

THE EUGENE WEEKLY GUARD

AN INDEPENDENT PAPER.

GUARD PRINTING CO., INC.
Publishers

Published every Friday, Eugene, Ore.

Subscription price, \$1.50 per year of paid in advance. \$2.00 at end of year.

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

THURSDAY — AUGUST 2

"Monopoly of the Offices"

The morning paper of this city is worried over what it is pleased to designate as "Official Monopoly." It professes to believe the public service is injured by the retention in office of an incumbent for a longer period than four years, a somewhat remarkable cause of alarm, when it has always been recognized by thinking persons that constant changing of officials, frequently before they have more than thoroughly mastered the duties of their position, is one of the weak spots—perhaps the only one—in our popular elective system.

Moreover, with the spirit of independence that is manifesting itself more strongly with each succeeding election in this country comes a tendency on part of the voters to inquire only into the fitness and faithfulness of the candidate. It counts for little now whether there are hungry party followers who desire to have the office "passed around," as the morning paper naively expresses it; the man who has proven himself a true public servant is given preference over the claimant who points only to his zealotness as a precinct leader or ward heeler for those who are wont to play the role of party boss.

And coming down to the local application made by our contemporary, what offices are there that should be passed around? It is true that E. U. Lee is serving his fourth term as county clerk, but are the public interested suffering on that account? Would the taxpayers and people generally be more faithfully or even as well served by an inexperienced man of unknown capability and integrity as by this honest, competent official, at whom quite likely this thrust of the Register was covertly aimed? The voters answered that question in the negative only a few weeks ago by some 2000 majority, although his opponent was a most worthy gentleman. Then we have Sheriff Fisk and before him Sheriff Withers as special examples of men whom the public trusted for more than the allotted two terms; and who will say that Lane county was not the gainer by this reciprocity of confidence between these officials and the voters.

These are only some notable instances, and there are others which might be cited as tending to disprove the potency for good of the morning paper's doctrine of "passing the office around," which has the same inspiration as that other party slogan of a dead and buried past, "To the victors belong the spoils." Its advocacy at this time only emphasizes the fact that it is difficult for some persons to accept new conditions, to inhale the inspiring breath of progress and catch the spirit of an advanced and better age with its higher deals of government.

Japan's Latest Scheme

Socialists who would put railroads, telegraphs and industries in general in the hands of the government may see this experiment carried out in Japan. There the government has acquired by force sale all the railroads and is now intent on possessing the general industries. It is resolved to pursue on a large scale the monopoly system that is employed with the tobacco industry in France, where the government buys the raw material in this country, prepares it in the market and sells it to the retail stores throughout the country. Japan's purpose in following this example is to acquire money to pay her foreign debts and defray the government expenses. The late war with Russia has burdened Japan with debt without any tangible gains except that it forced Russia back to the Siberian line and released China

from Muscovite influence. It has given Japan virtual control of Korea and made England her firm ally, but these things add no money to the Japanese treasury. The empire might be termed "land poor," to use a Southern phrase. It has new territory at its disposal in Korea and Manchuria, but it lacks the means to render it productive.

In accordance with the present plan the Japanese government may begin by acquiring the cotton factories. It will then buy cotton in this country and perhaps employ former factory owners to manufacture it under government control. As there will be no home competition, the government will exact a high price for the fabric and will thus impose on the people taxation that it might not be able to acquire in any other way, owing to the poverty of the wage-earners. The Tokio authorities doubtless expect that a factory which now earns, say \$200,000 a year will turn in that sum and perhaps \$100,000 more. There may be great government warehouses but there will be no jobs in the American sense. Goods will be sold direct to retailers and the government will gather in all the profit.

In order to provide a foreign market for the surplus manufactures Japan will stimulate trade with Manchuria and Korea. It will enable merchants to borrow from banks at low interest so as to compete successfully with the American, German and British merchants who have already a footing in these countries. It will not attempt to carry on this foreign trade itself but will practically control it.

