

Letters From the People

The Olcott Campaign Discussed—A Criticism of Road Builders' Usages—The Revenue From Automobiles—The Bridge Question—Debate on the Compulsory Education Bill Continued—Mr. Cellars' Candidacy—Income Tax—The 1927 Fair.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR OLCOTT

A member of the Governor's Party pronounces it a huge joke. Beaverton, Nov. 1.—To the Editor of The Journal: "Much squawling and little wool," said the devil after he got through shearing his sow." This proverb might well be applied to the present Olcott campaign. The powers that be in his party must believe we farmers are a bunch of sapsheafs, if they think they can foist a governor on us Republicans who a few years ago acted the staunch Democrat. This campaign as managed by the Republican leaders has been a huge joke. Today the Oregonian has a cartoon depicting Olcott as an ideal governor. Before the primaries the Oregonian did not want Olcott to run. That paper must have experienced a change of heart. Don't you remember the little articles appearing in the Oregonian now and then stating that Olcott had a \$10,000 federal job in view, that he would rather have than the gubernatorial job of Oregon? Simply a hint for him not to run. When the federal job was Eugene then to advocate his candidacy it was stated that Olcott was not thinking of running (another hint). After that, famous as the federal job, the institution at Salem was ended and the culprit sent to McNeils Island. The Oregonian stated that the election of Olcott was considered a great victory for the federal authorities, since many influential men had interested themselves in Olcott's behalf. Of course, the Oregonian did not name those influential men, but many probably thought that one of them was Olcott. Another hint (to run). The Oregonian seems to be subject to sudden conversions, just as Olcott is subject to sudden religious and political changes.

A. Anderson.

AN OPINION ON ROAD WORK

Declaration That Time and Money Are Wasted Away in Useless Surveys. Harrisburg, Nov. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal: We the taxpayers are exceedingly glad the mud squand has stirred Mr. Pierce up to the point of airing the administration of the highway department. It has been perfectly plain to the common herd that our money was being thrown away. It has been evident, though we had not the time to investigate that we might swear to by that the highway building was not altogether in the interest of good roads, but was largely worked for the benefit of the so-called engineers, surveyors and contractors. There has been enough money spent on the road from Albany to Harrisburg, for overhead expenses, first-class first-class crushed rock road that would be good enough for anybody to travel. I have been taught that surveying was part of mathematics, that the surveyor's job was a true science, but the surveyors in charge of this 50 miles of road, over practically a level country, have gone over it again and again, when any competent engineer should have done it in 10 days. We spent a large sum in making a topographical survey of this state in the interest of the road building, that it might aid in laying out such routes in the future. Was that a graft? Anyone who has lived in this valley a few years and learned anything about the soil and climate, knows the roads they are building will not last—nothing more absurd than to put a hard surface on a high dirt foundation. Nothing short of an 8-inch steel armor plate would stand. We shall have \$40,000,000 of outstanding bonds, and in a very few years nothing to show for it.

J. M. Philpott.

THE AUTOMOBILE MONEY

A Statement as to Its Destination as Directed by the Laws of Oregon. Portland, Nov. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal: The Oregonian and Telegram have been saying in recent issues that none of the taxes except automobile licenses have been used in paying for highway construction, which assertion is absolutely false. Until recently automobile owners have paid a personal property tax on their cars, and the legislature passed a bill by which that tax was added to the license, and in that way the personal property tax on nearly 150,000 cars was diverted from the fund to which it formerly went and was added to the highway fund, which was one way of using a large sum of money rightly belonging to other funds, for road construction. While I am not opposed to the building of good roads, I am protesting against the assertion that the funds for that purpose come directly from the automobile licenses and gasoline tax. The taxpayer is entitled to know the actual truth in connection with the subject. The personal property tax on 150,000 cars, if only \$10 per car, would be \$1,500,000, which is a large amount to divert from the funds that formerly benefited by it.

