

THE JOURNAL AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Large enterprises make the few rich, but the majority prosper only through the carelessness and detail of thrift. He is already poverty-stricken whose habits are not thrifty. T. T. Munger.

A SUGGESTION.

THE late supreme court decision places definite restrictions around the state highway commission and as definitely fixes the duties and powers of the state engineer as state highway engineer.

In consequence, certain broad realizations should impress themselves upon Governor Withycombe. In a sincere desire to strengthen him in his work, The Journal ventures to suggest to the governor the course of action that the court rulings undoubtedly seem to open up before him.

A change of the former attitude of the governor in highway matters is the first and manifest necessity. The law does not make the governor an autocrat in highway affairs. This is the finding of the court. There are statutes and regulations to be observed.

Hitherto, the governor has had a different idea. He overestimated his authority in the premises, and it led him into a course of disaster. It almost paralyzed all highway affairs. It led to muddles and ill-advised action. It largely destroyed public confidence in the highway department.

Forty-two per cent of the water power of the country is in Oregon, Washington and California, says Secretary Houston. No wonder the water power trust came to the coast to make settlement against the Ferris bill.

AGGRESSIVE FEUDALISM.

SEVERAL new states are contemplated by various adventurous minds, to be formed, of course by the scission of older states. The federal constitution provides that no state may be divided without its own consent. This has always stood in the way of such projects but it is not an insurmountable obstacle.

porations which are engineering the scission are perfectly obvious. They are the dominant powers in that part of the country and they wish for no interference with their rule from other quarters. If the proposed new state should be set apart they would be its owners and rulers. Each corporation would reign in its own feudal territory, making the laws, choosing the officials, and controlling courts, churches and schools. Even the postoffices would be situated on corporation domains and forbidden to disloyal serfs.

We know exactly how such arrangements work out because we have had examples of them in Colorado and West Virginia. In a general way it may be said that we have quite enough feudalism in the United States already without erecting any new states to give it wider swing.

A PURE FOOD DECISION.

THE public's growing interest in hygienic foods and the effects of diet upon health and longevity render every judicial decision touching upon these matters of vital importance. It is therefore worth while, probably, to make some mention of a Tennessee case which has just been brought to a happy conclusion in the supreme court of that tobacco growing state.

For at the first delicious bite he made in the plug his teeth grated on some weird substance, he knew not what, but undeterred he began to "chaw" and continued that delightful occupation until his "face swelled up, he became dizzy," and a physician had to be summoned to alleviate his misery.

It turned out that the plug engendered a huge black beetle looking for all the world like a luscious morsel of tobacco but with far less agreeable effects upon the human system. The plaintiff sued for damages under the Tennessee pure food law but he did not get any.

The supreme court held that tobacco was not a food. At any rate, chewing tobacco was not. The dietary value of cigarettes and smoking tobacco in general is not fixed by this decision. In Tennessee, therefore, manufacturers of plug tobacco are at liberty to mix all the black beetles they can catch with the delectable commodity which they offer to the trade.

Purchasers of "plugs" from that state might be well advised to examine into their treasures a little before biting. They might discover a nail or even a stove lid, articles which are harder than black beetles on the teeth.

(CHAIN LETTERS.

PHILADELPHIAN wrote to the Public Ledger of that city the other day to complain that he had received a "chain letter." The writer of it asked him to copy an enclosed prayer and send it on to nine other persons. It was intimated that if he complied some great piece of good fortune would happen to him within ten days.

A favorite use of the chain letter is to solicit contributions to some charity, genuine or humbug. The recipient of the letter is asked to contribute ten cents himself and forward the request to nine others. If the project works, the "charity" thus secures a perennial flow of wealth which is likely to increase with time. People will fall into traps of this sort without the slightest inquiry into the merits of the affair.

cent more in wages than a year ago, and with 17 per cent more workers employed, prosperity is abroad in the Empire state. Half a million people at an advance of 27 per cent is a tremendous increase in the weekly wage distributed.

GROUNDLESS FEAR.

THE "Advocate of Peace" is a magazine published at the federal capital whose purpose is fairly obvious from its name. In the January number it collects some of the more extravagant utterances of our military prophets for the edification of mankind. Among these perhaps the most surprising is taken from one of the Rev. Charles A. Eaton's sermons.

