

# The Oregon Statesman

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## PANAMA CANAL TOLLS A DOMESTIC PROBLEM

The question of free tolls for American coastwise vessels passing through the Panama canal is purely domestic in character. No provision of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty would conceivably affect it. The pledge of that treaty to give equal treatment to the shipping of all nations has nothing to do with the treatment given American coastwise shipping, because under our laws and practices, as old as the republic, only American ships may engage in our coastwise trade. If a land owner at his own expense builds a road connecting two of his farms, under a franchise to let it be used by travelers on terms of equality, it certainly would not prevent him from running his own wagons over his own road without charging himself toll in order that people who had contributed nothing to the development of the enterprise might not be put to a purely imaginary competitive disadvantage.

The only prospect of competition in freight rates between the two coasts that gives promise of assured benefit to the great producing and consuming classes is that furnished by water carriage. That competition should be fostered and not discouraged by the federal government.

The federal government has wisely spent billions of dollars on the improvement of rivers and harbors in order to foster American shipping. It wisely voted many millions of acres of land to transcontinental railway lines in order to increase the transportation facilities of the nation. The Panama canal was built for the purpose of bringing the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the United States nearer together. The Republican party has promised the elimination of canal tolls in American coastwise vessels. The Democratic party made the same promise and repudiated it; the example is not one which commends itself to Republican emulation.

The point is made that this is not the opportune time for passing the canal tolls repeal act on the eve of an armament conference, the success of which may be endangered by any governmental decision that may create international ill will. There may be some force in this; the mere suggestion is enough to cause hesitation. The element of time in this matter is not vital, but of the ultimate fulfillment of a pledge which has been deliberately made by both political parties there should be no question.

A writer in the Los Angeles Times says those who have been following closely the deliberations of Congress place the blame for the delay in enacting the proposed remedial tax legislation and the protective tariff bill on the incapacity and the penchant to do politics of the majority of the new members of the House of Representatives. He says there are about 200 of them, probably the greatest number in the history of the House; that they "know nothing of the necessity for team work, for following intelligent leadership," etc. But this writer forgets that the House passed the new tariff bill months ago. It is held up in the Senate. These delays are a national disgrace; a shameful violation of Republican pledges; an inexcusable betrayal of the commission given by the people at the polls to their chosen representatives at the last national election. But the blame is not on the new members of the House; not all of it, in any way.

All the pictures and busts of the Kaiser in the public buildings and institutions of Prussia have been ordered removed from the eyes of the populace. The limit for the general clean-up has been fixed for November 8, which is the third anniversary of the flight of the Emperor into Holland. His picture is not merely to be turned to the wall, but destroyed. There can be no comeback as far as the Kaiser is concerned.

Lloyd George said yesterday that he hoped to attend some of the sessions of the disarmament conference at Washington. He will be welcome.

The victim of a Portland bootlegger, made blind by the hooch sold him, is suing the bootlegger for \$3000 damages. That is certainly cheap enough. But has a man who buys bootleg booze any legal rights in the premises?

Henry Ford plans a campaign in behalf of more pay for justices of the United States supreme court and for other federal judges.

es on the ground, it is reported, "that this will make them independent of all outside influences and insure probity in their handling of all cases brought before them." Meanwhile they will hardly thank their well-wisher for his insinuation.

There has been some natural suspicion that the official dismissal of Mrs. O'Leary's cow from the history of the Chicago fire was a case of unjustified iconoclasm. Now comes, however, Michael Ahearn, a newspaper reporter of 50 years ago, who is said to have confessed that he

and his fellow craftsman agreed to blame the fire onto the cow. The accepted version now is that the fire started in the hayloft of the O'Leary cow barn as the result of a drinking party of celebrating neighbors.

## THE STATE INSTITUTION FOR THE FEEBLE MINDED.

If any one has been impressed by the criticisms of a former temporary employee of the state institution for the feeble minded, and can take the time to do so, he should visit that institution and inspect it carefully, and inform himself thoroughly concerning the workings of the various departments and the management as a whole.

It is quite an institution. There are some 620 feeble minded charges there now, slightly more males than females, and there are some seventy-five employees.

A new building is now being constructed, and nearing completion, that will raise the capacity to 750. And still they come. No doubt even that capacity will be before long be insufficient.

