

Oregon Journal AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED EVERY DAY, AFTERNOON AND MORNING (except Sunday afternoon) at The Journal Building Broadway and Exchange streets, Portland, Or.

CAN PORTLAND BE CONVINCED?

IN THESE articles The Journal is analyzing the railroad situation, and is, for the first time revealing fully how Portland is adversely affected by prevailing railroad agreements and policies.

It has been shown how Mr. Harriman's promise to Portland has not been kept, how the O. R. & N. in former years was building up the commerce of Portland and how that road is now making Seattle its real terminus and distributing city.

The Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway Company operates a line from Spokane to Portland. It also owns and operates the road to Astoria and the coast. It operates branch lines in the Willamette valley to Eugene; a line to Wilkesboro from Linnton; the Lyle-Goldendale line, and a line to Bend.

The announcement of the building of this was accompanied by some predictions as to results. Mr. James J. Hill said: "Nature made the pass; water follows the line of least resistance and so does commerce."

Mr. Howard Elliott of the Northern Pacific said: "We hope within a year after we build this North Bank line we will find no decrease in the number of trains that are passed over the Cascade mountains, but that we shall also have a train over the North Bank line into Portland every 30 minutes."

These statements were made in 1905 and doubtless were sincere. Certainly Mr. Hill's statements were absolutely true, otherwise there was no possible reason for the two northern lines to build a road down the north bank of the Columbia, unless it was to keep some other road out.

As the owners of only a one-half interest each, as was pointed out by Mr. Mitchell in his address at the meeting of the Transportation association, neither of them propose to trade one dollar for fifty cents, hence they divert such traffic, and such traffic only, over the S. P. & S. as their policy dictates, and they certainly do not intend to allow this child of theirs to enter as a competitor in their territory.

It does not require very great business sense to appreciate the fact that any one will get the whole dollar for oneself if possible, rather than share it with a rival. So it has come to pass that this railway property really cannot serve its true purpose as a public transportation agency.

Our only purpose in thus analyzing the situation, is to make it perfectly clear that the people of this city must depend on themselves, and that they cannot count on railroad favors. As stated, if the Spokane, Portland & Seattle were independent, it would be, because it could not help but be, a Columbia river road, a Portland road, an Astoria road, a line of road whose future is dependent on the future of the territory it serves.

As it is, its immediate officers can only do the best they can under the circumstances, and its rate and its policy are absolutely determined by the interests and policy of its owners, the northern roads. Hence again we find rates on the low water grade road fixed and determined by the rates on the parent lines over the Cascade mountains.

Can Portlanders fail to realize from these indisputable facts that in the fundamentals of growth and development, they are tremendously handicapped by prevailing railroad policies?

Inspection. These people foster crime, not reformation. It is difficult to understand how anyone can fall to applaud the parole system in the face of the record paroled men are making.

There is no pressure upon natural resources in the United States and can be none for centuries to come. But there is a monopoly of natural resources which debar the people from using them and makes famine prices in a land of plenty.

Bernhardt and his militarist coteries tell the German people that they have not the intelligence to govern themselves. In the same way our monopolists of natural resources, transportation and money tell the American people that in these fundamental essentials of sovereignty they must acknowledge the divine right of an oligarchy to rule. How long shall we heed them?

The rate on wheat from Pendleton, 218 miles downhill to Portland, is 13 1/2 cents, and from Walla Walla, 315 miles over the Cascades to Seattle, is the same. By such rates, Portland is robbed of every advantage of its favorable location.

AN INVESTIGATION GOVERNOR McCALL of Massachusetts appointed one of those "investigating commissions" this winter which have contributed so largely to the country's entertainment in a dark hour.

PAROLED MEN MEN paroled from the penitentiary, 245 in number, earned \$12,757.56 during the month of February, according to a report recently made to the governor. This was an average of \$52.07 for each man. The report further shows that there have been but 167 parole violations out of a total of 846 paroles granted since May 26, 1911.

There have been, and still are, those who cavil against the parole system. They do not believe in "coddling" criminals. They want to shut them up in dark and unsanitary cells, keep them in idleness at state expense, and make them pay the penalty for their wrongs by solitary meditation and

consumer of fiery beverages far more destructive to health and morals than light wines. Drunkenness increased at a terrible rate. The question of temperance reform became of the most vital moment.