Rev. Eaton says that "this war is the greatest blessing that has fallen upon mankind since the German reformation." With such a love of gore it seems a pity that the laws of the land do not permit the reverend gentleman to offer up human sacrifices. It is a fair inference that he would relish doing so.

Charles Edward Russell, one of our most radical writers, has plunged more deeply into militarism than Roosevelt himself. Mr. Russell "wants a fort every ten miles along the Canadian border" with a tremendous warfleet on the Great Lakes. Our habit of living at peace with our neighbor on the north fairly disgusts him.

The excited imaginations of these men seem to have been invaded, bombardment and slaughter. Mr. Brooks Adams, the representative of an old and patriotic Massachusetts family, wishes us to "adopt the German military system" from top to bottom. If we do not, he sees no hope for the country.

A New York jeweler has paid \$140,000 for a painting, 10 by 12 inches square. That is more expensive than owning an automobile.

VICE AND POVERTY.

MORNING contemporary opines that vice is the cause of poverty. It cannot abide for a moment the contrary theory that poverty causes vice. It is the determined and soul-disturbing radical who holds that poverty causes vice. That is one of their seditious reasons for wanting to do away with poverty. The theory that vice causes poverty is precious to the reactionary heart.

We must thank our contemporary for a beautiful opportunity to put in practice the rules of logic, which are always fascinating and sometimes profitable. For example, if vice causes all poverty there can be no virtuous poor. If they had been virtuous they would have had no vice to make them poor. So all that admiration which ministers and others bestow upon the devout poor is so much sheer waste. Their devoutness is a deceitful lure since, being poor, they are of necessity vicious. If they are not vicious what becomes of our contemporary's logic?

On the other hand, if poverty caused all vice there could be no virtuous rich. But such strange creatures are known to be fairly abundant in certain haunts. So this formula seems to have its limitations also, as most formulas do. The taste for all-inclusive formulas does not necessarily indicate a weak mind but it usually points to a disinclination for rigorous thought. With a goodly store of these cant phrases at hand a person can make quite a show of intelligence without taking the trouble to learn anything or even to put two and two together.

NAMES

ONE of the charms of Maine and the neighboring states to travelers is the names of the rivers, mountains and lakes. Apart from the "Presidential Range," the mountains commonly bear Indian names such as Adirondack, Wachusett and Mo-nadnock. The rivers, too, have taken from the aborigines names like Androscoggin and Merrimack, to say nothing of the imperial Connecticut. The lakes of Maine have become a standing source of amused interest to travelers for their queer Indian names, such as

Chesuncook and Moosetockmagunatick. New Hampshire boasts of its Lake Memphramog, not far from which was the Canadian birthplace of our own Jason Lee. Whittier lived for many years on the charming shores of Lake Winnepesaukee.

The fidelity with which New England has preserved these historic mementoes of the primitive inhabitants contrasts unpleasantly with the common practice in Oregon and Washington. Our noblest mountains bear such names as Hood, St. Helens, Adams, Rainier, which have no connection with the soil, filled as they may often be with historic interest.

It would not be a bad idea to make a thoroughgoing revision of the geographical names in this part of the world with the purpose to restore as many of aboriginal flavor as circumstances permit. The name Mount Hood seems particularly to invite revision. Compared with the names of the Swiss peaks, Watterhorn, Finsteraarhorn, Jungfrau, it is singularly unattractive. We must attach to our mountains the names of individuals, would it not be just that the man who discovered the laws of the land do so honored? And yet we have no Mount Gray.

NOTHING THE MATTER WITH PORTLAND

(Two concerns, of which most Portland people have seen neither hide nor hair, are excellent matter for installment No. 27 of this series. The trade of the farmer is a good one at all times, and especially good just now, while the maker of brushes will soon be out on his own as rising culture enhances fastidiousness as to person, apparel and all surroundings from which dust and all impurity must be ousted. Everybody enjoys a success story. In addition, here is a human fairy tale with a valuable lesson concerning two businesses of which very little is popularly known.)

I was 27 years ago that Weber Bros. built their tannery at 1712 Macadam street, and it was known by their names until recently, when Frank I. sold his interests to his brother, Joseph, who is now sole proprietor. With his sons, Henry J. and Andrew C., this gentleman now conducts the largest tannery on the north Pacific coast. Its business running, in normal times, from \$140,000 to \$150,000 a year. At present, Mr. Weber says, it is not so much.

