

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT.

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A DIFFICULT PROBLEM.

If President Roosevelt succeeds in having congress enact a law in accordance with the fear of his Denver speech on the freight rate question, he will secure a victory for which the great mass of the American people will applaud him.

A commission in which the power is lodged to regulate freight rates will, indeed, have a knotty problem to solve. Most every railroad company has issued nearly double the amount of stock that legitimately should have been issued.

This fact should be taken into consideration when the expense account of interest on the bonded debt of a road is taken up. All will concede that a fair interest should be allowed on the reasonable cost of the road, but interest upon what is called "watered stock" should not be taken into consideration.

While it is true that innocent purchasers may have invested their money in these watered stocks, that fact with their misfortune and should be borne with the best grace possible. Another feature in the case of operation of the road should be daily considered by the commission. The president and board of directors of nearly all railroads vote themselves princely salaries.

The commission, therefore, ought to not least consider, first, the necessary operating expenses, the keeping of the road in safe condition of repair and the proper equipment in the way of motive power, rolling stock, etc., second, the reasonable interest on the legitimate cost of the road. These two items include all of the legitimate expenses of a railroad.

When the average amount of freight hauled and the passengers carried is known, the commission ought to be able to make a rate that would be fair for all concerned.

It is a safe proposition that if a rate would be made eliminating all unnecessary expenses, such as interest on watered stock, exorbitant salaries of presidents and boards of directors, corruption funds, etc., freight could be carried for just about one-half of what is now charged. This is the problem that a commission with power to fix rates must figure out.

By adjusting freight rates on some such basis as indicated above, the clamor for government ownership will cease. The people will be content to let the roads remain in private hands, providing fares and freights are adjusted upon the basis of the actual cost of construction, operating expenses and a fair interest upon the unwatered stocks or bonds.

The president will be able to bring at least a part of the republican congressmen to support his measure, to which may be added almost the entire democratic membership of congress, which will insure the passage of the bill. Congress can hardly refuse to do what is now nearly universally demanded by the people.

U. S. Marshal Jack Matthews of Portland is now one of the "has-beens." He was summarily removed last week by President Roosevelt at the instance of Prosecuting Attorney Henry. The reason assigned is that Matthews did not give as enthusiastic aid in the last fraud investigation as Mr. Henry thought desirable.

With a California judge on the federal bench and a California lawyer for prosecuting attorney, all we lack in having a California court is to have a jury made up of Californians.

THE LEWIS AND CLARK FAIR.

The SANTIAM NEWS editor was in Portland last week, and by the courtesy of President Jeff Myers, of the state commission, spent nearly the whole of one day looking at the fair buildings on grounds. Compared with the conditions of six months ago, one would think that everything was about ready for opening day.

Thousands of men and hammers in the hands of skillful mechanics are adding the finishing touches here and there. All of the state buildings, in which about all the exhibits will be placed, are now fully completed. Hundreds of mechanics are engaged in erecting the various booths within the buildings in which to place the individual exhibits, many of which have been received and are ready to be unpacked.

Quite a number of the various state buildings are completed or about so. The Washington, New York, Massachusetts and Idaho buildings are quite handsome structures and reflect great credit upon their respective states. Other state buildings will probably be equally as creditable, though not far enough along yet to show just what they will be.

The "Trail" are practically completed, some of which even now are occupied and ready for business. The arch bridge across the lake is quite handsome in appearance, and when illuminated with the thousands of electric lights will be a beautiful sight. The exhibition grounds as seen from the site of the government building is a sight beautiful to behold.

It reminds one of a magnificent landscape painting, and alone is worthy of a visit. The government building is a large, imposing structure and is now about completed. While we were there, workmen were engaged in taking down the scaffolding. Near the U. S. building some eight or ten Alaska Indian totem poles have been set up, which show considerable skill and idealism on the part of the Indian wood carvers.

The fair managers state that everything will be completed and the exhibits all in place on opening day, June 1. Their exact time may be realized, if so, it will be the first exception in this respect among all the world fairs. On the outside of the grounds and as close to the entrance gate as possible, hundreds of booths for the purpose of supplying all manner of refreshments to the hungry or thirsty are being erected, and for the purpose of enticing the visitor to part with his money.