The farm in connection with the institution contains about 735 acres of land, nearly all of it now in a high state of cultivation, though a good deal of it had to be cleared by the present superintendent. This farm has turned thousands of dollars into the bet-terment fund—the money being used in part in the construction and furnishing of new buildings as the population has grown. A large surplus of potatoes has been sold every year but this; this has not been a favorable year for a large potato crop in this district. The farm produces all the milk and butter used at the institution, and all the pork and poultry and eggs; and practically all the fruits and vegetables.

If any one has doubt as to the matter of the food furnished the wards of the state in that institution, let him look at the boys and girls there.

The two first buildings erected at the institution, one for boys and the other for girls, were not planned and constructed along the right lines for the uses to which they must be put. However, they are kept clean and sanitary, and they serve very well.

But the buildings constructed later are better suited for their uses; and all those that have been built since Dr. J. N. Smith has been superintendent are thoroughly up to date.

Take, for instance, the first building for little girls built under the direction of Dr. Smith. There are no stairways in it. The children go from floor to floor on gently inclining walks. There is every convenience found in the most modern hospital building. As to cleanliness, and the ease of keeping clean and sanitary, there is nothing anywhere that can surpass this new building, or the others that have been constructed under the present administration.

Dr. Smith gives all of his time, night and day, to the welfare of his charges and the conduct of the institution. He thinks he has a model institution. He aims to have. Those who visit the institution, who are familiar with similar institutions, tell him he has a model institution.

Mrs. Smith, the matron, is as tireless as her husband in looking after her part of the work, and she takes a pride in the lawns and flowers and the many touches of home life that are found everywhere.

There is a splendid spirit of co-operation among all the employees of the institution. They work in harmony in trying to make the state institution for the feeble minded the model establishment which Dr. Smith wants to have it. They feel that they are succeeding.

They do not claim perfection. They do not object to kindly, helpful criticism. If any one has suggestions that will enable them to improve the service in any way, they would like to hear them. That is the feeling all down the line.

The mothers and fathers and other relatives of these unfortunate children feel very tender towards them; very solicitous towards their welfare. Some of them are little babies; blind babies; babies that will never realize responsible manhood and womanhood. But the attendants there feel the same solicitude. They guard them night and day, 365 days in the year—guard and feed and bathe and care for them, and entertain them; mother them and father them. That is the spirit throughout.

Some of the charges there are in pitiable states. One of the children has a mother and grandmother there, and the great-

grandmother is in the asylum for the insane. There are relatives in some of the other state institutions.

But this is another story. Some of the unfortunate men and women in the institution need constant supervision. Some are epileptic. Some have filthy habits. They cannot help themselves. But even these have the solicitude and constant and kindly care of the efficient and unselfish attendants of the institution.

There should be no carping criticism of the state institution for the feeble minded, or of the forces, from the superintendent and matron to the last attendant and employee. They are unselfish and whole heartedly doing their best; giving their best. They are devoted to their work. They invite inspection, welcome suggestions, and have nothing whatever to conceal.

## THE LADY TRAMP

Advices from the railroad yards are that there were never so many lady hobos as right now. Women are learning to ride in box cars and on the brake beams. They are taking to the long road. It seems to be a reflection of the spirit of unrest that prevails in the world. If a woman wants to be a tramp there seems to be now way of stopping her. She is liable to bob her hair, don a pair of overalls and beat it for the yards. She may find employment in the next town and stay for a week or so and then go on when the next call comes from the wild. It is quite likely that the female tramp will be a problem in this country before the winter is over.

## NEWSPAPER EDUCATION

Say what we will of newspapers and their shortcomings, they furnish the greater part of the reading of the greater part of the American people. The responsibility that this places on newspaper publishers I need not emphasize here. Those who buy and read newspapers have also their responsibility. It is pleas-

ant to think that many of them live up to it. I once knew a railway conductor who impressed every one by his intelligence and refinement. Someone asked him once where he had been educated. He mentioned a certain newspaper and said: "That is the only university I ever attended." Take a paper like the Kansas City Star. It has long made a practice of printing much more than the news. It gave up space to selections from magazine articles, book reviews and authoritative accounts of scientific progress. Such matter going into the farm houses of Kansas and Missouri has in many instances been the cause of intellectual awakening in young men and women. They certainly found their newspaper reading worth while.—Rollo Ogden in Youth's Companion.

## BUSINESS BLOCKS

Detroit claims to have the largest office building in the world. It has just been put up by Durant, the motor magnate. There is always room for an argument with New York in any competition for the world's biggest building. They run 'em higher up in Gotham, anyhow.