But, except more or less effectual exhortation of the John B. Gough type, nothing seems to have been done against the evil until the war compelled statesmen to take thought for the public welfare. The war is accountable for fearful evils but it has done one great good. It has torn the veil away from the self-satisfied face of a rotting civilization and compelled men to choose between the reform of national diseases and national death.

There is a strong agitation in France now for strict prohibition and men like the hotel keepers, who would lose money by its success, are favoring it. Patriotism sometimes plays queer tricks with the pocket book. There is a prohibition bill now before the chamber of deputies and the Aix Les Bains Union of Hotel Keepers have petitioned for its adoption.

Letters From the People (Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be on 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.)

Declares Japan Is Friendly. Portland, March 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—It is difficult to understand why jingoists in this country are constantly harping on an alleged danger of war between Japan and the United States. The traditional friendship which has existed between that country and this spans a period of more than 50 years.

California has seemingly a thought that "California" is for "Californians" and has passed laws which violate the spirit of brotherly love to the eastward. But even this has not "irritated" the Japanese and called for nothing more than a formal protest, finally withdrawn in a gentlemanly agreement to withhold immigrants.

I aver that a Japanese has as good a right to own property here as any other race. He is just as good a citizen as any other, if given a chance. He certainly minds his own business, mixes less with others, and is more inclined to pursue his work. Every day's work that he performs adds that much to the value of our commonwealth.

The more he is required to do, the more he naturally seeks land—the one thing to which he is best adapted. Ignorance with him is an aversion. He is a practical man. Note the hundreds of them who work for board and clothes, long hours, that they may have a few to devote to study. He is a hard worker, and he has cultivated brains which wealth to our country. The land itself has been made more valuable by his work. He is honest, and the whole, as any other people. True, there are some criminals among them. So are there among the rest of us.

Concerning General Joseph Lane. Portland, March 17.—To the Editor of The Journal—In The Journal of March 15, Lane's Record, George H. Himes writes, calling down a writer in the Oregonian of March 8, who signed himself as "Reader." Mr. Lane is a man of high character and his colleagues for failing to "line up" for armed neutrality, and speaks of the "craven act" of those who would not be engaged in the despicable conduct of an erring grandson.

Insulting and despicable are the same kind of "hot air" that would be enough to be hurled at Senator Harry's grandfather. Mr. Himes reminds "Reader" that General Lane was a grand old man in Oregon. Similarly, let me suggest that Senator Harry Lane also has children in Oregon. As to "Reader's" allusions to the alleged "attitude" of the Oregonian, I have no words to say, because I know nothing. But it was a "hot time" in Oregon, and things were said that would have remained unsaid, and some things may have been done that had better been left undone, and should now be forgotten.

IN 1860 Lincoln was the Republican nominee, Douglas the regular Democratic nominee and Breckinridge the nominee of the pro-slavery wing of the party. At that time Joseph Lane was his running mate for vice-president. Only two years before, the question of free or slave state was being argued, that would be enough to have had declared against slavery. So, when General Lane accepted the nomination of the Charleston convention, at the hands of the pro-slavery party, he was betrayed and the people were not particularly temperate in their denunciation of the act. This was the tragedy of the political life of General Joseph Lane.

Yet, in writing up "his record" Mr. Himes forgot to remember anything about it, that fighting General Joseph Hooker urged General Lane to accept a commission in the Union army. I am skeptical as to that. My recollection is that when he was being recruited for the war, and capable men to officer it were being sought, Hooker was in private life—in the city of Washington. General Lane, Stevens and others, elsewhere, and like them, he offered his services when he saw that his country needed him. Again, Lane finished his term in the senate of March 3 and was on his way home, more than a month before the first shot of the war was fired. It is as if it may, there were an insurrectionary war between General Lane and a commission in the Union army in the person of Abraham Lincoln.

Prohibition in France. There is a good deal of "bone dry" prohibition sentiment in France and it is increasing. At the beginning of the war France extirpated the sale of alcohol, the ruinous Parisian tipples, and some hoped that all forms of alcoholic drink would speedily travel the same road.