The fair gives every promise of being a financial success. In it will be assembled many things for the people to see that but for the fair they would always have been ignorant of. As an educator or for purposes of entertainment, the fair will amply repay the visitor. As an advertiser of the resources of Oregon and the Pacific coast, it promises to repay abundantly the expense incurred. At all events, it will pay everybody to spend at least one week in examining and viewing the thousands of curiosities, both ornamental and useful.

DEATH OF A PIONEER JURIST.

Judge C. B. Bellinger died at his home in Portland (east side) last Friday afternoon. While it was earnestly hoped by every one that his illness would not prove fatal, those who were intimate with his condition had but little hope of his recovery from the date of his release. The cause of his death was a grippe, followed by blood poisoning, which in his debilitated overworked condition he could not withstand.

Judge Bellinger's death at this particular time is a national calamity. His familiarity with everything pertaining to the land fraud trials makes his loss irreparable. No other man in the nation was so well equipped to mete out justice to all concerned as he. His death is a calamity to the nation because of his eminent ability as a jurist, his unimpeachable integrity and his perfect understanding of all matters pertaining to land fraud investigations. It is a calamity to the nation, because in him they undoubtedly felt that he would be just and that he would in no sense be an attorney for or against them, but ever and always the just and upright judge who would not suffer an unfair advantage in the investigation for or against them to be taken. And finally, it is a calamity to the people of the state of Oregon, because his sterling honesty and integrity gave assurance to the fair name of our state should be purged from the taint of fraud and dishonesty that these land frauds has thrown upon us, from the viewpoint of the rest of the nation and the world.

His example as an upright judge, to which the slightest taint of dishonesty or corruption has never attached, is one of which every citizen of Oregon may well feel proud. Indeed, our standard of citizenship is elevated because he has lived among us. As a citizen, as a husband and father, Judge Bellinger furnished an example most worthy.

Oregon has been particularly fortunate in having two such eminent and upright men upon the federal bench as Judges Deady and Bellinger. Each of them was surrounded with such a halo of honesty and integrity that the boomer did not dare approach them for the purpose of influencing a decision. The example and precepts of these able jurists is a rich heritage to the Oregon bar.

No successor to Judge Bellinger has yet been named by the president and probably will not be selected for some time. It is stated that either Judge Hunt of Idaho or Judge D'Haven of Northern California will be selected to preside at the land fraud trials to commence next month.

THE PRESIDENT'S DENVER SPEECH.

The closing portion of President Roosevelt's Denver speech is so outspoken on the Panama canal and other questions that we think it will be of interest to our readers, and we here believe give it as reported by Associated Press dispatch:

"It is perhaps unnecessary for me to say that I am perfectly aware that many most admirable gentlemen disagreed with me in my action toward the Panama canal, but I am in an unrepentant frame of mind. The ethical question upon which I acted was that I did not intend that Uncle Sam should be held up. But without regard to that, when the canal came into operation I think it will have a very important regulatory effect in connection with the transcontinental commerce of the railroads. I think when such is the case these great railroads will have to revise their way of looking at the interest of certain individual classes."

"Let me repeat, I have told my views as to what I regard to be the most important matter of internal legislation in the immediate future will be before this people. I wish to say again that important though that legislation is, it is nothing like as important as the spirit in which we approach it. If we approach it in the spirit of demagoguery, if we permit ourselves as a people to be deluded into the belief that permanent good will come to us as a nation if we attack unjustly the proper rights of others because they are wealthy, we shall do ourselves just as much damage as if we permitted an attack upon those who are poor because they are poor."

"In time past, republic after republic has existed in this world and has gone down to destruction. Sometimes because the republic was turned into a government of the poor, who plundered the rich; sometimes because it was turned into a government of the rich, who exploited the poor. It made no difference whatever to the fate of the republic which form its fall took. That fall was just as certain in one case as in the other. It was just as certain to follow the election of a class which plundered another class, whether the class given mastery was the class of the poor who plundered the rich, or the class of the rich who exploited the poor. The destruction was as inevitable in one instance as in the other."

"We have the right to look forward with confident hope to the future of this republic, because it will not and shall not become the republic of any class, either poor or rich; because it will and shall remain as its founders intended it to be, and its rescuers, under Abraham Lincoln, intended it to be—a government where every man, rich or poor, so long as he did his duty to his neighbor, was given his full rights, was guaranteed justice and has had justice exacted from him in return."

