

Oregon Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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IN TROUBLOUS TIMES

AN APPEAL for operating reforms in the railroads has been issued by the National Defense Council. A news story describes the appeal thus:

Definite recommendations are made, including longer locomotive runs, heavier loading of cars, quicker handling at terminals, reduction of idle time and local meetings among railroad employees and officials to improve on every railroad man the necessity of doing his full patriotic duty. CONSERVATION OF MOTIVE POWER IS RECOMMENDED BY REDUCING LOCOMOTIVES ORDINARILY UNDER REPAIR FROM THE AVERAGE 15 PER CENT TO 10 PER CENT which would be equivalent to adding 245 locomotives to the service; increasing the average miles per day of a locomotive from 75 to 90 by quick turning at terminals, double crewing or pooling which would have the effect of adding 13,300 locomotives.

There are other operating reforms the National Defense Council overlooked. By routing traffic over natural lines an even far greater conservation of "motive power" could be secured.

Thus, Lewiston grain is routed 390 miles to Puget Sound where Portland can be reached in 355 miles. The Portland round would mean the saving of nearly half a day's run for a locomotive. And it requires at least nine if not ten locomotives to haul over the Cascades to Puget Sound what one locomotive will haul down the river to Portland.

Take Umatilla county grain. It is hauled 330 1/2 miles over the mountains to Puget Sound against only 218 miles downhill to Portland. On the Puget Sound routing, it is hauled 11 1/2 miles less, or exactly one and one-half days of ordinary locomotive run. This is a frightful wastage of motive power. Remembering that there are hundreds of cases of the same kind, and that an enormous tonnage is thus carried to tidewater by unnatural and wasteful routings the aggregate waste rises to colossal proportions.

The distances are longer. The grades are heavier. Every added mile is a waste of motive power and a waste of car capacity. Every heavy grade chosen over a water grade is further prodigal waste. The National Defense Council can make no recommendation that will go further in conserving motive power and car capacity than one advising the roads to route traffic over shortest and most direct routes and easiest grades.

Thus, the 200,000 tons of traffic handled over Puget Sound docks by the Union Pacific include a colossal waste of motive power and car capacity. A vast portion of it was the transporting of traffic a needless 186 miles, the distance between Portland and Seattle. It was 2 1/2 days' needless run for every locomotive so used, it was equivalent to tying up 500 cars for the period required to haul them the unnecessary distance. The 500 cars was sufficient car capacity to transport 125,000,000 feet of lumber 186 miles.

Take the soy bean oil shipment of 150 cars hauled from Seattle past Portland through California via New Orleans to Cincinnati, a round about distance of 4176 miles. If routed direct, it would have reached its destination in 2483 miles. The unnecessary distance traveled by locomotive and cars was 1693 miles, a loss of car capacity and motive power sufficient to have hauled 112 cars of wheat from Portland to Chicago.

The added and needless 1693 miles so traveled was a loss of 22 1/3 days of ordinary locomotive run. It was equivalent to keeping 22 1/3 locomotives idle on a railroad siding or in a railroad roundhouse one whole day. Yet it is merely one example of the wastage in railroad operation.

The appeal of the National Defense Council is signal proof of the justice of the case of Portland. With that very high authority in the nation's affairs calling for the same kind of operating reforms that have been pointed out in these articles as desirable and long overdue, the people of this city should have unbounded faith in the justice of the Portland claim.

Androns to inscriptions on tombs. You have an incredible number of tombs, or tropical swamps, where some quite recent person achieved some feat of energy and accomplishment which was political recognition for himself and his heirs. He would usually be on a better track if he started thinking about a barrister's chambers, or a House-of-Commons committee room, a factory, or a laboratory, or tropical swamp, where some quite recent person achieved some feat of energy and accomplishment which was political recognition for himself and his heirs.

Lord Northcliffe says England cannot compete with us in such matters at all. "Our purely social life," he says, "contains virtually no concerted efforts to keep the memory of certain ancestors green, and to keep the prestige of their descendants intact." He adds: "What misleads Americans is our system of political titles. When an American thinks of an English lord, he seems incurably to begin thinking about the battle of Crecy. He would usually be on a better track if he started thinking about a barrister's chambers, or a House-of-Commons committee room, a factory, or a laboratory, or tropical swamp, where some quite recent person achieved some feat of energy and accomplishment which was political recognition for himself and his heirs."

