Letters From the People

A Railroad Engineer's Testimony—Railway Land Grants and Free Homes—Spies and Gunmen—The Toy Gun Condemned—A Philosopher Speaks at 40

THE ENGINEER'S LIFE

One Who Leads It Compares It With That of the Public in General.

Portland, Nov. 5.—To the Editor of The Journal—Kindly allow me to state a few facts in regard to the railroad man's wages. I believe the public in a general way has the wrong impression concerning this wage question. First, they have the impression that all employes in engine and train service receive enormous wages; you hear this on every hand. It is true that good-sized checks are received at times on some runs, but the public does not know how these checks are made. They are not made by working only a straight eight-hour day, which is long enough for anyone to work. Now for example, I am paid $6.90 for running a locomotive on the run I am on at present. Is this excessive? I am an extra man; therefore I am away from home most of the time. Now if I worked only eight hours a day, making only $6.90, after paying my expenses of $2.50 a day away from home and maintaining my family at home, where is my $6.90 going to bring me? However, on this run I work 12 to 16 hours a day; so if I work 16 hours I make two days in one and get time and a half after eight hours; therefore I make better than $16 instead of $6.90.

Now, would it be reasonable for me to work this 16 hours for the flat rate of $6.90? So there is where we run up the big checks, and this is just what the railroads want to show up. They show these big checks to the public but never explain about the long hours worked to get them.

The public must understand a man can not stand it to work these long hours very long at a time, and all runs do not call for this excessive overtime, and when I catch a run working only eight hours and make only $6.90, after paying heavy expenses, there isn't much left today aside.

May I ask, in fairness, is there any reason why a man running a locomotive or having charge of a train; who has to pass rigid examinations; who has to work years before he gets a regular run; who is compelled to get out of his warm bed at all hours of the night; who never knows a holiday unless he lays off; who eats his meals whenever he can get them and eats improper food because he can get no other; who is away from his family most of the time—who bears the responsibility and risks his life continually—may I ask, is there any reason why he should not get what is termed good wages?

The trouble with the public is that they see us on our passenger stations rolling into the stations in daylight, but they do not see us out in the dark, stormy nights, with 50 or 60 freight cars, keeping out of the way of all passenger trains, switching and making up trains in the cold fog and rain, the trainmen climbing over boxcars in the dark and risking their lives at every move—all this while the public is in bed, where a man should be, and gets his regular rest and regular meals and his Sundays and holidays at home with his family. But where are the men who man the trains? —they who are called by Wall Street "the aristocrats of labor."?

An Engineer.

GRANTS OF THE SOIL

Figures Prefaced With Quotation From Free Soil Platform, 1852.

Gates, Nov. 1.—To the Editor of The Journal—In an old newspaper, lost for years in a drawer, I find the following: "All men have a natural right to a portion of the soil, and as the use of the soil is indispensable to life, the right of all men to the soil is as sacred as the right to life itself. The public lands of the United States belong to the people and should not be sold to individuals nor granted to corporations, but should be held as a sacred trust for the benefit of the people and should be granted in limited quantities free of cost to landless settlers."—Free Soil platform, 1852.

This leads to a study of conditions today, the high price of land held out of use by speculators, unemployment of labor, and poor service rendered by the railroads. This 1852 platform was defeated. One of the arguments, according to the Ingham County News, a paper published in Michigan, was that to give a man of limited or no means something for nothing would be degrading. It would no doubt be accepted by downtrodden foreigners and spineless Socialists, but self-respecting Americans would accept no paternalism. However, there was an element known as big business that received special favors and was not easily insulted by gifts of charity.

The following is from the annual report for 1885 of Commissioner Sparks of the United States land office, Washington, D. C.: "The total amount of land in railroad land grants is approximately 150,000,000 acres, an area larger than the combined states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. A state the size of New Hampshire could be carved out of railroad grants in Oregon. In Dakota the Northern Pacific got as much land as there is in New Jersey and Connecticut. In Montana, Idaho and Washington territory twice the size of Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware was also granted to the Northern Pacific."

