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How dreary are these streets whose somber walls Rise like a prison round me—and the song Of reckless souls that sadly pass along— How deathlike on my ear its accent falls! Like slow processions of dim funerals They move—the weak, the lowly and the strong, Poor slaves of pride, victims of social wrong, Dark hosts whom passion's bitter night enthralles! Thin, wretched phantoms of themselves they seem— Power and wealth and penury and shame Commingled like the colors of a dream! From day to day I see with pain the same Sad life! Oh, thousands for a single breath Of mountain air to save me from this death! —George F. Butler.

MORE ABOUT JAMES JOHNS.

James Johns, who is running for water commissioner against Will Moore says that from what he knows he believes a pumping and filtration plant affords the most feasible means of obtaining an abundant supply of water for Pendleton.

If that is the case Mr. Johns favors a water system very much like the one now in vogue. Pendleton at this time maintains a pumping plant and pays the Pacific Power & Light company something like \$3500 per annum for electricity for pumping purposes. We also have a filtration plant in that the water, or most of it at least is filtered through gravel between the river bed and the pumping station. How Mr. Johns would improve upon this filtration system he does not say and it would be interesting to hear from him upon that point.

But in the humble opinion of this paper Mr. Johns is sadly mistaken if he thinks the people of Pendleton want a filtration plant of any sort. Local people want a gravity water system under which water will be piped down from the mountains. They don't want a system under which the water will have to be "cleaned before using." Other cities have had experience with filtration plants and the results are usually unsatisfactory. Portland formerly used filtered Willamette river water which was pumped into reservoirs. Oregon City uses filtered water, so does Salem and so does Albany. But in all those places people drink water with misgivings and when people of means seek a place in which to retire and live in comfort they go to Portland which city is now supplied with pure mountain water from Bull Run.

In his communication to this paper Saturday Mr. Johns speaks of a scheme for a power plant the city might obtain. But strange to say he does not dwell in detail upon this subject. What is his power plant scheme? Is it the same scheme he advocated a few months since. Not long ago Mr. Johns went about town suggesting the purchase by the city of the Byers milling company's plant and water right. He held such a course to be the best solution of the water problem at that time. The plan was broached to the East Oregonian by Mr. Johns but this paper regarded the scheme as an attempt to shamefully graft the city and refused to endorse it. There is no sound reason why the city of Pendleton should purchase the Byers mill or any other mill for a fabulous sum in order to obtain a water supply. It is water the city wants, not a flour mill. Besides there are strong reasons for believing that the milling company's right is in a very precarious state. It is a permit and not a real right at all. Anyone buying that "right" at this time would be running a glorious chance of being "gold bricked."

It is largely because of Mr. John's connection with this ill-smelling scheme that the East Oregonian looks with suspicion upon his candidacy for a place on the water board. In the view of this paper James Johns is an

unfit man for the place he seeks and the people who favor the best interests of this town and especially those who want a gravity water system will do well to oppose his election.

This is free but sincere advice and the good people of Pendleton may give heed or not—just as they see fit.

IT IS THE ONLY WAY.

In his speech before the Jackson Club in Portland last week Governor West showed that he is an economist of sound though advanced views. Discussing the trust question he is quoted as saying: "The suits which have been filed from time to time against the trusts have served no useful purpose, other than that of investigation and education. Such action has been taken usually about election time and largely for the purpose of throwing 'sop' to the voters. The people have seen on one hand a few labor leaders sent to jail and on the other an uninterrupted organization of capital which staggers the imagination. This is the result of 21 years of the Sherman act.

"We are simply demoralizing business and getting no relief. What we need is constructive legislation, not destructive legislation. The big combinations have become the warp and woof of our industrial life and it is up to us to quit wasting our time dallying at them, and, by using our wits, turn them to good account.

