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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Truth eternal to earth shall still remain; The eternal year of God are here.—Byrant.

THE LANDSLIDE

HISTORY repeats. Reaction follows in the wake of war. The resurgence of yesterday was inevitable.

The thought of change was in the atmosphere. Cost of living has been high. Profiteering has been widespread. Many groups of interests were not allowed to salt down their war profits in full. The government took a part to help pay for the war. The greedy interests were in ugly mood at the government. They called it interference with private business.

Other great groups did not like the federal reserve system, the farm loan system and the proposal through a tariff commission for duties to be assessed on a scientific basis. Other great groups did not like the Wilson legislation which declared that "labor is not a commodity." They thought, and from their viewpoint naturally thought, that government has no right to legislate on such matters.

There was the war with its misunderstandings and complexities. Most of the Italians forgot America's services to Italy in the war and remembered and resented Rome. Many Irishmen incuriously thought, the League of Nations stood in the way of Irish freedom, and voted against it. George Sylvester Viereck and his followers resented the terms imposed on Germany at Paris, and struck at it at the polls.

The whole country was disgusted with the long and bitter controversy over the peace treaty. The results show that in that quarrel Senator Lodge and his associates got the better of the argument in that they managed to make a great many people believe that the president was too unyielding and that therefore failure of ratification was mostly his fault. It isn't true, but it was so deftly presented that it carried hundreds of thousands of people into the voting booths in a determination to vote for a change.

Looked upon as a strictly moral issue, the emancipation proclamation would have been long postponed. It was not until dismemberment of the Union was threatened, that slavery thundered for settlement. It was not until the business world sensed prohibition as a business issue that prohibition was adopted. It will not be until the League of Nations becomes fully understood as not only a moral issue but as a business issue, that it will be an appeal to very large groups of American voters. It may become this within a very short time after Mr. Harding's inauguration, if the treaty wreckers have their way.

In the very thick of the campaign, farm products showed great weakness in price. It has always been believed that a sharp advance in the price of wheat had Bryan in 1896. Undoubtedly the market situation in agricultural districts told heavily against the Democrats during the past few weeks. In the business world there have been a great many cancellations of orders. This has probably been due to the unsettled conditions of peace, to the state of chaos in the world, and to the natural recession from the intensified activity of the past four years. But the situation disturbed business men and in many an instance caused them to vote for a change.

All these and other grievances are reflected in the election returns. The psychology of the time is such that anyone representing opposition to the present administration would have been elected.

It is a temporary mood of the people. Presently it will pass, and the true achievements of Woodrow Wilson will be more accurately measured and more generously acknowledged. In time, the pendulum will swing back.

The United States is said to lead the world in finding and applying means to halt juvenile crime and delinquency. England, roused by its own failure in this department of correction, it looked about and came to the conclusion that woman's work in behalf of the children of the United States was and is the big factor underlying our comparative success. As an unacknowledged tribute to Yankee initiative, England has now sent forth a cry for women magistrates in juvenile courts and for women helpers on the outside. It is safe to predict that British pertinacity will apply the American rules and remedies with marked success.

DWINDLING COUNTRY LIFE

APPROXIMATELY one tenth of the population of the United States lives in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia.

The proportion is 9.8 per cent. In 1910, it was 9.1. It is a gain in 10 years of seven tenths of 1 per cent over the rest of the country.

It is not a wholesome condition. It is extraordinary that an approximate one tenth of the people should be crowded into three great centers.

Nor is it in these mighty municipalities alone that the condition appears. More than half the people of the country are now for the first time living in incorporated places of 2500 population and over. The number of people living in incorporated cities of less than 500 population increased 21.5 per cent between 1910 and 1920.

That portion of the American population living in purely country districts decreased six tenths of 1 per cent, or one tenth of 1 per cent less than the population of the cities of New York, Chicago and Philadelphia increased.

The increase in the number of farms from 1910 to 1920 was 98,496 against an increase of 620,000 from 1900 to 1910. The drop in the increase of farms through reclamation of wild lands and the subdivision of large farms is a most significant indication of the drift to the cities.