Japan will perfect this industrial and commercial arrangement by imposing a heavy protective tariff that will go into effect in the fall. Instead of the "open door," which the world at large expected, all this indicates a fixed purpose to include in the end the Chinese empire in a commercial system of which Japan will be the center.

The Trend Toward Communism

In the enlightened countries of the world one of the public question that is most frequently discussed today is the evil sure to come of too much legislation; yet there is none of these leading nations in which there are not insane demands for more and more of it, remarks the Lewiston Tribune.

We ourselves declaim loudly against the folly and futility of it and forthwith proceed to regulate by additional legislation a thousand evils growing out of previous legislation which is not enforced or partially enforced. The inconsistency and danger of it are glaring but it is really a better in other countries, in which the people have been led to give up the old methods and means of progress and to betake themselves to short cuts and cheap schemes of regulating each other. There are said to be in the world today over 3000 legislative bodies having substantially the power enjoyed by our state legislatures. Of these we have forty-six and will soon have one more. The English empire has sixty-five legislative bodies, though some put the number higher. The principal countries of Europe have their parliaments, which, though not so productive as some, are still active and increasing in activity. The acts of the reichstag are now being published in forty volumes. In the East, Japan is bringing out laws with dispatch, India is making many, and there is an expectation that China will join in. The children of men are already closely hedged about by laws, and while waiting their fate in this respect, are rapidly moving forward in their principal business of enlarging the codes. There can not be very much liberty in the individual when there are so many restraints imposed upon him provided always that the laws are regarded and are effective. The result is that laws and regulations that are always falling across the path of the free citizen are openly disregarded, only the weak being in any manner controlled thereby. If upon enforcement they were found impracticable or unjust they would be quickly repealed rather than supplemented by a fresh maze of legislation which in its turn would prove

discriminative, weak and harassing. Too much legislation is dangerous because it leads in any free country to popular disregard of the laws, to defeat of the laws, to contempt for the laws.

There is no state more unsettled or unsatisfactory than that condition of people who are striving continually to correct one bad law by the enactment of half-dozen more. The craze is its worst in our own country; but it quite had enough in other countries, where the socialistic spirit is constantly growing and finds its main expression in the gradual absorption by the government of all the functions, provisions and activities that really must sooner or later revert back to the citizen unless virtual communism is ultimately to prevail.

Eugene Is on the Map

It begins to look as if the first extensive railroad building by the trans-continental lines in the West will be the Natron Ontario-Klamath Falls line. The activity of rivals in the Oregon field appears to have alarmed the Southern Pacific magnates, so newspaper advice state, and the result will be that the road across the mountains will be rushed, even ahead of the Dray-Cooos Bay extension, where there is no immediate fear of a competing line.

This view of the case is strengthened by the apparently well founded report that Hammond has allied himself with Gould interests and will extend the Corvallis & Eastern across the mountains, probably turning southward into the Klamath country. If this news should prove true, the necessity for haste on part of Harri-man is easily explained, the control of the richest undeveloped railroad territory in the West being at stake.

The situation looks good from the Eugene viewpoint, and indicates that the strategic position of this city will make it the junction of two very important lines upon the completion of the bridge across the river at Springfield. Add to this the building of an electric railway system radiating from Eugene as a center, tapping rich agricultural, timber and mining districts, backed by a strong Eastern syndicate, and we have a combination of traffic facilities that will build up here during the next decade a city of 50,000 people.

European Combination

History will repeat itself if Germany and Austria come to the aid of Russia, says the Seattle News. If the two first named powers march their troops into Russian Poland to hold the Poles in check while Russian troops carry on rapine and slaughter in Moscow and elsewhere, Europe will be profoundly shocked. It will be another "holy alliance" like that which followed the downfall of Napoleon when the monarchs, regardless of popular rights, adopted an autocratic policy which held sway until Belgium expelled the Dutch, French drove out the Bourbon king in 1830 and England made a stride toward manhood suffrage.

These acts did not suffice to warn the monarchs so there came the uprising of 1848-9 when there were popular disturbances in Germany, Ireland and Italy. All Europe seemed ablaze. Russia marched troops into Hungary to crush Kosuth, and Austria aided in repression in northern Italy.