E. H. Walters.

WANTS NO 1927 FAIR

Thinks Money Would Be Better Spent in Hydro-Electric Development for the People. Portland, Oct. 30.—To the Editor of The Journal: I recently heard a speech in favor of the 1927 fair. The speaker pictured beautifully what the fair would do for the capitalist, who holds most of the unutilized land. It would bring the capitalist in touch with his families out here, and then they would sell their holdings to them at a good price and get out from under the tax burden. See? He talked about the scenery, the fine highways, the wonderful water power—everything lovely, and climate to boot. But he did not say one word about our wanting the Easterner more to help pay some \$50,000,000 bond issues that we have on hand.

Let's vote the fair proposition down, and in its place vote a tax of \$3,000,000, with \$1,000,000 for the next three years, to build an electric light plant in its stand and let everybody have electricity at cost. Then we should have something to show the people, and could advertise it broadcastly that they could get electricity at cost, at 1 cent or less a kilowatt hour. That would bring them here. If the United States wants to donate \$500,000, let it spend it to help develop this coast instead of building a worthless building like that of 1901 and let it burn down, a complete loss to the country. Mr. McArthur said he was not in favor of the United States going into water power development, but let capital do it. And there we have a huge surplus piled up in a year or so.

PROTESTANTS WHO PROTEST

Pastor Speaks for Himself and Other Pastors Who Oppose the School Bill. Portland, Nov. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal: The most warring of the off-repeated assertions concerning the compulsory school bill is that it is receiving the solid support of the Protestant clergy. This is made calmly and in the face of the fact that clear, definite statements in the contrary are made from both our large and our

smaller pulpits. The Protestant clergy differ in this matter as in many others, but many of all denominations stand out clearly and definitely against the bill, believing it unwise and not Christian in its intolerance.

Robert Moulton Giske, Pastor, Linton Methodist Church.

PLEADS FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Calling Them "The Mother Branch" of the American System of Education. Portland, Oct. 28.—To the Editor of The Journal: The future of the nation, its ability and power to do, will depend upon the spirit of the people. No matter what great undertaking the people of the nation may be called upon to support, its success will depend upon the spirit of service, inculcated in the early years by the mother branch of our broad American educational system—private and parochial schools—which spirit should be emulated by the public school, the youthful, giant offspring branch, in its training, cooperating for greater progress. The mother branch, the viewpoint as to what constitutes these responsibilities, and that viewpoint can best be established through public school education, cooperation with the mother institution in accordance with and all united in the only true melting pot, the Golden Rule, in which all can unite, if we will. "Peace to the good will."

The public school system was handed down to us by forefathers whose true vision of justice and equal rights was imparted to them in private school training, which showed them the necessity of organizing a youthful, giant branch or system of education to reach all pupils, not otherwise taught in primary grades, which would help combat illiteracy and would solidify the spirit of democracy on the basis of exalted service. Our whole American school system, embracing all public and private schools, should put love, good will and justice into the hearts of all low citizens and inculcate a true spirit of service and patriotism, resisting un-American, dictatorial leadership that would even suggest the isolation of the growing child from the directing guidance of father and mother as to the dictates of their conscience. The school should be a place where the children are positively their own business. Self-appointed dictatorial leadership and a stab in the back with intent to kill the mother branch of our system of education.

LIBERTY PLEA CONSIDERED

Writer Asserts That Who Cry It Loudest Would Soonest Deny It to Others.

Portland, Oct. 26.—To the Editor of The Journal: I cannot remember if anyone has brought out the point relative to the effects of parochial schools in other lands where the parochial school was the only method of education. Take Mexico, Cuba, South America, the Philippines and other countries, where the parochial school has held its ground for at least 300 years, and what has been the result? Two classes of people, the rich and the poor, the rich being those at the head of the church, and the poor living in poverty and ignorance. The Catholic cannot claim any credit for our learning and the educated standing of our people here in the United States, for it has been his aim, and now is, to tear down our public schools. Whenever you hear of class people making such a holler about personal liberty, you can just bank on it that if they were in power your personal liberty would go straight to hell. If we are to have parochial schools, then every religious order has the same privilege, and if each availed itself of this privilege, we should certainly have a fine state of affairs, anyway 30 or 40 different religious schools, each with its own right to the salt of the earth, and that the other fellow not of its particular faith was sure headed for the lower regions.

