

# The Santiam News

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## IS THE PEACEFUL REVOLUTION NOW ON?

Any person who honestly and unselfishly studies the trend of our government, cannot but conclude that the continuous conflict between the greed and selfishness of the moneyed aristocracy, which is now the ruling power of our country and the rights of the common people, must become, aye has become an issue and one which must be so decided that anxieties and forebodings of the people for the future shall be placed at rest. Thomas Jefferson, the greatest constructive statesman the world has produced said: "Men, by their constitutions are naturally divided into two parties: Those who fear and distrust the people, and wish to draw all power from them into the hands of the higher classes; and those who identify themselves with the people, have confidence in them, cherish them and consider them as the most honest and safe, although not the most wise depository of the public interest. In every country these two parties exist, and in every one where they are free to think, speak and write, they will declare themselves." It matters not what may be the names assigned to those parties, the principles are the same the world over and have existed since the recording of history began, and exist today. But, just in proportion as intelligence and education has advanced among men, has the influence of the first class named waned and that of the second class advanced. This thought is the inspiration which breeds reform and which causes men to press on towards the ideal in the administration of government.

In our own country, the power and dominance of wealth in the control of the policies of our government, have been supreme since civil war days; and the great struggle of the future, alluded to in the first paragraph of this article, will be the breaking away of these shackles.

Since and including the enactment of the first great financial measure by the thirty-eighth congress, Wall street has dictated and dominated nearly every law which has controlled the finances of our country. Since the enactment of the first distinctive protective tariff bill, after the close of the civil war, have the tariff beneficiaries dictated what the schedules of rates should be. In each instance, these men may be presumed to be experts in each particular field; yet, as they were formulating and dictating measures, of which themselves would be beneficiaries and, knowing the selfishness and greed of humanity in general, it is not unreasonable to suppose that these men had only their own interests in view when they dictated the finance and protective tariff laws. Being thus favored for a half century by congressional enactment, in the way of special favors and advantages, it is no wonder that these men have grown fabulously rich. And it is no wonder that these so-called "Masters of Finance and Industry," consider themselves to be especially fitted by nature and capability, to conduct the affairs of a great nation. And they are, too, if they would only divest themselves of selfishness and greed. Their training for two generations has developed an astonishing capability to manage men and affairs; but, at the same time, has been developed the selfishness and greed of their natures. It is just in this manner that hereditary monarchical families have been developed and perpetuated in European and Asiatic countries. When the American colonies revolted against the rule of King George III, a new principle of government was born into the world. That immortal document known as the "Declaration of Independence" proclaimed to the world that taxation without representation, was unjust and intolerable and the word "Patriotism" was given a new definition.

Following the successful revolutionary war and up to the civil war, the question of human slavery engrossed the principle attention of our government. Slavery had built up an aristocratic, aggressive ruling class in the South. They sought to dominate and rule the nation in their own interests. They built up a slave plutocracy which determined to rule or run the nation. The money plutocracy, of the present time, seems to be imbued with the same spirit and, let us hope, they meet with the same downfall.

In discussing the slavery question, Abraham Lincoln said "a nation half slave and half free cannot long endure." He reasoned that the nation would eventually become all slave or all free. The same statement might be made concerning the plutocratic money lords of today. Either our government will become a plutocracy in name as well as it now is in fact, or the laws which have built up and maintained plutocracy during the past fifty years, will be repealed. This is the conflict now upon us. We must depose Cannonism and Aldrichism from power and replace the places vacated

with men who will enact laws which will protect the interests of all the people.

There will be no attempt at confiscating the property of the predatory rich, nevertheless their fortunes have been accumulated in ways, scarcely less than robbery of the people. But the laws by which and through which they secured their ill gotten gains, will be repealed and in the end, the government will be divorced from Wall street. This is evidence that this peaceable revolution is, even, now on. The curtailing of Speaker Cannon's power and the prosecution of "graft" criminals in various places, is evidence that the day of a higher standard of citizenship and a higher regard of purity and justice by our courts is dawning.

It is the duty of every citizen to favor for office only men of known integrity and who will, in every case, stand for the execution of laws against the rich plutocratic malefactor as well as against the poorest and most obscure petty larceny thief. It is the duty of our courts to not permit unnecessary delays in the administration of justice, and to be even more severe upon the rich criminal than upon the poor man, whose necessities have often driven him to commit crime. It is the duty of the citizen, irrespective of party, to sustain the public official who does his duty without fear or favor, and condemn an official who is guilty of omission of duty or of malfeasance while a public official.

