Letters From the People

Echoes of the Baker-Steffens Episode—Reminiscent of Old Russia—The Powder Method of Irrigation—How to Grow Very Old—The Wolf—Single Tax in Canada.

CHALLENGES THE CHURCHES

Emphasizing the Charge Once Made by Lincoln Steffens.

Portland, Feb. 9.—To the Editor of The Journal—In the Baker-Steffens controversy The Journal was on the right side, as usual. When the Oregonian defends one side, it is a sure bet that the opposite side is right.

Some years ago Lincoln Steffens exposed the Western timber swindles, in the course of which he asked, "Why is it that the churches are so often found on the side of wrong?" He had found that the head of a great church in Oregon was defending the timber thieves and discrediting and disciplining one of his subordinates, a clergyman, who had attacked and exposed these thieves. Of course, the public was scandalized and wondered with Steffens "why the churches are so often found on the side of wrong."

Lately another head of a great church in Oregon discredited one of his subordinates in connection with the Baker-Steffens controversy, saying that he did not represent nor speak for the followers of his church. And again the public wondered with Lincoln Steffens "why the churches are so often found on the side of wrong."

Right here I want to offer a bet of ten to one to every head of every church in Oregon that when they defend and stand by arbitrary might, without investigation, they represent and speak for fewer followers of their respective churches than any one of their subordinates who stands fearlessly for right against arbitrary might.

Lincoln Steffens said that no one man nor group of men can cause a revolution; that revolutions are caused by conditions brought about by oppression, suppression, secrecy, injustice and divers deceits, which, in turn, cause revolution. If we have anarchists of need, we must blame our anarchists of greed or predatory wealth and their proponents in the church and the state.

E. Smith,

Reader of Both The Journal and the Oregonian.

DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION

The Dalles, Feb. 7.—To the Editor of The Journal—The editor of the Oregonian, so he affirms, is a great exponent and lover of constitutional law and order. He does not believe in "one man government" or the abrogation or annulling of our (or his) civil liberties and the bill of rights, which are granted by a provision in the federal constitution as well as by the state. And he rises in his wrath and hurls the logic of his massive mind against the Farrell bills before the state legislature, because they would, if passed, abrogate the bill of rights, and subject all citizens to arrest and their homes and premises to search without warrant of law—all this in the glorious cause of booze. I wonder why.

But does the noble champion of constitutional law and order rush to the rescue of these rights and liberties when Portland's great 200 per cent American pulls the "one man government" stuff and usurps the law and annuls both the federal and state constitution, in regard to free speech and free assembly? No; not he. He turns a complete mental somersault and marshals all his powers to uphold your noble and patriotic mayor. I wonder why.

C. S.

THE RUSSIAN GIANT

Pertinent Prediction Uttered by a Western Writer in 1895.

Washougal, Wash., Feb. 6.—To the Editor of The Journal—Your editorial remarks on Tolstoy in today's Journal are very interesting. While there are many foreign writers who are more extensively read, there is perhaps none of recent years that will have a greater influence on human conduct; which leads me to think of what Charles A. Stoddard says concerning Russia in his work, "Across Russia," published in 1895: "Slowly but surely this great Russian nation is awakening from its sleep. It is a giant ignorant of its enormous strength—like a blind Samson or an elephant led about by a man with a javelin. But when it begins to learn and know its power, its progress will be amazing. The Russian nation has a great future before it and a tremendous power of materialism behind it. As I contemplate its present position and possibilities it seems as if it would yet be 'the stone cut out of the mountain without hands', which by its push and momentum shall 'fill the whole earth.' Give the Russians time, education and a full sense of their power, and they will overcome everything. God grant that neither the superstitions of the Greek church nor the wild imaginings of nihilism may be their religion when the time of their awakening and self recognition shall come."

This same writer tells of a fine oak tree he saw growing in the park near the late czar's palace. He says: "On this oak is a brass plate which says: 'This oak sprang from an acorn presented to Nicholos I by George Sumner, brother of Charles Sumner, the famous abolitionist. The acorn was taken from a tree at Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington.' It was curious to see a tree from warm Virginia soil, the gift of a hater of all tyranny, thriving in the frigid climate of the most absolute despotism in the world."