"The business of tanning hides for the market," Mr. Weber reports, "has been fairly profitable until the last year or so, and I can see it coming back to its own again. Prices of raw hides, since the beginning of the European war, have advanced from eight to 10 cents a pound to 18@19c at this time, and the selling advance has not quite kept up with this rise. This has cut into the profits of tanning, and when done on a large scale amounts to considerable money in the course of a year's transactions."

Asked as to the territory from which the tannery secured its supplies, Mr. Weber said its shipments came principally from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Occasionally hides are purchased outside of these three states, but these deals are insignificant.

"Our market for tanned leather," Andrew C. Weber, bookkeeper, explained, "is Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Colorado, Iowa and an occasional shipment to Canada. The market has had a strong tendency of late, harness leather selling at from 40 to 45 cents a pound, and skirting at 50 cents. These are better prices than obtained before the present war, but the day has been when we bought hides at 4 1/2 to 5 cents a pound, though 10 cents is considered a fair figure. At no prior time since this tannery has been in existence have we paid as high prices as those of the present. How long the market will remain at its present state we do not know, but it is not expected to decline until a considerable time after the close of the conflict in the old world. About the only hides they are tanning over there at present are those of the human family, and these are not suitable for harness or shoes, and they would make rather delicate war saddles."

"Yes, the tanning industry is all right, one year with another, but its profits are subject to fluctuations. Our tan bark costs more now than formerly, too. Hemlock bark costs \$2 per cord and oak \$2 1/2 per cord. Where as we formerly bought these barks at \$3 for hemlock and \$2 for oak. We use but little hemlock, however, so its price cuts but little figure. Our oak bark comes from California, and the freight has considerable to do with its value laid down here."

OCCUPIES FIVE ACRES.

The concern, since Frank I. Weber sold his interests, is known as the Weber Tanning company. It occupies a building 300 feet by 150 feet, three stories, on a five-acre tract on the river bank in the south part of the city, all owned by Joseph Weber. It is one of Portland's enterprises which never closes. Unknown to the masses, it pursues the even tenor of its way, unassumingly performing a real service to the community. When running at its capacity, it gives employment to 25 men, who are paid 25 cents to 30 cents an hour for a 10-hour day. Its force is below normal just now, but with the advent of spring will be increased, possibly to the full complement.

at the price of the bristles of a pig, but it does. It has increased their value 20 to 25 per cent, and even more on some grades, and curtailed importations from monthly to two shipments a year. These are not the bristles of the American hog, however. These have not been disturbed, nor do they interest the warring nations—or anybody, particularly.

The American Brush & Broom company, William R. James president and manager, is located at Union avenue and East Washington street. It makes 150 varieties of brushes, from that for the nails to nine-foot street brushes, and therefore consumes large quantities of swine bristles.

COME FROM THE BALKANS.

"About the last thing you would expect to be influenced in by the European war," Mr. Jan J. said to The Journal, "is the matter of entering into the brush-making industry, and for the reason that it is generally known we are forced to import all hog bristles used in this business. Now is the cause for this importation asked to many."

Asked why domestic bristles could not be used, Mr. James replied: "Americans are so fond of money they cannot wait until their swine are old enough to have grown bristles of a commercial value. In this country hogs are butchered before their third year, as a rule. Most pigs are killed at 18 months to two years, and at that time their bristles are too short and too tender to be of value. In Bulgaria, Russia, Poland, Hungary and China swine are not butchered until from eight to 10 years old. As a consequence their bristles will average from three to three and a half inches in length on the stomach and six to seven inches on the spine. Two to three inches from the body they are very stiff, and this rigidity is necessary in the manufacture of the best grades of brushes, and especially in those employed in many strenuous occupations. We get our best bristles from the Balkan countries, Bucharest, Bulgaria, exports the greatest amount of hog bristles of any country in the world. The United States exports none."

BREED RAZOR-BLKS.

