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Hodgen, Walter B. Jones, Laurgaard, Lewis, Lunger, Mackay, Mattheu, Peck, Porter, Portwood, Rowe, Small, Stephens, Sweeney, Thomas, Thompson, Tichenor.

Any sheriff can put the grant lands on the assessment roll at any time, should the Chamberlain-Ferris act be held invalid.

ALL over Oregon men are wondering why it is often so difficult to get legislative consideration of a meritorious measure.

The legislature rejected the direct primary, and the people, at the next election, passed it by use of the initiative.

The legislature rejected a local option bill, and the people passed it at the next election.

The legislature rejected a corrupt practices bill and the people, at the next election, adopted it.

The legislature rejected the gross earnings and corporation tax bills, and the people, at the next election, passed them by a vote of about ten to one.

Measures of doubtful or mischievous character often go through as if on greased skids.

Witness the "midnight resolution" slipped through at the dead hour of 3 a. m. of the last night of the 1915 session.

Yet the bill to abolish it has encountered legislators with axes in their hands ready to beat it to death.

It is only by the persistent effort of the grange and farmers' union committee at Salem, friendly members on the floor of the two houses, and constant publicity in The Journal and some of the friendly up-state newspapers, that the measure has been kept alive for such eventualities as may come in the dangerous closing hours of the session.

The bill is an economy measure and is pending before legislators who want to Salem with lips red with pledges of economy.

Its purpose is so undeniably wholesome that, were the legislative system what it should be, its enactment into law would naturally be looked upon as a matter of course.

Yet, behold the treatment it has received. Slowly but surely, the legislature is undermining itself in the minds of the people.

Some legislature, if not this one, may go into history with the unenviable distinction of having been the straw that broke the camel's back.

A woman led the fight for reconsideration and secured substitution of the minority for the majority report on the delinquent tax bill.

With a woman a pledge of economy is a pledge of economy, not made to get into office, but to keep. Mrs. Thompson, representative from Wasco county, is by her record at Salem, justifying the faith of her constituents expressed in electing her, and is vindicating the claims of women that they should have a voice in government.

ONE of the many astonishing things in the current troubles over wars and rumors of wars is Senator Borah's attitude.

In times like this all sorts of silliness and weakness are naturally to be expected from weak and silly people.

But what Mr. Borah says about the president's ideals we can discern nothing but narrow provincialism and blind loyalty to dead tradition.

Mr. Wilson acknowledges that times have changed for the United States since the days of Washington. It was wise, then, to talk about avoiding "foreign entanglements" because they could be avoided.

Isolation was possible. But Mr. Wilson, like all other students of current human affairs, knows that isolation is no longer possible.

The scientific inventions which have been made since Washington's time have revolutionized human relations.

daily dreams that the United States is still as many thousands of miles away from troubled Europe as it was when Washington wrote his Farewell Address.

He pleads in vain. Whether we wish it or not, the isolation is gone. We may blind ourselves to the new conditions for a time if we so elect, but events will rudely open our eyes.

Senator Borah is a lotus-eater. His sight is veiled with dim mists. He lives in a land where "it is always afternoon."

The difference between him and the president is easy to state. The president acknowledges facts and tries to cope with them.

Mr. Borah fancies that he can charm the facts away if he keeps on dreaming. He is like the girl in the song who exclaims, "Break not the blissful seeming; Oh, do not wake me yet."

Or, perhaps he is more like the sluggard, who begs for a "little more sleep, a little more slumber, a little more folding of the hands to sleep."

THE federal court of appeals at San Francisco has affirmed the decision of Judge Wolverton in the Coos Bay Wagon Road land grant.

The decision has important bearing on issues in Oregon just now. The grant consisted of 80,000 acres of public lands, and it was made by congress to the state to aid construction of a wagon road from Roseburg to Coos bay.

It was provided in the grant act that the lands should be sold at not to exceed \$2.50 per acre and in lots not to exceed 160 acres.

In turn, the state turned the lands over to the Coos Bay Wagon Road company which constructed the road. Instead of complying with the provision that the lands should be sold at not more than \$2.50 per acre and in lots of not more than 160 acres, the company sold the lands to the Huntington interests in California, and the latter, in turn, sold them to Elijah Smith and associates of Boston.

All the transfers were in violation of the grant act.