I am rather inclined to believe that the inscription on some of our coins, "In God We Trust," does not represent the faith of America so much as it did, so we will have to admit these foreign influences from Swedenborg, Tolstoy and elsewhere in order to renew it. Conceit in nations, like that of individuals, is not an asset but a liability.

F. V. Moss.

RECLAMATION BY "SHOOTING"

How Harney Valley Lands May Be Irrigated by "the Powder Route."

Crane, Jan. 31.—To the Editor of The Journal—The powder route to reclamation requires no legislation, no court decrees adjudicating water rights, no maintenance, no irrigation district to support, no neighborhood quarrels over the use or lack of use of water. We simply open up the subsoils and cultivate the surface, and nature takes care of the rest. What course could be simpler, more direct and logical?

With the water table lying as close to the surface as it does in this valley, it seems that we couldn't conceive of a more rational means of bringing this great valley under a high state of cultivation. Stump lands are annually brought into a high state of cultivation at an expenditure of from $150 to $200 an acre. Why not Harney valley at a very much less cost per acre? The more one thinks along this line the more he is convinced of the practicability of such a course. When we consider that one stick of explosive will convert nearly half an acre of tight, impervious subsoil into root-bearing soil, we are beginning to approach the feasibility of its use as a subsoiler. By no other means known to science can the varied results obtain that are to be had by the rational use of the explosive. This process aerates, pulverizes, granulates and mixes the impervious subsoil, putting it into shape to receive and hold moisture; in other words, creates a reservoir, impounding moisture which hitherto and prior to the use of the explosive simply evaporated, producing no results. By this process we are doing the maximum of cultivation at the minimum of cost, and will reap the maximum of results.

We are farming vertically, making a home for the root growth of plants, and with the root growth we are assured of the top or surface growth. We don't pinch our feet by wearing tight shoes; yet we pinch the root growth of vegetation by not allowing it room to grow vertically down into the soil and subsoil. Look below the surface of your soil and realize that as much of your success lies there as upon the surface. This very fact is responsible for the failure of Harney valley to produce the results that can be had by the rational use of the explosive as the most effective means of subsoiling the lands of this valley. The soil is very responsive to moisture, and when the corrections are made in the subsoils, just so soon can we expect to get the results desired.

We have heard of, and doubtless have seen, land prepared for horticulture in this way, but it didn't occur to us that what was good for horticulture should be equally good for agriculture. We are apt to be reaching out for imaginary aid, overlooking the simpler and more common sense ways and means of obtaining results.

Thomas Short.

RULES OF LONGEVITY

They Are All Very Simple, and One Takes One's Choice of Many.

Portland, Feb. 9.—To the Editor of The Journal—Often we read reports of some centenarian or octogenarian releasing to the public the secret of longevity. How varied these recipes for old age are! Uncle Jasper Dix, when quizzed, replies: "Well, I've led a strictly temperate life. I've never used tobacco or drank intoxicants in my life. The secret is, relax yourself when you go to bed at night. Don't worry but get up early and do a hard day's work." "Grandpa" Jones says, "I've used tobacco all my life. I have drank liquor when I could get it. Tobacco and stimulants have a tendency to keep the germs out of your system, and if you want to live to be as old as I am be sure that you don't sleep over seven hours at night," and then Uncle Josh Haskins says, "Oh, yes, I've smoked a pipe all my life, but I've never smoked a cigarette. But the secret of it all is, don't exercise the body till it is fatigued. Take lots of rest and eat lots of honey and oatmeal." Then Aunt Matilda Jones says, "I've led a strictly outdoor life—lots of fresh air and good, wholesome exercise. Read during all your spare time to keep your mind occupied. Keep your feet warm in winter and your head cool in summer. Follow these rules if you would live to be as old as I am."

Just the other day I read in a newspaper an article under the caption, "Woman 97 Has Youth Secret." Dr. Charlotte De Golier Davenport of San Francisco says, "Eat no meat. Let the body perspire through exercise. Eat raw vegetables and drink buttermilk. Do not eat unless you are hungry and always stop before you have quite satisfied your appetite. Drink lots of water." I wonder why the good doctor couldn't have added, "Don't get tuberculosis. Don't get the flu. Don't get heart disease. Don't get pneumonia. Don't get run over by an automobile. Don't go down in mid-ocean. And, finally, don't commit first degree murder in a state where capital punishment is in effect."

