

THE PEOPLE VS. THE RAILROADS.

Wasco county juries have no prejudice in favor of railroads, and the reason is apparent why they have not. A juror is an ordinary mortal, and is no better or no worse than other people. If he suffers what he considers a wrong, he is liable to resent the wrong, and to express his wrath to keep it warm. During the quarter of a century or more that the railway has been engaged in business in this county everything done by it has been for its own aggrandizement—the rights of the producers and shippers have never received the least consideration. Freight charges have been placed at such a figure that they have become almost an unbearable burden, and have had the effect to impoverish the settler and retard the development of the country. All petitions for redress have received little or no attention, and the only relief has come from legislative bodies or from competing lines. The hardships which the people have suffered have made them bitter toward corporations, and this bitterness may have tainted their actions toward railway companies. There are two important instances in which the sovereignty of the people are exerted in this nation, and perhaps only two. The one is at the ballot and the other is in the jury box. The expression of sovereignty is weaker in the former than in the latter, because conventions are so much under the domination of politicians that frequently the result can be easily predetermined; but this is not true of the verdict of juries. Not infrequently one conscientious or stubborn man has gained the other eleven to decide according to his views of the case.

Of course, if there is any predisposition on the part of the jury to judge more strictly the actions of a railway than of an individual it is wrong, and it is a matter that deserves criticism. The very nature of capital is to become selfish and sordid, and very likely the man of moderate means who is kind and sympathetic to day if he were wealthy to-morrow would think more about the safe investment of his money than the relief of his fellows. As corporations of all kinds are simply an aggregation of wealthy individuals, the same rule is applicable to them. But this is no reason why in the sight of the law they should not enjoy the same immunities from damages as individuals. That in many instances juries have inflicted heavier penalties upon railroads or steamboat companies than upon individuals for the same negligence may be true, and while it is human nature to do so, yet this does not make it right. In the case of Peabody vs. the O. R. & N. Co., tried during the present term of court, the plaintiff asked for \$50,000, and received a verdict of \$4,900. The jury, which was an intelligent and conscientious one, undoubtedly considered this sum the full measure of damages, and in decreasing the amount sued for, considered that the ends of justice were fully satisfied. It must be understood that if a passenger travels on any railroad train he must comply with the conditions of the contract, and if he violates these he must stand the consequences. Mr. Peabody may have considered himself injured in the full sense he used for, but the jury, in the exercise of its discrimination, thought differently. It is always advisable that the jury, as the arbitrator between the injured and the person or persons causing the injury, should take all matters into consideration and arrive at a just conclusion. We must acknowledge that the railroad monopoly of Eastern Oregon has been most arbitrary and exacting in its dealings with communities dependent upon it as a means of transportation; but this should not influence the verdicts of courts. The managers and directors of corporations are individuals, and as such, if they deem the company which they represent unjustly treated, are liable to take revenge on the community. In this manner the many may be punished for the few, and this will be flagrant injustice. In this regard we believe corporations have acted more frequently from motives of revenge than juries or citizens, and are more responsible because they have better opportunities of venting their spleen. But this spirit is wrong wherever it exists, and none other than legal means should be resorted to in any instance. All corporations are creatures of the statute and as such are amenable to law; and by this means the people can apply any remedy which they desire. On the contrary if a railroad company cannot receive substantial justice in a jury trial, they have abundant means to appeal to a higher tribunal. There is no excuse for spite or spleen in either case, and their exhibitions are unjust on the part of railroads or of the public.

The Democratic press of the country are verily exercised over the fact that Vice-President Morton owns a house in Washington City in which liquor is sold. The fact is that Mr. Morton's building is used as a hotel, and the lease considered it advantageous to run a bar, for which Mr. Morton is not at all responsible. If the Bourbons can make anything out of this they are welcome to do it.

The caucus system has placed Reed, of Maine, in nomination for speaker of the house, and his election is almost certain. This will be a heavy blow to Pacific coast interests, especially the River and Harbor bill, and we may expect very large appropriations this session. If McKinley, of Ohio, had been given the position, he would have been more desirable, as he is a western man, and knows better what the people want.