Some American satirist has recently written some verses about Boston, in which he alleges that Cabots speak only to Lowells, and Lowells speak only to God. There is no way to build roads except by paying for them. We cannot get rid of the winter mud except by outlay of money. We might wish otherwise, but the thing we face is that talk will not bring good highways.

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A SUBVERSIVE PICTURE

THE Independent prints a picture this week which is positively subversive in its tendency. We can not quite understand why a magazine of the Independent's standing should do such a thing. The picture shows members of a golf club engaged in the vandalism of spading up their links. To make the desecration complete they are going to plant the sacred precincts to vulgar onions.

Patriotism is, of course, an excellent thing, but it can be pushed too far. When patriotism inspires the humble laborer to spade up his front lawn and plant potatoes where his children of yore had pinks and pansies blooming, we all clap our hands in commendation. But when it comes to spading up golf links it is another matter.

The harmonizers want their kind of "harmony." They want the Oregon constitution to be so harmonious that it cannot be amended. The dulcet words of their amendment are to lull the people to sleep while the harmonizers bind them hand and foot so they may not change their constitution to fit the progress of the times.

SHEER WASTE

NO DOUBT the worst waste of good food in the United States is the manufacture of strong drink. Alcoholic beverages injure everybody who swallows them, do little or no good in any circumstances, and destroy in their production many million tons of grain which might make bread.

The Independent says editorially that the curtailment of our drink consumption by one half would save enough grain to make eleven million loaves of bread daily. This means that eleven million loaves each day are made into strong drink. They might far better be

We feel in the presence of an immense sincerity but a sincerity whose path is hewn out for it by keen and ready wit. Mr. Powys' sympathies do not make him dull by any manner of means. The word bourgeois, he remarks, "is no mere passing levity of an irresponsible Latin Quarter. It is the judgment of the taste of great artists and poets of all ages upon the worst type of person, the type most pernicious to true human happiness, that has ever yet appeared upon the planet." And who is this hideous type of man? It is, "the commercial type, the type that loves the money-making toil it is engaged upon, which rules over us now with an absolute authority and creates our religion, our morality, our pleasures, our pastimes, our literature and our art."

With this hot rage in his heart against "the commercial type" it is interesting to observe the tolerant appreciation which Mr. Powys feels for Henry James who was "bourgeoisism" pickled in cold molasses. Evidently Mr. Powys enjoys Henry James' urbanity, his smooth complexities, his bewildering involutions of style, his soft, enchanted clinging to satin gowns and obsequious servants, but he does not fail to perceive the frigid heartlessness of the velvet cushioned art.

"There is something almost terrifying," and inhuman, writes Mr. Powys, "about Henry James' imperturbable stolidity of indifference to the sufferings and aspirations of the many, too many. One could imagine any intellectual proletarian rising up from the perusal of his books with a howl of indignation against their urbane and incorrigible author." One of the most interesting passages in Mr. Powys' essay on Henry James speaks of the kinship between that author and Nietzsche.

Nietzsche, as we all remember, carried Hegel's doctrine of the irresponsible and worshipful "Will" into practical ethics. Hegel taught that history, with its cruelty, bloodshed and bitter wrong was the expression of God's will, thus identifying God's will with the ambitious passions of men. Nietzsche went on to say that the only "will of God" there is in the universe is the will of the strong man. In his philosophy not only does might make right but the might of every individual is the only rule of right for him. No matter how lustful, cruel and inhuman he may be, if he "expresses himself" he fulfills his purpose, or lack of purpose in the universe.

We think it is an exquisite acute piece of criticism in which Mr. Powys points out the Nietzscheism of Henry James, who was calm, vigilant and indifferent to human sorrows, unless, indeed, they were the sorrows of some upper-class person. Then he could shed a tear or two quite as a gentleman should.

"Nietzsche alone," says Mr. Powys, "maintains the necessity of a slave caste in order that the masters of civilization may live largely, freely, nobly, as did the ancient aristocracies of the classic ages without contact with the burden and tediousness of labor. And in this Henry James is more in harmony with the Nietzschean doctrine than any other great novelist of our age. He is indeed almost the only one who relentlessly and unscrupulously rules out of his work every aspect of the spirit of revolution."