We cannot afford to let this tide of humanity continue to flow from the country to the town. To check it is one of the greatest problems in American life.

There is no way to misunderstand what it means. If means that the legislation and present economic adjustments in the country are such that farms and farming are not sufficiently profitable to make country life attractive. There can be no other explanation.

At the polling places yesterday many voters did not know the names of candidates to be written in for supreme judge and attorney general. It is a weak place in the system. The law should provide that the names of those who are candidates for vacancies should be posted in polling places. At some places the judges and clerks took the position they could not tell voters who were candidates for the two offices, and at others, no one present knew who these candidates were.

FROM HOVEL TO PALACE
MRS. JOSEPH STONE, 27, is dead at Riverhead, Long Island. Investigation showed that she died from the effects of lemon extract poisoning. Police say that during the past few months the sale of the extract in that section increased rapidly. The army was the first to recognize the deleterious effects of lemon extract and forbade its use. Chemical analysis shows that the alcohol content is 60 to 80 per cent.

The symptoms of victims poisoned by its use do not resemble those in wood alcohol poisoning.

A herd of cows at Winsted, Conn., got "jagged" on cider apples and one died from the effects of the debauch. Their owner played the role of nurse, fastening burlap bags soaked in hot water about the heads of the cows.

Th. Volstead act has its place in history. Prohibition has worked a revolution that saved thousands.

But King Alcohol lies hard. Booze starts at the hovel, takes in the stable on its rounds, and winds up at the palace. It takes the widow and the hopeless inebriate first. Then it spreads its claws for the ragged street urchin and the tolling mother at the washbasin.

Gavin McNab of San Francisco is the second Pacific Coast appointee by President Wilson to membership on the shipping board. Joseph N. Teal is the first. Both are exceptionally able in matter pertaining to rates, traffic and shipping.

WHEN POLLS OPEN
FAILURE of judges or clerks of election to be at polling places and fully organized for work at the hour appointed for receiving ballots is all too frequent in Portland.

Yesterday there was such a failure in a dozen Portland precincts. At every election there is similar remissness.

There is no higher trust than the solemn responsibility committed to election clerks and judges. There is no more sacred function in the republic than receiving and counting the ballots of the citizenry on election day. Those who, in advance, accept the responsibility should either be present or signify beforehand their inability to carry out their trust.

One claim is that the pay is too small. The pay is no smaller on election day than it was when the persons named for judges and clerks accepted the appointment. If the pay was too small at the time of acceptance, that was the time to make it so facts known.

Delay in organizing and opening the polling places has a bad effect on the public mind. It creates distrust. It gives the waiting voter the impression that the whole election business is slipshod, that frauds are possible, and that the election is anything but a solemn function. It is not a wholesome or an intelligent condition.

Perhaps we try by law too much and too often to compel people to do their duty. But would it be out

COAL-WASTING RAILROADS

Enormous Consumption in Transportation Is a Knife That Cuts in Many Directions at Once—'White Coal' As the Way Out.

From the Detroit News
Just before the opening of winter, coal is always an interesting topic, and particularly of late years when the question is whether there will be enough coal to keep the electric, telephone and public utilities running. If then it can be discovered that a single industry is wasting millions of tons of coal every year, the fact should elicit more serious consideration.

The railroads of the country get about a quarter of the total output of the coal mines. They require approximately 150,000,000 tons of coal every year. Obviously they can consume a little of this at the mines, so there follows the necessity of burning a lot of coal in locomotives which are employed hauling the railroad coal to distant points where it is to be used for electric, telephone and public utilities.

Costs also enter intimately into the discussion. The railroads constantly demand increasing rates and a very considerable part of the cost is for fuel. The price of steam-making coal is always on the up grade. How rapidly this increase has developed in the past few years is shown by the report of the Detroit Edison company. Reviewing the past 19 years, the company shows that between 1910 and 1915 the cost of its coal was \$2.21 per ton. During 1916 and 1917 the price of coal rose steadily until by the end of the latter year it was \$3.25 per ton. By June, 1920, coal had gone up to \$7.37 per ton, an increase in the 10 years of 233 per cent. How much more marked an increase of costs must be added to the railroads of the country's transportation is easy to understand.