It's a very simple matter these days to become a ctenenarian, or at least a nonogenarian, if you will only apply the rules laid down by each and every old person that you read about in the papers.

J. F. Smith.

CREATURES OF THE WILD

Humanitarian Plea for the Timber Wolf and Other Captives

Portland, Feb. 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—A word as to the timber wolf recently captured: Will it serve any good purpose to maintain and transport this animal alive to the Zoo in New York city? Why not mercifully kill him and let the taxidermist do the rest? Will he be seen to any advantage outside of his native haunts and natural environment? Why not photograph him alive and in action with a camouflaged setting, produce a film that may be used in an instructive way, and thus help to boycott objectionable movies? What of the price that must be paid to keep him alive? Shame unto any municipality that will feed any animal, no matter how nearly extinct, while there are hungry children going to school each day denied the good milk that they naturally require. What is this country's greatest future asset—live wild animal specimens, or healthy, well nourished children for future citizenship? Let parents when they take their children to our city park and show them the eagle, our national bird, that wild, free denizen of the air, note the abject, hopeless, dejected expression of his eyes as he slowly flaps his wings and silently gazes upward at the net that separates him from the blue heavens and freedom. Is he a perfect specimen of this wonderful bird, representing to young America all that he symbolizes? No! A hundred times no! I have seen him in the Upper Columbia country, soaring high, free, and naturally, as the good God intended him to do. He can be photographed in that pose from an airplane and his picture used to much better purpose than he in his captivity can ever accomplish. Surely the millennium cannot be very near so long as we teach our children by example to put a premium upon cruelty; for the greatest humanitarian, the greatest teacher, this world has ever known spake words like unto these: "A merciful man is merciful unto his beast."

D. M. S.

SINGLE TAX IN CANADA

Statement Concerning the Aftermath of an Edmonton Boom.

Portland, Feb. 7.—To the Editor of The Journal—The Oregonian has been trying to get one on me for the past two years. It thought it had me when I stated that 90 per cent of the land values of the state of Oregon was owned by 3 per cent of its population, but it did not get far with its attempt to discredit the statement, and was sorry it said anything; if it wasn't, it ought to have been.

Now it takes me severely to task for daring to report its own election returns on the single tax. It admits that the figures were just as published, but that I, being a campaign manager, should have known that the figures were incorrect. I apologize to the public for being so stupid, and henceforth will not credit much that the Oregonian says, and least of all its reports, or alleged reports, by travelers on the single tax in Canadian cities.

Its latest is that the city of Edmonton applied the single tax, and vacant lots just simply dropped off the face of the earth, so to speak; not even a jackrabbit could find grub enough to carry him across the vast stretch of once valuable lots, and when the water was all squeezed out of the wildcat boom there wasn't enough left of this once prosperous city to wad a gun with. And so the "substantial" business men got together to save the wreck.

We will have a report on Edmonton soon and tell the people just what did take place. We suspect that it is like the Vancouver report; but part of the truth is told. Remember, there are nearly 300 cities in Canada with nearly the full single tax, and the last election shows it to be growing by leaps and bounds.

J. R. Hermann.

ROUND-UP SALE ANNOUNCING

the Third Week of Portland's Great Mercantile Event

$25.00 Ladies' SUITS $9.00

Tricotine Suits of fair quality, full lined jackets, sizes 16 to 42. Navy blue.

$22.50 Heather SUITS $11.80

Beautiful all-wool heather suiting, latest brown, green and blue heather shades. New Tuxedo style. Sizes 16 to 46. This will cause a sensation.

$50-$60 Ladies' Suits $27.80

Made of all-wool serge and silk lined jackets. These are the wanted styles and desirable for new spring wear. Sizes 16 to 40.

$17.50-$25 CLOTH COATS AT $8

Navy blue, black and a few other shades. Good style coats that we sold regularly this fall and winter to $25. Sizes 16 to 42. Good selection.

