

COAST MAIL

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EDITORIAL

HOW WE STAND

In yesterday's paper, we published an account of W. A. Crane's temperance meeting Wednesday evening. This account was handed in by one who was present, and it quoted Mr. Crane's designation of the saloon as a "Bank of Losin."

Now the Daily Coast Mail, or was, taken at every saloon in town, except two. The proprietor of one of these had never mustered courage to take the daily, but he took the weekly. The paper also contained one saloon ad.

The proprietor of the latter was the first one heard from. He paid up and stopped his ad and his daily. Then the one who has been taking the weekly paid up and stopped that. It will be observed, however, that both papers come out today, just the same. The other gentlemen who are in the saloon business seem to have taken a more reasonable view of the matter.

And right now seems to be a good time to again define the position of this paper. We have done it before, but it seems to be hard for some people to understand that a paper can be run on independent lines without undue catering to any individual or class. The Coast Mail is a business proposition. It is not an organ. It is not sustained by state or county pap, by grants, nor by a pull. It proposes to give value for every dollar received. It is not owned by any one with an axe to grind. Its policy is determined in this office without dictation or advice from anyone outside.

It is first of all a newspaper, and proposes to give the news without fear or favor, without suppression or dodging. Its editors use their own judgement. They may not always be right, but they have the royal satisfaction of doing the thing in their own way.

Further, they are running a newspaper for the whole community, not for any one class or faction, neither a church organ nor a saloon organ.

Through this spirit of independence, they have been led to mix it with different elements in the community at different times. By having the temerity to criticize a traveling blatherskite, not half so severely as he deserved, the paper has before now placed itself under the threat of being run out of town. The result is well known. The patronage of the paper has increased from the day it was started, and we believe that this community has enough of the spirit of Americanism to appreciate the paper that exemplifies "the freedom of the press."

The paper is not making a mint of money, but the bills are being paid with a tolerable degree of regularity, and the hands get their money every Saturday night.

The Mail has never made any fight on either churches or saloons. It has endeavored to treat both fairly. When they are not satisfied with that, we are regretful but powerless.

The desire is to treat every one fairly. If any one or any class expects to be treated to or unduly honey-sugared in any way, either through a desire to curry favor or a fear of incurring displeasure, then that person or class is very likely to be disappointed.

There are, unfortunately, people who do not know when they are well treated. They are not satisfied with fair treatment, but expect special favors. These are found in every community and in all walks of life. The newspaper that would try to keep them always pleased would have a somewhat more strenuous life than we care to embark upon, and the newspaper that depends on them for support is leaning on a broken reed.

When we report a meeting in a church or elsewhere, or want to give the keynote of any man's speech or address, we are very likely to tell what is said. If any one is childish enough to get mad and stop the paper or his ad on that account, he can stop it and be qualified.

GIVE US A MATCH

Why don't some one start a match factory on Coos Bay, to make a common sulphur match of commerce. Here we are paying tribute to match makers who are so infinitely small that they rob us even on the count, to say nothing of the goods. If there is a small sulphur match on the market in Marshfield which is of good quality and packed 1000 in a pkg, as it is supposed to be, then the Coast Mail man hasn't been able to find it.

People don't mind being robbed on a large scale, but they do hate the sneak thief who puts 51 matches in a bunch, instead of 1000, especially if they have to strike 27 of them before they get a light.

We are probably no worse off than people in other places; and the moral is that a match factory here that would make good reliable matches and pack in full-count packages could find a practically unlimited market for its product.

THE SHAMELESSNESS OF ST. LOUIS

That a terrible arraignment of an American city, Lincoln Steffens' article in the March McClure's on "The Shamelessness of St. Louis," "The Shame of Minneapolis," which appeared two months ago, is, compared to this, a record of civic integrity and virtue. Mr. Steffens points the damning contrast. Minneapolis, reformed when her shame was exposed. In the St. Louis municipal legislature today sit convicted of bribery and perjury seven members of Boss Butler's ring, and Butler, himself, sentenced to three years' imprisonment for bribery, still rules the town. This is what Mr. Steffens calls "something new in the history of the government of the people by the rascals for the rich." "Mr. Steffens tells the whole story from the first exposures by one man—County Attorney Folk—down today, when the apathy and supineness of the people are forcing Folk still to play his hand alone. He shows how St. Louis became the Mecca of brooding aldermen from all over the country—how they flocked thither to exchange new schemes for robbing the people, until St. Louis was completely listed for sale. And he ends by quoting the words of a hoodler who jumped his bonds and is now in Mexico, who declares that he is only waiting for Folk's term to expire to return and run for Governor of Missouri and "vindication." This article should be read by every American citizen.