"The razor-back swine of the countries named grow the valuable bristles in the world. Some of these old fellows will have hair for half its length, almost like wire. This is of special value in work which requires stiff-bristled brushes, and brings the best prices. We buy for this factory bristles costing, at present market quotations, up to \$2, \$3.50, \$4.50 and \$5 a pound, and were it not that we are fortunate in having connection with the largest importing house in the United States we would be paying still higher figures. At present many factories find it difficult to procure stock at any price. Our arrangement, however, was made with New York importers prior to the breaking out of the European trouble. This has been a godsend to this factory. It has enabled us to run on full time when other wise we might have been closed or of short time. We buy horse hair at 10c a pound from 30 cents to 32 1/2 cents a pound."

Speaking of the outlook for the brush-making business in Portland, Mr. James said: "CAPITAL MOSTLY GRIT. "Between you and me, I had just \$200 when I opened this factory in 1910, and have an investment at the present time of \$10,000. This isn't a great sum, but you can imagine the difficulties I had to surmount on so limited a capital and the big eastern factories to contend with. I know brush making thoroughly. This knowledge has been my salvation, I worked alone at first. When I could afford it I hired a helper. As my sales grew I added another, and so on until now there are 11 of us, and I am paying \$600 a month to our workers. I need about \$6000 more money to make this enterprise the big thing it ought to be. I am not anxious to secure this, however, as I am willing to hook up with every Tom, Dick and Harry, but if I can run across a good, square fellow with this amount to invest in this going institution, he can have a half interest in the business."

CUTS EASTERN SALES.

"Already we have eliminated sales from 50 to 75 per cent of east in sales in Portland, and greatly reduced them in this state, Washington Idaho and northern California. In 1915 our sales were 20 per cent greater than in 1914, and orders now booked indicate a still more important increase for 1916. Our local trade is growing immensely. We make practically all brushes used by the railroads entering Portland, the Terminal company alone buying 120 a month of the grade that retails at \$3 each. Our 'Solid Dutch' calcimine brush is in general use in Portland by those engaged in that work, and painters have discovered we can and do serve them with more durable brushes than can be obtained elsewhere in Oregon. We have a large trade in this line. We have invented, and we are now beginning to make, a nail brush for dray-stove trade, which is bound to have a large sale. It is not of cheap variety, but has points of value so new as to attract, we are confident, immediate attention."

IMPORTS FROM CHINA.

"I am sorry we have to import so much of our stock. All our bristles, and some of our horse hair, are bought abroad. Even the palm used in our warehouse and stable brooms must come from China. The palm leaf of China extends from three to five feet from the trunk of the tree, and the ribs it contains are exceedingly tough. There is wonderful wear to them, and their equal cannot be had anywhere else. Those of California would be useless in this work. I surely agree with the many large manufacturers you have interviewed in proclaiming Portland a natural manufacturing location. If our people as a whole could would awaken to the fact that every dollar they spend for something made at home is a dollar sent out on an errand to ultimately return to them, 10 years would add \$10,000,000 to Portland's industries. Buying an American-made article is sending that dollar on a life-long journey. It will take it a lifetime to get back to the Pacific coast."

Letters from the People

Plutocrats and Cons.—McMinnville, Or., Jan. 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—May I ask of the supporters of military preparedness upon what moral principle and human right they justify their contentions? Our own state has been the scene of a disclosed fact which showed that nearly 50 per cent of this country is owned by 2 per cent of the people, and from 90 to 95 per cent of the people are without the right to vote. Then, by justice, how can we demand a general taxation and the common sacrifice of lives of our young manhood to fight the battles of a few? It is not one would assume that an invasion of any country would mean anything but a financial war. Europe cares nothing for our religious, political or political sentiments, and she would not give a penny to have us change them in any respect. Religious and social reforms are not the business of a conqueror. It is to be sure, if an invasion meant that wives and daughters should be carried away into slavery and our young men held in bondage, I, too, would care for the rights of the people. It is to be sure, if an invasion meant that wives and daughters should be carried away into slavery and our young men held in bondage, I, too, would care for the rights of the people. It is to be sure, if an invasion meant that wives and daughters should be carried away into slavery and our young men held in bondage, I, too, would care for the rights of the people.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

