

COAST MAIL.

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SOME QUESTIONS.

The Coast Mail is still booming the Great Central although it has thus far failed to publish anything in regard to Kinney's Salt Lake and Alaska enterprises. Kinney must have let the Coast Mail in on the "Ground Floor."—Myrtle Point Enterprise.

Some people's good resolutions don't seem to be worth much. Only a few weeks ago the Enterprise promised its readers that it wouldn't mention the COAST MAIL any more. Now, that it has gone and done it, it may be pertinent to inquire what the Enterprise or any other knocker has published "in regard to Kinney's Salt Lake and Alaska Enterprises." What do they know about them? If they know anything, why don't they take the dear people into their confidence? Why these dark ambiguous hints and assumption of an air of mystery? These highly virtuous and incorruptible people, who can not understand how the COAST MAIL can treat the Great Central fairly unless it has "made connection with a bunch of glue" or been "let in on the ground floor," make us a little bit weary.

Why don't they come out with some of these facts which they have up their sleeves? Why is it that the only statement so far appearing in print that contained any news for the public, to militate the Great Central, proved to be a baseless fabrication?

But it is no use to ask questions of such people. They are only sure of one thing in this matter. They know what they want. But will they get it?

THE OPERATORS' PLANT.

(Telegram)

It is not easy to be patient with those mine "operators," who for many years have been making a business of oppressing labor and over charging consumers—piling up unconscionable profits by millions and tens of millions, so that their great "Josh," J. P. Morgan, is said to have cleared nearly \$50,000,000 this year for his personal services, not one-thousandth part of which he really honestly earned. He is the great master of "reorganization," which has come to mean stock-watering, fraudulent capitalization, the debauching of Legislatures and courts, and the general plundering of the public. This has been, to a large extent, the business of Morgan and his satellites, Baer, Thomas, et al. Now it is the alleged professed "independent operators" who decline to make any terms, and they have the assurance to make a disguised public, which has already about half a good notion to take these mines away from these unjust and unreasonable people, the following statements:

"We believe that such a settlement at this time, and upon the basis suggested, would forever establish the power and perpetrated by the United mine-workers.

"That such settlement would be, in the eyes of the public, a confession that we have heretofore been guilty of all the offenses charged against us by the said mine-workers.

"That aside from any money consider-

ations this commission will make such declarations as will for many years put a ban upon unlawful practices, oppression of nonunion men, unjustifiable demands and other grievances that we have been suffering under since 1900, when the union first took possession of our property."

Some of this is pure falsehood, most of the rest of it is rank hypocrisy. The mine-workers' union may not at all times and in every case have been entirely right, but has not pinned one-thousandth part as much as these palavering, pharisaical "operators" have. These people who put forth this cant about the "oppression and injustice" practiced by the miners, deserve, figuratively, a swift smart slap in the face. They are not fit to own any mines, or to be the trustees thereof. As a matter of ultimate fact the People, not these few gliding, blithering hypocrites, own the coal of the country, and that fact is likely to be practically demonstrated within the next few years.

A Sound Sermon

(Oregonian)

The sermon delivered by Rev. Dr. Morrison on Sunday last in exposition of the inadequacy of prohibitive legislation in suppression of the evils incident to the perversion of man's social nature contained the following passage:

Man is a social animal. Good fellowship and generosity, amusement and mirth are as much a part of his nature as the complexion of his skin, and the prayer meeting or church service can never adequately satisfy desires for these things, which are not by any means manifestations of evil propensities.—

Dr. Morrison here recognizes the fact that man in all ages, in all climes and times, has been gregarious and no great state ever grew strong or lived long, no church ever obtained and retained great influence, that lost sight of the fact that man has a social as well as a religious nature. The failure to recognize this fact is the root of error in the prohibitionist's efforts to stamp out intemperance by extirpating the sale of alcoholic beverages. Saying to society "It would be better for society and for the individual to abstain from the use of alcohol," is a legitimate appeal. It belongs fairly to the education of moral sensibility, whose domain is properly occupied by the preacher, the teacher, the parent, the physician. But to say to society, "Nobody shall have a legal opportunity to drink, whether he uses alcohol decently or indecently," thus forcing the temperate and orderly to make vicarious atonement for the sins of the indecent and intemperate, is so utterly irrational that it has become completely discredited in this country.

Society cannot by statute expect to make men sober any more than it can expect to make men economical and thrifty rather than extravagant and impecunious. The law can make the sale of liquor illegal, but the more secret and covert the saloon becomes the larger is the swarm of night flies of the bar-rooms, the bummers, the bibulous youth of Bohemian tastes and lounging temperament. The open saloon is sometimes an evil, the covert saloon is always a crowded den of debauchery because it avoids the public eye.

* you can perhaps persuade some philanthropic folk to practice total abstinence religiously, even if they do not need it on the plea that the example of the strong is effective sometimes with the weak, but you cannot possibly hope to extort self-denial, selfish and sac-

rificed by statute. Poverty exists in some countries where the drink habit is almost unknown. Would it do any good to pass a law prohibiting poverty on the plea that it is an evil and a dreadful charge on decent society?