It was held by Commissioner Sparks that this company had no legal right to an acre west of the Missouri river, for the reason that no road was located west of that river until after the time had expired when, according to contract, the road should have been completed. A commission appointed to investigate found no equities in the company to lands west of the Missouri river, because the lands east of the river exceeded in value the cost of constructing the whole road. Commissioner Sparks and his head clerk, Le Barnes, were forced out of the land office before the expiration of their term.

The Union Pacific and the Central Pacific were built with the money of the government and not with the money of the corporations. In nine cases out of 10 the land grants have been regarded as the private plunder of incorporators of the company and not for the purpose of building the roads. Most of the wires were laid between the years 1857 and 1859, inclusive. The fetters were forged during the war and a few years following the common people were interested in saving the Union.

We are now told that the railroads are facing a crisis; there must be a cut in wages, a raise in rates or a $500,000,000 gift from the government—perhaps all three. Some things indicate that our present administration is as friendly to the railroads as some of those were in the past.

J. M.

"SPIES AND GUNMEN"

Journal Editorial Indorsed and an Ancient Oriental Philosopher Quoted.

Washougal, Wash., Oct. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—Your editorial in The Journal of October 17 on "Spies and Gunmen" strikes at the very rottenest sore in our industrial system. When you say, "No American citizen worthy of the name or having self respect can be expected to submit quietly to an industrial autocracy which begins with spies and ends with gunmen," you express a sentiment that will meet with practically unanimous approval.

The American people must tear out these foul growths (which could not exist for a day except in the dark of secrecy) if they are to have a lawful government in which those who have done no wrong need fear no attack from their own officials.

Here are some extracts from an ancient work, author unknown, but thought to be Confucius or Leo-Kium, a contemporary, and edited by Eliot Coues, a former naturalist of the United States government: "Yet how many evils are permitted by connivance of law! How many crimes are committed by decree of the council! Be wise, O ruler of the people! and learn, O thou that are in command of nations! One crime committed by thee is worse than the escape of 10 from punishment. When thy people are numerous, when thy sons increase about thy table, sendest thou them out to slay the innocent, and to fall before the sword of him whom they have not offended. Sayest thou that justice cannot be executed without wrong? Surely thy own words condemn thee! Thou flatterest with false hopes the criminal, that he may confress his guilt; art thou not unto him a criminal? Is thy guilt less because he cannot punish it? When thou commandest to torture him that is only suspected of crime, darest thou remember that thou mayest rack the innocent? Is thy soul satisfied with his confession? Pain will enforce him to say what is not, as easily as what is, and anguish hath caused Innocence to accuse herself. Thou mayest not kill him without cause. Thou doest worse than kill him. That thou mayest prove if he be guilty, thou destroyest him innocent. O blindness to all truth! O insufficiency of the wisdom of the wise! Know, when thy judge shall bid thee account for this, thou shalt wish 10,000 guilty to have gone free rather than one innocent then to stand against thee."

A Citizen.

A PHILOSOPHER AT 40

Challenges His 20-Year-Old Self, and No Holds Barred.

Portland, Oct. 27.—To the Editor of The Journal — At 20 I was indiscreet enough to form habits that gave only transitory satisfaction, and most of the time I was in semi-darkness. I saw little sunshine; my mentality was stinted. But now, at 40, there is more sunshine connected with my life. Why? Because I am in better physical, financial and mental condition than I was at that time. I am in better physical, financiaal and mental condition because I have eliminated the things that were detrimental to me.

But, strange though it may seem, my 20-year-old self had a shorter life to live than my present 40-year-old self. Why? Because at that indiscreet age I had habits which, if continued, would have eliminated me in a few years. But now, at 40, I expect to live 40 more years, as I have banished the detrimental habits.

I should like to play a game of checkers with my 20-year-old self. I know I should win, because I am no mental cripple now. Also, if I should run a race with that old self of mine I am sure that I should come out ahead, as my lungs are not now filled with tobacco smoke.

However, if I should line up with my 20-year-old self waiting for a job or a wife, I know it would be my present self that would feel the chilly breeze of rejection.

But I do not care. I am satisfied with the modern conditions of life, and I hope to be sunshine's companion till I reach the end of the trail. W. R. Trull.

CONDEMNS THE TOY GUN

Given to Children, It May Lead to Fatal Use of Deadly Weapons.