ROOSEVELT COMMENTED.

Six thousand people crowded the Chicago Auditorium at the recent demonstration of the local labor unions in honor of John Mitchell, president of the United Mineworkers. The greatest enthusiasm was shown when Mr. Mitchell appeared on the platform, and his speech later in the evening was received with cheers. Henry D. Lloyd, of Chicago, spoke in part as follows: "There was a louder cry for Federal bayonets in Pennsylvania in 1902 than in Illinois in 1891, but the cry was not answered. The troops did not move. There was a soldier in the White House, not a corporation lawyer, and the soldier knew what the proper use of soldiers are. But the soldiers might have gone on if the local monopolists had held out 8 hours longer in their piratical policy of famine and defiance, but not to help them drive the miners into the mines. The soldiers might have gone in to keep the peace while Federal Judges took possession of the mines as receivers, by due process of law, and invited the miners in the name of the people to mine the coal for the people.

"Where Cleveland gave us military usurpation and government by injunction. Roosevelt has given us arbitration—the boldest and greatest act of recent statecraft—a short cut across lots in the real American style.

"When the people of America helped Mitchell and the miners, they were helping themselves. The whole people of America have before them the same fight to make with the same would-be master. Pray God we may find in our time of need as good a leader as the miners found. That affair in the Valleys of Pennsylvania was the first real uprising of the people against monopolists—and it was only the first. As always, the organized workingmen furnished the "forlorn hope" of liberty, because they were organized.

"It is literally, scientifically, accurately, warningly true that between the people and the money and monopoly power—that most terrible of all tyrannies—there stands today but one organization that can hold the fort while the people rally. That is the organization of labor."

Great Central Sued

J. J. Walters has brought suit at Portland, against the Great Central Railroad Company, operating in Coos County, to recover \$1429.85, which he claims is due him as commission, and attachment papers have been issued by the Sheriffs to attach the property of the defendant company until the case is settled.

Walters stated in his complaint that on August 22, 1902, he was engaged as chief of the bureau of information and colonization of the Great Central Railroad Company, and that a part of his duty was the sales of stock of the company. He further claims that he was to receive a commission for his work, and that he sold \$16,050 worth of stock, for which he has received \$176.85. He alleges that 10 per cent is a fair commission, and on this basis asks for a balance due of \$1429.85.

ENGLISH ETCHINGS.

There are several hundred Boer prisoners in India who still obstinately refuse to take the oath of allegiance. It is stated that the giant elm trees planted in Kensington gardens, London, over 200 years ago are decaying. The Bedfordshire family of Whitbread hold the curious record of having had representatives in the house of commons for five successive generations. Australia could do with 300,000 British wives, Canada with 50,000 and the Cape with 30,000. There are said to be nearly 1,000,000 too many women in the British Isles. Through putting her feet against the bars of a school grate a girl's wooden clogs caught fire at Ashton, England. The fire spread to her frock, and she died from the effects of the burns. About 2,000,000 of London's inhabitants get no medical treatment save that of charity dispensaries or hospitals, and it is said one in four of them goes to bed hungry every night of his life. If we all practiced what we preach, it would keep us so busy practicing that we would have to cut out the preaching.—Irishman's Chief.

Oregon's Gold Output in 1902

(San Francisco Mining and Engineering Review.)

The estimate of the gold output of Oregon by the Director of the United States Mint for 1902 is \$1,860,465. This is so much below the actual output that it will be necessary to enter into details to show what the state's output has probably been.

Table with columns for District and Output. Includes Aithouse mining district, Waldo mining district, Williams mining district, Galice mining district, Briggs-Soldier Creek district, Grants Pass district, Mount Reuben-Northern Josephine districts, Grave Creek district, Lower Rogue and Curry districts, Cow Creek, Gold Hill district, Western Jackson districts, and Other Jackson districts.

