

Devoted to the material and social condition of the Coquille Valley particularly and of Coos County generally.

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Governmental Extravagance. When the President found it necessary in his annual message to condemn the growing tendency in Federal departments to publish documents for which there was no public demand, no justification and no necessity, and to recommend that nothing should in future be printed unless it had some permanent value, it became evident that the extravagance in this function of administration had become a dangerous abuse.

Congress and Coal.

Representative Jenkins, of Wisconsin, has offered a resolution calling on the judiciary committee to report to the House as to the power of Congress to take possession of all the coal mines and deposits, all lines of transportation and agencies of commerce, and if it shall believe the power and the emergency to exist, to report a bill providing for the seizure of all this property.

The subject of leasing public lands for grazing purposes is about to come up for attention again. The Nebraska cattlemen have prepared a proposed law which they hope will meet the approval of Secretary Hitchcock. In order to meet objections made by him to previous bills, this one limits the number of cattle which may be kept on one tract to 900, and allows 30 acres for each animal.

Estimates of gold production in 1902 indicate an aggregate output of \$306,700,000, or slightly more than in 1901, the year that the Boer War practically stopped the enormous production of the Transvaal mines. The total last year was only \$282,650,000, to which the United States contributed \$78,666,000, as against \$37,710,000 contributed to this year's total, and the Transvaal \$5,000,000, against \$35,000,000 this year.

The legislatures of six of our states—Oregon among them—are fiddling their time away bucking at deadlocks in the attempt to elect United States Senators. While it may not all be bids for bribes, there is no question but there are deals of different kinds going on which are not conducive to good legislation, and the purposes for which an ill-gained office will be used goes without saying. It is certainly high time our United States senators were elected by the people.

We owe the Portland Evening Telegram an apology for appropriating one of their splendid editorials last week without giving proper credit.

Double Standard of Morals.

It has often been observed that many if not most men in the public service will do, or consent to doing, things of a moral quality that in their private life they would not do, and would severely condemn if done by others. This disagreeable fact was clearly stated by the Milwaukee Sentinel, in opposing municipal ownership. It said:

"As Americans tacitly countenance a double code of morals, one for public and the other for private life, the public service will thereby be the loser. The exigencies of politics are made the excuse for most of the sins of persons in official positions, and that excuse is too frequently accepted as legal tender by business men who would unsparingly condemn one of their own employes if detected in the same practices. The result is that partisan support may be relied upon to defend almost any degree of official incompetency—to put it mildly—and condemn in round terms the person or newspaper that dares to call public attention to irregularities—still putting it mildly."

This is a plain statement of what is a fact. The statement does not apply to all men in office; there are many exceptions; but it applies to a majority. As a rule, politicians are people of easy virtue, so far as the public interests are concerned. With them, the public is an oyster, an orange. Cases innumerable to sustain this view, all the way from Presidents to Constables, could be cited. How often is wrong-doing covered up for "the good of the party?" How often—indeed, when and where does it not occur?—that officials indulge in extravagance in spending the people's money that they would not think of doing if it were their own money and not the people's that was being spent? How often—in Congress, in Legislatures, everywhere—are the interests of personal friends, or some corporation or candidate with a "sack," served instead of what are clearly the people's interests? And yet these officials are theoretically the whole people's representatives and servants.

The Sentinel and other papers have ample ground, therefore, for opposing municipal or state or government ownership of public utilities generally. It ought to work well, but the truth is that we can not trust our officials, simply because of this double standard of morals. When the time comes, if it ever does, when men are elected to office—for generally they are among our "best citizens" have the same code of morals for their private life, it may be safe, and desirable, to turn all the "public utility" businesses over to them—not before.—Telegram.

The Smoot and Roberts Cases.

The election of Reed Smoot as United States Senator from Utah present a very different problem from the one involved in the Roberts case. Roberts was a polygamist, and was prevented from taking his seat in the House on the ground that he was a lawbreaker. Smoot, it is said, is not a polygamist. The record will show merely that he is a Mormon and an apostate of the Mormon church. If this is the limit of the proof against him it is clear that the task of preventing him from taking his seat or of unseating him would encounter obstacles much more serious than any that Roberts could devise. For the question raised would be whether a Mormon is barred by his religion instead of by social practices that are contrary to the laws and customs of the country.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Ever since Kaiser Wilhelm began to take a personal interest in the United States his representatives in this country have been guilty of the most stupid blunders, or rather so much that was impossible has been expected of them that Wilhelm has been forced to make a scrape gone once in a while. A Chicago man proposes to send a wire 275 miles long up into the skies and tap the electric forces of the universe. He doesn't explain how he is to get his wire up there, and though he uses a lot of words, he fails to explain how he will keep it in place. We understand that he has formed a stock company and we expect the whole business will soon be up in the air.

Rudyard Kipling has such a brutal way of telling the truth that he will never be in favor with the courts of Russia or Germany. However, he is not the man to grieve over this, and the great body of honest people throughout the world will love him for the enemies he has made and overlook some of his peculiarities because of his rugged honesty.

If you are thinking of building let us figure with you on all kinds of lumber, and mouldings. LYONS' MILL.

Moffatt Railroad Pushing For Coast.

A recent Salt Lake Dispatch says: The building of the so-called Moffatt Railroad between Denver and Salt Lake opens an endless amount of conjecture regarding its actual ownership. David H. Moffatt, a Denver banker is the ostensible promoter of the enterprise, but rumor says others are behind the deal.