$25 to $30 Cloth Coats $14.80

These are beautiful coats in the new wanted shades of blue, brown, green, tan, etc. Fine quality velour coating, full and half lined. Every coat in the lot is good style and in demand right now. Sizes 16 to 42.

$50-$60 Cloth Coats $26.80

Bolivias, Silvertones and fine Velours. Silk lined. Latest styles. Every garment is beautiful. Some are fur trimmed. Most are self-collars and can be worn for spring. Sizes 16 to 44. All leading shades.

$30 PLUSH COATS $13.80

This is simply wonderful. These come in the new short style with large collars. Full lined. Fine quality plush.

$50 PLUSH COATS $23.80

The new short Plush Coats with wide fur on the bottom and cuffs and new large fur collars.

$65 Plush Coats for $32.80

Long Plush Coats of very high grade quality. Some are fur trimmed. Sizes 36 to 46.

$20 Serge Dresses $8.80

One-piece Dresses in the newest styles. Sizes 16, 18, 36, 38.

$25 Jersey Dresses $11.80

Beautiful new spring style Jersey Dresses in brown, navy, taupe, pekin and tan. Sizes 16 to 44. Fine quality jersey. This is a wonderful offer, and sizes for large or small women.

$35 Tricotine Dresses $18.80

Very high-grade navy tricotine in the newest styles. Sizes 16, 18, 36, 38, 40, 42. You will enjoy trying on these new styles.

$25-$30-$35 Silk Dresses $16.80

Exquisite new Silk Dresses in beautiful models. Shades are navy, brown, gray, etc. All wanted shades. Styles for all occasions. Sizes 16 to 42.

SHOES!

We are sacrificing our entire large stock of Shoes. Every pair of men's, women's and children's shoes placed on sale. The prices here quoted are only a few of the bargains offered. We have shoes for the entire family and all good, serviceable, standard makes.

$6 Men's Shoes $3.70

Men's Brown Work Shoes made with good leather soles and soft, pliable leather uppers. Sizes 6 to 11.

$10.00 Men's Shoes $5.80

Men's Dress Shoes, Goodyear welt. Brown or black. High-grade stock. English or medium and broad toes. Sizes 6 to 11. Standard makes.

$12 Men's Emersons $6.80

The name Emerson alone will bring hundreds of men to Levitt's store. These fine shoes come in black or brown, lace or button. All wanted lasts from English to broad toes. Sizes 5½ to 11. The name Emerson stands for quality leather, fine fit and style.

$1.25 Men's Storm Rubbers 65c

$4 and $4.50 Ladies' Shoes $2.40

Women's leather house shoes and slippers and juliets, with rubber heels and elastic on the sides or strap styles.

$7.50-$12.50 Ladies' Shoes $4.70

Sizes 2½ to 8. Shoes, oxfords and pumps for ladies and growing girls. You may have your choice of brown kid, calf, gunmetal or colt kid.

$2.50 Ladies' Slippers 80c

Ladies' Felt Slippers with leather soles. Made of good standard felt in dark gray. Very serviceable and good looking. Sizes 4 to 8.

$4.50 and $5.00 Boys' Shoes $2.80

Sizes for boys and youths. Lace or button gunmetal. Every pair will give your boy good service.

$7 Boys' Shoes $3.70

Genuine gunmetal Goodyear welts. Very high-grade shoes for youths and boys. Classy lasts that will make the boys proud to wear them.

$7.50 to $9 High Tops $4.80

Boys' high tops for service and wet weather. Good soles and pliable uppers.

$2.50 Children's Shoes $1.38

Sizes 1 to 6. Children's Mary Jane Slippers in brown or black Caberata kid and leather soles.

$3 Children's Shoes $1.66

Sizes 2½ to 8 in lace or button and vici kid or gunmetal.

$3.50 and $4 Scuffers $2.29

Sizes 5 to 8 and 8½ to 11. Genuine Purcell Scuffers. Made of soft elather and good comfort fitting lasts. Black, brown or horse.

$3.50 Children's Shoes $1.69

Tan Russia with white leather tops. Very dressy and serviceable. Sizes 5 to 8.

MEN'S SUITS

It's the greatest suit opportunity we have ever known.

$40 Men's Suits $20

Cassimeres and worsteds. Models for men and young men. All new styles and shades. Sizes 34 to 44. Winter or all-year weights.