Portland, Oct. 28.—To the Editor of The Journal—I should like to know how a child of 6 years can be held responsible for shooting a playmate. What else can be expected of children who are given toy or imitation pistols or rifles to play with as soon as they can walk? How many times we see small children, playing with these toy guns, point them at their playmates and with the words, "I'll shoot you," pull the trigger. Of course it is all in the spirit of play, and no harm is done, but how can they be expected to take a second thought if, having a real gun, they do the same thing they have done, maybe thousands of times, with no serious results and no other thought in mind than that it is in play? I believe parents who will buy, or allow their children to play with, toys representing guns are guilty of an offense against society by cultivating the habit of thoughtlessness in the children. I don't believe a person of either sex should be taught to fear to handle or use guns, but they should not be allowed to play with or handle them until they arrive at an age at which they can and will use mature judgment with them. The child should then be taught the use of guns in their proper place, and in that place only.

Stop the manufacture of these toy guns and you will eliminate a large percentage of the juvenile shootings. There are no less than 3000 other toys that are just as acceptable as the toy gun that may some day be the cause of a child's playfully pulling the trigger of a loaded gun.

E. B. Good.

TRIBUTE TO PORTLAND Y. M. C. A.

Portland, Nov. 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—The aim, object and purpose of the Y. M. C. A. is so broad and universal, so democratic, that no injustice or wrong report can darken the light of its beneficence. One must think reverently of the founders of this place of refuge for the good, the poor and the so-called bad, who are privileged to breathe therein an atmosphere of home. Always warm and comfortable, the presence of people of learning and refinement makes the social cheer and good will an element of uplift to the weary and seemingly "downtrodden." The writer would be pleased to subscribe her name to this little note, but it is written to express the gratitude of many who have voiced to her their appreciation of the staff of officers for their ever-ready help in this large household, and their efficiency in carrying on in so orderly a manner the great work involved.

A Patron of the Portland "Y."

POINTS TO HENRY FORD

As Indicating What "Business" in Government Might Be.

Portland, Nov. 7.—To the Editor of The Journal—A Vancouver correspondent, writing in The Journal, seems to think Henry Ford is nearly brainless. I will say that what brains he has work in the right direction. It makes no difference how much money a man has or whether he is successful in business or not, so long as he shows the right spirit, and Mr. Ford certainly shows this by paying the highest wages in the history of America. The greatest problem that confronts the American people today is how the distribution and equalization of wealth can be justly made. Ford offers the only sane solution by increasing wages when conditions warrant it. He has stood ready to share increasing profits with his employes at all times. If all business men had followed his example there would not be such a thing as Socialism in America today. Economic robbery and the tyranny of capitalism created Socialism. We don't need Socialism, but we do need the pruning of capitalism. It is our duty to select a man for the presidency who is capable of doing this, and Ford is the only logical candidate. As president I believe Ford would bring about a peaceful industrial revolution, one that would give the creators of all wealth their just dues.

There is a bunch always calling for the overthrow of the government. All they have to do is to select candidates that suit them and vote for them and elect them; then the government is "overthrown." We can establish any form of government we want without clubs or guns. All that is required is a little horse sense.

America is going to show the world she has the brain power to solve great problems without guns, death and destruction.

