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THE INCAPACITY OF THE STATE

BOARD OF TRADE TO HANDLE

THE WORLD'S FAIR MATTER.

The following is taken from the

proceedings of the State Board of

Trade, when in session at Portland,

as reported in the Oregonian of

Nov. 12:

Editor Jackson suggested that the

governor name one commissioner,

his secretary of the state another,

the legislature one and the Portland

Chamber of Commerce the fourth.

He thought this would pacify the

governor and probably induce him

to appoint another Mr. Wilkins.

[Laughter.]

President Osborn thought it

would jeopardize the prospects of

the bill to put it in the names of

commissioners. He thought the

suggestion of Mr. Jackson a very

good one. After inquiring if Gov-

ernor Penneyer was present, he

asserted that he thought the gov-

ernor was a crank, still he believed

him to be honest.

"Most cranks are," put in Editor

Bailek. His sally made everybody

laugh.

President Osborn went on to say

that unless this was done the gov-

ernor might appoint a pure poli-

tician.

"I don't think the governor can

appoint a pure politician," suggested

Editor Jackson, and there was an-

other laugh.

The State Board of Trade gen-

tleman brand themselves as too nar-

rowly and bigoted to assume to act

intelligently for the masses in such

a matter as preparing the people and

securing from the state an appropria-

tion of \$250,000 for an Oregon ex-

hibit at the World's Fair. The

gentlemen should remember that it

will be almost as necessary to secure

this appropriation from the governor

as from the legislature, and while the

governor has not been an enterpris-

ing in the World's Fair business as

some would wish, he is still en-

titled to be treated with respect.

The Oregon exhibit at the World's

Fair should be an exhibit by and

for and of the whole people, and

not from any one political party, or

section, or class. The offer of

superior intelligence to direct this

matter, even at the hands of such

enterprising persons as President

Osborne of the State Board of Trade

or of Mr. Allen with his fine artistic

tastes, cannot be accepted when

coupled with a slur at the chief

executive which could do other

wise than arouse his critical hos-

tility to such management. The

State Board of Trade manipulators

have not shown good sense or broad

views in this matter and have hurt

the prospects of a large appropria-

tion to be expended under their

direction.

The State Press committee on the

World's Fair exhibit took far

broader grounds. Hon. Harvey

Scott, who has expressed as little

political admiration for Governor

Penneyer as any man in Oregon,

still respects him as the chief ex-

ecutive of nearly four hundred thou-

sand people, and is not afraid to trust

his excellency in appointing commis-

sioners. From the report of the

Press proceedings in the same paper

the following:

Mr. Scott said he would probably

not agree with Governor Penneyer,

but he had been elected governor by

a large majority and hence the peo-

ple of Oregon evidently want him

and he should serve the people by

making those appointments, and he

would certainly take a pride in them.

Governor Penneyer better under-

stand now the importance of the

World's Fair. He believed efficient

men would thus be appointed. He

would naturally take counsel from

all parts of the state to secure the

best results. He said he had no

particular objection to the county

courts making appointments.

This is a far more considerate tone,

and shows that a journalist at least

has broad views, and knows the

courtesy due to a man in an official

condition as representative of the

people.

Dr. Minthorn of the Oregon Land

Co., could not attend as delegate to

the State board of trade, but had

been there would have advocated

holding a mass meeting in each

county to select delegates, on a basis

of population, to a State World's

Fair convention, thus bringing the

whole movement back to the people

themselves. Such a World's Fair

organization would be more apt to

succeed and avoid hostilities, than

one managed by a few Portland

gentlemen who have not even the

discretion to be courteous or respect-

ful.

Readers can draw their conclu-

sions. In addition to a great public

fatality, there is attempted a greater

public imposition. While people

can be made to read such stuff, they

cannot be made to believe in it, nor

can they be made to think crookedly

and corruptly. The JOURNAL is

not conducting a fight against the

railroad company nor against the

Oregonian. It is making a fight for

the facts.

The public have greater rights in

this matter than a corporation that

has won an unenviable reputation

for its reckless defiance of public

safety and public opinion. If this

were the first or the only rotten

bridge on its line it would be differ-

ent. If it pleased poverty or inability

to keep its tracks or bridges in

order it would be different. But

there is growing a general belief

that its management is as unrel-

iable, unsafe and rotten as some of

its bridges. It now offers the peo-

and condutors. In the mind of this

general public remains the ineradic-

able impression that the whole

structure that went down was as

rotten and unsafe as a trestle well

could be and stand under any traffic

at all. It was a thoroughly rotten,

damnable concern from end to end.

It was regarded unsafe by the train

operatives, as could be proven by a

thorough investigation. It was

known to the community around

that it was a death-trap. The farm-

ers knew it for miles about and

were not surprised at the result.

Citizens of Salem young and old,

even the school children, knew its

general reputation. It was publicly

branded a pitfall.

The public interests demands fair-

ness to corporations in such cases.

It also demands that their man-

agers be not shielded and encour-

aged in such criminal negligence.

To them a few, or a dozen, or a hun-

ded lives are as nothing. It is

altogether too much, to ask that the

Southern Pacific be allowed in this

case to press its own theories, entire-

ly regardless of public welfare in

future.

The bridge was not sound. The

bridge was rotten and unsafe, the

Oregonian's conversion, and Mr.

Gronbahl to the contrary. The

sudden change of the Portland

paper is remarkable. The day af-

ter the wreck, Nov. 14, it said edi-

torially:

"If the railway management

have neglected to provide for such

thorough inspection of the trestle as

was necessary to prove its strength

beyond a doubt for its burden, then

the management have been guilty of

horribly criminal negligence. If

the necessary inspection was made,

and any warning of instability found

and reported, but not heeded, then

the management are morally re-

sponsible for the death of those who

perished through official procrastina-

tion, recklessness or neglect.

Evidence is multiplying, that, in

spite of what they all say now, the

trainmen generally, and the track

officials and managers knew from

the inspection records that this

bridge was not safe and sound.

The Oregonian said, Nov. 14:

The whole question of cause turns

upon the condition of the trestle and

the reason for its breaking. The

train seems not to have been run-

ning at a high rate of speed. Evi-

dence of this is the fact that it did

not leave the track and fall into the

ravine. On the other hand, the

train broke under the engine. The

engine fell through and the

cars suddenly stopped jammed

up against each other. The only

question is, why did the trestle

break?

The Oregonian arrays the facts

about the bridge thus:

The bridge was an old one, though

it is said to have been repaired with-

in two years. Testimony on this

point and bearing on the strictness

of the inspection and tests to which

it had been subjected is scanty and

inconclusive. On the other hand,

evidence of persons living in the

neighborhood as to the unsafe ap-

pearance of the trestle, owing to the

absence of nuts and braces, and its

oscillations under the weight of

trains, is direct and positive. The

trestle was subjected to an unusual

strain. Unless it can be proved