For the sake of a united country, with common ideals, we should all support the public school, regardless of denomination. Surely, if religion has any merit the child can decide for himself when he is old enough to know his own mind, without having it drilled into him until he is afraid to do otherwise. The public school was good enough for me. It has educated 90 per cent of our people. Why not make it 100 per cent.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FIRST

A Picture Drawn of Results That, as Alleged, Would Follow Its Rejection.

Hood River, Oct. 25.—To the Editor of The Journal: The present political campaign witnesses the greatest organized effort ever made to reject our public school system. Freedom of worship is about as germane to the proposed compulsory education bill as is Einstein's theory of relativity, and far less germane than the claim of the bill's proponents that its defeat means the ultimate destruction of our public school system. The truth is the great majority of Americans are not enough patriotic to care how, where or when they worship, or whether one worships at all. All religious beliefs are more or less represented in our country. Even the Orientals with his pagan Joseph, may worship unmolested within the sound of Christian church bells. No bill that would interfere with any of the rights the constitution guarantees would be tolerated by the authors of this bill, much less proposed to them. Some of these opponents of our public school system would refuse to patronize them, as if they were taught by a lot of un-Christian high moral character, instead of learning, whose invariable rule of conduct is never to interfere with any parent's religious training of his child. However, we must not permit race communities, where the different nations meet, to be a hindrance to the progress of our common school system. If such a condition as will logically follow the destruction of our common school system existed today, or if we had never known its potency in making one people of many races, by counteracting race prejudice and religious differences, the greatest blessing God could send this nation would be the public school system. Every parent should be proud of the privilege of patronizing it, and it is a disgrace to wait to be compelled. It is one of the fundamental institutions of this republic, and to build up other systems in competition with it is to undermine the republic, to say nothing of the common welfare and happiness, as courts set up in competition with the public schools. Let parents and teachers train the children of every race and creed to love these public schools as their greatest earthly benefactor; teach them that when our

common schools go the republic goes, and soon these children will come to understand that a strike at our public school system is as disloyal as a strike at the flag. Improve it all we can, but abolish it, never. It was the same public school that educated the great Horace Mann, our country's greatest educator, was praising so highly and commending so forcibly when he uttered this matchless warning to his countrymen:

"For, in the name of the living God, it must be recognized that superstition shall be the religion, licentiousness the liberty, and anarchy the law, of that people which neglects the education of its children."

W. J. Peddicord.

CHIDES MOTHERS OF PUPILS

Charges School Patrons With Being Dictatorial in Attitude Toward Teachers.

Gresham, Nov. 1.—To the Editor of The Journal:—Last March my husband and I came to this state from Wyoming because I wanted to give our children an education and we lived too far from a school. We were told Oregon had "the best schools in America." About a week after our children started to school I was in no mood to be a parent-teacher program in this district. The program was good. But almost immediately after the program was over, six of the mothers (women) surrounded the teacher and I never in my life heard such a calling down as that teacher got—such loud talk and at such a place, through the teacher's door, and in such a quiet—outwardly at any rate. Then and there I decided something was very wrong with a school system that would even give a parent a chance to do such a thing, and I firmly took my stand for the teacher. Naturally I have been a very unobedient parent. This year I have another teacher, Mrs. Blank's little child was put back because of necessity due to the child's studies, and so Mrs. Blank goes to school at once and the teacher goes to her. All the Madames Blank will do that if the teacher doesn't suit, and these children hear that at home and go to school with the full knowledge that they are upheld by their parents. The teachers nowadays are, simply, treated like so much putty. A woman goes there at any time of day and drags out the sewing club or the pig club, or just anything she wants, and the teacher must do as she wants. Then Mrs. Blank wonders why her child is behind in tests.

More parent-teacher members go to school and take a tablet and pencil and take down everything the teacher does. We only rent our place, and every day my children are told they have no right to go to school because we do not own land in this district. We supposed Oregon had public schools in which all children could get an education. Both my husband and I are Americans full-blinded for generations back, and my husband is working for the government now. Why can't they go to school and feel they are not taking charity. I suppose the Parent-Teacher association was to bring the whole school children, teachers and parents into a perfect understanding for progress and good.