President Roosevelt announces emphatically that under no condition will he accept a nomination to the office he holds, and which he is filling to the satisfaction of a larger number of the American people, regardless of party, than any of his predecessors of the past half century. This declaration places the president in a position to carry out his theory of conducting the government regardless of what the party bosses may do or say. This is just the kind of a president that the great mass of the American people mostly admire. Will they be content, supposing that he continues his present methods to the end of his administration, to have him retound to private life? No other president in our history has so used the unbounded confidence of the people as he. No other president since the civil war has manifested as much interest in the welfare of the common people as he has, nor has any other president been so outspoken in his determination to give every one, high or low, rich or poor, a "square deal." When 1908 arrives there will be such a universal demand for him from all over the nation that he can hardly resist the call to duty. He now says no, but men of the honest, conscientious class, when the path of duty is plainly marked before them, have been known to change their minds. Let us hope that the president will also do so.

The late Judge Bellinger was probably the best able of any one to select a jurist official to take his place in hearing the land fraud trials. Being also a lusty honest and beyond the reach of corrupt influence, he would not select a representative to take his seat who was not thoroughly qualified nor was less honest than himself. While no jurist officer can probably be found who will conduct the trials with as much fairness to all and ability in these particular cases, we may expect that Judge D'Haven of California will come nearer supplying Judge Bellinger's place than anybody else.

When one reads of such terrific tornado disasters as visited Snyder, Oklahoma, a feeling of silent thankfulness comes over us that we live in a state free from such disasters.

Wonder if Senator Mitchell will object to being tried before a California judge? He could object to a judge with as much propriety as he did to the prosecuting attorney.

A MATTER OF HEALTH.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER. Absolutely Pure. HAS NO SUBSTITUTE.

Improvements have been made in recent years on the old standard breads. Conservative bakers and dealers still prefer the old stand-bys.

Hens are like sheep in one respect—they follow a leader, and if that leader becomes addicted to some vice she will soon have all the others in the barnyard following her example.

Nests should be made as they can be cleaned and disinfected as easily as possible, and for this purpose substantial boxes or drawers, covered and lined with dark paper, are recommended.

A warm, soft cushion gives the layers a good start for the day during the winter months, as the soft food is soon digested and the hen begins scratching for something to fill her empty crop.

Corn should form the main proportion of the food for chickens on a very cold day, as the hens then require a food that will not only be serviceable in protecting eggs, but also creating animal heat.

Hens should not be compelled to drink ice water. It is impossible to keep the water warm on a cold day, but if a pan of warm water be placed before the fowls three times a day it will answer the purpose.

If fowls are to be kept healthy they should have a dry house and plenty of exercise, but it is better to underfeed than to overfeed. Careful observation at feeding time will determine the amount of food necessary for a flock.

Broken rice is said to be among the best dry feeds for chickens. It can be placed in open boxes and the chicks allowed to help themselves freely, and costs but three cents per pound and probably less in large lots.

The hen may be depended upon to lay in winter as well as summer if conditions are made favorable. Eggs always command a better price in winter than in summer, hence it pays to fulfill all the hen's requirements.

PHOTOGRAPHS. Make it a point, when in Albany, to drop into J. G. Crawford's Art Gallery and look through his collection of photographs. Views and photographs of interest. 129, Second Street, near Lyon.

POULTRY NOTES.

At the recent World's Fair poultry from the West showed up quite as well as that from the East.

Hens will keep themselves tolerably free from vermin if they are provided with a good dust bath.

A mixture of peas, corn and barley makes an excellent food for chickens and one upon which they will thrive.

The question of the probable profit in poultry is no longer a debatable one with the man who goes at the business right.

The proper selection of food for hens is a task that depends largely upon local conditions, which includes the condition of the hens.

Old hens do not lay larger eggs than pullets, but will hatch out more vigorous chickens. There is quite as much in the hatching as in the breed.

These are very hardy and should be kept on every farm. They require nothing but grass in summer and are not hard to keep in winter.

The use of cedar poles for perches is recommended by a man who has had much experience in poultry raising, because they harbor no vermin.

Duck eggs hatch as well as hen eggs in incubators and require about the same temperature. The period of hatching is from twenty-eight to thirty days.

Keeping the floors of the poultry quarters liberally sprinkled with air-slacked lime when the weather is damp will help in preventing roup from taking a hold.

The early hatched pullets make winter layers and the late hatched pullets make summer layers. These facts should be considered when selecting eggs for hatching.

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Now all we drop our guard...

PEPPER

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