Total \$1,860,465. In Eastern Oregon there are 57 quartz mills with 758 stamps in operation, and there are a number of placer mines operating in the summer months.

The North Pole in the Sumpter district is owned by the Barings of London and information is hard to obtain, but from miners who have worked at the North Pole and who are now engaged elsewhere enough has been learned to state that the mine produces at least \$100,000 in bullion and about \$20,000 concentrates monthly.

The Red Boy has produced an enormous amount of rich ore and is now in operation, having declared a dividend last month.

The Virtue, another big mine near Baker City, is now producing from \$20,000 monthly, and it produced for a long time nearly double that amount.

The White Swan, an old producer, is again on the list of producers. The mill is now running on low grade ore taken from the old workings, and a great deal of high grade ore from new ground is being stopped so that next year it will help swell the production.

Much of the ore from the mines of Eastern Oregon is shipped out of the state to smelters at different points and altogether a safe estimate of the production of that section for 1902 would be \$1,000,000.

In the Bohemia district in Central Oregon there are several producing mines, and \$500,000 is a low estimate of the gold production last year in that district. One mine, the Helena, paid last year \$129,500.

Besides the section named about \$100,000 came from the Santiam, Blue River and Trout Creek district in Crook County.

Table with columns for District and Output. Includes Southern Oregon \$1,580,290, Eastern Oregon 4,000,000, Central Oregon 500,000, Santiam Blue River, Trout Creek and other sources 150,000, and Total \$6,230,290.

Will Float the Crescent City

Strenuous efforts are being made to pull the steamer Crescent City from her position on the jagged pinnacles of Fish Rock, and it is stated that the steamer may yet be saved, despite the prevalent opinion that she was a total loss. The wreck of the Crescent City was purchased by Beadle Bros., of San Francisco, for \$750, and for the past few weeks the work of lightening the vessel has been going on.

STATE AND GENERAL NEWS.

The S. P. Railroad is building a round house at Grants Pass.

There are now 1300 patients in the Oregon asylum—This is "high water mark."

Ex Governor Geer has formally announced that he is not a candidate for congress. The Governor is learning a point or two.

The Baker City Herald has been charged by the grand jury with libel. Twelve indictments hang over it. This is Latson Balliett's paper.

The amount due the state of Oregon for convict labor for the month of February, in the Northwestern State Penitentiary, amounted to \$22.90, or 23,368 1/2 hours at 3 1/2 cents per hour.

The first district convention of Central district of the Oregon Christian Endeavor Union will be held at Albany, beginning Monday, March 6th, at 2 p. m. and closing Tuesday, March 10th, at 3 p. m.

Governor Chamberlain Tuesday named George Noiland and J. E. Campbell, of Astoria and Sylvester Farrell, of Portland (reappointed) as pilot commissioners.

F. A. Bancroft has taken his official position as Postmaster of Portland.

Frank H. Alliston was run over and killed by a street car in Portland Sunday morning.

A Salem Hotel keeper is languishing in jail awaiting an officer with requisition papers from Missouri.

Even the town of Milwaukie has a Board of Trade and is working for her share of immigrants.

The new saw mill recently started at Cottage Grove is running at full capacity cutting 30,000 feet a day.

In boaring for oil near Dallas, Oregon, at a depth of nearly 500 feet, a salt bed was struck. The salt costs 99 per cent pure salt.

An Indian at Silver Lake hung his wife one day last week, and only for some one who happened along and cut the rope, there would have been one more "good Indian."

The central telephone office, postoffice, barber shop and mercantile store owned by Dick Hamlin, burned at Klamath Falls Monday night. Loss, total.

The General Land Office has at last decided to close the grant of the Corvallis & Yaquina Bay Wagon-Road Company. It has been 17 years since any selections were made in the grant, which embraces about 12 townships in Benton, Lincoln and Polk Counties.

There is much indignation about Whitman College over the news received from Cove, Or., that Fred Harris, who contracted smallpox in the Walla Walla pesthouse, had carried the infection to his sister-in-law and her little boy who died of the disease. It is said that the husband of the deceased lady, brother of Fred Harris, will bring suit against the City of Walla Walla.