The Moffatt road will no doubt be constructed, as nearly 2,000 men are now at work on 26 miles of grade near Denver. The road as surveyed is almost an air line between the two cities and will be about 500 miles in length. The shortest distance by rail between Denver and Salt Lake is now 670 miles by the Union Pacific. It will therefore result in a saving of 170 miles of travel and form a direct means of communication in the carrying of transcontinental traffic.

For the cost of constructing the Moffatt road the sum of \$20,000,000 has been raised. Active work began at daylight on the first day of the year, and there is no intimation that there will be any cessation, as various contractors are assembling their outfits at different points along the surveyed right-of-way.

It is well known in Wall street that Gould must soon seek an outlet to the Pacific Coast if he wishes to maintain the integrity of his great system. He must also reach the coast by the most direct route in order to move traffic at the least cost. With the Moffatt road completed the shortest distance to the Coast is directly to Coos Bay. There are no indications at the present time that the Moffatt road is to be extended west of Salt Lake.

That the bubonic plague has existed in San Francisco for a long time, and that there have been over 80 deaths from it in that city, are facts that nobody who has examined the evidence can doubt. Yet the newspapers of that city, the Governor who lately went out of office, and other local officials, have persistently and positively denied the fact. Such false representations in regard to a matter that the whole country, and particularly the Coast had a right to know the exact truth about, is extremely reprehensible. The plague is there, and in spite of all these false denials the country knows it. Great care should be taken that it does not appear here. For one thing, our Chinatown should be cleaned up oftener and more thoroughly.—Telegram.

One Hundred Dollars a Box is the value H. A. Tisdale, Sumner, S. C., places on DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. He says: "I had the piles for 20 years. I tried many doctors and medicines, but all failed except DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. It cured me." It is a combination of the healing properties of Witch Hazel with antiseptics and emollients; relieves and permanently cures blind, bleeding, itching and protruding piles, sores, cuts, bruises, eczema, salt rheum and all skin diseases. R. S. Knowlton.

This Lake Has Queer Bottom.

Salt Lake, Utah, Jan. 22.—Much interest is manifested in railroad and engineering circles with respect to unexpected difficulties encountered in the construction of the trestle which the Southern Pacific is building to cross 30 miles of Salt Lake to shorten the distance to the Pacific Coast. It is said that 20 miles out in the lake the bottom is apparently fallen out and more than 1000 carloads of rock have failed to furnish a foundation for further progress. A remarkable feature is that the rocks are coming above the surface of the water 500 feet away from each side of the trestle. The problem, according to the engineers, can be solved only by keeping up the dumping progress.

The late Thomas B. Reed has the distinction of not winning much praise from the little men, but the larger men without regard to party are a unit in testifying to his integrity and worth.

The Diplomatic Reception at the White House, which is supposed to be for the benefit of Signor Thomas, Baron Richard and the Lord Harry, has degenerated into a cany rush of Tom, Dick and Harry, beside which a matinee crowd at the 25 cent door is decorous and polite.

The members of the old Carnegie steel company seem to have become innoculated with philanthropy as well as with the ability to make money. Henry Phipps, formerly a partner of Andrew Carnegie, has just endowed a Free Hospital for poor consumptives in Philadelphia.

Hetty Green attended an auction of art works recently. As her name does not appear among the buyers it is open to inference that she combined admiration for the paintings with wonder at the extravagance of people with less wealth than her own. Hetty only buys when things are down.

Italy's Minister of War is an orthodox Jew, Gen. Giuseppe Ottolenghi. The General has a brilliant record of high and distinguished service, is a man of scientific attainments and is openly proud of his faith and race. The nations that deprive themselves of the services of the Jews are fewer now than fifty years ago.

It is easy to slide down hill, but the bumps you get on the way are calculated to jar.

The man who made 365 resolutions on New Year's Day, broke all of them before the week was out.

In Brooklyn the coal dealers demand a physician's prescription and the cash before they will deliver coal.

The song has been modified to read, "Coal, coal, coal. I wish your prices would change. Coal, coal, coal, you have too high a range."

Mr. Roosevelt has managed to antagonize Southerners and Mormons. Less strenuousness would be better politics.

Dr. Garrigue, of Paris believes formic acid to be the very best germicide yet discovered. He claims great things for it but tests are yet needed to establish his theory.

The only fault we have to find with the comic supplement to the Congressional Record, commonly known as the Congressional Directory, is that it only appears twice in a year.

Two Boston authors, who collaborate, publish their works under a name composed of the middle name of each and give out, as the photograph of the supposititious author, a composite photograph of themselves.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned has this day filed his final account as the administrator of the estate of Matilda E. Noster, deceased, and that Monday the 2nd day of February, 1903, being the first day of the 1903 February term of the County Court for Coos county, Oregon, has been set by the Judge of said Court as the day for hearing objections to said final account in the settlement of said estate. Dated this 26th day of December, 1902. J. T. NOSLER, Administrator.

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The steamer "J. Warren" will make regular trips between Gravel Ford and Myrtle Point on Wednesday of each week, leaving at 8:30 a. m. and arriving at Myrtle Point at 11 a. m. Leaving Myrtle Point at 1 p. m. and arriving at Gravel Ford at 3:30 p. m. CAPT. J. M. BATHUR, Manager.

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