

The Santiam News

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

CAREFUL reading of President Taft's first regular message to congress, will convince one that the president is desirous of serving the great masses of the people. There is a spirit of earnestness and a disposition to take the people into his confidence, which is most satisfactory. While there is a generous use of the pronoun "I," there is absence of pendency or egotism. The president has not attempted to write a document which would be regarded as a classic in English literature, but rather a plain statement of facts, as he views them and from which he draws his own conclusions. Of course, all will not coincide with the president's recommendations. Some of the features of the message all can and will endorse, while there are other clauses which western thought will generally oppose. But, as a whole, the president, in meeting squarely all of the many questions which are before the American people to-day, has inspired confidence.

His argument with reference to the use of court injunctions, cannot but be pleasing to the labor world. While he has not gone as far in his recommendations as the labor leaders may desire, if his plan should be adopted by the courts, there would be much less cause of complaint on the part of organized labor.

But a small number of the people, comparatively, will endorse the president's view of the ship subsidy. If he had favored allowing the purchase of ships in the markets of the world wherever they could be bought the cheapest, and with a permit to sail under the American flag, the people would, generally, have said amen. But they will never agree to the paying out of money from the federal treasury in the way of a subsidy, no matter how small it may be.

The president's recommendations with reference to postal savings banks, strikes a responsive chord with the people from Maine to Oregon and from the great lakes to the gulf of Mexico. It may be set down as a fact that the people will never rest content until some method of banking is established, in which they will feel that their savings are absolutely safe. To the wage earner, this is a matter of vital interest. The people, despairing of the establishment of postal savings banks, have adopted a system of bank guarantee in some of the states. Postal savings banks will, probably, provide a generally more satisfactory plan than the bank guarantee system. But if postal banks are denied the people, then the guarantee plan is sure to spread. The people must be

made to feel that their savings are safe in hard times as well as in good. With such feeling of security, money panics, as we have had them in the past, will cease.

The president's economic recommendations will meet with general endorsement of the people. The paring down of the expenses of the army and navy is quite satisfactory. With a citizen soldiery, which has been proven to be the equal of the best veteran troops of the world here is little need of so large a standing army as we, even, now have. With a large merchant marine, which free ships would insure, an increase of our naval power would be wholly unnecessary.

The president shows one of the causes of our annual postal deficit. Second-class post matter now amounts to an enormous total. To this class belongs all newspapers, magazines, etc. While the postal rates for second-class matter is low, this would not occasion a deficit if other unjust conditions were righted. When we remember that the railroads are paid eight times as much per car for hauling mail as they receive for hauling express matter, we can see wherein the deficit could be wiped out completely if this one graft was corrected. There are tons of matter carried under the franking privilege, which is of no material advantage to the people. True, congressmen would have to pay postage upon campaign material, worthless seeds, patent office reports, etc. or not send them, if this perquisite was taken away; but the people would not suffer materially if such were the case.

The president's evident intention to probe the sugar frauds to the bottom, will meet with the hearty approval of everybody. A vast majority of the people are opposed to any tariff whatever upon sugar. So long as the law exists, they do not want to pay the sugar trust the advanced price which the tariff causes and the trust to be permitted to escape payment of honest duties thereon to the government. If the trust was made to know that sugar would be placed on the free list, unless it dealt honestly with the government, there would but little if any fraud.

The president's recommendations with reference to the payment of civil pensions are open to criticism. Government employees, as a rule, are well paid for the service they render. It is a notorious fact that these employees render just as little service as possible and yet retain their jobs. They do not work half as industriously nor as long hours, as they would for less pay in civil life. As the employee can terminate his service with the government at his own option, and the further fact that he is required to undergo no unusual hardship nor to endanger his life, it is difficult to see wherein a pension is justly his due.

But take the message as a whole, there is a fearless honesty of expression which most people will admire. There is no question of what the president's opinions are upon all sections of the paper; for his recommendation follows his statement of the case, in almost every instance. The message will have a favorable impression upon the country.

MARKED CARDS.

