

Oregon Journal

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Perfect freedom is as necessary to the health and vigor of a country as it is to the health and vigor of citizenship.

NOW FOR ACTION

FOR 15 months a committee of important men in the Portland Chamber of Commerce has been studying the needs of Portland.

Their investigations have been exhaustive. No phase of the situation has been left unscrutinized.

Statistics and facts of every kind in every field have been searched and probed.

The high character of the men on the committee is a guarantee of good faith. Their findings may well be accepted as intelligent and dependable.

Their conclusion, after their long and patient investigations, is that further development of water-borne commerce is the first and fundamental need of Portland.

They urge the establishment of steamship lines as a foundation on which to base a continuing prosperity, a broader expansion and sounder values for everything in Portland.

This same conclusion has been many times reached. Whenever the subject has been probed, the same inexorable finding has been arrived at.

There is no need of waiting for further investigations or further reports. There is no need to debate. By this time we should all be agreed.

The logical step after reaching an agreement is to "do something."

We have acted in many things. We have spent our money on many things. We have built costly court houses.

We have taxed ourselves more than six million dollars for improving the harbor and deepening the channel to the sea.

We have invested more than \$2,000,000 in public docks. We have spent a million and a half in a scenic highway.

We have mortgaged our property to build big city bridges and a great inter-state bridge.

We have spent money lavishly, and the federal government has spent money lavishly in providing the facilities of navigation, and in many investigations and reports we have always reached the conclusion that navigation is Portland's first and fundamental need.

But we have never put on the capstone in all this magnificent structure. The work has been left unfinished. The head of the corner has been left unfilled. We have done everything but navigate.

The chamber committee advises a one mill tax for five years to be used as a bonus in encouraging steamship lines. It is not the ideal plan. The ideal plan would be a great Portland maritime company, owned in Portland, directing its activities in Portland, building its ships in Portland, hiring all its labor in Portland, spending its money in Portland, and identifying all its operations with Portland.

Possibly the bonus plan might lead to such a consummation. Possibly outside capital and local capital would be encouraged by the bonus to make Portland a maritime headquarters.

A North Carolina senator is arguing that the child labor bill is unconstitutional. It is the same old argument. The constitution was used as the shelter and shield of that other slavery.

There are and here infantile paralysis continues to reap its harvest of death in New York. In spite of all that medical science has been able to accomplish in that great city the dread disease extends its awful conquest day by day until more than two thousand children have fallen victims to its ravages.

Whatever the cause, and whatever the hidden remedy that will ultimately make its onslaughts futile, the plague is doubtless aided

a week for munitions alone, and for one country only. The fruits of the expenditure are devastation and death. What a difference if the money were being spent for purposes of peace!

A CANDIDATE'S BLUNDER

IN HIS great enterprise of throwing mud at President Wilson for political purposes, Mr. Hughes has been led into a damaging blunder.

At Detroit Monday night, he renewed his criticism of the president for the displacement of Ambassador Herrick at Paris. It is the same criticism made by Mr. Hughes in his letter of acceptance. He insists that the change was made for "partisan expediency," and that American interests suffered by replacing an experienced ambassador with an inexperienced ambassador during the trying complications of war.

In passing, it is a bad thing to replace an experienced ambassador with an inexperienced ambassador in war time, how infinitely worse would it be to replace an experienced and tried president with an inexperienced and unknown president in war time?

But it is the ludicrous blunder that Mr. Hughes has made in the charge that is the point of this record. By reference to the record, Mr. Hughes, if a fair opponent, will withdraw his charge that President Wilson displaced Mr. Herrick for "partisan expediency." The record shows that the Hughes charge is wholly untrue.

Thus, Mr. Herrick, who was named ambassador to Paris 33 months before the end of the Taft administration, did not retire from the ambassadorship until November 29, 1914, nearly 21 months after Woodrow Wilson became president. That is to say, in spite of Mr. Hughes' charge of "partisan expediency," Mr. Herrick, a Republican, represented the administration for nearly half of President Wilson's full term.

Mr. Hughes ought to withdraw his charge. As an ex-justice of the highest court in the world, he ought, in justice to his former position, apologize to President Wilson, and expose the men who led him into this blunder.

But this is not all. Ambassador Herrick wanted to return to America. He had presented his resignation months before. He had repeatedly urged its acceptance. He wanted to come home.

It was not until June, 1914, 15 months after Mr. Wilson became president, that he named William G. Sharp of Ohio as Mr. Herrick's successor. The great war had not even begun. At the time Sharp was appointed, nobody in the world supposed that there would be a war. It was not until weeks after Sharp's appointment and not until months after Herrick's resignation that war broke out.

Nor is this all. Mr. Sharp arrived in Paris about the time war was declared, but he did not present his credentials until November.

Meanwhile, whoever charges that the experienced Mr. Herrick should not have been replaced by inexperienced Mr. Sharp in war time is compelled to acknowledge that the experienced President Wilson should not be replaced by the inexperienced Mr. Hughes in war time.

Oregon and Washington race horses are now being transported in parlor buffet cars, so we are told. The next thing we know the Kentucky thoroughbreds will be chewing Kentucky twist and sipping mint juleps.

MATTERS OF FORMALITY

ORMALITY is a funny animal. June 8 the Republican national convention nominated Justice Hughes for president, and he accepted the nomination by telegraph. Nearly two months later a flock of black-coated and silk-hatted gentlemen made a pilgrimage to Mr. Hughes and solemnly "notified" him of his nomination. Mr. Hughes, with great surprise and impromptu of vocal thought, expressed his pleasure at the honor thrust upon him.