The world offers shelter to its "lame ducks" in shape of hospitals for the insane and inebriate; prisons for convicts and almshouse for paupers. But the world never did and never will shape the whole economy of society to the life of its "lame ducks." The world will legislate chiefly for the living, working, world rather than for the world that is dying and would be better dead.

All this holding the decent use of the social nature of man responsible for the indecent use of it is threshing old straw to evil purpose. The educated intellectual and moral energy of the prohibitionists that might be directed to some practical, humane purpose is worse than wasted, for it makes religion and temperance itself repulsive to thousands of persons who are neither irreverent nor immoral, but are thoroughly disgusted with this misdirected enthusiasm for visionary methods of moral reform to the increasing neglect of rational efforts for the amelioration of the social evils of modern life.

BOOSTERS—AND OTHERS

The Sun has our thanks. "Boosters' Gazette," is good enough for us. We would rather be the gazette of the boosters than the organ of the knockers.

The boosters build; the knockers tear down.

The boosters have their faces to the future; the knockers face the past.

The boosters see the chances for success; the knockers are prophets of failure.

The boosters put their shoulders to the wheel to help along a new enterprise; the knockers are a drag on the wheels of progress.

The boosters care little how much others may make, if they also can make something; the knockers would rather make nothing themselves than to see others also make something.

The boosters advertise a country and encourage the investment of capital and the development of all latent resources; the boosters discourage the incoming of either population or capital, and retard development as much as in them lies.

They stand on the heights, while the knockers wallow in the "Trough of Despond.

Yes, the MAIL will continue to train with the boosters.

Roosevelt may overdo it. If he is too prominent, too able and too efficient, and becomes the whole thing in the Republican party, the multitudes of men he overshadows will combine against him in the state convention or at the election. That has been done right in Oregon.—Salem Journal.

David B. Hill has as the only adornment on the walls in his law offices at Albany pictures of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Except His Mother.
Folks all called him no account;
Bumped him at a worthless loafer;
Said he never would amount
To a common striped gopher,
And whether he might commit
So they vowed to one another—
They'd not be surprised a bit
(That is, all except his mother).

Till a sudden crisis came,
Sacrifice and courage testing;
Leaped to lips a hero's name,
Laud from all on the oldest wrestling
And the chap thus signalized
Was "that loafer" and no other!
Then the folks were all surprised!
(That is, all except his mother.)
—Edwin L. Sebn in Good Housekeeping.

Overcapitalization Of Trusts

By Attorney General PHILANDER C. KNOX



MUCH less difficulty is encountered in describing the mischief of trusts than in suggesting a rational and practical remedy.

THE CONSPICUOUS NOXIOUS FEATURES OF TRUSTS EXISTENT AND POSSIBLE ARE OVERCAPITALIZATION, LACK OF PUBLICITY OF OPERATION, DISCRIMINATION IN PRICES TO DESTROY COMPETITION, INSUFFICIENT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR CORPORATE MANAGEMENT, TENDENCY TO MONOPOLY AND LACK OF APPRECIATION IN THEIR MANAGEMENT OF THEIR RELATIONS TO THE PEOPLE, FOR WHOSE BENEFIT THEY ARE PERMITTED TO EXIST.

Overcapitalization is the chief of these and the source from which the minor ones flow. When a property worth \$1,000,000 is capitalized at \$5,000,000 and sold to the public, it is rational to assume that its purchasers will exert every effort to keep its earnings up to the basis of their capitalization. WHEN THE INEVITABLE DEPRESSION COMES, WAGES MUST BE REDUCED, PRICES ENHANCED OR DIVIDENDS FOREGONE. As prices are naturally not increased, but lowered, in dull periods, it usually resolves itself into a question of wages or dividends.

It is the possibility of overcapitalization that furnishes the temptations and opportunities for most of the others. Overcapitalization is the imposition upon an undertaking of a liability without a corresponding asset to represent it. Therefore overcapitalization is a fraud upon those who contribute the real capital either originally or by purchase, and the effort to realize dividends thereon from operations is a fraudulent imposition of a burden upon the public.

Corporations and joint stock or other associations depending upon any statutory law for their existence or privileges trading beyond their own states should be required to do business in every state and locality upon precisely the same terms and conditions. THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION IN PRICES, NO PREFERENCES IN SERVICE.

Moreover, corporations upon which the people depend for the necessities of life should be required to conduct their business so as regularly and reasonably to supply the public needs. They should be subject to visitatorial supervision, and full and accurate information as to their operations should be made regularly at reasonable intervals.

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MARK'S CORNER : : Front Street

Ahead of Time

A fat steer belonging to Noble Bros, was being driven along Pine street yesterday, when he got off his course, broke through some plankin; and slid down the hill into the little back yard of the Broiler yesterday. As the place is inclosed with buildings it was several hours before he was got out. Finally he was taken out under the stairs by the Union saloon, which are hinged to raise up. He evidently had heard of the Broiler and wanted to be broiled.