And now come the electrical experts and declare that the railroads have an easy and logical means of escape and the public should force them to avail themselves of it. Charles P. Steinmetz, a recognized authority in electrical matters, told the Chicago Electric club the other day that "by the electrification of the railroads and the installation of electric locomotives, a saving of fuel of 66 per cent would be accomplished. He said he was not guessing at the figure, but that they were summaries of results carefully worked out by railroads formerly using coal but now electrified. And he pointed out, also, that thousands of tons of coal would be saved and that coal would be released for handling other commodities.

An electrical expert connected with transportation work has also recently testified before the committee on the Wanamaker, electrical engineer for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad, speaking before the American Railway Electrical Engineers' association, said "The coal saving factor is not being constantly on the increase, and while the present rate of wages is being paid there will be no decrease in the price of transportation. Consequently, the electric railroads will use vast water power resources and electrify our railroads."

The question is of vast public interest and should be kept in the public mind so as to develop an intelligent public opinion. For because of the intimate relations which exist between the railroads and the electric power industry, the present system of waste and inefficiency may not correct itself. A strong pressure from without may be necessary to bring the transportation interests to a sense of their obligation to utilize the best use of the country's natural resources.

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 signed by the writer. The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions.)

FOR AMERICANIZATION
Portland, Oct. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—Whoever may be elected as our next president, I hope he will some way try to stop so many immigrants from coming to this country. My reasons are that they come over for only one thing, and that's the American dollar. Ninety per cent do not intend to become American citizens. Then, again, we laboring men cannot understand their ways. They do not talk United States. But you talk about revolution, then they can talk.

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And still a kid ready to put on the gloves with the winner of the championship can go him one better. I voted for James Buchanan for president in 1856. Buchanan proved a little wobbly, like Harding is now, and I voted for Stephen A. Douglas in 1860. I have not been voting straight except for president, ever since. Sometimes, though rarely, I have found a better man for a minor office in the Republican party than his Democratic opponent, and have voted for him accordingly.

My independence and zeal for the good of the country may have lengthened my voting record, but I have not been following Mr. Roosevelt's logic, and, though active and jolly, I am not ready to put on the mitts for the prize ring, as I think I am more suited to the ballot box with the gloves. J. B. Wright.

SMALL CHANGE

Now let's hear the swan songs.
Glad we didn't have to vote in North-western Wyoming's snow-covered polls.

France needs small change. But what's the penalty for not voting in general rule?
In any event, neither Pohl Lovejoy pulled a lot of votes.

The market page says: "Hogs show excellent demand." 'Twas ever thus.
Begin to look like Portland might be hit by a little more Oregon mist.

There really should be enough insidious Oregon apples of enough varieties to satisfy every appetite.
Salt river is the world's one stream in which there are no obstacles to navigation.

Times have changed. The barbers used to get a lot of business after every national defeat of the party in power. From those funny old chap who were accustomed to vote they would never have their hair cut until a Republican was elected. The case might be—president was elected.

Portland has a new postmaster. His name is John M. Jones. For the first time in Portland's history a postmaster has been selected on account of experience and demonstrated efficiency. John M. Jones is not a post in someone's political fence; neither was he made postmaster as a reward for past political services. No politician is paying a political debt with public funds by having him made postmaster.

John M. Jones went to work in the Portland postoffice just 20 years ago, as a carrier. Recently it was my pleasant task in behalf of the Portland public to congratulate him on his selection as postmaster of the service. But after all, his coming administration. More than 200 of his fellow workers met at the Portland hotel at a banquet in his honor. Postmaster Jones in a most happy manner asked for the cooperation of these fellow workers in giving Portland the best service we have ever had.

Sometimes the letter carriers think they are the foundation stone of the postal service. Talk to a postal clerk and you will find he thinks it is the clerks who are the most important persons in the service. But after all, it is you and I, the public, who are the foundation stone of the postal department, for if we quit writing letters and patronizing the postal department it would crumble.