The motion for a new trial in the libel suit of McMahon vs Hofer Bros. the court awarded Hofer Bros., judgment on the verdict of the jury, which was for \$1, and according to law, \$1 costs in the case, thus sustaining the regularity of the verdict and the integrity of the jury, which McMahon was seeking to impeach.—The Journal says: This is a great victory, not over Mrs. Gibson, but for the right of newspapers to publish fair news reports found on the pleadings in the case. Under the Oregon statute newspapers are responsible for damages for publishing extracts from the public records in such cases, and the verdict of the jury, under the circumstances is necessarily lead to the conclusion that no person had an extraordinary good character.

The Oregon State Board of Fish Commissioners Tuesday elected Representative Webster of Clackamas County, to the position of Deputy Fish Warden. Mr. Webster formerly held this position.

Amendments to the Bankruptcy Law.

The changes made in the national bankruptcy law in the passage by congress of the bill for its amendment are in the line of ameliorating the conditions of the bankrupt, though they do not apparently in any degree make it easier for dishonest debtors to defraud their creditors. The fees taxable under the amended law are reduced so as to make bankruptcy proceedings less expensive, and provision is made that bankruptcy indexes and dockets shall be open to public examination without charge.

A wise amendment is one prohibiting any person from getting rid of the payment of alimony or any debt of that kind under the bankruptcy act.

In interpreting the old law the federal supreme court held that a creditor could not prove his claim if he had received a payment on a debt against the debtor, provided the debtor's property was not equal to his debts. The payment might have been received innocently and in ignorance of the debtor's insolvency. That made no difference. It must be surrendered or the creditor could not prove an undisputed claim. The act as amended makes any payment made four months before the filing of the petition a preference, if the debtor was insolvent at the time. If the creditor had any reason to believe that it was intended as a preference he must surrender the property of its value.

Altogether the amendments will improve and strengthen the law and settle questions of long and troublesome dispute. The necessity of a federal bankruptcy code, operative in all the states of the Union, was long ago apparent, and thus amplified and perfected it should meet the conditions of business it is intended to cover with justice alike to the creditor and the insolvent debtor.

Baltimore's New Primary Law.

The city of Baltimore has a new primary election law, the operation of which may be of interest to other communities seeking reforms in election methods. It will receive its first practical test at the municipal elections this spring, and some defects may be developed by this test, though the general plan of the law seems to be admirable. The principal features are these:

First.—The primaries of both parties are held on the same day and in the same voting booths.

Second.—The ballot used is prepared by public officials, contains the names of all candidates alphabetically arranged and is voted in secret.

Third.—Every citizen has a right to vote in the primaries of the party with which he prefers to be affiliated, the law expressly providing that the statement of such party affiliation does not bind him to vote for the candidates of such party at any given election.

Apparently these provisions would go away with the abuses by which conscientious citizens are kept from voting in the primaries and corrupt ones are permitted to vote in them. The "floaters," as they are called, have still one vote, but they have no longer two or more, as the primaries of both parties are held together under the same safeguards as a regular election, and the citizen who is unwilling to do the bidding of party bosses can no longer be kept away from the primaries by a requirement that he must pledge himself to vote for all its nominees, however obnoxious to his moral sense.

Besides these provisions the new Baltimore law has another interesting principle of direct primaries for the most important officer to be chosen at any election. If delegates to conventions are chosen, the name of the candidate they are pledged to support is printed above each list of delegates.

The traditional ground hog, when he came out the other day to disport himself in the open, could or could not have seen his shadow, according to the time and location of his observations. All of which indicates that we will have before the robins nest again more or less weather of various kinds, just as we always have between Candlemas day and corn planting time. Within the limits of our far flung thermometer line an American winter can put up a great variety of atmospheric conditions, over which neither the weather bureau nor the goosebone and woodchuck prophets have any considerable influence.

Went in Lapland.

What the buffalo was to the Indian the reindeer is to the Lapps. At the present day the wealth of a Lapp is calculated in reindeer. Thus, when the people speak of a man's estate they say, "He is worth so many deer." Those who have only fifty or sixty head are poor servants, and their deer are put with those of their "betters." To have any kind of social standing in Lapland one should possess at least 500 of these animals. A Lapp is considered well off when he is the happy owner of not less than 1,000 reindeer.