WE ARE TOLD by press dispatches, that the fortune of the late great railway king and Wall street financier, Edward E. Harriman, is estimated or appraised at \$149,000,000, and that this vast sum was accumulated in the short space of ten years. This statement suggests thoughts relative to the taking over of swollen fortunes, which forebodes evil for the future of the people. What a man can actually earn in an ordinary life time, that is to say, what he gives to society value in return for, and one

of these modern get rich-quick fortunes, are entirely different. Insofar as a man creates wealth, he is a blessing to society; but when he, through superior knowledge, or tricks, transfers the wealth of his neighbor to himself and gives nothing in return therefor, he is a curse.

Mr. Harriman's salary as president of the Southern Pacific system, was probably, not more than \$100,000 per year. In ten years, provided that he did not spend money foolishly, for traveling expenses or for living, he would have just \$1,000,000. Possibly, he may have been president of a half-dozen other railways and drew salaries herefor. But the total of all these salaries could not amount to more than \$10,000,000. From whence did he obtain the other \$139,000,000?

Dealing on the stock exchange of New York, is regarded, by most people, as gambling. And it has, probably, ruined more people, both financially and morally, than can be justly charged against the card table. Gambling in stocks in New York and elsewhere with its attending high and fast living has ruined more men and women, body and soul, than can be charged up against any other one single agency. Yet, in Wall street, is where Mr. Harriman accumulated his enormous fortune. For \$139,000,000 of it, at least, he gave absolutely nothing in return. Every dollar of this amount was a loss and, perhaps, the ruin of thousands of other just as good men as Mr. Harriman.

But, it is said, Mr. Harriman knew the game and his judgement was superior to that of others. The same may be said of he who marks and gambles with cards. He knows the game. He knows when to bet. Mr. Harriman knew when to bet, or when to invest in or to sell a certain stock. He knew, for he was playing marked cards. He, through his agents, was manipulating the stocks, so that he knew before investing or betting a dollar what the outcome would be. By playing these marked cards, (manipulating stocks) he could either buy or sell at a profit. In either case he had the game cinched. There was not a possibility of his losing, no matter whether stocks went up or down, he was generally upon the winning side. His huge fortune is an evidence of this fact.

When a man absolutely produces wealth, either from the earth or by mechanical skill, he adds to the sum of human happiness and comfort. When he, through the manipulation of stocks (the marked cards of commerce) transfers wealth from the pockets of others to his own, he adds not a farthing of wealth to society, but does add to the sum of human woe and misery. What difference can it make to the man robbed, whether his money is taken from him by the gambler in stocks, the gambler with marked cards, the man who wrecks banks or the highwayman? In either instance he has been parted from his cash and can no longer control it. In either of the four forms of loss, the last is the most honorable to the loser. In either of the first three mentioned, the loser, in a manner, gives his consent. If he plays the stock game, he expects to rob others and gets robbed himself. At the card table, he matches his skill against that of his opponent or opponents and, of course, gets left. In the bank he deposits his money, believing because it is a bank, his money is safe. If his money is forcibly taken from on the highway, he is in no sense to blame. But in either case, the loss may involve suffering to himself, wife and children, the last of whom are not in the least to blame.

We have stringent laws against highway robbery and the bank wrecker. In most states gambling with cards is prohibited, but in no state is there a bar to gambling in stocks. Yet stock gambling is productive of more unhappiness and human woe in the world than the card table.

"Tainted" fortunes can be acquired on the stock exchange in New York or in the wheat pit in Chicago as well as in the oil fields or by unduly expanded prices because of the protective tariff.

Mr. Harriman accumulated a vast fortune and was, perhaps, the greatest railroad organizer of his time. We may admire his great comprehensive mind; Yet we look in vain for any actual good he contributed to society. Men have secured fortunes and gave in return therefor, something which will be beneficial to society for all time. Inventors, statesmen, eminent professional men pioneers in all fields of thought, all give something to society. The world is better because they have lived. Mr. Harriman secured an immense fortune. What did he give to society in exchange therefor. Wherein is the world better because he has lived? Is not the measure of his success a curse, rather than a blessing to society? Has he not been the cause of unhappiness, woe and misery, to society, rather than a blessing? Are not financiers of his class, a curse rather than a blessing to humanity?

