility of statesmanship even when most far-sighted. Especially bitter must be the disappointment at this failure of what was hailed as the sure guarantee of peace.

Italy's portion in the triple alliance. From the New York Evening Post. HE Italian government is not only making history today; it is furnishing new knowledge of past history.

Italy is so far from being a real live rajah looks like. The Maharajah of Kapurthla, accompanied by one of his wives, is en route.

Editorial paragraphers who try to avoid war topics, find at the close of the day that their batting average is about .150.

Let us hope that the town of Szczepzyn, in Poland, will never be besieged.

These disclosures put us for the first time in possession of what may be called Italy's standing in court. We see now, as we could not before, the technical, legal basis for her proceedings.

As for the new defunct triple alliance itself, it was always an unnatural alliance, so far as Italy was concerned. She may have found her account in it, especially by securing a freer hand in Africa than she would otherwise have had; but it remained for her, as it did for Austria, a strange wedding of incompatibilities.

Neither the Democratic nor Republican party will win at the next election, says Victor Murdock. So sweeping a prediction by the popular Kansas statesman is like another bath in the River of Doubt.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE. A secret is something known to but one person. The homelier a man the more his wife trusts him.

Every man may have his price, but not every man has a market. Every man imagines that he can put up a convincing argument, but can he?

The really smart man who has money to invest in sure things is too smart to do it. Experience teaches us that a lot of experience doesn't teach us anything.

You can tell by some men's actions that they are used to eating off a red tablecloth. The workman's compensation law doesn't entitle a man to damages for the accident of his job.

So arrange your affairs that when a bill comes you won't need to invite him to call again. What has become of the old-fashioned editor who used to say "I'm glad to hear of you getting two or more married women?"

The average man is proud of his ability as a letter writer—until a few of them show up in a breach of promise suit. The excitement of the biggest wheat crop he had ever known led a farmer near Winfield, Kan., to rouse his men at 3 o'clock in the morning on the first day of the harvest.

The "bill billy" who had sought work in the western wheat fields, hurried to the farmstead of the farmer's call and was eagerly eating breakfast when his fellow workmen appeared. After he had stowed away a quantity of cups of coffee, he arose from the table and grabbed his suitcase.

Two nursemaids were wheeling their infant charges in the park when one asked the other: "Are you going to the dance tomorrow afternoon?" "I am afraid not." "Why not?" "I don't know." "And you so fond of dancing?" "I'd love to go," explained the conscientious maid, "but to tell you the truth I'm afraid to leave the baby with my mother."

Percy—"W a s, that fair down to your church a success?" Harold—"Almost, but not quite." Percy—"Why?" Harold—"The women managed to escape with their carfare."

Letters From the People. (Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written in plain English, 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 his name published, he should so state.)

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

The Eugene Coffee club, after an auspicious career of two years' duration, has been closed. "There are too many areas of uncertainty in this country," says the Baker Herald.

A movement looking to the organizing of a union high school district has provoked favorable sentiment at Nollan. One meeting has already been held. "Some slight improvement of the matchwood market," says the Bandon Recorder, is interesting the holders of this material.

Newberg Graphic: Every newspaper editor has a right to his own notions about the value of his property. The double column editorial of recent years has never appealed to the writer's little bit. Orthorhynchical appreciation in Lebanon Express: The weather is not so kind to mind the rain, but are singing early and late. There is a large variety of birds in the air, and many of them those who love the feathered songsters greatly enjoy their presence.

La Grande Observer: Equal assessment of property is a job that even the most big game hunter would be undertaking. His address yesterday to the taxpayers indicates that his book is a valuable one. No doubt the people that will clarify the atmosphere in the tax department.

Construction stopped at Touchet station till some method could be devised to make a more permanent roadbed. The contractor bought 12 miles of strap iron and screwed it down on the wooden stringers. The splintering of the wooden stringers under the weight of the strap iron curled up and at its most inopportune times it would be driven through the floor of the cars.

The amendments, if adopted, will allow any property owner, where the assessment is more than \$5, to bond, and will extend the time for filing bonds from 10 to 30 days. They will allow property owners to pay the assessments in 20 semi-annual installments instead of 10 annual ones.

The proposed amendments will provide that if assessments are not paid when due all unpaid installments become delinquent 30 days thereafter, but may be reinstated by the payment of the delinquent amount and assessments before date of sale.

Why the M., K. & T. Can't Pay. To pay off obligations then falling due the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad company on May 1, 1915, sold \$10,000,000 of two year 5 per cent secured notes.

In Case It Didn't Work. Hudson Post. "Why are you sitting on that boy's face?" "I don't tell you to always count a hundred before you give way to passion and struck another boy?" "You're sitting on his face so he'll be here when I'm done countin' the hundred."

INDEX OF ADVANCING TIDE OF PROSPERITY. Pittsburg, May 15.—The plant of the American Locomotive Company here is being reorganized and plans are being made for a complete resumption of work.

THE OREGON COUNTRY

By Fred Leach, Special Staff Writer of The Journal. The Walla Walla & Columbia River railroad from Wallula to Walla Walla was the first railroad to be built in what is now the state of Washington.

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