But the government hesitated and delayed. The economic interests behind the drink trade in France are very powerful. The vineyards are almost the total agricultural resource in some of the finest districts. The export of wine brings immense sums of money into the country yearly. (The manufacture and sale of brandy and other strong liquors is a heavily capitalized business.

The notion that the French drink little but "light wines" is erroneous. During the latter half of the last century France, like the rest of the world, became a great consumer of fiery beverages far more destructive to health and morals than light wines. Drunkenness increased at a terrible rate. The question of temperance reform became of the most vital moment.

But, except more or less effectual exhortation of the John B. Gough type, nothing seems to have been done against the evil until the war compelled statesmen to take thought for the public welfare. The war is accountable for fearful evils but it has done one great good. It has torn the veil away from the self-satisfied face of a rotting civilization and compelled men to choose between the reform of national diseases and national death.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

Rag Tag and Bobtail

Stories From Everywhere

The North Plains Optimist now occupies its new quarters fronting Commercial avenue. Young men of The Dalles are enthusiastically proceeding to organize the kind of an athletic club.

The first copy of the Gold Beach Reporter was issued one year ago last Thursday, "since which time," says its editor, "I have been doing very well, thank you."

Desiring to make his old college chums in the Willamette valley envy the editor of the Granite Observer exclaims: "I'm happy. Anyone ought to be happy who is sunshine if given conscience a clear."

Labor will be scarce in Grant county this summer, according to the Canyon News. The editor of the paper has called on every idle man; inasmuch as the wages are better than they are for the work it is sure to make help hard to secure.

"Oleo Margarine, who is a real person and not a substitute for butter," says the editor of the Granite Observer, "is the best thing that has come out of the kitchen since the discovery of fire."

From the Chicago Post. The revolutionary movement in Russia is the answer of the people to the great drama started in Petrograd, that has moved heaven and earth to keep control of the nation's destiny in its own hands.

The title resignations, revolving about the czar and poisoning his mind with thoughts of fear and suspicion, have been fighting against the waxing power of the duma. They have been his efforts to organize a people for successful warfare, not so much because they wish well to Germany as because they dread the menace of an organized and people of their own rank and power.

Playing upon the dynastic timidity of the czar, these forces have persuaded him to abdicate the throne and to curtail the duma. They have obtained for themselves positions of power in the ministry, and by incompetence have rendered the ministry a muddled, delayed and disorganized.

Russia has suffered numberless reverses at the front as a result of this situation. Brave generals like Brusiloff, Ruzsky and Dimitrieff have fought on under handicaps that would have crushed any other patriots. Their sympathies have been with the duma. They have before them the terrible prospect of being postponed from time to time, lest failure should lead to utter downfall.

But the hour struck when the troops were ineffective. The ministry precipitated a food crisis in a land of plenty and the czar, listening to the advice of the "dark forces," removed the military leaders of the duma because of its vigorous protests against misrule.

The news dispatches indicate that the czar has been serious in his order. Petrograd; blood had been shed; the royal palace has been assailed; Protopotoff, minister of the interior and most hated of all reactionaries, has been arrested. The czar, it is said, must acquiesce or abdicate.

We have yet to learn how the rest of the world will meet the new order. Petrograd is a small spot on a vast map, and the great empire is disarticulate. "Moscow, Kiev, Odessa" centers of population for millions of people remain to be heard from. There is reason to believe that the people are as nearly unified as they can be under the difficult conditions.

How to be healthy. Why smoking hurts you. While a big proportion of the men, and a scattering of the women, of this country spend \$1,200,000,000 annually for tobacco, the question of whether smoking is harmful becomes a burning issue.

Worsley Hates Mud. Expansion of the campaign in favor of the new road is being met by a hotly contested fight in the city of Astoria. Ben J. Worsley, who is registered at the Hotel Multnomah, as written after his name, "Full Oregon Out of the Mud."

No Leak, But a Lawson. From the New York Herald. Many a vision vanished when the committee which investigated the alleged leak to Wall Street of the president's peace note in December made its report to the house of representatives in particular to W. Lawrence son's dream of \$60,000,000 such a matter won in a day, of a congress corrupted and afraid, of a cabinet of intrigue and of the high dignitaries whose rank could not even be named, passes and leaves not a wrack behind.

