

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1895
THE GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH.

What Different Leading Papers Think of The Proposed Measure.

The idea of postal telegraphy implies one of two things—that the government shall buy existing lines, railroads and plant, at a fair valuation, or that it shall construct new lines. There are objections to either plan, and there is one strong objection which holds good against both. This is that any system of postal telegraphy involves the creation of new government machinery and a very considerable addition to the force of government officials. It would be, to us, worth while to determine, before any scheme for government telegraphy is adopted, whether there is not a simpler way of reaching the result desired. There are people who imagine that it would be a good thing if the government were to own and operate all our vast network of railways. Most moderate men, however, are convinced that the regulation of railways by state commissions, so far as their powers go, and then by the interstate commerce commission, is as far as it is wise to go. It is timely to inquire whether a system which works well with the railroads might not, with some necessary modifications, work well with the telegraph, whether, in a word, instead of buying up or building telegraph lines, it might not be better to attempt to regulate them on principles substantially identical with those which are the basis of the interstate commerce bill.—*Boston Journal (Rep.)*.

As for the talk of communism, in urging the government to relieve the public from a monopoly, it is simply audacious. The government now conducts the letter-carrying service, and it needs no active imagination to fancy the tumult of popular feeling if a proposition were made to abolish the postoffice department and transfer its functions to Mr. Gould or any other monopolist. Why should not the government conduct also the telegraph service of the people? In Great Britain and other European countries this is done. The result is safety, privacy, expedition and low rates. With less telegraphing in Great Britain than in the United States there is a popular government rate of twelve cents per message, where here the lowest rates range twenty-five cents to fifty cents. If the proposition were slightly altered—if it were changed so as to cover the purchase by the government of the Western Union lines for \$100,000,000 in place of the building of a competing system at one-fourth the cost—some of these congressmen who are now talking in opposition would soon enough find or be furnished with reasons to favor the scheme. The public will not stand that. It will not consent to an exchange of its cash for the millions of water which, first, the Vanderbils, and afterward Gould, injected into the capitalization of the Western Union. The public will watch with anxious interest the attitude of every public man of note on this question of the hour.—*Pittsburg Dispatch (Ind.)*.

As a business proposition no one will say that it is right for the government to go into competition with private citizens in any of the legitimate industries in which men can gain a livelihood. In such a case there could be no competition, for the individual could not compete against the nation. The knights and everybody else feel that the business of telegraphing by means of the combination of immense capital is conducted on greedy principles, being little less than licensed robbery, but the evil of which all now complain is less than would be that of government control of the business. If the people cannot be protected from the rapacity of corporations and the greed of monopolies by legislation, they had better endure the ills they have than invite worse ones.—*Salt Lake Herald (Dem.)*.

Every Democrat should oppose such a scheme, because it would greatly increase the number of the government officials, increase its patronage, and thus its power at the expense of the people. And certainly no civil service reformer can support it as long as the government offices are looked upon as the legitimate plunder and perquisites of spoils politicians. When all the government officials save the few most important ones have been brought fully under the operation of the civil service law, then one at least of the objections of the government telegraph control would be removed; but until then no reformer will consent to see from 30,000 to 50,000 more appointments made a part of the spoils machine.—*Florida Times-Union (Dem.)*.

Government in the United States was not established for such postal telegraphy whatever. It was established for the protection of life, liberty and property, and for nothing else. The Declaration of Independence and the constitution, which are our fundamental law, make our government a protector, not a guardian. The people do not want guardianship. They can attend to their own telegraphing. And they demand of the politicians who are endeavoring to pervert the functions of the government to keep their hands off their affairs.—*New York (Dem.)*.

There are numbers of people who want, or think they want, a good many things, when the trouble with them is that they already have too much and they are unable to deal in an intelligent way with what they have. The promiscuous signers of a petition that congress shall proceed to give us a government system of telegraph, have about as much idea of what they are after or what they will get if, unhappily, they should get what they ask for, as the average anarchist has of what liberty is, or of what would become of him if anarchy should prevail.—*Norfolk Landmark (Dem.)*.

The proposition that the government assume control of the telegraph system of the country by operating a system of postal telegraph is being generally discussed by the press and commented upon by prominent men. It meets with the hearty indorsement of the public mind, as expressed in the columns of the press, and with but few exceptions the newspapers of the country are united in the opinion that the present system is by no means in keeping with the spirit of our institutions nor the demand of the public for cheap facilities for postal intercourse. There is no reason whatever why an American citizen should be compelled to pay a rate of five times as much as an Englishman would, in their respective countries, for the transmission of similar messages by telegraph. It is a burning outrage that our government should sit serenely by and see the great masses of its people paying extortionate demands for the use of public conveniences which should be under government supervision or direction, and the free use of which in other countries is placed within the means of the whole country.—*Atlanta Constitution (Dem.)*.

The increase of patronage bugaboo amounts to nothing; it is a mere excuse for keeping a greedy monopoly in existence. The people are not likely to be frightened from the pursuit of their interests by being told that their government cannot manage the telegraph operators as easily as it does the department clerks, the mail clerks, the signal service force, and so on. The pretense of fear that dispatches would be tampered with and manipulated in times of political excitement in the interest of the party in power applies with equal force to the postal department. It is merely a general slander of the government and not worth a moment's thought. The talk about the justice of "taxing the people for the benefit of the comparatively few who use the telegraph" comes with ill grace from the organs of the greedy Western Union monopoly, which yearly squeezes millions from the people to pay interest on bonds and dividends on stocks that represent nothing but wind or water.—*Chattanooga Times (Dem.)*.