Suit for forfeiture was brought, and Judge Wolverton handed down his decision after the decision of the federal supreme court in the railroad grant land case.

The interesting feature is that he followed the line laid out in the railroad decision on which the Chamberlain-Ferris law was passed by congress, and the San Francisco court of appeals now affirms his decision.

That is to say, the two lower courts, the district court in Portland and the court of appeals in San Francisco, have interpreted the supreme court's findings as giving the grantees a \$2.50 share in the grant lands and no more, and as giving back to the people all the value in the lands above the \$2.50 per acre, which is the exact assumption on which was based legislation giving half the proceeds to Oregon schools, roads and irrigation and returning the remainder of the proceeds to the federal government.

Incidental to this significant decision at San Francisco, during his administration, Governor West attempted to secure passage through the legislature of a bill which proposed to do the exact thing with the Coos bay grant that the courts are now doing.

His bill proposed to reimburse the present holders and take over the grant lands, paying the holders \$2.50 per acre and returning to them such taxes as they had paid on the property. It was proposed then for the state to sell the lands and turn the proceeds into the common school fund.

Though the measure aimed to do what the courts are now doing, it was beaten in the legislature. A leader in the fight against it was L. E. Bean, then a state senator, now the representative who persuaded the house Wednesday to pass house bill 302, which takes the side of the railroad and goes against the federal government in the litigation now pending before the United States supreme court.

In the Coos Bay Wagon Road legislation, Mr. Bean took the side of the grant land magnates just as he takes the side of the railroad in the present litigation.

The Multnomah delegation could have saved Multnomah taxpayers, delinquent and non-delinquent, \$7000 by pushing the delinquent advertising bill through. Some of them tried to do so. But others are voting to perpetuate the graft.

These three voted for the graft in the house—Callan, Corbett and Kubli.

IT SEEMS perfectly in accord with the law of evolution that Klamath county should have an official hunter. We have always had sheriffs to keep down the inroads of human vermin.

A hunter like Klamath's Fred W. Star, to stay the invasions of predatory beasts, may be almost as useful.

Vermin and agriculture do not thrive together. Sheep vanish before ravenous dogs. Squirrels devour seed corn. Gophers lay waste the garden. Coyotes with rabies bite everything and everybody they see and the dogs they infect are as bad as the wild vermin.

Oregon owes the first steps toward a state government to pioneer activities against wild beasts.

The famous "wolf meeting" which led on to the provisional government was called for the same purpose that Klamath had in mind when Mr. Star was made official hunter.

The publication of delinquent tax lists has constituted a graft from time immemorial, during which it has provided an easy method for cheap, claptrap politicians to repay at public cost debts of gratitude for newspaper support.

The case has not been better stated. When the Herald pointedly adds, "This thing of waxing fat on misfortune has been in vogue altogether too long," its indictment of the publication system becomes complete and unanswerable.

Letters from the People

"Waste and Prices." Vancouver, Wash., Feb. 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—An editorial headed "Waste and Prices," in last Thursday's Journal describes the waste of our most precious commodity, "the waste."

Truly, "each superfluous wagon stood for a superfluous acre," and "the man with the hoe" is taxed to support the whole parasitic system.

Yes, but what are we going to do about it? We realize that we are fast approaching a condition wherein we will be through taking in one another's waives.

The country is swarming with jerk-water, long-haired reformers, the most invidious parasites, which honest labor is taxed to support, and of whom we have few.

Truly our great national trouble was not "made in Germany." It is a home product.

in your editorial you are dealing with the greatest curse of this country—distilled alcohol.

Mr. Wilson asserts that we have six distributors for each one actually needed. I know the United States more thoroughly, and have spent many more years in it than you, and I am sure that the 60 distributors for each one actually needed.

Osteopathy and Materia Medica. Portland, Feb. 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—The osteopaths, who have always had as a basic principle the cure of disease without the use of drugs or surgery, and who have pointed out the danger of the use of opium, ether, chloroform, cocaine, eucaine, etc.—to the people of Oregon without any knowledge whatever of their action.

There is a powerful faction of strong pro-alien sympathizers, especially along the eastern seaboard, who need to be warned of the danger of their attitude to make common cause with the Borahs now than they could afford in the last campaign to remain quiet under Mr. Hughes's campaign.

HOW TO BE HEALTHY

EUGENICS—Eugenics, as the Greek derivation of the word reveals, means the science of right breeding. It does not, or at least should not, mean that men and women be mated like sheep or cattle.