PERSONAL MENTION Peter Fieldberg of Camas, Wash., is at the Perkins. B. Stewart is a Roseburg arrival at the Perkins. J. R. Roberts is registered at the Carlton from Spokane.

W. J. Rhodes is a North Yakima arrival at the Perkins. E. J. Aronson is registered at the Carlton from Seattle. H. J. Steel of Enterprise is at the Perkins.

Both Fore and Aft. From the Seattle Times. Miss Gush-Oh, Captain, were you ever boarded by a pirate? Captain Storms—Yes; he charged me \$10 a day for a ball bedroom on the fourth floor.

Uncle Jerry Snow Says. Jute Humbleton is dead, say everybody; order go to war only after everybody has been put in a referendum and when Doc Wampum axed him what, supposin' meanwhile the enemy took New York and annexed Cuba, would you have any sense in retreating everybody to the front. Jute says he is in favor of a referendum. Jute says he is cleared even if the war's going on at the time.

Sing a Little Song. If the world seems dark and gloomy, And everything goes wrong, Just make a little sunshine, And sing a little song.

The Super-Patriot. An Englishman, an Irishman and a German were crossing the English channel in a boat. Thinking to have some fun at the expense, the Englishman asked the Irishman and began praising Germany and everything German, says the People's Home Journal.

The Joke Was on Father. E. T. Allen of Hockport hasn't a particularly excited opinion of private schools for children, and since his children attend the very exclusive little neighborhood school located in that community, he is a little bit unmerciful about the "nice manners" they are learning.

Our Ship. When America strays on the treacherous sea, That drift in that sea of war, Can we trust her sight to guide her To the safe and peaceful shore?

Burned to the Water's Edge. There was a little flurry of excitement in the Flamingo section of the Oregonian, when the celluloid keys caught fire from some unknown cause. It was after banking hours, but the fire was still working. It is believed that a coal from the janitor's pipe fell on the inflammable keys.

Wheelbarrow Aids Crippled Auto. An unusual sight was presented yesterday on East Cass street, says the Roseburg Review, when a car, owned by James Fisher Jr., broke a rear axle, which necessitated peculiar means to take the car to his garage at the fire station. With the assistance of a number of fellows, who were engaged and a wheelbarrow, and while one of the men operated this vehicle bearing one corner of the machine, the others rode on the wheelbarrow, the car was pushed and presented the appearance of the car being carried on the wheelbarrow.

A Pica for a Happier Home. We've read all the paper over, And backed up the marks on the grid; We're asking through you, Can't somebody tell us a story, Or sing us a cheerful song, To help a blue day along?

Where we don't have the high cost of living? Of all of war's horrible horrors And the high cost of living we've heard; Of politics and its endless graft, I'll be weary of every word. Come away, out into the country! Where the sun and sunshine is warm and bright;

Where we don't have the high cost of living? Nor the Germans, either, to fight! There are hints that spring is coming— From a treetop a robin sings; The meadowlark sends his cheerful note;

As he passes on sunlit wings, Suppose that we go fishing. In the good old fashioned way— Where we sit on a log in the shadows, By the pool where the big fish play.

The breeze comes from woodland and meadow, Sweet with the breath of wild flowers; The hummingbird and the honey bee, With glances on the sun-kissed waters, Where the water lilies are in bloom, We wait for the signal to land one. When the cork goes down below,

We muse, how on the stream of life, Careless waters, dropped, as we go, Let the neighborhood give more to us, Which in widening circles flow. War? Well, we don't believe it! All our hearts are on the referendum. And the high cost of living will get one slain.

When this "sucker" gets within reach!— Pearl Sherrod, Madras, Or. Uncle Jerry Snow Says: Jute Humbleton is dead, say everybody; order go to war only after everybody has been put in a referendum and when Doc Wampum axed him what, supposin' meanwhile the enemy took New York and annexed Cuba, would you have any sense in retreating everybody to the front. Jute says he is in favor of a referendum. Jute says he is cleared even if the war's going on at the time.