$60 Serge Suits $30

Men, this is a remarkable offer. These suits are guaranteed all-wool navy blue serge. Hand tailored collars and buttonholes and tailored set-in shoulders and sleeves. High-grade lining. Sizes 35 to 44.

$35.00 Men's Suits at $17.80

Men's and Young Men's Suits in sizes 34 to 42. Good makes and latest styles. Mixtures in browns and greens and navy blue. Good fitting garments and alterations free.

$50.00 Men's Suits at $28.00

Here is a wonderful opportunity to buy a fine suit for little money. Many fabrics to choose from and all fine fitting garments. Worsteds and cassimeres in all the wanted shades. Styles for men and young men in sizes 34 to 44.

$60.00-$70.00 Suits at $34.00

You can see for yourself the great savings you are making. These fine hand tailored suits are wonderful. Large range of patterns for men and young men. Sizes 35 to 44. High-grade Metcalf and American Woolen Mills Worsteds.

OVERCOATS

It is hard to put in words the great sacrifice on our stock of Overcoats. The models are the wanted styles of the day in loose, semi-form fitting or ulster styles. They are all good mannish coats and we guarantee every one to give entire satisfaction. Sizes run from 34 to 46 for men and young men.

$30 Men's Overcoats at $14

$40 Men's Overcoats at $19

$50-$55 Men's Overcoats at $27

Levitt's EVERYBODY'S STORE

Corner Fourth and Washington

$22.50 Men's Black Leatherette Raincoats.. $11.80

$30.00 Moleskin Raincoats $14.80

These Raincoats are popular wherever raincoats are worn. They are good looking and very serviceable, and will keep you dry. They also take the place of an overcoat.

$18 Men's All-Wool Mackinaws are yours for $9.00

Men's Pants

Large stock of worsteds and cassimeres to pick from. Here is an opportunity to wear out that coat and vest. The patterns are all good and plenty to pick from. Also plenty of blue serges. Sizes 30 to 42.

$ 6.00	Men's Dress Pants	$3.60
$ 7.00	Men's Dress Pants	$4.60
$ 8.50	Men's Dress Pants	$5.60
$10.00	Men's Dress Pants	$6.30
$12.50	Men's Dress Pants	$7.60
$ 2.50	Men's Work Pants	$1.35
$ 7.00	Best Corduroy Pants	$4.40

Boys' Suits

Mothers, bring your boys to Levitt's Store and fit them up for little money.

To $10 Boys' Suits $3.60

Sizes 14, 15, 16 and 17 only. One and two suits of a kind, but all are good belted knicker styles, and good fabrics.

$12.50 Boys' Suits $5.60

Sizes 10 to 18 years. Neat designs and good quality fabrics. New belted style. These are dandy school suits and the prices are very little.

$15 Boys' Suits $8.80

Come in, many patterns and latest style belted models. Sizes 8 to 18. The fabrics are good wool mixed, serviceable suitings. Browns and grays.

$25 Boys' Suits $12.80

These are made from Bishop's Woolens and guaranteed all-wool long fleece. These are very high grade suits and very finely tailored. Sizes 8 to 16.

Boys' Overcoats $4.00

Values to $12.50. Sizes 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 only. Broken lines.

$15.00 Boys' Overcoats $7.80

Sizes 4, 5 and 6. Latest belted styles and fine qualities.

$10 Boys' Mackinaws $5.60

$15.00 Corduroy Suits $7.80

These are the finest Boys' Corduroy Suits we ever handled and are good value at $15. They are lined with brown khaki double-strength lining. The corduroy is the dark shade fine wool and soft finish. Sizes 8 to 16.

Knee Pants

Hundreds of pairs to select from. Sizes 8 to 16. Every pair was selected for service. Let the little fellow wear out the old coats with a new pair of knickers.

$2.50	Boys' Knee Pants	$1.30
$3.00	Boys' Knee Pants	$1.70
$3.50	Corduroy Knickers	$1.70

Boys' Sweaters

$2.50	Boys' Sweater Coats	87¢
$5.00	All Wool Sweater Coats	$2.42
$9.00	Boys' Heavy Roll Collar Slipons for	$5.69