The people and the people only can bring about a peaceful revolution and the placing of the government upon a plane of justice and equality to all men. The people must, also, remember that the government can and will be of no higher standard of honesty and purity than is the standard of honesty and purity among the people. In the same ratio in which government is administered with justice and impartiality, will patriotism be restored in the hearts of the people.

## FOR AN OPEN RIVER

The initial meeting of what is hoped to become a permanent Open River Association, was held in Albany last Thursday afternoon and evening. The purpose of the association, as the name indicates, is for the purpose of agitating an all-the-year-round open Willamette river from Portland south as far as practicable, eventually to reach Eugene.

As is well known, the Willamette is navigable for but little more than one-half the year, when, if obstructive gravel bars were removed and the water confined to a narrower channel, there is plenty of water for boating all the year. Owing to the present condition of the river, steamboat men can scarcely maintain a boat service for one-half the year and tie their boats up or operate at a loss for the rest of the year. For this reason steamboat owners care but little for the up-river run, nor can they afford to maintain a boat service sufficiently satisfactory to the people to draw a freighting trade. So far as a passenger traffic is concerned, it is a thing of the past. Business men, in these days of rapid business and rapid transit, cannot afford to spend the time required for a trip to Portland, when it can be made on the railroad in less than one-half the time.

But as a freight regulator an all-the-year-round boat service would be of immense value to the people of the Willamette valley. Freight charges would not be more than one-half what is now paid via the S. P. But for the boats to maintain themselves, they must have business and this cannot be obtained if the service is irregular. One of the pressing and leading features of the Open River Association is the pressing upon congress the free locks at Oregon City. This of itself would reduce freight rates 50 cents per ton upon all the Valley freights; for this sum is the lockage charges and is added to freight carried by the railroad as well as that carried by boat. But the full value of free locks would not be realized if the other obstructions in the river are not removed. Hence, the importance of agitating the improvement of the river to the head of navigation which, when the water is at a reasonably high medium stage, is now Eugene.

The Federal government spends money, in large quantities, upon the rivers of the Eastern and middle Western states; yet steamboating upon those rivers, as compared to what it was fifty years ago, is hardly worth mentioning. But the rivers serve as a freight regulator, the same as it will do on the Willamette, when it becomes an open river the year round.

If boats could run the year round even as far south as Corvallis, they could build up a profitable traffic and the saving of the lockage, would create a profitable river service.

Albany is to be congratulated in initiating an association which, if maintained with the same earnest enthusiasm as was manifested at this initial meeting, is sure to be successful in the end. Albany is, also, to be congratulated for the hospitable reception given visiting delegates and for the decoration of the streets and business houses.

When at the Open River meeting at Albany, last week, one could frequently hear "Johnathan is making good" uttered by men who were probably, his enthusiastic friends. By the work of Senators Bourne and Chamberlain the river and harbor bill, as it came from the House, was amended to include an appropriation of \$300,000 for the establishment of free lockage at Oregon City. If Congressmen Hawley and Ellis have influence in the House sufficient to have the amendment ratified, they will do much to repair their mistake in not having the appropriation included in the original bill. Should they fail to have the amendment ratified, they will both be apt to hear something "drap," next fall.

Theodore Roosevelt, in the eyes of the old world and, also, in the eyes of a majority of the people of the United States, is a very "big" man. The enthusiastic receptions, which is being given him by the crowned heads of Europe, is evidence that his influence is sufficiently great as to be felt by these foreign peoples. It is not because he is a citizen of the most powerful government in the world, but because he represents liberty and equality among men, as but few rulers of the world have manifested. And the populace, of the foreign peoples, seem to be the groundwork or basic cause of his astonishing popularity, over there.

When Teddy comes marching home there is "a hot time in old time" due. Sure the reception given by the Cannon-Aldrich crowd will not be very enthusiastic, to say the least.

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### Notice of Final Settlement

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned administrator of the estate of George B. Huber, deceased, has filed his final account in said estate in the county court of the State of Oregon for Linn county, and that said court has set Monday the 25th day of April, A. D. 1910 at the hour of 1 o'clock p. m. of said day at the County Court room in the City of Albany, Linn County, Oregon as the time and place of hearing any objections thereto and the settlement thereof.

JACOB HUBER

Administrator of the estate of George B. Huber deceased  
W. H. Queener,  
Atty. for administrator.

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