HIGH LICENSE.

The National Issue gives its views of the liquor question in this wise: "Twenty-five snakes running through the streets—that's free whiskey. Twenty-five snakes gathered into a box in which twenty-five holes are made by the authority of the court—that's low license. Ten of the holes are closed and the snakes all get through the other fifteen—that's high license. Drive all the snakes over to the next village—that's local option. Kill all the snakes—that's prohibition."

This is epigrammatic and witty, but great questions like this cannot be settled by epigrams. If it be conceded that all snakes are deadly; that it is the duty of every body to kill every snake that can be found, and that all snakes can be killed, then the views of the issue may be considered as rising to the dignity of an argument, but this is certainly asking too much. Snake killing is not the only legitimate occupation for the human family, and some snakes are not only harmless but useful.

In contradiction to the ideas of the National Issue may be placed the resolutions recently adopted at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Catholics in Baltimore. The meeting was presided over by Cardinal Gibbons, and speeches were made by a number of the clergy and laity. It was resolved as the judgment of the meeting that "high license is the only feasible and peaceful means of exterminating the deluge of vice and crimes which drunkenness is the fruitful source. The license should be put so high as to make it practically prohibitory as regards the multitude of low saloons. Certain restrictions should be enacted as to the time and place of sale. The number of saloons in any one radius should be limited by statute, and should not be allowed near a church school, and a license should be given only to persons of good character."

Whenever a question of ethics arises no dictum from an authoritative source is possible. If any one believes that the sale or use of alcohol in any form as a beverage is sinful, is morally wrong, is a crime, no one has any right to question his convictions. He must be, in principle at least, a prohibitionist of the strictest sect. But when it comes to passing laws, national, State or municipal, to deal with that which he believes to be evil, then, if he be a fair-minded and candid man he must admit that there may be an honest difference of opinion as to remedies, whatever there may be to the main question of right or wrong. Here, for instance, is a body of men, distinguished not only for piety and virtue, but for wisdom and knowledge of affairs of the world, who, fully recognizing the evil of drunkenness and the vices and crimes of which it is the source, record it in their deliberative opinion that the only feasible and peaceable remedy is high license. Such an expression of opinion is certainly entitled to respectful consideration, and to be weighed against the views of those who would be content with nothing short of the most drastic measures.

There is a disposition on the part of the more ardent prohibitionists to try to carry their point by force rather than by argument and persuasion. They should see that mankind cannot be made virtuous in any such way, and that the great majority of people may be led, but cannot be driven. They merit, if at all, upon the intrinsic merits of their cause, and not upon denunciation and vituperation of every one who is not willing to enter at once upon a universal snake-killing campaign.

The growth of a newspaper is a good measure of the growth of the town in which it is published. By this test Salem and Albany are making rapid progress. The Daily Statesman and the Daily Herald in the other are "showing up" in excellent shape. The proposition of the Oregonians is true as gospel; but why does the editor particularly mention Salem and Albany, two cities directly tributary to it, and completely ignore Pendleton with two live dailies and Astoria with one? Other towns, as Astoria, Pendleton, Baker City and The Dalles, also have daily papers that indicate their growth and prosperity. To all these towns in Oregon, and to as many in Washington, the remark made about Salem and Albany would apply, and with equal fitness. The Times-Mountaineer itself is a good daily; we read it every day, and find it doing its full duty in behalf of its town and county. There is no surer proof of the rapid development of the Northwest than the fact that so many good daily newspapers are now published at places where, a few years ago, dailies were not published at all.

We desire to deal justly with other portions of the state, and will not knowingly place any paper in a wrong position. During the past few months, since the failure of our harvest we have noticed that the press of western Oregon has taken especial pains to put our misfortunes in the worst light possible, and we have not been in any manner delicate about speaking of the fact. As regards the Oregonian we acknowledge its supremacy in the northwest; but we cannot pass lightly over its attitude towards Eastern Oregon. For years it opposed the construction of the locks at the Cascades, and apparently ignores any and every point east of the Cascade mountains. The evidences of this have been accumulating for a long time, and it is no matter of recent occurrence. We hope and desire that the great journal, the peer of anything in the northwest, will take more liberal and extended views of Oregon, and not confine itself to the narrow limits of the Willamette valley.