A. C. Phelps.

INSPECTION OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Here Asserted That It Is Not Exercised, and That Present Law Does Not Demand It.

Epiphany, Nov. 1.—To the Editor of The Journal:—Advocates of the private schools claim they are under the inspection and supervision of the state, and quote the law on that point. It is not enforced. Here is a state law. We have a state school superintendent whose sworn duty it is to enforce the school law, yet this law is not enforced, and dealers in school supplies will testify that where there are private schools, especially parochial schools, they are different from public schools. The fact is, in defining the duties of county and state superintendents the law does not make it mandatory to personally inspect or supervise these private schools, while it does with regard to the public school. Teachers in the public schools must have certificates, must attend state and county institutes, and must follow the law. If the private school wants to hand in a report, the same is put on file. The state inspection goes to place to place inspecting public and private institutions, schools excepted. He does not take our word that our scales are correct. He does not place us upon our honor and let us submit our report. He goes in person or by deputy and inspects and supervises our business relations with the public. All over this state teachers are teaching in these private schools without certificates from the state. Text books that exalt certain religious characters and make light of American statesmen and American institutions are in use. Unless we adopt this compulsory education bill these will continue to be used.

In considering alleged extra taxation, opponents of the bill lump the \$800 pupils that now attend private schools, figure from that basis; the fact is, they are scattered all over the state, and would drop into their various school houses and be lost sight of in their respective districts. All over this state teachers are employed to teach six to 30 pupils. A few more would easily be taken care of without one cent of added expense. As to loss of private school buildings, they could easily be used for other purposes, in the four years that will expire before this law goes into effect.

"A house divided against itself can not stand." Let's have one flag, one language and one public school system.

J. S. McCuttry.

SINGLE AND INCOME TAX

This Country Thinks Taxation of Incomes Would Be the Superior System.

Portland, Oct. 31.—To the Editor of The Journal:—The land was given to the original holders by the United States, and now the single taxers want the state of Oregon to take it away by transferring the present owners, who have paid good money for it, from an ownership basis to a rental basis, leaving only an empty title, which at once would be a permit to rent the land from the state at a "full rental value." How the "rental value" is to be determined is not stated, but the owner who has a house near a business or manufacturing district, the man with a farm near a summer resort, and one who owns a small building near a skyscraper, would all have to pay the same rent as the holders of the more productive property, even though there would be no demand for corresponding improvements of their land. And they could not afford to pay such rental they would lose their land and probably the improvements also. The measure on the ballot, by distinguishing the value, to the owner of the land, would destroy the security which many a farmer has to use to secure loans to make needed improvements on their land. And the same would be true of the person who owns a lot he intends to build his home on. Loans already made would be lost, and the owner would be very adversely affected.

The most just form of tax is the "income tax," which bases the amount on the ability to pay, and distributes the tax to all classes. The formerly much talked of unearned increment in land value would be subject to income tax, as would also all other forms of profit, interest, fees, etc., some of which are now exempt.

Without discussing the merits or de-

merits of the income tax measure of the November ballot, I believe careful consideration will convince anyone that the income tax principle, recognized even in ancient times by Abraham, Jacob and Moses, is the logical and correct method of raising money for public purposes.

H. W. Hoogstraat.

SUPPORTS MR. CELLARS

In Presenting Him, Quotes From His Statement Made When Announcing Himself for City Commissioner.

Portland, Nov. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal:—Being favorably impressed with the statement of George B. Cellars, candidate for city commissioner, I desire to call attention to his many qualifications for the office. Mr. Cellars is a prominent local attorney, who has specialized for many years in financial practice and pledges himself, if elected, to work for the upbuilding of Portland in general, and to devote his entire time to the administration of his department. His statement said: "I conceive it to be the duty of a city commissioner to give to the office his entire time, and if I am chosen . . . I shall follow that policy throughout my term."

"I have been trained both as lawyer and banker for a long time, time specialized in financial matters. I believe I can, if elected, serve the city . . . in a valuable manner."

"I believe there is much that can be done to install 'system' in municipal affairs that will insure to the advantage of the taxpayers, for in one way and another every citizen is a taxpayer. If I am elected I pledge myself to this service and shall at all times stand for clean government, enforcement of the laws and constructive work that will go to make Portland a greater city and a better one in which to live."