E. A. Linscott.

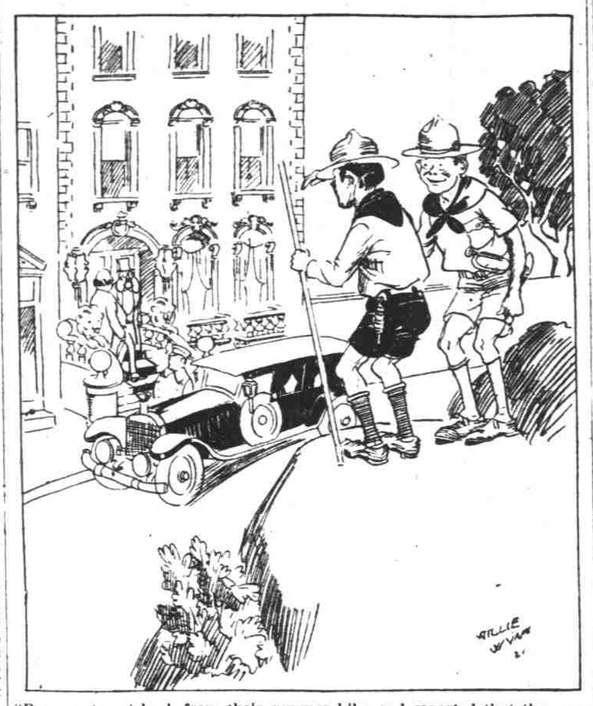
FAIR WORK FOR HOME PEOPLE

Portland, Nov. 8.—To the Editor of The Journal—Let Portland have the fair. We all approve that. But not if the taxpayers have to pay anything extra. But, just as J. Landigan says, have the city and state issue small 20-year 6 per cent non-assessable bonds. This is the fairest way for all. Next, let the people living in Oregon have the work, not foreigners, outsiders and non-citizens. Show the world what the men of the Northwest can accomplish. If the men of the Northwest cannot do it, nobody can. We don't want it, otherwise. Are not they the ones that support the fair, mostly? Well, let them have first chance without prying into their past records. As long as they belong to Oregon, give them a chance to make a record now. I am a booster for home first, as charity should begin at home.

I. M. E.

West Is West and Then Some

Our Geography Is Revised



"Boy scouts got back from their summer hike and reported that they was people liveing in rude huts as far west as Akron."

By Ring W. Lardner.

To the Editor:

I will half to ask those of my readers that lives outside of N. Y. city and suburbs to excuse me writeing this article which I don't suppose it will interest nonresidence of N. Y. as it won't tell them nothing they don't know, but I am writeing it in response to a request from a friend of mine in Youngstown, O., who says it looks to him like the people of N. Y. was laboring under a delusion in regards to the gen. lay out of the country of which they are suppose to be a citizen and would I oblige him by takeing the trouble to set them right. So the only way I know of to reach them is a article like this kind so I will ask the kind indulgents of my rural admires before beginning same.

My Ohio correspondent said he was in N. Y. city 3 wks. ago and he bought the N. Y. Sunday papers and the front page of one of them had a little article about football and he had clipped out a paragraph from the article and here is the paragraph he had clipped out:

"The West scored in another of her intersectional struggles, for Pittsburg beat Syracuse, 35 to 0."

"Tell them N. Y. editors," wrote my friend, "that Pittsburg ain't in the West, but is right in the middle of the U. S. as they could see for themself by looking in their geography."

Well, some of my best friends is N. Y. editors and I feel like they won't take it amiss if I point out their mistake in a nice way and I will say at the start that my friends letter ain't the only reason I have got to believe that maybe they is some slight misconception around here as to where is where in America, as I have heard New Yorkers make remarks from time to time that almost proved they was kind of hazy in regards to the strip of country laying west of 12th Avenue.

So again asking pardon from my yokel readers for writeing a few dry details which is old stuff to them and also asking my N. Y. friends to forgive me presuming to correct them, I will set down a few facts about the map of this continent as I learnt them in school and also found out from people that has traveled.

* * *

Well, in the 1st place Pittsburg instead of being in the exact middle of U. S. lays a few miles east of the middle. Little was known of what layed beyond till 1849 when some boy scouts got back from their summer hike and reported they was people liveing in rude huts as far west as Akron and that they had the gold fever and gold had actually been found out there and some of the prospectors had showed them nuggets as big as a bunion.

So the parents of some of these boys got the fever themselfs and broke up their home and went out there in search of gold and as they wasn't no prairie schooners in them days they had to make the trip on the B. & O. Some of them struck gold, but the most of them was Pittsburgers and struck out.

That was how it come to be discovered that they was land west of the Ohio and of course now days you can't travel a 100 miles out there without running acrost signs of human habitation and even as far west as Indiana a person will find settlements with more people in them than you can put in a Ford and some of them has got their own water plants and has running water and makes their own gin.

A friend of mine made an interesting trip last summer and took in pretty near the whole Pacific slope, going as far west as Des Moines. This is 60 miles from a R. R. and lays right in the middle of what they call the sage brush country. It is pretty near a wks. journey on a tricycle from there to Rock Island, where my friends has a uncle that has got a sheep ranch.