On June 15 the Democratic national convention nominated Woodrow Wilson as its candidate and on September 2 he will be "notified" by other gentlemen garbed in conventional black of the fact that he has been nominated. Then the president will arise and give voice to his appreciation.

After it is all over several millions of people can draw deep sighs of satisfaction, sure at last that both gentlemen are aware that they are running for president. After that we can all settle back to watch the fireworks.

A North Carolina senator is arguing that the child labor bill is unconstitutional. It is the same old argument. The constitution was used as the shelter and shield of that other slavery.

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Whatever the cause, and whatever the hidden remedy that will ultimately make its onslaughts futile, the plague is doubtless aided

in its attack by the congestion and unsanitation in the poorer sections of the city. Climatic conditions without question help to fasten its grip.

Portland and Oregon, with its pure air, its pure water, its pure milk supply and its salubrious climate has much less to fear from such sad visitations. The youngsters of this state may still be beset with such childish troubles as the measles and the chicken pox, but they and their parents know nothing of the dread that comes with such visitations as that, now afflicting the eastern seaboard.

New York may be able to point to some things which this good country of ours can not yet emulate, but when it comes to health and happiness the people of the sunset land can be glad that their lots have been cast in a country which is rearing sturdy children who will be the strong men and women of the coming generation, ready and amply able to take their places as nation builders in the succeeding years.

Municipal Judge Langguth set a healthy precedent when he sentenced an offender to one day in jail for speeding on the Foster Road. Most speed maniacs care little for a fine, but very few look complacently outward from a cell. There is nothing like the calm contemplation that broods over a jail to take the joy out of a joy-ride.

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 should be addressed to the Editor of The Journal, 1000 Commercial Street, Portland, Oregon. If the writer does not desire to have the name published, it should be so stated. "Discussion is the greatest of all reforms. It rationalizes everything it touches. It robs principles of their sanctity and throws them out with the bath water. If they have no reasonableness, it rationally convinces them out of their own heads."—Woodrow Wilson.

Hughes' Record. Oakland, Or., Aug. 7.—To the Editor of The Journal—I see in the daily papers that James E. Watson of my native state, Indiana, opened the Hughes campaign in Oregon with quite a harangue against the present administration. I conclude by what he said about Wilson and Mexico that he is a man of blood—a man with the will of a tyrant. He said, "I have known a man who had courage, who had a policy as president and who knows how," implying that Mr. Hughes has all these qualities. And Mr. Hughes in a speech not long since made in the west of Oregon in the matter of circulation and, therefore, of influence, is the more important of the two in his own mind.

In his interesting, though all too brief, sketch, printed in the issue of the 26th of the Journal, the editor of the Oregonian has committed a gross error of the type by no means inexcusable error of supposing that the name "Curry" was given to this county in recognition of a pioneer family here of that name.

The county was organized during the 1855-1856 session of the territorial legislature, at which session the most portentous problem of our own and the world's future, he the man who would have to deal with it, never even mentioned. Great as the virtues, but others have been both efficient and firm—yet they have not necessarily been wise. A statesman asking us to play with him the great question of the future of our country, and the only specific item he offered was a good old fashioned protective tariff. The real economic problem which he was to solve was the problem of the world divided into economic blocs.

The county was named in honor of the town of Port Orford, and founder of the town of Port Orford, was a member of the house.

Had Captain Tichenor insisted on the name of the town of Port Orford, the house would have declined to concur in the council's decision. It is a pity that this has been Tichenor's county, instead of Curry county.

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I have known many German people, and highly regarded them, but the will of the people should be the basis of our policy. It is an omen of an awakening to the realization that this town cannot maintain real estate values and continue in prosperity by merely swapping town lots.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

However, some excitement may be injected into the campaign when T. R. gets started.

Oregon's corn crop shows that the state is not so far from being self-sufficient in the line of one of her staples.

Portland's Chamber of Commerce is 100 per cent right in assuming that the war is valuable to the extent that it is to the farmers.

Automobile owners ought to understand a financial problem. It isn't so much the first cost as the upkeep the purpose of the car.

Six Oregon crops in the swollen fortune class, but unlike some millionaires, they actually produced the wealth credited to them.

The presumption is that the marriage of Miss Coss and Eugene Eugene Lane at the Marshfield railroad jubilee will be a eugenic wedding.

Pendleton appears to be in dire need of a round-up. With all Protestant ministers out of town, Cupid has sent out an S. O. S. call for converts.

There are signs that Europe would like to trade its stock of nationalism, such as Mr. Hughes lauds, for sane citizenship such as Mr. Wilson urges.

When Imperial Valley housewives are induced by the president of a board of health to visit the soldiers' camp at Chino to learn housekeeping and sanitation, it doesn't look as though the health and comfort of our boys on the border are being neglected.

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OREGON SIDELIGHTS

A manual training building 80x38 feet is under construction on the public school grounds at Seaside.

"People who were kicking for some hot weather are still kicking, but not for hot weather. It is a rather observant of the hot days.

Seaside's eighth annual dahlia show lures visitors with its slogan: "Seaside for pleasure, rest and repose. For Seaside is the dahlia city."

Promoters of Eugene's first dahlia show, a very successful affair, have decided to call a meeting of growers the purpose of the show.

The public bathing pool at Grants Pass is well patronized. Last Sunday the people came on in an crowd.

Real estate boost in Blue Mountain American. Two Simpler valley farms sold in a week is going some. Valley farms are more and more being recognized as a valuable investment.