A LESSON

IN CONNECTION with the many current attempts under the pretext of patriotism to break down the legal safeguards which have been thrown around the health and vigor of the laboring class, Pauline Goldmark has some remarks in the Independent which are worth reading. In New York the reactionary sapping and mining have gone so far as to advocate the repeal of the child labor laws.

Pauline Goldmark warns us that the same reactionary tide swept everything before it in England at the outbreak of the war. Hours of labor were unlimited, women's protection was abolished. Child labor was unrestricted. And all this was done for the sake of the national defense.

WHAT WAS THE RESULT?

The productive power of the nation went down and down. It was found by actual experience that the legal safeguards won by so many years of earnest effort were an actual help to production. The safeguards kept the laborers in fit physical and mental condition and their work turned out more and better results. So England, driven by the hard facts of the situation, restored the safeguards she had mistakenly destroyed. Here is an obvious lesson for us.

It is pleasant to conceive how charmingly he would have described the working class Christians wrapped up in greasy rags and set fire to on tall pillars for torches in Nero's paddens. He would have depicted their wringings in the most delightful language without a thought that they could feel. To Henry James it would have been merely the fisherman's worm wringing on the hook, and probably enjoying the experience.

Mr. Powys' books are full of just this kind of wonderfully illuminated hit the nail quite so squarely on the head in his Byron essay as he has in some others. We do not, for our part, perceive the "brutality" which sticks out of Byron so prominently to Mr. Powys' eyes. But what of it? His essays, like his lectures, are beautiful and keen with potent genius.

There is nothing mechanical in Mr. Powys' platform manner, any more than in his books. His comment on Victor Hugo in "Suspended Judgments" might well apply to his own lectures. "His method is gnomic, laconic, oracular and we are either with him or not with him. There are no half measures, no evolutionary judgments." It is thus that Mr. Powys' mind works both in his books and when he is lecturing.

Wherever aldermanic government is in use, it is characterized by public scandal. In Portland, it came to be a regime of scandal. There has not been a breath or hint of scandal under commission government.

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written 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. Letters not desired to have the name published should so state.)

For a War Dry Nation.

Portland, May 1.—To the Editor of The Journal—Enclosed find circular letter which is being used in Wisconsin and is being sent to you by the state asking our president and their representatives in congress to throttle the Demon Rum, at least during this war in which we are now engaged. With crimes and blood and hundreds of thousands of bushels of grain from being manufactured into that more than death dealing drink, and what is of more consequence still, removing the temptation in our homes that have bravely left home and the protection thereof, to battle for the rights of humanity. Let every father, mother, sister and sweetheart in our bone dry state of Oregon write (today) similar letters to our president and our representatives in congress, and let them know it is the desire of 25,000,000 people in Oregon that not only our own state remain dry but that we hope to help make every state and territory over which waves the glorious old, white, ensign, which has banished its vodka, France, which has abolished its absinthe, and England, which has forbidden its drinking of ale, are further advanced in the work of prohibition than the grand old United States of America.

A. D. DOANE.

The following passages sufficiently indicate the spirit and phrasing of the memorial referred to by Mr. Doane: "To Our President and Our Representatives, Washington, D. C., Generalissimo of the French armies somewhere in the valley of the Seine, the French plan did not call for the exertion of all the power of the national armies to resist this strangling maneuver, but only to keep going. The French armies were not all in being. Joffre preferred to wait and see. Against the German machine he had what is called in chess a combination; brilliant and safe. For the French method he opposed mind. He created one new army while in the full course of retreat and brought another army into the field. He was not a man of a decisive role in the center of the storm. Nothing in the history of the war can rival for combined foresight and daring the gathering of the army of the Marne, the Normans, the Sixth Army, which Joffre first attempted to thrust against the northern claw of the German pincers from Amiens. The attempt failed. But the army that was created, he was not a man of a decisive role in the center of the storm. Nothing in the history of the war can rival for combined foresight and daring the gathering of the army of the Marne, the Normans, the Sixth Army, which Joffre first attempted to thrust against the northern claw of the German pincers from Amiens. The attempt failed. But the army that was created, he was not a man of a decisive role in the center of the storm. Nothing in the history of the war can rival for combined foresight and daring the gathering of the army of the Marne, the Normans, the Sixth Army, which Joffre first attempted to thrust against the northern claw of the German pincers from Amiens. The attempt failed. 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