



AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Published Daily and Semi-Weekly at Pendleton, Oregon, by the

EAST OREGONIAN PUBLISHING CO

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, one year, by mail \$5.00
Daily, six months, by mail 2.50
Daily, three months, by mail 1.25
Daily, one month, by mail .30
Daily, one year, by carrier 7.50
Daily, six months, by carrier 3.75
Daily, three months, by carrier 1.85
Daily, one month, by carrier .65
Semi-Weekly, one year, by mail 1.50
Semi-Weekly, six months, by mail .75
Semi-Weekly, four months, by mail .50

Member United Press Association.

The Daily East Oregonian is kept on sale at the Oregon News Co., 329 Morrison street, Portland, Oregon.
Northwest News Co., Portland, Oregon.
Chicago Bureau, 909 Security Building, Washington, D. C.
Bureau, 501 Fourteenth street, N. W.

Entered at the postoffice at Pendleton, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

Telephone . . . . . Main 1

Official City and County Paper.

SONNET OF AUTUMN.

The crimson leaves proclaim that fall is here.
The darkness comes before our tasks are done;
The shadows lengthen to the north, the sun
Shines dimly through the hazy atmosphere;
Scenes that were recently so gay are drear.
The hammock's put away, its duty done;
The precious pennants have been lost and won.
The bald-heads in the front rows reappear.
The drought has been succeeded by the flood,
In every quarter candidates arise;
The merry huntsman sheds the poor guide's blood
And looks upon his victim with surprise;
The football heroes grovel in the mud
And valiantly gouge out each other's eyes.
—S. E. Kiser.

NOT AN ANTI-SALOON MOVE.

Some parties who oppose the commission form of government are endeavoring to make liquor men believe it is an anti-saloon move and by so doing turn the liquor element against the reform.

But the agitation for commission government is not an anti-saloon move any more than it is an anti-prohibition move. It does not deal with the liquor question one way or the other and it is ridiculous for people to try to arouse sentiment for or against the move on this score.

The liquor question is pretty well settled in Pendleton and it is settled upon a basis of a regulated saloon business. As far as the East Oregonian knows there are few who would change present conditions. Some prominent prohibitionists have recently declared openly that they consider the question settled and have expressed the hope it is settled for all time to come. Apparently the saloonmen also are satisfied and they should be. Saloonmen now have an opportunity to conduct a legitimate business in a legitimate way. They cannot in reason ask for anything more and in the view of this paper they do not want anything more. Liquor men have learned through bitter experience that when dives are tolerated the saloon business falls into disrepute and is liable to be placed under the ban as was done here several years ago.

But the agitation for commission government in Pendleton has nothing to do with the status of the saloon business and the move was not taken up here to hurt the saloon men nor to benefit them. It is a move for the betterment of municipal government in general. If the commission form of government carries we will have a government that will be more closely conducted and under which the officials will be directly responsible for the performance of their duties. Such government will be of benefit to all people who are for an economical and businesslike administration of affairs—no matter whether they be saloonmen, prohibitionists, democrats, republicans or socialists.

A SOUTHERN VIEW.

The Atlanta Constitution does not like the "Sunny Jim" Sherman idea of conservation.

The full glory of stand-patnism was propounded recently by Vice President (Sunny Jim) Sherman in an address on conservation at Sturgis, Mich., says the Constitution. The vice president was the principal speaker at the opening of a new hydro-electric plant, and deemed the opportunity propitious to rap Pinchot and conservationists of his class.

According to the Associated Press report, the keynote of his speech was that "the present generation has the right and should utilize natural forces

and products to its best advantage, and let the succeeding generation use its wit and devices to make existence comfortable."

In other words, Mr. Sherman's doctrine is the convenient creed that lays down as its first principle, "each man for himself, and devil take the hindmost."

The Constitution has previously taken occasion to declare its belief that conservation does not mean the locking up of natural resources, or the placing of them in indefinite "cold storage." Regarding Alaska, and other portions of the public domain, we have held that it behooved congress and the states to move cautiously, to the end that there might not be wanton exploitation for private gain, or wasteful development which disregarded the rights of posterity.