CUR NEIGHBORS AND OURSELVES.

The Oregonian makes the following comments on the article which appeared in this column: "A few days ago the Oregonian said: 'The growth of a newspaper is a good measure of the growth of the town in which it is published. By this test Salem and Albany are making rapid progress. The Daily Statesman and the Daily Herald in the other are "showing up" in excellent shape. Which The Dalles Times-Mountaineer repeats and adds this comment: "The proposition of the Oregonian is true as gospel; but why does the editor particularly mention Salem and Albany; two cities directly tributary to it, and completely ignore Pendleton with two live dailies and Astoria with one? Other towns, as Astoria, Pendleton, Baker City and The Dalles, also have daily papers that indicate their growth and prosperity. To all these towns in Oregon, and to as many in Washington, the remark made about Salem and Albany would apply, and with equal fitness. The Times-Mountaineer itself is a good daily; we read it every day, and find it doing its full duty in behalf of its town and county. There is no surer proof of the rapid development of the Northwest than the fact that so many good daily newspapers are now published at places where, a few years ago, dailies were not published at all."

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The message of President Harrison is both able and exhaustive upon all subjects in which the people of this nation are directly interested. It is very lengthy, and to give a short synopsis will require considerable space. The president recommends a revision of the tariff laws, both in their administrative features and schedules. He says the removal of the internal tax upon tobacco would relieve an important agricultural product from a burden which was imposed because our revenue from custom duties was insufficient for the public need. On rivers and harbors the president says, after stating his position in favor of the improvement of the important rivers and harbors, that "a work once considerably begun should not be subjected to risk and deterioration which, interrupted or insufficient appropriation necessarily occasion." Our people are in thorough sympathy with this sentiment, and believe that the insufficient appropriations for the locks have delayed that work for several years past. The message is broad and liberal on all subjects and national in its bearings.

The first R-republican congress for many years convened yesterday in Washington City. Reed, of Maine, the caucus nominee, was elected speaker of the house, and Rev. W. H. Milburn, the blind preacher, was elected chaplain, in opposition to Rev. Chas. B. Russell, who was nominated by the Republican caucus. The plan of work has been outlined somewhat, but the first few days are generally necessary for new members to understand the minutiae of operations. The people may expect good and effective legislation this session, as both houses of congress are in harmony with the administration.

The Dalles is the gateway of the Inland Empire, and with advantage taken of opportunities would be the leading city east of the Cascade mountains. This city should be the commercial metropolis of the northwest, and if our citizens were alive to their advantages the fact would be demonstrated in a little while. We need enterprise, public spirited generosity and the "push" to place us where we belong. Let us not delay this matter, but with the opening of spring inaugurate our street railway, telephone system and beef and pork packing establishments. By these means the present business will be doubled and the wealth of the city largely increased.

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WINDOM'S SILVER POLICY.

If F. A. Carle, managing editor of the Oregonian, is to be believed, Secretary Windom's policy in regard to silver is substantially the same as that announced some two weeks since, notwithstanding the secretary's denial. Mr. Carle says: "The central idea of the secretary's plan is the creation of an issue of treasury notes, not legal tender, based upon silver bullion at the market price at the date of issue. He recommends that we hail with delight the emphatic approval of these principles by the people. The secretary's plan is the creation of an issue of treasury notes, not legal tender, based upon silver bullion at the market price at the date of issue. He recommends that we hail with delight the emphatic approval of these principles by the people. The secretary's plan is the creation of an issue of treasury notes, not legal tender, based upon silver bullion at the market price at the date of issue. He recommends that we hail with delight the emphatic approval of these principles by the people."

At the last presidential campaign the people did not act as though they could appreciate any "getting" from those who framed and endorsed the Mill's bill, and cannot be expected to do so now. In conversation with Emie he said it was not his wish for any hours but what he desired it.