Germany and Austria have now fears alike to those that were so common in 1848. They apprehend that should Russian Poland become free they may in due time have to surrender their part of Poland. Their title is unsound. They dare not submit it to popular vote. Should Russian Poland become a republic they would be still more uneasy. The example might be followed within their own limits.

The European masses will be profoundly disturbed if the monarchs engage in what might be deemed an imperial trust. They will sympathize with Poland and with the oppressed Russians, who may try a revolutionary combination themselves.

Mayor Tom Johnson

Tom Johnson, mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, is getting into the limelight again, after a comparatively quiet period following his disastrous run

for governor. Johnson made a few millions as a traction magnate, sold out his lines to a trust and then became reformer, championing Henry George's single tax theory and many other extreme ideas of government. Three-cent fares, municipal ownership of public utilities and kindred ideas are his hobby. While Johnson has not returned the people the millions he now virtually admits he fleeced from them while operating car lines, he has no doubt accomplished some good service since he deserted the capitalistic combine, and turned state's evidence so as to speak. The New York Evening Post said recently of his work:

"Three-cent fares with universal transfers and good government as a side issue," were the credentials of the platform on which Tom L. Johnson was elected mayor of Cleveland. That he has got his incidental good government, municipal authorities argue; the street railway company last night promised the universal transfers; only the three-cent fare remains unattained. The company merely submits the proposal of seven patches for a quarter. That is to be sure. 57.1 of a cent more than a three-cent fare. But it is a cent and a half lower than the original five-cent fare, and absolutely lower than any street railway fare in this country today. It sounds almost ludicrous for the dis-patches to state that the company has outwitted the mayor. Tom Johnson has not gone about his task with the bluff that whatever gets in the end is precisely what he wanted all along. He pays the penalty by leaving no doubt as to just how far his wishes are realized. But we should like to see a list of American city executives who, in a fight comparable to this, have secured three-fourths of what they set out to obtain for their people."

Blue River Mines

There is no question but the Blue River mining district is destined to become one of the great wealth producers of the West. Many miners and prospectors are at work there and the number is constantly increasing. New properties are being opened and old ones more systematically developed with good results. The trade of such a district is well worth looking after and Eugene's commercial bodies should make every effort to see that none of it slips away to other towns. One way to do this is to see that the open road matter is pushed right along without any further delays. The county court has taken some steps in that direction upon the urgent request of the business men. See that it does not end there.

There is already talk of a railroad to the Blue River camp, and it is only a question of time when one will be built. It should go from Eugene and no doubt will if our people are awake to the situation. Perhaps the electric roads that will soon be building out of Eugene will in due time reach the mining country; let us hope so and lend every assistance in our power to that end.

Addicks, of Delaware, still attempts to exercise influence in that state, but his schemes will not avail. "Had Addicks defeated Senator Allee for the control of the committee," says the Philadelphia Press (Rep.), "his purpose was to utilize his advantage to effect a deal. If possible, with the regular Republican organization. But while Mr. Addicks, self-deceived as he has been for years, firmly believed that he could dick with the regulars his belief had no grounds of fact. The truth is that Addicks has always refused to see himself in the light in which others have seen him. He declines to recognize the self-stultification to which the regular Republican leaders could subject themselves if after a dozen years of antagonism to him and his methods, they now accept him with open arms."

The Portland Telegram calls attention to the fact that the recent decision of the Oregon supreme court declaring invalid the law providing for a \$300 tax exemption will be a burden to the common class of taxpayers. The gross valuation of taxable property in the state last year totaled \$300,156,685, and the exemption, to approximately \$8,000,000. Another additional expense that will

be attached will be the necessity of dairy farming. This is one of his making entirely new assessment rolls, statements: "In Germany, Holland, Belgium and Denmark I found dairymen operating on land worth from \$500 to \$1000 an acre—and making money too—and under conditions generally far from as favorable as conditions in Oregon."

Now, if the people who recently offered \$240,000,000 for Panama bonds, bearing only two per cent, when only \$30,000,000 was needed, will send their money Westward they can gain much more interest with as good security. Governments rise and pass away, but Oregon real estate will endure for ever.

