East Oregonian

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1903.

Something less than a dozen years ago I began to think. The more I thought the better I liked it. * * Gradually it dawned upon me that our social system is very incomplete. In theory, we believe in equality; but in a thousand ways we practise the dreariest kind of aristocracy.—"Golden Rule" Jones, of Toledo.

JIM HILL BLAMES LABOR.

"As the labor unions killed industrial England, so will they bring grave financial reverses here. The country is fastly approaching that crisis. It may come in a year."

This is the thrust that the most conscienceless capitalist of the age, directs at the laboring men of the United States.

A believer in the union of capital, he denies the workingman a like privilege. A manipulator of the most arbitrary trust that seeks to throttle the freedom of traffic and the open channels of trade, he lays the sins of his own spawn at the door of labor.

In hopes that some prejudiced members of society will believe what he says, he places the blame for the impending crisis upon the workingmen, instead of placing it where it rightfully belongs; upon the shoulders of those human vampires who are forcing small capitalists out of business, cornering the supply of the necessaries of life, the means of transportation and the money of the world in preparation for a crash.

James J. Hill is no fool. He knows that the trusts and their baneful influence in the business circles of the country are hurrying a panic, and he is artful enough, dishonest enough in expressing an opinion to charge the inexorable crash upon innocent men, in hopes that he may direct the people's wrath away from the real culprits.

It has only been a month since Hill made a statement that overproduction of manufactures would cause the panic.

With him, the panic is a settled fact. But he shifts from one cause to another.

He finds public sentiment so bitterly arrayed against the combines of which he is chief, that he fears to aggravate the masses further, by allusions to capitalistic cussedness, so he turns his blighting venom upon labor, thinking to divert attention from the real source of wrong.

The great combines are making their last stand. The active sentiment of all classes of people is against them. Hill's empty accusation does not blind a single person to the truth.

If a panic comes, it will be through the machinations of the trusts. It will be invited by the organic rottenness of the law that permits them to gather the utilities of the nation into pools, for private gain.

As the titled lords and privileged few of England exploited her priceless industries and resources and brought ruination upon the most energetic people in Europe, so will the privileged few of this country, who are intrenched behind evil laws, reduce it to England's level.

Capital, and not labor, holds the key to panics.

WAR AS AN OCCUPATION.

Young men are wanted—strong, lusty, healthful, vigorous, intelligent boys, from 18 to 25, hundreds of them, thousands of them wanted and wanted badly.

An occupation awaits them. A training that will make them athletes and marvels of manhood, is in store for them. Strong lungs, keen eye sight, deep chests and splendid endurance must be possessed.

They must be robust, vigorous specimens. No weaklings need apply. These find no place in the wondrous rank that is in need of men.

What trade is this that winnows out the cream of our youth? What occupation is it that demands such rugged bodies and perceptive minds?

Is it an industry that blesses mankind? Is it a vocation that adds to the sum of happiness and enlightenment?

No, shame to say, it is war.

The navy department of the United States needs one thousand recruits. It will take nothing but the strong-limbed, vigorous youth of the land. The occupation of war offers no place for the undersized or the weak minded. Nothing but physical giants are wanted.

Everyone who feels a conscious pride in the nation's proweess, is secretly, if not openly, an avowed enthusiast on the army and navy records of the country. In a competitive, mercenary age, war is the only agency that will balance national accounts, and hold nations in equilibrium. The custom of fighting, instead of reasoning is so old that people are slow to surrender it.

Guns are more emphatic arbitrators than minds. Slaughter is a more convincing seal to set upon the final settlement of an international issue than plain, inviolable word of honor.

Does not the emptiness and utter void of the life and occupation of the soldier appeal to the thoughtful man, who sends his son to join the ranks? What good result, what blessing, what hope can come of the occupation of destroying your fellow man?

War calls for the flower of youth. It plucks the most promising buds from the homes of the land—their very existence is blotted out, their life becomes a blank, the activity that might have blessed the race is turned, as a destroyer, upon it.

The keen mental power that might have directed worthy pursuits, is whetted in the school that teaches how to kill in the most appalling manner.

The force that might have worked intellectual marvels in peace, is wasted in the worse than useless vocation of warfare.

When will the people turn from the glamor of carnage to the pursuit of equity and reason.

Why waste the youth of the land in the degenerating slothfulness of barracks and navy yards, when the useful occupations are so badly in need of recruits?

How long will the bold warrior, Theodore Roosevelt, permit the German government to heap insults on the Venezuelan government and Minister Bowen? One word from the proper authority would clear up the tangled South American muddle. If the United States will point a sword at the bulidozing emperor of Germany, and say "Go"—the play will be ended.

It would be "a horse" on La Grande if Alicel, a wheat warehouse in the center of Grand Ronde valley, should haul off the county seat of Union county, after La Grande has placed wheels under it.

In less than two hours Saturday, 90 of the strongest financial institutions of Portland signed a memorial to the legislature, asking for the passage of the state portage bill. The legislature cannot afford to turn a deaf ear to such an appeal, added to the voice of the people of Eastern Oregon.