It did not need a Ford peace expedition to drive Old Man Winter out of our trenches. Too many who exceed the speed limit never do anything after they arrive at their destination. It is beginning to look as though there will be too many kings in the deck after the war is over. In the Taft philosophy, frankness is the cause of the presidential race, but is being kept out. What is the poor Indian to do? They have taken away his lands and now they are trying to prevent him from fishing where he has always fished. When writing letters to your friends in the east about the traction of Oregon, do not forget to write to your congressman often and tell him where to lead in.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Forty additional street lights will soon be placed on dark streets in Ashland. With the lumber companies increasing their payrolls in logging camps and mills and the bristling of the mining industry, the Baker Democrat declares that things look good for community prosperity in Baker city. "An indication that business is on the upswing in Astoria is the enterprise," he found in the fact that the Spaulding Logging company now has orders for more than 100,000 feet of lumber. The company has completed two buildings for the making of silos for the use of the rotary in the city. A new dry kiln has also been built. Announcing a new enterprise for Joseph, the Herald says: "Among the industries outlined for Joseph by our Commercial club is a wooden mill, and plenty of outside capital is being interested in this very worthy project. Joseph is the trading point of one of the largest wood centers in the United States, and therefore is an ideal location for the timber water power in the entire country."

COMMENT OF THE PRESS OF OREGON

MEDFORD SUN: This entire collection of the commercial club function has been revolutionized the past few years. Commercial clubs are no longer regarded in enlightened communities as mere reservoirs for hot air and dispensers of booster literature. That sort of thing may do up a man for a day. The modern commercial club should be an organization devoted to solving the important problems concerning the material betterment of the community. Why can't a local creamery meet foreign competition? Why can't there be a foreign factory and a lumber mill? Why is one of the most richly mineralized belts in the country left practically untouched? Here are a few questions which our Commercial club should be studying, not today or tomorrow, but month in and month out until they are solved. The best of modern ideas should be put into an organization, not an individual. There must be results before the public in general can respond with enthusiasm.

BENTON COUNTY COURIER: It is often said the coast country is the last to reach prosperity and the last to get on its feet. For months we have heard of the revival of business all over the east and middle west, but it appeared to have stopped at the coast. Now, however, every part of the coast from Seattle to San Diego there are reports of renewed activity that mean more than just newspaper stories. Lumber, one business that has been a mainstay of the coast, is following. It looks as if the "break" had come.

BURNS REGISTER: It is seldom that the people of Oregon have responded more fully to any call than to the appeal for help for the birds during the present period of cold and snowy weather. The response has not been individual but general. People everywhere in the country are flocking in every part of the state to help their share in feeding the birds. The appeal to save the birds is not based upon mere sentiment, although sentiment is properly a part of it. We have scenery that makes Italy seem tame and commonplace in comparison. Your letter or mine may accomplish nothing, but out of the millions of birds that will bring forth fruit abundantly.

SILVERTON APPEAL: With all of Oregon's snow and sputts of cold weather, we must still feel that we are not doing enough for the birds. The reports of devastating floods in California are read about. "Dry creeks now raging torrents three miles wide, orange belt dotted with floating houses, hundreds of derricks in oil fields blown down, Los Angeles and San Francisco down, and railroad traffic at a standstill," are some of the reports that should stimulate Oregonians.

BURNS-TIMES HERALD: The Times-Herald's attention has been called to the number of rabbit snares being set in this year ending January 1st. The number of snares set is \$43,154.25. This amount is approximately \$15,000 more than the tax levy for that purpose brought in. One of our commissioners asked how many miles of rabbit warren there are in the state. This is an enormous sum of money and we still have the rabbits. Under expert supervision Crook county has been set to work on the rabbit warren. It is a better result than Harney county under the bounty method.

HOOD RIVER NEWS: This is one of the seasons when Hood River people can congratulate themselves upon having real weather instead of mere blizzards. Hood River has had a winter section has enjoyed some winter, but without the extremes to be found in other parts of the country. It has been cold enough to make excellent sleighing and skating, but not so severe as to cause serious discomfort. There is an open air, their beings thrilled by the spirit of adventure.

WOOD RIVER NEWS: Never had Hood River people derived so much pleasure from an event as from the past week. The long stretches of steep streets form ideal ways for coasting. The hearts of boys and girls have been filled with supreme joy, and old men and women have had their age as they sped in the open air, their beings thrilled by the spirit of adventure.

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