The scenery is O. K. the 1st, few days but when you been peddleing a tricycle that long you get tired of nothing but cactus, palo verde, yucca, mesquite and etc. and when you call it a day and lay down for the night you can't hardly sleep on acct. of worring about prarie dogs, coyotes and even rattlers, as most of the windows is without screens.

A dozen yrs. ago people liveing in Des Moines shot down all that was left of the Indians that had made their life miserable and now they are faceing another menace namely the Japs as every ship lands hundreds of the little yellow men who not only cheapen labor but have got hold of many acres of Iowa land and are threatening to cut it all up into tennis courts.

* * *

North of Iowa lays Minnesota which is as far as Admiral Peary says Doc Cook got whereas Peary himself claims to of reached Rat Portage and seen the Pole but all he could think of when he seen it was what a sucker he had been to not take the old lady's advice and wear his winter underwear. They say that up there the ice gets so thick you half to break it up to get it in a high ball and when they's heavy snow fall the snow lays there the rest of the winter the same as 5th ave.

Between Des Moines and Pittsburg is 3 or 4 other states named after battle ships in the U. S. navy like Indiana, where our national parks is located, and Wisconsin, famous for its grand canyon to say nothing about Michigan where the troops was sent in 1916 to scare the Mexicans. Some of these states is pretty near a 100 miles acrost and they's places in Wisconsin and Indiana where you can board a train early in the morning and ride all day and get nowheres.

So it will be seen that New Yorkers is kind of balled up on their geography and they's a whole lot of this country west of Pittsburg and when Horace Greeley told that young man to go west it was Cedar Rapids or Fort Wayne he was refering to, not Altoona.

RING W. LARDNER.

Great Neck, Nov. 11.

(Copyright, 1921, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

FURNITURE PRICES Show Greatest Decline

Gadsbys' Say: "Buy Now, Pay Next Year"

No Interest Charged at Gadsbys'	$ 50 WORTH OF FURNITURE $ 5.00 CASH, $1.00 WEEK $ 75 WORTH OF FURNITURE $ 7.50 CASH, $1.50 WEEK $100 WORTH OF FURNITURE $10.00 CASH, $2.00 WEEK $125 WORTH OF FURNITURE $12.50 CASH, $2.25 WEEK $150 WORTH OF FURNITURE $15.00 CASH, $2.50 WEEK	No Interest Charged at Gadsbys'

$5.00 DELIVERS THIS BUFFET—$1 Weekly

Even in these days of lower prices, it is not often that you have an opportunity to secure a large size massive Colonial Buffet at a price as low as this. Finished in fumed oak with a big plate-glass mirror as pictured, these Buffets are extra well made and less than a year ago would have sold for a great deal more. While our limited stock lasts tomorrow you may buy them at special price **$29.50**

$5.00 CASH—$1.00 WEEKLY

Four-Piece Bedroom Suites, Just Like Cut, for $99.50

TERMS, $10 DEPOSIT, $10 PER MONTH—AT GADSBYS'

Dining Tables

Solid Oak Dining Table $29.75

Round top, pedestal base. Extends six feet when open. Gadsbys' price is **$29.75**

$3.00 CASH, BALANCE $1.00 WEEKLY

$5.00 Delivers Your Rug

$1.00 Weekly Pays Balance

Tomorrow's feature value is a 9x12 Tapestry Rug, special price **$23.50**

9x12 Axminsters, excellent quality **$69.50**
9x12 Axminster, good quality at **$58.75**
9x12 Axminsters, med. quality .. **$37.50**
9x12 Velvets, best quality, at ... **$64.75**
9x12 Velvets, good quality, at .. **$42.50**
9x12 Tapestry, best quality **$35.50**
9x12 Tapestry, good quality, at. **$23.50**

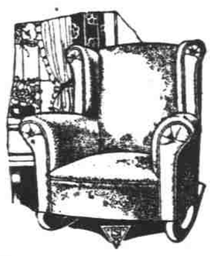
HOW ABOUT A HEATING STOVE?