Mr. Cellars' statement appeals to me as that of an upright, fair-minded man of affairs, and as The Journal has not heretofore printed it, I would appreciate your publishing my letter.

W. W. McCredie.

PARTISANS DENOUNCED

Attention Called to Candidates Who Would Render the Better Service.

Regardless of Party Label.

Portland, Nov. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal:—Why cannot we have just ordinary, common honesty in our political discussions? The Oregonian dispatches properly quote him as declaring that this country suffered from eight years of "waste and extravagance" under the Wilson administration, and charging \$2,000,000,000 of war debt on the terrible Democrats. Apparently, the war debt is purely the wicked work of the Democrats. And here is Congressman Hawley making much the same kind of talk. He certainly knows it is rank dishonesty, as well as does Senator Stanford, to attempt to place the blame for the war debt on President Wilson's administration. Perhaps they will also attempt to make the voters believe all the profiteers were Democrats; that the shipbuilders who refused to let the courts examine their books were all Democrats; that it was the Democrats who put up the money to buy Liberty bonds in the senate? They have slandered Woodrow Wilson in one breath and praise him in the next. People have had this kind of bull hammered into them, morning, noon and night, by the kept press and the small-fry lackey of the public. All over this state teachers are teaching in these private schools without certificates from the state. Text books that exalt certain religious characters and make light of American statesmen and American institutions are in use. Unless we adopt this compulsory education bill these will continue to be used.

In considering alleged extra taxation, opponents of the bill lump the \$800 pupils that now attend private schools, figure from that basis; the fact is, they are scattered all over the state, and would drop into their various school houses and be lost sight of in their respective districts. All over this state teachers are employed to teach six to 30 pupils. A few more would easily be taken care of without one cent of added expense. As to loss of private school buildings, they could easily be used for other purposes, in the four years that will expire before this law goes into effect.

"A house divided against itself can not stand." Let's have one flag, one language and one public school system.

J. S. McCuttry.

SINGLE AND INCOME TAX

This Country Thinks Taxation of Incomes Would Be the Superior System.

Portland, Oct. 31.—To the Editor of The Journal:—The land was given to the original holders by the United States, and now the single taxers want the state of Oregon to take it away by transferring the present owners, who have paid good money for it, from an ownership basis to a rental basis, leaving only an empty title, which at once would be a permit to rent the land from the state at a "full rental value." How the "rental value" is to be determined is not stated, but the owner who has a house near a business or manufacturing district, the man with a farm near a summer resort, and one who owns a small building near a skyscraper, would all have to pay the same rent as the holders of the more productive property, even though there would be no demand for corresponding improvements of their land. And they could not afford to pay such rental they would lose their land and probably the improvements also. The measure on the ballot, by distinguishing the value, to the owner of the land, would destroy the security which many a farmer has to use to secure loans to make needed improvements on their land. And the same would be true of the person who owns a lot he intends to build his home on. Loans already made would be lost, and the owner would be very adversely affected.

The most just form of tax is the "income tax," which bases the amount on the ability to pay, and distributes the tax to all classes. The formerly much talked of unearned increment in land value would be subject to income tax, as would also all other forms of profit, interest, fees, etc., some of which are now exempt.

Without discussing the merits or de-

STOP

Working Men and Women
Your Interests Are at Stake, we
all want steady work at good
wages, undeveloped resources
and unemployed labor go hand
in hand.

LOOK

ahead, see the colossal amount
of outside money that will be
spent and invested in Oregon in
the next five years if we have the
1927 Exposition *and you will get
your share.*

The newly finished trans-conti-
nental highways are inviting
folks to travel, the 1927 Fair
will bring them here.

LISTEN

To the Facts:

It will mean abundant prosperity for
the working men and women, and if
the working people aren't prosperous
we cannot have good times.

It may be that a few very wealthy land
holders are against it, but for the 95%
of working men and women it spells

PROSPERITY

Be sure to vote for the Exposition and
vote twice 308 X Yes 500 X Yes

Paid Advertisement, Portland Realty Board.