Secretary Shaw says he will vote for anybody or anything that's republican. Such old-fashioned partisanship does credit to no man's intelligence and independence. Few voters of either party belong to the "yellow dog" class in these days—but it's about Shaw's size.

A case has been reported by the life saving service where a man was resuscitated after being under water 23 minutes. From Atlantic City comes a report of a New York business man who was revived after he had been under water 10 minutes. In both cases the resuscitation took a long time—more than a day in the case of the man who had been under water 23 minutes, while the 10-minute man was revived in an hour. These are valuable lessons at this season of the year when the resorts are crowded and drowning is frequently reported. No man should be given up as drowned until he has been worked over at least 24 hours. The common method of mechanical respiratory movements should be applied promptly in the absence of a physician, but the attendance of a doctor should be had as soon as possible. Many men and women, and especially many children, have been given up as dead when immersion under water would have had no permanent bad effect if suitable measures had been promptly taken and long enough continued.

Alfred Henry Lewis takes a couple of pages, preferred position, in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post to prove to his own satisfaction that Roosevelt is the only man in the United States big enough to fill the presidential chair. While Teddy is no doubt a pretty good president, we cannot believe that Lewis is right in his cheap estimate of all other public men of both political parties; in fact the idea of lowering the United States to the plane of Mexico and making Roosevelt another Diaz is frequent to the American ideal of history inclines most of us to the belief that there have been able and upright presidents in the past, and there seems no obstacle in the way of the future producing as honest and capable an executive as the present occupant of the white house. Mr. Lewis possesses the knack of writing a readable article but like many talented authors is short on common horse sense.

Russia's experiment of free government has been short lived, and despotism, represented by the mailed hand of General Trenchoff, is again in complete control. But the people of that unfortunate country are destined to be free though the struggle may require years and the soil be soaked with the blood of thousands of patriots. It is a last ditch struggle of absolute rule and the harder the czar resists the more complete will be his overthrow at the end.

If the United States goes to war with Mexico, it will be after President Diaz's death or overthrow. The iron ruler of that despotic republic is too sensible to engage in a conflict that can only have a disastrous outcome.

Papers like the Oregonian are beginning to write editorials on "Bryan's collapse." But William Jennings comes up smiling for the next round every time just the same.

Professor G. L. McKay, the Iowa dairy expert, has certainly done good in this state by arousing interest in

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BOHEMIA MINE

CASE SETTLED

Judge Hamilton on Tuesday rendered a decision in the case of Patrick J. Jennings vs. the Noonday Mining Co., a suit to establish a title to a mine in the Bohemia district. The motion of the plaintiff to dismiss the suit without prejudice to another suit of the same cause is dismissed, and the title to the property involved is decreed in favor of the defendant, who is also awarded costs. The suit has been pending in court since January 11, 1904, and grew out of a sheriff's sale of the mine pursuant to a judgement obtained by J. Frank Watson, who the commenced litigation in 1896.

PARSON BROUGHT DOWN FROM COTTAGE GROVE

Oscar L. Parson, the former Cottage Grove saloon keeper who whipped George Egin, the anti saloon detective, at Cottage Grove, a few days ago, was arrested in that city by Sheriff Fisk this forenoon and brought to Eugene. An information had been filed against him in the circuit court charging him with assault and battery. He will appear before Justice of the Peace Bryson some time this afternoon for arraignment.

Parson in speaking to a reporter of his trouble with Egin said the assault was made in self defense.

A Tragic Finish

A watchman's neglect permitted a leak to the great North Sea dyke, which a child's finger could have stopped, to become a ruinous break, devastating an entire province of Holland. In like manner Kenneth McIver, of Vanceboro, Me., permitted a cold to go unnoticed until a tragic finish was only averted by Dr. King's New Discovery. He writes: "Three doctors gave me up to die of lung inflammation, caused by the neglected cold; but Dr. King's New Discovery saved my life." Guaranteed best cough and cold cure, at W. L. DeLano's drug store, 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

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