When John M. Jones entered the service as a carrier in June, 1890, Portland had 16 carriers. Today there are 21, and need more. In the past the fatal defect of government service, particularly in the postal department, has been that it was a blind alley job. No matter how intelligent, industrious and zealous a

ter to the Journal for relief and believes it will lift his fellow man to a higher standard of living. Many times his opinion shows the weakness of his argument, but it brings his idea down to a level. The fundamental principle of public discussion is educating, but there is one bad feature about it: Many intelligent persons are afraid to speak their minds to an opponent. This should be avoided, because it never gains a point on the question involved, and stirs up strife and hatred. Many times we get the idea from the characters of the novel that we have written many letters to the Journal condemning our drastic prohibition law. For so doing I have been called "the names." One writer went to heaven, and another man went to heaven, but hell should be taken out of the Bible by God's own hand. I am not simple enough to believe anyone will go to heaven, but I believe in hell. Whether do I think I shall go to hell for not thinking as others do. I have not defended social evils from the point of view that they are right, but I believe in hell. I don't destroy them, and this is being demonstrated by our drastic prohibition law. When we enact laws to govern the people, we have no foundation for them to rest on. E. A. Linscott.

CARRYING REVOLVERS
Portland, Oct. 30.—To the Editor of The Journal—A fundamental law of psychology tells us that "every thought entertained tends to express itself in terms of action." The thought of carrying a revolver suggests the right to kill at your discretion, and the temptation to do so is continually present, only waiting the opportunity for expression. The practice of carrying a revolver is, therefore, strongly condemned. I much appreciate the attitude of The Journal on this subject. Harry S. Opp.

THE DESERT'S IDEA
Lowell Thomas is "Asia."
"History is against the probability of the creation of an Arabian empire. The Semite mind does not lean toward system or organization, but toward the individual. The Semite is not a statesman, but a conqueror. The Semites are represented by very little art, architecture, philosophy. But we find an amazing fertility among the Semites in the creation of religions. Three of these creeds—Judaism, Christianity and Mohammedanism—have become great world movements. The broken fragments of these other religions which have failed are found today on the fringes of the desert.

The desert seems to produce only one idea—the universality of God. We who live in the cities of the world are entertained by the trying of a revolver, suggests the right to kill at your discretion, and the temptation to do so is continually present, only waiting the opportunity for expression. The practice of carrying a revolver is, therefore, strongly condemned. I much appreciate the attitude of The Journal on this subject. Harry S. Opp.

IN ANSWER TO R. L. WOODS
Portland, Oct. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal—I write this in view of R. L. Woods' recent letter entitled "Victory Medal."
Don't you know the war is all over? Didn't you get \$50 and a discharge? Didn't you get a medal for your service and good advice from the Y. M. C. A.? So what are you kicking about? Get a pick and shovel and go to work. That is the only way to get the medals. The soldiers all learned while in the service. W. Finlin.

ON THE AMENTIES OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION
Portland, Oct. 31.—To the Editor of The Journal—Your "Letters from the People" column is both interesting and amusing. It gives the people a chance to exchange views on political, religious and social questions. When one's ideas begin to boil over he writes a let-

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

The dog licenses issued to date in Polk county number \$37, which has cost the taxpayer the sum of \$551.50—Polk County Post.

The early rains have made excellent fall pasturage for stock, so that some benefit is derived along with the losses—Fowers Patriot.

Heating stoves are being set up this week as a result of the cold weather. This is no time for the minister to call.—Crane American.

The editor of the Sentinel had an enforced three-day lay-off the first of the week, paying the penalty by missing a couple of too much night work.—Carlson Sentinel.

"There is no manipulation of prices or gambling on the board of trade," President Gray of the Chamber of Commerce testified. We would believe that about as quickly as we would believe a statement that there are any snakes in hell.—Astoria Budget.

No one has been placed in jail here since September 13, though there is no doubt some would have been there had they been taken to jail. Certainly the man who attempted to dynamite Cameron's office at Seaside is in that category.—Cooper Seaside.