Brick blocks talk. When visitors and investors see foundations growing into splendid structures, they believe in prosperity.

CONCRETE SOCIALISM.

Combatting the abstract principles of socialism, the people are continually accepting it in the concrete. All of us refuse to subscribe to the doctrines of the socialistic cult, yet we not only consent to, but demand the passage of laws that are essentially of the socialistic sort.

* * *

Here in Oregon we have the intiative and referendum, distinctively socialistic. We have the tax upon corporations, another socialistic idea. We have the tax on inheritances, which is another of the doctrines of the same school of social philosophers. And still other bills now in committee will become laws, bills that are of the very essence of socialism.

After all, socialism sometimes appears to be forced upon us by the bewildering complexities of modern social development. Imagine a return to the numerous railroads operated independently. What confusion of traffic. And, while we fight the railroad trust merger, because we realize that the halfway adoption of socialism is wrong, yet we concede that the railroad merger is the inevitable outgrowth of our social life. We use the phrase "the halfway adoption of socialism," meaning that the railroad merger is the only instrument of socialism wielded by private authority, and not by the whole people.

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And halfway socialism is vicious. To merge the roads and leave them in private ownership is to endanger the liberties of the people and create a power approximating that of the government. So that, if we accept the railroad merger as inevitable, we are, ergo, compelled to admit that socialism must also be accepted. This is distasteful in the extreme. Yet, who can argue to the contrary? Who does not know that to permit the logical outcome of rail mergers, which means the merging of all roads in the country, is to set up a system that possesses power almost as great as that of the very government at Washington?

* * *

We who have refused socialism acceptance, in toto, seem to be accepting it piecemeal, and the prospect appears to be that eventually the entire system will have been taken as a substitute for the older, the orthodox system of government.

One by one the various phases of socialism creep into our state and national governments, and no one appears to have discovered just where we are to draw the line.—Oregon Daily Journal.

THE FAIR COMMISSION.

The commission appointed by Governor Chamberlain is non-political and capable. It wisely represents the historical and legal elements.

At the head of the commission is Prof. Young, of the state university, who is probably the most able exponent of the historical aspects of the fair obtainable. Another member whose selection is especially commended is Judge Stephen A. Lowell.

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Southeastern Oregon is an ardent supporter of the fair, and will contribute the widest variety of products of any section of the state.

In case Governor Chamberlain finds it necessary to increase the commission, if Judge Clifford could be secured he would add strength to the commission and be a great help to the interior counties.—Grant County News.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANEMONE.

Dainty, blue anemone,
Hiding on the mountain stair,
Where the sunshine lovingly
Falls in splendor rich and rare.

Dainty, blue anemone,
Hiding by the mountain way,
Gazing upward modestly
Like a nun about to pray.

Foundling of the sun and dew,
Child of mist and purple morn,
Lifting eyes of sweetest blue
From the bed where you were born.

Dainty, blue anemone,
Pressing close to Nature's breast,
On the wide-swept, upland lea,
Where the waving grasses part.

Lift me to your tender face,
Little nun of azure eyes,
Grant me just the fleeting grace,
That within them deeply lies.

Satin, gray and filmy mist,
Wrap this maiden tenderly,
Whom the mountain dew has kissed,
Dainty, blue anemone.

—Charles F. Kingsley, in Chicago Record-Herald.

Howard Spicer, John E. Supplee, Clake Mills and Charles Richards were arrested in Portland Monday for robbing an O. R. & N. freight car of valuable merchandise, including some high priced silk dress goods.

AN OLD FRIEND IN NEW DRESS.

Tell me not in rotten ragtime,
Things are always what they seem,
For there's little modern butter
That is really made from cream.

Nothing's real now, you believe me,
Toothache is but bare belief;
If you think you've got the toothache
Think you haven't and get relief.

Breakfast foods are built of sawdust,
Left in hunks or choped up fine,
And a man oft orders beefstake
And on horse meat's forced to dine.

Lives of great men all remind us,
If we want to be thought wise,
We must make some brand of pickles
Then pitch in and advertise.

Let us then be up and doing,
There are many to be done,
And if we don't do others,
They with us will have the fun.

—Chicago Chronicle.

RESULTS OF DEMOCRACY.

"The pasage of the fellow servant bill by unanimous vote in both the senate and house affords one more illustration of the remarkable influence exerted by Governor Chamberlain at this session upon legislation. This influence is more remarkable because the governor belongs to a political party which has only a very small minority representation in the legislature.

The inaugural message of Governor Chamberlain contained many important recommendations and called attention to many needed changes in existing laws. These suggestions, almost without exception, have resulted in the introduction of bills framed in accordance with the governor's views. Some of these bills have already become laws, and others are well on their way toward enactment."—Oregon Daily Journal.

SOME MORMON LAWS.

In Utah, equal suffrage has caused the pasage of a law that female teachers in the public schools shall receive the same pay as male teachers, provided they hold certificates of the same grade; also bills raising the age of protection for girls to 18, doubling the number of free scholarships in the State Normal School, establishing an art institute, and providing for improved sanitary protection of the public health in various ways.—Exchange.

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