We have already over one hundred thousand office holders. To supplement this number with a hundred thousand more in the course of a few years by the government's control of the telegraphic system is a proposition which no lover of our country should entertain. With government espionage over the social, commercial and political messages, and a censorship, so to speak, over the news service of the press which the control of the telegraph would give, a corrupt party in power could defeat the will of the people and hold control of the government against the majority. Government control of the telegraph is an evil that must be avoided. It would lead to corruption of the public service and would afford great temptations for crimes against the business of the citizen and the liberties of the people who enjoy the blessings of free government.—*Atlanta, Ga., Chronicle (Dem.)*.

A government telegraph would be a tremendous undertaking in any case, even if existing lines could be bought for a reasonable sum, and if they could not be so bought it would be an undertaking involving the useless loss of a vast amount of property. Before the government takes hold of any such undertaking, it should seriously be considered whether a telegraph service quite as cheap and efficient cannot be obtained from the Western Union monopoly by government regulation, as in the case of the railroads.—*Springfield Republican (Rep.)*.

The people want a cheap system of telegraph and they ought to have it. It is all very well talk about private competition, and the situation is such that there can be none. When private competition becomes impossible it is the duty of the government to intervene in the interest of the people, who will not feel alarmed over any "socialistic" aspect such intervention may take on.—*Cleveland Plain Dealer (Dem.)*.

There are now about 1,000,000 employees in all grades of the postal service. To extend postal telegraphy to all parts of the United States and make it coincide with the present postal service would require as many more employees, if not an even greater addition to the department. The strain of such duplication of the service is something to make even the most sanguine believer in postal telegraphy pause.—*Washington Star (Ind.)*.

The true remedy for the evils of the present telegraph monopoly is competition by private individuals, not by the government; and although there seems to be no present prospect of such competition throughout the country there are still one or two companies not controlled by the Western Union, and the spirit of competition is not yet crushed out of existence.—*Kansas City Journal (Rep.)*.

There is no doubt, as Ingersoll recently declared, that no more dangerous monopoly could exist than the concentration of all the telegraph lines in the country in one man's hands, and it is quite probable that the only solution of the question is in government telegraphy; but if the government does decide to go into the business it should do it from the start and build its own lines.—*St. Paul Globe (Dem.)*.

Just now the advocates of a postal telegraph system are loud in their praise of that plan. But they seem to overlook its weak points. In the first place it is a socialistic scheme, such as only obtain in monarchies. Its logical end is in a strongly centralized and paternalistic government.—*Cleveland Leader (Rep.)*.

Every mother is interested in knowing that a special preparation for children, called "The Child's Cough Syrup" is now for sale only at Dement's drug store.

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Across his bronzed face there comes a look of determination, and, with quick orders to the seamen, the craft is put about and all sail made for the nearest harbor, where in apparent safety the anchor is dropped, and the hardy mariners watch the approaching storm with defiance!

The storm bursts!

The decks have been cleared, the sails close furled, and all ordinary preparations made for an emergency.

The storm increases but all seems safe.

But see! the vessel gives a sudden lurch, turns quickly about, and away she goes!

The anchor chain has broken!

This mighty ship might have ridden safely, but for one weak link in that anchor chain!

The strength of the chain is no greater than the strength of its weakest link.

On the sea of life, how many men are wrecked because of the unsuspected weakness of a link in the chain of health—one weak vital organ in the body.

The mystery of death is even greater than the mystery of life. We think the links of our chain are strong, but we too seldom critically examine them for ourselves, and never really know that they will bear the strain that we put upon them.

"I have a friend," said Dr. Rio Lewis, "who can lift 900 pounds, and yet is an habitual sufferer from kidney and liver trouble and low spirits." The doctor who was one of the wisest and safest public teachers of the laws of health, wrote:

"The very marked testimonials from college professors, respectable physicians, and other gentlemen of intelligence and character to the value of Warner's safe cure, have greatly surprised me. Many of these gentlemen I know, and reading their testimony, I was impelled to purchase some bottles of Warner's safe cure and analyze it. Besides I took some, swallowing three times the prescribed quantity. I am satisfied that the medicine is not injurious, and will frankly add that if I found myself the victim of a series of kidney troubles, I should use this preparation."

One year ago the *Servia*, while in a great storm, parted her two-inch rudder chain,—no wonder,—it was rusted through! The key to human health is the condition of the kidneys, and they may long be diseased and we be ignorant of the fact, because they give forth little or no pain. They in reality cause the majority of all the deaths, by polluting the blood and sending disease all through the system.

Information Wanted.

Information is wanted by the Grand Army of the Republic of the whereabouts of the two children of an old soldier who died in indigent circumstances in Ogden, Utah, last winter. His name was William Martin, and it was supposed that he was the same person who passed through this city in August, 1893, on his way with his children to relatives at Yaguima bay. The relatives' names were supposed to be Smith. Any information of the present whereabouts of the children should be sent to B. F. Tabler, adjutant of McPherson Post, No. 5, Albany, Oregon, and may lead to the material benefit of the children. Papers disposed to aid this matter will please copy.

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