Jefferson Davis, ex-president of the so-called Confederate States of America, died at New Orleans Thursday morning. He was born June 3, 1808, in Kentucky. During the Mexican war he was in command of the Mississippi Rifles, and served several terms in congress from that state. He was attached to the southern wing of the Democratic party, and was an ardent supporter of the ultra views of John C. Calhoun. Whatever place he may have occupied in the affections of the southern people, his one act of treason to his native country will make a spot against his memory which cannot be effaced.

A bill has been introduced in the Washington legislature providing that employers of women and girls furnish seats for them when at leisure. This is a very humane law, and will be beneficial to the health of the women, as well as add to their comfort.

TELEGRAPHIC.

SIX PEOPLE BURNED TO DEATH. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 3.—A three-story brick building at Second and Huntington streets was burned early this morning. The basement and first floors were occupied by a shoe and hat store. The second floor was occupied as a dwelling by Gross, his wife and four children, and on the third floor dwelt the family of George Bitter. The fire burned so rapidly that before the occupants could be aroused the following were burned to death: Mrs. Annie Bitter, aged 9 months; Gustave Gross, Jr., aged 11; Bruno Gross, aged 5; Joseph Gross, aged 3; and Joseph Bitter, aged 10. The fire was caused by a gas stove in the basement. The bodies of the children were recovered, but the body of the mother was not found.

REACH TO TAKE ONE SENATOR. ILLINOIS, Mont. Dec. 3.—The legislative session of the state of Montana is in progress. The senate met for the eleventh day this morning at 10 o'clock. As usual, the Democratic senators had business elsewhere, and the session was adjourned until tomorrow. The house adjourned until tomorrow at 2 o'clock. Before adjourning, the house passed a resolution to inform that body that the house was organized, which had previously been discharged, was reappointed.

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THE BURNING COPPER MINES. HELSINKI, Mont. Dec. 3.—Matters about the copper mines remain in the same condition that they have been during the last four or five days. Steam is still being forced into the works, and the shafts are kept sealed. From what should be a reliable source, it is learned that an effort will be made some time during the latter part of the week to open the two shafts, and if possible an examination of the lower workings of both the St. Lawrence and the Ancochea will be made. In the meantime, it is understood the management intends to erect a hoist shaft on the St. Lawrence forty or fifty feet higher than the Ancochea in order to create a draft sufficiently strong to expel all gas and smoke that may remain in the mine should it be found that the fire has been suppressed.

GENERAL MILROY VERTY ILL. OLYMPIA, Dec. 3.—General R. H. Milroy, who has been ill for a month, had a serious attack of illness this morning, and for a time his death was expected at any moment. He rallied during the day and is much better to-day.

The Democratic members of congress in caucus have passed the following resolution: Resolved, That we the Democratic members of the house of the fifty-first congress at the beginning of the first session, hereby send greeting to the people of the country and the assurance of our continuous confidence in and devotion to the principles of tariff reform as embraced in Cleveland's message to the last congress upon that subject, and in the platform of principles adopted at the last Democratic national convention at St. Louis; that we hail with delight the emphatic approval of these principles by the people. The secretary's plan is the creation of an issue of treasury notes, not legal tender, based upon silver bullion at the market price at the date of issue. He recommends that we hail with delight the emphatic approval of these principles by the people. The secretary's plan is the creation of an issue of treasury notes, not legal tender, based upon silver bullion at the market price at the date of issue. He recommends that we hail with delight the emphatic approval of these principles by the people."

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ARRIVING AT THE CENTER OF THE BRIDGE, she gave the messenger two letters to be delivered to Mr. Swift, with whom she resided. It is evident that she jumped into the water as she was going out to the bridge. Parting on the river bank heard the splash in the water, and concluded that someone had jumped or fallen in the river. He went to the spot, and found two bodies below where Miss Donahue had jumped. One of the bodies was that of a young lady, and the other was that of a man. The bodies were recovered, but the young lady's life had been lost.