Eugenics does not mean, as many persons at first might think, anything like the old Spartan practice of killing off weak children or of ruthlessly exposing children who were born so that only those who were superlatively strong and vigorous might live.

By right living, physically, mentally and morally, we improve not alone our own lives but influence the lives of the generations to come.

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A Rotten Graft That Should Be Abolished.

The Portland Journal is warring on the Oregon statute providing for the publication of the names of delinquent taxpayers, a process that embosses to the public eyes of the delinquent the names of his family.

Steel Manufacturer Here.

James E. MacMurray of Chicago, president of the Acme Steel Goods company, is a guest at the Portland Hotel.

The Toboggan Route.

From the Indianapolis News.

people of the state? What excuse is there in either morals or law for such interference? The enemies of direct legislation by the people are numerous and powerful and are seeking by subterranean and insidious methods to undermine the initiative and finally overthrow it and restore the old time regime of legislation by and for the benefit of the few.

It may be assumed, as a joke, that it is the initiative of a bill by the welfare of the average voter that Gordon and company would throw additional difficulties in the way of its passage.

Actors who go through their parts while in the midst of great grief or suffering are lionized when the story of their grief is told.

Small Change.

When the auto show season is over, what's the matter with a water wagon?

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE. When the auto show season is over, what's the matter with a water wagon? Doubtless the Journal has only deferred his visit to Jamaica to some season when there is a shortage in the cost of milk, doubtless, is the rise in the price of the wire cloth that straitens the neck of the bottle.

SENATE OBSTRUCTIONISTS. They will simply make themselves ridiculous if after all their talk about Belgium and France and Prussianism they refuse to start an organization of the world in which the crimes of this war are less likely to be repeated.

HOW TO BE HEALTHY. EUGENICS—Eugenics, as the Greek derivation of the word reveals, means the science of right breeding. It does not, or at least should not, mean that men and women be mated like sheep or cattle.

PERSONAL MENTION. Inspect O-W. B. & N. Line. M. J. Buckley, superintendent of the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Co., left Wednesday night on an official inspection of the line.

Rag Tag and Bobtail

Stories From Everywhere. To this column all readers of The Journal are invited to contribute original matter—stories, poems, sketches, etc.—of a nature that will be of interest to our readers.

You'd Never Guess His Name. A real cowpuncher from Texas, clad in cowboy raiment of the most expensive kind, rode into the city.

HOW PORTLAND WOMAN FLED BELGIUM. When the Germans invaded Belgium in the late summer of 1914 Miss Beatrice Young of Portland was studying in the university at Brussels.

FEATURE RESUMED. The serial feature, "The Straight Girl on the Crooked Path," appearing on the back page of THE SUNDAY JOURNAL and which was unavoidably omitted last Sunday, will be resumed next Sunday.



Think I see in my mind a public and pulchritudine man rousing himself like a wren man after sleep, and shaking his formidable body, methinks I see him as a king moving his mighty youth, and kindling his undimmed eyes at the full midday of the sun.

AS THE RAILROAD WANTS IT

CONCERNING the "midnight resolution" slipped through at 3 a. m. of the closing night of the 1915 legislative session, the supreme court of the United States said in the land grant decision.

The "government" was suing the railroad for forfeiture of the grant lands. The "government" was striving to have the lands restored to the people on the ground that the railroad had violated all the terms of the grant act and had withdrawn the lands from sale altogether.

The "midnight resolution" directed the attorney general of Oregon to intervene in the case then pending before the high court at Washington and endeavor to have the decision so framed that the lands would remain on the tax rolls of Oregon.

House bill 302, by Bean of Lane, which passed the house Wednesday on Mr. Bean's representations, also prays to have the grant lands remain on the Oregon tax rolls.

It is at such a moment that the Bean bill, declaring in effect that the "government" had no right to take over the excess proceeds of the lands or to revert title in the United States, is presented to the house and passed, placing the house squarely on record against the United States government and squarely on the side of the railroad in the present litigation.

Delaying the delinquent advertising bill to the closing hours of the session is a plot to do by skulduggery and in the dark what cannot be done in the open.

A ROLL OF HONOR

HERE is a roll of honor. It is a list of the house members who voted under reconsideration to relieve taxpayers from the delinquent tax grant.