

**THE CAPITAL JOURNAL.**  
 PUBLISHED DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY,  
 BY THE  
 Capital Journal Publishing Company  
 Postoffice Block, Commercial Street.  
 HOFER BROTHERS, - - - Editors.  
 Daily, by carrier, per month, \$1.50  
 Daily, by mail, per year, 15.00  
 Weekly, 5 pages, per year, 1.50  
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1894.

**THE SCHOOL TEXT BOOK TRUST.**

Under the head of "Ignorant Journalism," the Portland Chronicle says: "THE CAPITAL JOURNAL of Salem, an intermittent sheet of doubtful language and more doubtful intelligence, has spent its force in discussion of the text book question, and through its columns open to the learned gingers of Marion county that further light may be reflected upon the subject. A communication in its pages of Tuesday last from a fertile brain resident of Jefferson, unveils the intelligence that Oregon is making the grandest mistake of modern times by not compiling and publishing its own text books.

"This erudite citizen so carefully brushes aside the great educators of the age as being no better, possibly not as good in his estimation, or so well qualified to impart instruction to the learner, as hundreds of local educators whose brains might evolve text books of superior merit and lesser cost to the tax payers. To the granger-populist all things are simple, even the workings of the Creator. Governments are primer studies to him. And the matter of stealing the copyright of text books and publishing them here for the sake of keeping the business in the state, would have no terrors for him. The puerile attempts of incompetent journals to discuss subjects of which they have no understanding is too ridiculous and absurd to excite more than passing notice. With the return of cooler weather the JOURNAL's editor will again be at the helm with text book in hand."

We do not know the person who edits the Portland Chronicle. It is a little weekly paper printed at East Portland and generally understood to be one of those prostitute newspapers that are for hire to anybody who wants to use their columns for any dirty or selfish purposes or to rob the public under guise of legislation.

There are such newspapers in the state and, of course, the whole pack will be yelping in the interest of the school book trust. But they will not deter THE JOURNAL from doing its duty. THE JOURNAL will in a few days print the law passed by the last legislature by which it is now sought to force a change of text books and fasten the high priced books upon the necks of the people of this state for six years to come. No one asked for that law. No one is asking for a change in text books. All intelligent educators, who are not "in the trust" are against it. There is no evidence that it would give us better books or cheaper books. It is certain that it would compel a change in many text books with which families are now already supplied and fix prices for six years at present trust rates. It is an attempted outrage at a bad time, when it should not succeed. We propose to show the influences that crowded the bill through the legislature at the last session. The whole proceeding should be struck down. A state superintendent of schools going out of office has no right to ram such a thing down the throats of four hundred thousand people when the mere thought of having to buy an equipment of new and different text books for a family will bring tears to the eyes of thousands of fathers and mothers and drive thousands of children from attending public school. The editor of the East Portland Chronicle is probably some ex-school official about to retire from office and seeking a job at the hands of the school book trust.

**WOMEN AND THE BALLOT.**

[Commented.]  
 Going about the country recently in the interest of one of our leading political newspapers—namely the CAPITAL JOURNAL—we had an excellent opportunity to weigh the intellect of our country sisters.

"Newspaper" they say against, "why, what on earth should we do with another paper? We are taking 'Comfort,' 'Happy Hours,' 'Golden Moments' and the 'Frisco Companion' and if we took another paper we shouldn't have time to read it." "But," we argue "this paper is an altogether different style of reading and one that most necessarily prove refreshing after so much 'trash' we were going to say but softened it into light reading.

"One gets all the news of the world at large, beside the political questions of the day are ably discussed, and our good newspaper read carefully will furnish one food for thought much longer than the idle tales of 'Comfort,' don't you think so?" "Well, I'd tell you how that is: Women can't vote in Oregon, and according to my notion it wouldn't do much good to fool away time reading politics"—is the answer that is invariably made. "But wouldn't you like to vote?" we ask, "well I don't know but I should: But husband says that women don't know enough to vote, and I reckon he's about right," "perhaps so," we assent mentally, but only say, "Haven't you just said that you took no interest in politics because you couldn't vote; and now that you don't care to vote because you don't know anything about politics?"

Now I believe that the women of Oregon can have the ballot at what time they choose—but they must work for it.

The "Lords of Creation" (?) are right when they say women don't know enough to vote—that is so long as they restrict the observation to politics (for of course no one in this advanced day would have the presumption to say that woman's intellect is not equal to man's) Oh, that the motto hung within every household might be not "God Bless our Homes," but "First deserve and then desire!" what a wonderful transformation would be wrought! when I heard my sisters of the "White Ribbon Army" at the recent convention in Salem making out their committee to petition the Legislature for Suffrage, I said, never, till the women of Oregon are ready for the ballot shall they have it, if I can prevent it. The argument is invariably brought up that there are many men too ignorant to vote, and taken as a class, why should not women be granted the same privilege? Ah! there's what we are getting at. There are men today, hundreds of them, who fail to understand the first principles of political economy who haven't the faintest conception of the vast importance of one single vote, who go on from year to year polling a vote that is slowly and surely building a barrier between them and their best interests; and why should a lot of women of the same stripe be turned loose to increase the evil? True, there are enough of intellectual women to offset their less brilliant sisters, and right there is where their work lies. The great work of sharpening wit that are dull from disease, and if the good W. C. T. U. sisters want to exercise their persuasive powers at petitioning, let them labor and pray and plead that this terrible evil of ignorance be abolished from our land; to petition that no man be permitted to cast a vote without first answering those questions that prove his knowledge of our government's inner workings.

In this day ignorance should be rightly considered a stigma of disgrace. Women suffer equally with men from poor laws, and if I didn't care about politics, I should be ashamed to admit it! But he who allows himself to be a worm, must expect to be trodden upon, and it is by our own efforts that we must arise up and out of this worm condition, and primarily in the reform we must attack the venomous literature that at this present moment is flooding the country. Once a year I believe it is they have a sort of Post-office house cleaning when all the unclaimed papers of the years accumulation are sold or destroyed.

Recently I had the pleasure of looking over a stock of this kind and I was horrified, yes, actually horrified at the reading matter that makes "home happy," "Comfort," "Happy Hours," "Companions" and "Visitors" of different kinds were all there and those dozens of other worthless little "story papers" that are worse to my mind than the "Police News", and the "Gazette" that have been forbidden the use of the post office. Ah sisters! to arms against things that are making us weak, foolish and visionary.

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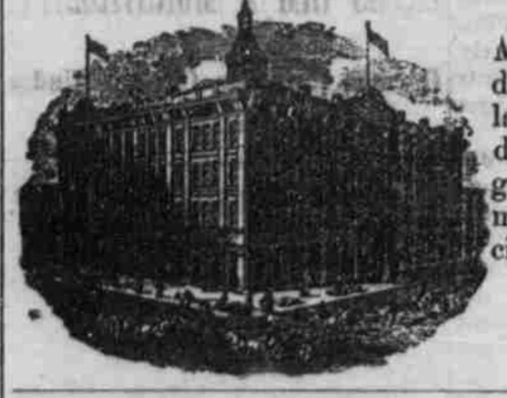
Mrs. S. E. Welch, of Lynn, Mass., whose portrait appears above, writes as follows:

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