Simmons Day Beds

So practical and useful. There is a need for a Day Bed in most every home. Ask to see them at Gadsbys'. Priced from **$15** to **$45**

Terms $2.50 Cash, $1.00 Weekly

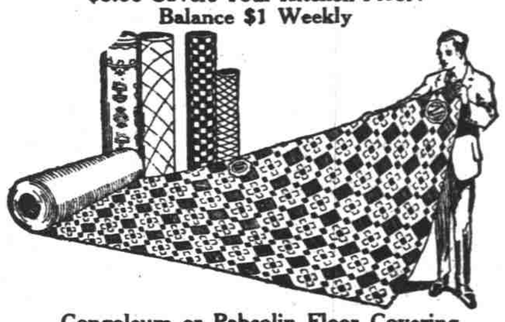
$2.95 Delivers This Rocker



Balance $1.00 Weekly

Deeply upholstered fireside rockers with coil spring seats and heavy roll arms are priced now at a genuine saving. Upholstered in the very finest grade of brown imitation Spanish leather. These Rockers will sell in a hurry at special sale price..... **$29.50**

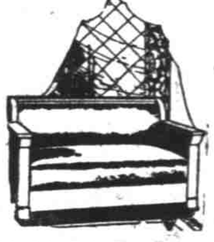
$5.00 Covers Your Kitchen Floor! Balance $1 Weekly



Congoleum or Pabcolin Floor Covering 98c Yard Laid at Gadsbys'

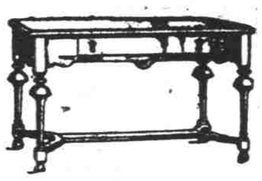
We carry a full line of Print and Inlaid Linoleum on sale.

$5 Delivers This Bed Davenport



Solid Oak Bed Davenport, upholstered in brown Spanish leatherette. Price..... **$55**

Sale Library Tables



Ask to see the tables we have on sale. Prices from **$15.00** up.

$5.00 Delivers Bed, Springs and Mattress

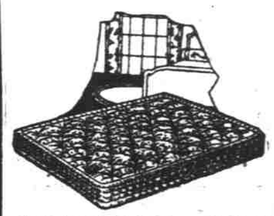
Simmons full size bed, all-steel springs and good cotton mattress. Price **$29.50.**

$5.00 Cash $1.00 Weekly

$1.00 DELIVERS THIS HEATER BALANCE WEEKLY

Cast Lined Heating Stove—Price $23
Others as Cheap as $4.00

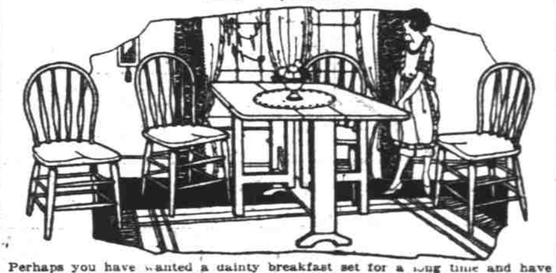
40-lb. Cotton Felt Mattresses $12.50



$5 Delivers This Mattress—$1 Weekly

The mattress sensation of the day. Made of pure cotton, layer upon layer, with a fancy floral art ticking and a heavy roll edge, at this low price..... **$12.50**

$5 DELIVERS THIS 5-PIECE BREAKFAST SET—$29.50



Perhaps you have wanted a dainty breakfast set for a long time and have hesitated because of the price. Here is an inexpensive five-piece set, charming in design and handsome in its selected color combination. The table can be folded when not in use, occupying a very small space, and tomorrow's price complete, including the table and four chairs exactly as pictured, in combination shades, is only..... **$29.50**

$7.50 DELIVERS A DAVENPORT $1 WEEKLY

An exceptionally pleasing design, made with loose spring cushions, spring edge construction, heavy rolled arms and wings. Upholstered in an exceptionally fine grade of floral tapestry and specially priced at a big discount. On sale at **$74.50**

Wm. Gadsby & Sons

CORNER SECOND AND MORRISON STREETS

USE OUR **EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT**

If you have furniture that doesn't suit—want something more up-to-date and better—phone us and we'll send a competent man to see it and arrange to take it as part payment on the kind you want—the Gadsby kind. We'll make you a liberal allowance for your goods and we'll sell you new furniture at low prices. The new furniture will be promptly delivered. Exchange goods can be bought at our First and Washington store.