A wing that will cost \$262,000 is being added to St. Lukes hospital at Spokane. Isaac Benjamin Huntington, a resident of Cowitz county for 49 years, is dead at Coeur d'Alene.

On account of early storms the Quilnault salmon cannery has closed operations for the season.

Two feminine notepads, held up by K. Ohira, a Japanese farmer, near Wapato, and relieved him of \$263.

The Spokane county farm bureau has started a campaign for the fall. It hopes to add 200 to its membership roll.

John Magner Jr., a 14-year-old boy of Seattle, has never been absent nor tardy from school since he started.

The Buxton council has passed an ordinance prohibiting stock from running at large within the limits of the town.

A bond issue calling for \$2,000,000 will be presented to the voters at the annual school election in Tacoma on December 2.

Joseph R. Johnston was fatally injured at Yakima when he slipped under the wheels of a truck he was attempting to board.

Because he was despondent, Gustav Kilgus, aged 38, who owned a farm near Warrenton, borrowed a shotgun and killed himself.

Matt Gilmore of Rock Creek, a sheepman, is reported to have lost 500 sheep in the attack between Mount Adams and Lewis river.

OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS OF THE JOURNAL MAN

[A personal tribute to a man who has become a postmaster of the service. He is not via politics, but by merit. He is also paid tribute to the excellence of the merit system, capable of recognizing the best man for the job, and all cases of promotion for good service.]

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WASHINGTON

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Matt Gilmore of Rock Creek, a sheepman, is reported to have lost 500 sheep in the attack between Mount Adams and Lewis river.

Contracts have been awarded for gravelling one mile of the North Bank highway at Elkwood and another mile near Beacon Rock.

Members of the Boys' and Girls' Club in Seattle, Wash., have awarded prizes of \$360 in gold. Henry Delaney's winnings totaled \$140.

L. E. Morse of Bellingham was trapped while attempting to shoot a deer when he fired the Osterman building at Mount Vernon.

Mrs. Adella Coolidge is dead at Everett after a long illness when she was knocked down by an automobile driven by Miss Rachel Seiber.

A memorial costing \$15,000 will be erected in Seattle to honor former Washington National Guardsmen who lost their lives during the World War.

A touring car belonging to Attorney A. R. Venable of Astoria was overturned and burned on the Benton City road. The occupants escaped with a few bruises.

Shelton's "Farm" hospital was opened at Colville in 1918. It has a cost of \$18,600. The institution has cared for 28 surgical cases and 151 medical cases.

Another increase in the price of diamonds is predicted during April or May next in Seattle. The price prevailing in that city is \$850 a karat.

Bankers of the Palouse country have elected the following officers: C. H. and L. E. and to aid them in holding their wheat. The crops are the best that the Palouse country has ever had.

While attempting to steal a ride on a freight train at Wenatchee, Mike Anderson and Nick Corbridge, Astorian laborers, were arrested by Special Agent H. A. Brockman.

IDAHO
The North Pacific has begun construction of a 25-room hotel at Kootenai.

Pocatello is now in the first class list, having a population, according to census reports, of 15,000.

Dried prunes are not being shipped out of Idaho, as they are said to be no demand for the fruit.

By the end of the week over 200 carloads of apples will have been shipped out of Lewiston valley.

During seven months' business from the start of the season, the Lewiston reports more than \$100,000 worth of trade.

Pony Young, who opened the first racetrack in the state in 1886 and well known throughout the state, is dead at Nampa, aged 59.

Bottom lands along the Boise river from Boise to Star are getting a net profit of \$25 per acre from land planted to early potatoes and celery.

Uncle Jek Snow Says:
Not such a awful sight of the things the politicians threaten us with is an end as the two counties of Weir and Likens in Texas. He was allus skeert of the dark and of hobdarts and fallin' trees and sich, and he hadly ever stirred up a fuss. He was a little late a bunch of villanous ketchin' him and by mistake they strung him up for a hostle. They cut him down right away, however, and he was home a little later. He was a little late a bunch of villanous