Hickory Bark Cough Remedy, made by the Hickory Bark Remedy Co., of Salem, Ore., guaranteed to be pure; guaranteed to cure your cold or money refunded. Guaranteed to make a friend of you. For sale by E. C. Peery, Scio, Ore., and first-class dealers everywhere.

Christmas Dishware

Our shipment of Christmas dishware has just arrived. Call and see them.



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| Berry sets | Salad sets |
| Dinner sets | Water sets |
| Chamber sets | Berry dishes |
| Hand-painted platters | Bread and butters |
| Toothpick holders | After-dinner cups |
| Fancy saucers | Salt shakers |
| Fancy cups | Cake plates |
| Vases | Jardiniers |

Christmas Candies

Just received several hundred pounds direct from factory, insuring not only cheaper but fresher candy than at other dealers. New crop of walnuts and fine almonds are now in.

W. E. THOMAS & SON

Stayton, Oregon

Concerning the sugar scandals of New York, the New York Tribune prints a dispatch from its Washington correspondent stating that "it is taken for granted that democratic members will demand an investigation of practices at the port of New York, and in this purely political effort they will have the support of certain impetuous republicans who are not familiar with the facts." The Tribune's comment moves the New York World to say: "But what are the facts and who is familiar with them? It is certain that the Tribune does not know the facts or it would print them. Mr. Taft does not know the facts. Mr. Wickersham does not know the facts. Mr. MacVeagh does not know the facts. Mr. Wise does not know the facts. Mr. Stimson does not know the facts. Mr. Loeb does not know the facts. Federal grand juries have been digging into the facts for months, and nobody of more importance than a sugar trust superintendent has yet been indicted. Even if a grand jury obtained all the facts it could deal only with the offences not covered by the statute of limitations and only with persons against whom legal proof of actual criminal guilt had been found. The sugar trust scandal demands two lines of inquiry. There must be a vigorous criminal prosecution, and there must be complete publicity of the trust's relations to politics and government during all the years in which it has been debauching the public service. The criminal investigation belongs to the department of justice. The general investigation is work for congress. The conservative element in congress will presumably oppose the appointment of a committee, just as the conservative element at Albany opposed the appointment of an insurance investigation committee. Conservative sentiment is always on the side of entrenched abuses, no matter what they are. But Mr. Taft has to be reckoned with, and the World has no notion that he will be contented with anything less than full publicity through all the competent agencies of government. He knows that his administration is on trial before the country and that its sympathies will be judged largely by its attitude toward this sugar trust scandal. He knows that his administration has nothing to lose and very much to gain by a complete exposure of the corrupt partnership between the trust and organized politics. The more completely all the facts are dragged into light the stronger Mr. Taft will be before the country. It is not conceivable that he will surrender this issue to the democrats or allow his opponents to capitalize it against him. In the absence of proof to the contrary the World classes the president among those 'impetuous republicans who are not familiar with the facts' and will be satisfied with nothing less than the whole truth."—Bryan's Commoner.

Heavy Team Harness.

Now is the time to buy your team harness. I have a large stock of Heavy Harness on hand and will sell you any harness in the store at a ten per cent. discount. I also have a good stock of Horse Blankets, Plush Robes, Storm Aprons and Water Proof Harness covers which I will sell at a sacrifice. Don't forget that I have the best Harness Oil in the market and that now is the time to oil up your harness. Remember that I make all of my harness from the best oak tanned leather and that I guarantee every set to be first-class and our workmanship second to none. Come now! Don't wait! For these prices will not stand longer than until January 1, 1910.

W. W. WILLIAMS
SCIO, OREGON

The Righteous Man

Regardeth the life of his beast. Those who feed SECURITY Stock Food are fulfilling the scripture. This stock food is sold on a positive Cash Guarantee. Read the guarantee on every Package. Don't be misled by cheap advertising, SECURITY means what it says. Ask those who have used it.

E. C. PEERY, Sole Agent
SCIO, OREGON

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE

To all lands and town lots in Linn county made by men of wide experience and certified to by a responsible company. A company that has been established for eighteen years and is incorporated.

T. L. DUGGER

Notary Public

SCIO, ORE.

Linn County Abstract Co.
304 Broadalbin St. Albany, Ore.