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Prof. Olson, of South Dakota university, Milton Pickett, of the Pioneer Press, and George McConkey, of the Daily News, were buried to-day. The body of E. J. Jenkins was taken to Sioux City by relatives. The other three victims will be buried to-morrow morning. Owing to the dangerous conditions of the burned building, no search has yet been made for the bodies of the three men. Before the coroner's jury to-day the builder of the structure stated that wood on stairs were ordered put in instead of iron on account of the expense in expense of about \$5000. The building inspector said he never considered the building a safe one, and said three months ago he had ordered the iron stairs and they feared it might fall down any time without warning.

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Secretary of agriculture, is said to have been of a very satisfactory character. PAYING FOR BURNED CHURCH. UNION, Or., Dec. 4.—The O. R. & N. Co. is settling claims for losses by fire on the line of road during a fall. The aggregate of losses amounts to considerable, and claims amounting to nearly \$20,000 have already been paid, and many more are to be settled. Fred Nourse, a prominent stockman, has a claim for \$15,000, and the others run from \$100 to thousands of dollars.

A CONGRESSIONAL TRIP. WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—In the house to-day the speaker laid before the house the following communication from J. P. Lescombe, his secretary-at-arms of the house, and directed to the speaker: I regret to report that C. E. Sillout, late cashier of the office of sergeant-at-arms, has departed from this city without settling his accounts, and I have been unable to ascertain his whereabouts. There is a deficiency in the cash of the office in the amount of \$75,000, and I respectfully request an immediate investigation of my accounts under such action as the house may deem proper to do and it is my flying from Stanley's tent. The great explorer's hair is quite white, but his muscles from gray. In conversation with Emie he said it was not his wish for any hours but what he desired it.

STANLEY'S HAIR IS WHITE. NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—The correspondent of the London News, who has been employed for a year past as an operator in the office of the Western Union Telegraph company, writes from London this afternoon by jumping into the Sacramento river from the high Yolo bridge. Miss Donahue was an expert diver, and has helped to save many lives in San Francisco, Virginia City and Reno, Nev. She left a note to Mr. Swift, the lady with whom she lived, stating that her life was in danger, and that she had come to the easy way to end her trouble. She left the telegraph office shortly after 10 o'clock, employing a messenger boy to escort her to the bridge, as she did not know its location. She was apparently in good spirits, and bid the other employees a pleasant good-night as she was leaving.

ARRIVING AT THE CENTER OF THE BRIDGE, she gave the messenger two letters to be delivered to Mr. Swift, with whom she resided. It is evident that she jumped into the water as she was going out to the bridge. Parting on the river bank heard the splash in the water, and concluded that someone had jumped or fallen in the river. He went to the spot, and found two bodies below where Miss Donahue had jumped. One of the bodies was that of a young lady, and the other was that of a man. The bodies were recovered, but the young lady's life had been lost.

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left its imprint upon the history of the world as nothing else has, unless it be the tremendous "protest" against the Catholic Church which began in 1500 and has grown up with increasing might until our own time. Contemporary with the official launching of Catholicism in America came the growth of the religious freedom in the United States Constitution. The Papal Church, with all its traditions, began its weakness in the New World. Under the benign influence of the principle of religious toleration the church has enjoyed a growth unparalleled in its history. With the century it has been learned that meddling with the civil power is in no wise essential to the well-being of Catholicity, and the Catholic Church has been the chief recognition of that fact in the most outspoken and official way. From this time on Catholicism becomes one of many strictly religious denominations. The precious claim of a divine right to rule the state has been formally abandoned, and the Catholic hierarchy stands upon its second century in this country divested of its power to repeat the historical blunders of the Old World. It is in this respect which fundamental principle that further change is possible, and inevitable the late meeting fully shows. And indications are not wanting that many years will not elapse before it will be discovered that Protestantism, with its many movements very far apart. Reforms in religion are slow and cumulative in their effects, but it requires no prophetic insight to see the decline of the Catholic Church, and the rise of the superstitious authority of medieval traditions. And we believe that the most important operation in the history of the world is now being performed.

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