## LADY BARRISTERS

Since the ladies have been admitted to practice at the bar in England there is considerable sartorial consternation. The English male barrister wears a wig and black silk gown, which adds considerably to his impressiveness. Hence the question arises, will the ladies wear the curled, gray wig and the double-tailed, white ribbon at the throat, or will precedent be blown to the winds and the ladies permitted to plead in their own unashamed, hirsute adornment? The advent of Portia is confusing.

The vital matter is now up to the lord chancellor and it is to be hoped that it will be settled along with the Irish question and the disarmament conference.

The cream puff is succeeding the cocktail. Where is this woman business going to end?

## BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Beautiful sunshine again.

Both sides and all sides claim to be trying to settle the proposed strike. If they are half sincere, there will be no strike.

The Boy Scout movement is gaining headway in Oregon. Every boy a Boy Scout is the slogan. It is an ambitious program.

The Statesman of tomorrow will have a symposium on the mint industry. This is in response to many inquiries. There is a great deal of interest in the industry in the Salem district.

Yesterday was Lloyd George's day for thinking he would appear at the Washington conference. If before sailing he solves the Irish question, he will be hailed here as the man who can establish universal peace and disarmament.

Reports to government bureaus indicate that a new record number of marriages will be reached this year—somewhere between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000. The old idea that two can live as cheaply as one seems not entirely to have lost its potency.

Radium taken internally will prolong human life, according to Dr. E. Stillman Bailey of Chicago, addressing a convention of therapists in Chicago. Of course the recipe starts with "First get your radium."

President Harding, whose sister is a former Vassar student, indorses the college drive for a \$2,000,000 endowment to increase salaries. Not intending, of course, to discriminate against the drives of other colleges for the same worthy purpose.

## Middle-State Governors Discuss Heavy Problems

DES MOINES, Ia., Oct. 18.—Attention was concentrated on the freight rate conference of the middlewestern states' governor and public officials, who met here today at the call of Governor N. E. Kendall of Iowa to consider means of reviving agriculture and business, and diminishing unemployment.

It was agreed that present transportation charges made profitable farming impossible. A question on which the conference showed warm feeling was that of interest charges and the so-called deflation policy followed

by the federal reserve banks. Agriculture was declared to have been unduly penalized by excessive pressure for liquidation under peculiarly difficult conditions. The necessity for lower interest rates and longer terms for farm credit was emphasized. It was announced that the conference probably would put itself on record to this effect.

A peacock, ornithologists say, usually lives about 24 years. We have seen some of 'em along the canyons of Broadway that were 24 before the war of the rebellion.—Los Angeles Times.

## Standard and Shell File Statements of Business

The Standard Oil company has filed with the secretary of state a report showing the sale of 3,128,589 gallons of gasoline and 147,138.5 gallons of distillate in Oregon during the month of September, on which a tax of \$65,128.81 was paid. The Shell company reports the sale of 258,588.5 gallons of gas-

oline and 3192 gallons of distillate during the month, on which a tax of \$5119.62 was paid.

## Wanted persons who have stomach troubles to know that JO-TO

will relieve their suffering in 2 minutes!  
TRY THIS wonderful discovery—more than 100,000 are now enjoying stomach-comfort with the use of this harmless remedy  
ALL DRUG STORES

Tonight at 8 p. m.

## L. Carlos Meier in Concert on Our Wurlitzer

1. "Light Cavalry" Overture.....Suppe
2. "Alice Blue Gown" From "Irene".....Tierney
3. "Anvil Chorus and Cavatina" From "Il Trovatore".....Verdi
4. "Always" Jazz Fox Trot.....Kroll

Alice Brady in "Little Italy" 7 and 9 p. m.

OREGON Theatre



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As pleasant when sipped alone as when partaken with one's food.

Hills Bros. Red Can brand represents in the highest degree that which stands for fine coffee.

## Hills Bros. Established 1878

## BETTER IN THE BANK

IT'S astonishing how many street robberies there have been recently all over the country. And it's equally astonishing what large sums many of the victims lost.

It is unwise to carry much cash on your person, and utterly unnecessary. A commercial account at the United States National Bank obviates the chance of having to hand over hard-earned money to a thief.

We'll gladly give you further details of opening such an account.

United States National Bank  
SALEM OREGON

## FUTURE DATES

October 21, Friday—Guild dance at Armory.  
October 30, Sunday—Loving corner-stone of new Salem hospital.  
November 21, 22 and 23—Marion county Teachers' Institute.  
December 4, Sunday—Elks Memorial service, Grand Theater.