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The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

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TUESDAY - - - AUGUST 15, 1899

PUBLIC OFFICE A PRIVATE SNAP

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Vanderlip has ordered a reduction in the salaries of some of the chiefs and assistant chiefs of the treasury department, says the Spokesman-Review. The reason given for it is that Mr. Vanderlip has been making an investigation of the working of some of the divisions in the department with which he is connected and has found that the government employes give more time to loitering, talking and reading newspapers than they do to labor. As the chiefs and assistant chiefs are held responsible for the men under them they are the parties who are made to suffer through a reduction of salary.

If some of the other government officials in high places would make an examination similar to that made by Mr. Vanderlip, the probabilities are that a large number of government clerks would be working for less wages than they received before such examination. If some of the heads of departments would occasionally and unannounced drop in upon the employes under them no doubt they would find a good many who are earning their salaries in social converse, newspaper reading or scientific time killing.

The reason for this is that public office is and always has been regarded as a private snap and not a public trust, as a distinguished president once expressed it. It is not often you run across a hard-worked public official. It is rare to find one who is actually wearied unless it be through ennui. You never hear them groaning because they are mentally and physically tired out. Their hours are short and their pay sure, and when the office is closed at 3 or 4 or 5 in the afternoon there are no details of business to worry them until 9 or 10 the next morning. It is a placid sea with no sign of a breeze and their course is an easy, aimless and often irresponsible drift. Public clerks get into a rut; the work usually is light and becomes in time a dull routine, an automatic following of forms. Gradually the problem resolves itself into a determination to find out not what to do, but what not to do.

It is very seldom that one goes into a public office run by servants of the United States and finds the people in it overworked. In nine cases out of ten they will be found buried in reflection and tobacco smoke, swapping stories with a shady point, talking politics, reading newspapers or asking one another if it isn't time to close up and the sun yet high. If they are at work it will be noticed that their labors are of an easy, desultory sort. There is no hurry, no rush, no grind such as

other white men have to wrestle with eight and ten and twelve hours a day. Other men may worry and fret and fume and slave; the officeholder doesn't. He doesn't have to. That isn't what he got appointed for.

It might be possible to get more work out of the average public official, but it is doubtful. They are in a sort of a trust which objects to over-exertion. There are too many hallowed memories of easy times to warrant much genuine activity in a place, the salary of which is paid by Uncle Sam. There are too many sacred traditions to be overcome before we can hope that the officeholder will do as much work as the man in private life does. Under prodging such as Mr. Vanderlip has given it may be that a few of them will "hit her up" until such time as they are not watched by a hard-hearted, unfeeling and over zealous superior, but they will gradually drop back into the old lethargy, which is more circumspect and altogether comfortable. Some time a sort of a revolution may work changes for the better, but until such a revolution comes perhaps all we can say is, long life to the lucky dogs who get so much out of their pull, their politics, their pipes and their periodicals.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing between P. G. Daut and S. D. Stouffer under the firm name and style of The Daut Optical and Jewelry Company has this day been dissolved. P. G. Daut will continue the business, collect all debts due the firm and pay all bills owing by them, the said S. D. Stouffer hereby retiring therefrom. Dated this 14th day of August, 1899.
P. G. DAUT
S. D. STOFFER

The Dalles, Portland and Astoria Navigation Co.



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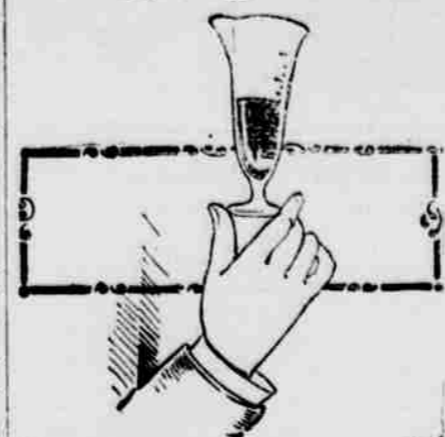
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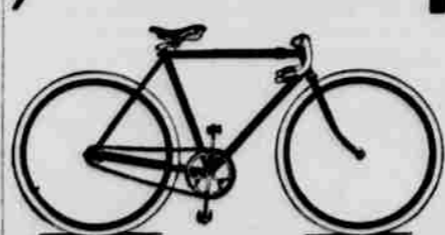
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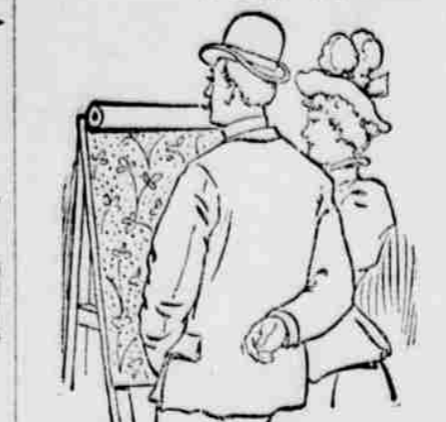
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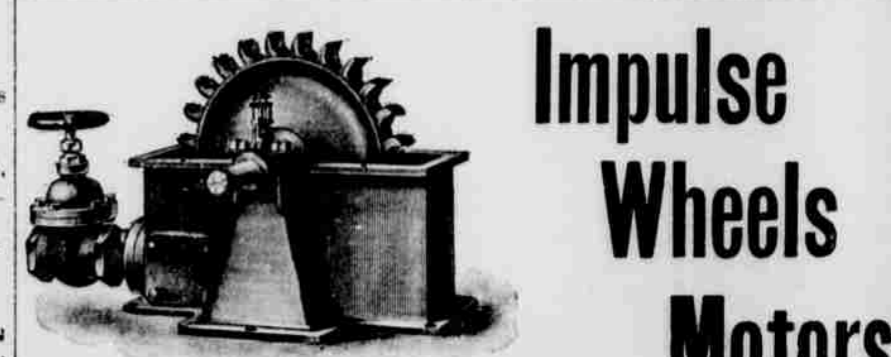
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