This is what may logically be termed conservative conservation. Vice President Sherman's ideas are not conservation at all—they embody the spirit of wilful waste in which forests in the eastern half of the United States have been laid bare, soil depleted and in many instances mineral properties developed without the faintest thought of the exigencies of the future. Carried to its inevitable conclusion, the Sherman plan would be like that of a man who went ahead recklessly expending his principal, refusing to store up goods for his children and even refusing the ordinary precaution of insuring his life.

In the last analysis, we are simply custodians of the land and its products. We are as tenants with a lease during life, under obligation to preserve the property, and, if we have a shred of conscience of prevision, to even improve it that those who come after may not be left naked to the winds of necessity, or to "their own wits and devices" to make a living and to carry forward the work of development.

A certain dependence upon the ingenuity of the future is well enough, and is justified by the experience of all past history. But to apply the principle so as to give license to recklessly destroy those assets which cannot be replaced is to enunciate a doctrine which even this frankly commercial age will not approve. As between the extremism of Pinchot and the extremism of Sherman, we rather think the country will incline to that of the former.

Progressive republicans who are asked to support Taft for renomination on the ground he is "progressive" should ask why he was silent regarding the Oregon system, why he trained so closely with assemblyites while in this state and why but a few months ago he tried to read the progressive senators and congressmen out of the party?

To provide six year terms for the mayor and commissioners under the commission plan, would mean to take the administration of affairs farther away from the people while the true idea of the commission plan is to make city government more directly answerable to the people.

What a mudhole New York must be. No dry spot large enough for a ball game.

Votes For John Day High School. John Day, Ore.—At a special meeting of school district No. 3 citizens voted to establish a high school. This year only three grades of the high school will be taught.

Indigo dyeing was known in Egypt in 2499 B. C.

How Spiteful!
What is that rustling sound?
It is made by an editor turning over the pages of a manuscript.
What will he do with the manuscript?
He will place it in an envelope with a rejection slip.
Why does he use such terrible language?
He has jabbed his hand on a paper-book.
Is the hook rusty?
The hook is rusty.
Do you suppose the poor editor will die of blood poison?
Yes, I suppose so.
Would not that be sad?
Yes it would not.—October Lippincott's.

WHO OWNS ALASKA?

Who owns that great expanse of territory in Alaska for which the United States paid Russia \$7,000,000, asks the New York World. Has it been turned over to the Guggenheim syndicate for its private use and profit? Is the United States government merely the agent of the Guggenheims in Alaska?

The Sunday World recently for the first time published the story of how workmen of a local company building a railroad through Keystone canyon from Valdez to Fairbanks were fired into and two of them killed; how the shooting was traced to a man named Hasey, employed by the Guggenheim interests; how the slayer was finally sentenced on a minor charge to serve only 18 months in prison after agents of the Guggenheims had made every effort to save him from punishment; how political influence was subsequently brought to bear in Washington to have the United States district attorney and the United States marshal who figured in the prosecution removed from office; how they were replaced with Guggenheim appointees, and how Guggenheim judgeships, district attorneyships, marshalships in Alaska all show the influence of the Guggenheim interests.

The World also printed documentary evidence, both letters and accounts of Guggenheim representatives in Alaska, showing in detail how money was used to "take care of" and "entertain" witnesses and jurors in the Hasey case. The facts are baldly set forth, without the least effort at concealment in the correspondence and vouchers and bills of the Guggenheim representatives.

All of this information and much more bearing on the Guggenheims' activities in Alaska has been in the possession of Attorney General Wickersham and the senate committee on the judiciary and has been not only disregarded but suppressed.

With one member of the Guggenheim family, Simon Guggenheim of Denver, a member of the senate committee on conservation of national resources, mines and mining, public lands, and agriculture and forestry; with the Guggenheim interests controlling most of the important federal offices in Alaska, and with the Guggenheims plastering the coal areas,

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mineral bearing lands and railroad surveys of Alaska with their claims, apparently all they now need is a warranty deed to Alaska itself. Why should not the government change the name of Alaska to Guggenheim land in acknowledgement of its surrender of proprietorship to the great politico-financial Guggenheim syndicate?

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