"I am a firm believer in government ownership of all public utilities and all public monopolies, but not however, until the people, through investigation and experience are equipped to administer their affairs properly. Federal control is the first and greatest step in this direction. Immediate steps should be taken by the federal government and states to assume control over the stock and bond issues of all railroad and other corporations, for it is not only needed to protect the small investor, but will remove any possibility of undue inflation should it appear that the government was about to take these over and operate them in the interest of the people."

The governor's course is the same course advocated by Roosevelt and other advanced political thinkers. That course looks to putting an end to "grand stand" work such as Wick-ersham is now carrying on and to the accomplishment of some real results for the people. What is needed is effective regulation of prices and service. It is something that must come and the sooner it comes the better. Delay only means the continuance of a system under which the public at large is robbed for the enrichment of a few who are already surfeited with wealth.

WHY NOT?

Portland papers do not seem to like the idea that the railroads may dominate the situation and force the collection of high tolls for passage through the Panama canal so as to cripple water competition. But if Portland wants to encourage water competition why does it not join with Spokane and insist on the enforcement of the long and short haul clause in the spirit the law intends?

THE OWEN BILL.

November 18, 1911. Editor East Oregonian: In your issue of November 15th is an account of remarks made by U. S. Senator Owen while pleading in favor of the establishment of a National Department of Health. The Senator made some remarks that in the interest of truth and accuracy, need correction. No one knows better than Senator Owen that the opposition to his bill proposing a National Department of Health, is not confined to the Christian Scientists. The opposition to the bill is carried on by The National League for Medical Freedom, an organization composed of people of all shades of religious belief, including many prominent physicians. The president of the league is R. O. Fowler, not a Christian Scientist, editor of the Twentieth Century Magazine. There is a steadily and rapidly growing number of people in the United States that believe that the attempt on the part of a portion of the medical fraternity to introduce "state medicine"—similar to state religion, is pernicious and un-American. The entering wedge for the introduction of state medicine is this proposed National Department of

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Health. At first the advocates of a National Department of Health tried to make it appear that the National League for Medical Freedom was a child of the patent medicine interests. Now that this contention has been proven false, Senator Owen wishes it understood that the league is a "Christian Science" concern. This contention is now being successfully refuted and the political doctors will have to invent some other origin for the league. In the meantime, the league, unmoved by all this calling of names, keeps on growing.

CHRISTIAN ANDERSON, Secretary Oregon Branch the National League For Medical Freedom.

NOVEMBER 20 IN HISTORY.

- 1767—Act taxing colonial imports goes into effect.
1778—Washington hastily abandoning artillery, withdraws his little army of 3000 to Hackensack.
1782—Virginia delegates are authorized to complete transfer of Western lands for congress.
1866—The first national encampment of the G. A. R. held at Indianapolis.
1874—Tom Hood, humorist and editor of Fun, son of the author of "Song of the Shirt," died. Born 1802.
1886—The Fisheries joint commission holds its first meeting at Washington.
1890—New Orleans grand jury finds a true bill against nine principal members of the Mafia and eight accessories in the Hennessey assassination case.
1909—United States circuit court decreed the dissolution of the Standard Oil company of New Jersey.
1910—Revolutionary outbreaks in Mexico were soon suppressed.

HARD ON MISSIONARIES.

Professor Frederick W. Williams of Yale who is an expert on China, believes too many missionaries to the Chinese are tactless, according to the New York Sun. To their tactlessness he imputes the small number of Chinese converts. Professor Williams, at a luncheon at Princeton, said last month: "I have known missionaries as ignorant of fact as Jim Driscoll was ignorant of foot rules. "Jim Driscoll, a farm boy, got a job in a steel mill, and his boss gave

him a foot rule one day and said: "Measure me that plate out there in the yard." "Jim, at the end of a half hour, returned and said: "The plate is the length of the rule

and three fingers over, with this piece of cobblestone, and the stem of my pipe, and my foot from here to here, bar the toecap." Past'me pictures please all.

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