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BY HOFER BROTHERS.

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## EDITORIAL

### THE INDUSTRIAL OUTLOOK AT SALEM.

The extension of industries that employ labor is of the utmost importance to any community. The field for such enterprise is still very large at Salem.

The two industries that employ most labor are hops and fruit. The outlook for hops for this year is good. The price is an advance on last year.

Fruit growing has a better prospect than ever before. Growers are better organized. Transporters are more awake to the necessity of making markets.

The Salem fruit grower's union has a good prospect of making a reputation for our small fruit that will prove a gold mine. Increased acreage of strawberries is being put out.

The flax industry is bound to come to the fore in time on account of climatic conditions making it possible to grow the fibre equal to the best in the world.

The building trades present a favorable outlook. Both public and private building will be carried on quite extensively. There is a good field at Salem for another sawmill plant.

The new law requiring a cash road tax will give employment to labor. With two or three hundred dollars in money expended judiciously where it is needed will produce better results than much more the o'd way.

If the people of this city would expend half a million dollars on the construction of some first-class boulevards they would be benefitting themselves. That would make a red letter year for this city.

The formation of improvement leagues, that would agree to improve certain districts of the city with a view to good effect upon the whole, would inaugurate a new era.

While the outlook is favorable from the standpoint of the employment of labor Salem people need to be aroused to the necessity of making this more of a city and less of a cow pasture.

### AGRICULTURE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The grange is leading off in advocating teaching of agriculture in the public schools.

The average boy and girl turned out of public school and other schools has more wants to gratify and more needs to satisfy and more desires to ratify than he has ability to meet all the rest of his natural life.

He has ability to use tobacco, or she has a taste for bonbons and perfumed chewchews. Above all they want an easy position at a salary. That is not the fault of the schools but of a defective system of society.

Next to producing divorces modern society produces a divorce from labor, or the idea of ever earning money by honest labor. Where are the boys learning to be stone cutters, brick layers, plasterers, blacksmiths?

The grange turns to agriculture. A boy that could plow or harrow or cultivate well would always be sure of employment. If he could plant and raise a crop and not wear out the land he would be worth something.

If a boy or girl could plant a path of strawberries and tend it intelligently or raise a flock of geese or turkeys, or know how to graft an apple tree, or make a good garden, it would be something this side of the poor farm.

So the grange idea is all right. It leads to labor. There is salvation in labor and little without it. Johnny gets out of school and begins hanging around and running the streets with Jennie.

They get married and then there are little tow-heads to care for. But to produce anything to feed, clothe or educate these tow-heads of theirs is another question. They have learned no trade. They can't run a cow, make a garden, or do anything but consume, and must have a job. Who is to furnish employment for all the educated people whose education has not made them producers and has taught them not to labor?

### COUNTY TAXES AND STATE TAXES.

While Marion county is down pretty close to the $10,000 mark on county expenses for the past year, Clackamas county is up to the $70,000 mark.

These figures are to be the basis of the state tax levy for these two counties for the next five years. Marion's percentage of the state tax, as compared to Clackamas, will be as 40 to 70.

Marion county has had a reasonable economical business administration while Clackamas has been run on the old political boodle you-tickle-me-I-tickle-you push plan. The people pay the difference.

It is useless to tell the people of Clackamas county that push bosses like the Hon. Geo. C. Brownell, who is one of he best fellows in the world, as the b'hoys say, cost them dearly and cost the whole state.

Their county is poorer than Marion, its people are poorer, it ought not to cost as much to run their county as it does Marion. But alas, the low standards of her politicians, the bad education and vicious policy of her politicians are saddling old Clackamas with more than her share.

But they will not heed the argument of facts, which is against boodle methods. They will listen to the siren voice of the windbag orator as he waves the old flag all gory with glory, rallies the common people and leads them on to victory against the oppressors and corporations.

### THE PORTLAND SAVINGS BANK FRAUDS.

This state has no law to protect the people against wildcat banking. The old Yellow-dog currency of the state banks before the war of the rebellion was not more iniquitious than some of our banking practices.

The Portland Savings bank that went busted some six years ago has just been dragged to a conclusion in the courts through a receivership. Of course there was nothing in that for anybody but the gang that worked it. They got fat salaries and all that they did was according to law.

Who ever heard of a court disallowing anything a receiver did in a busted Oregon bank case? It is preposterous. A receiver is divine. He is infallible. He cannot err, not even in computing his own pay.

Out of the millions in that bank at Portland, a paltry, wretched $2000 is accounted for. The late D. P. Thompson was a stockholder and director. Other rich men were interested.

The operations of such a bank, or rather such a state banking system, which is nothing but a permit to rob, never hurts the rich. They come off whole. The poor and the industrious are the victims.

But the receivership garnishes with the respectability of legal procedure what is in itself highway robbery in the name of a necessary public service—banking.

The many poor people who lost their all in the collapsed Portland bank have long since been forgotten. The roll of honor of the institution is composed of the bank wreckers, their beneficiaries, the lawyers, the receivers, the whole coterie of participants in the fraud.

What a mockery is this so-called receivership procedure. What honest man but revolts at that way of winding up the assets of a once noble, substantial and respectable business. A person had better be folded up in the coils of a boa constrictor. His disappearance would be at least honorable and could be honestly explained.

This state needs a decent state banking law.

### THE ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING.

It occurs next Monday. The annual report will be read. Somebody will move that the report be adopted and the tax called for be levied. That is done and then there is a hurried adjournment.

The Salem school tax is a great deal higher than in Portland, and as the schools in this city only teach the Ninth grade in one school, while Portland teaches that and has a high school. Why is this?

Is it not time the record was broken and the school meeting did not adjourn in silence? Where is the influence to come from to give better schools and lower taxes, if not from the people?

It does not seem to come from any other source and it is time the people took a hand. All voters at the school election have a right to go to the annual school meeting and so has any citizen.

In several of our schools the attendance has run down in the higher grades until the principals are teaching but a few children. It is said the people are too poor to send them after they up to a certain age.

There is little use keeping principals at big salaries unless these higher grades are to be taught in all four large schools of the city. Only a part of the people can afford to send their boys and girls to the East school to take even the ninth grade.

A Salem Methodist minister in a paper in THE JOURNAL said he was opposed to any grade above the ninth being taught in the public schools. He may be right but other American communities do not concur with him.

But we must either have a lower tax or some one must give a fairly intelligent reason why higher grades are taught in all the cities and many of the towns of the state. Come, let us reason together.

THE JOURNAL urges all the people to turn out to the meeting of taxpayers next Monday evening. The public school is our one Democratic institution. It stands for equal privileges for all—the poorest and the richest.

### PROSPECTS OF ORANGE CROP.

In spite of a sandstorm in Southern California there will be 20,000 cars of fruit shipped from the orange belt, and the prices will be better than the quality.

The crop this year is expected to fall four thousand cars short of last year. Present shipments are about 90 carloads a day. The fruit averages smaller than last year.

Frost has not damaged the crop up to the present but the summer crop of lemons is expected to be short. There will be larger shipments of vegetables from southern California than ever before.

The problem of distributing fresh fruits and vegetables is one that is of great importance to the people, as consumption is only limited to the means of rapid and general distribution.

The masses of the people in this country—the United States—consume more fresh fruit than in any other country. The health of the people is promoted by consumption of fresh fruit.

### THE OPENING OF THE COLUMBIA

Hollon Parker of The Dalles asks us to boom the opening of the Columbia and send marked copies of the paper to Senator Mitchell and Senator Turner on behalf of the oppressed farmers of the inland empire.

We shall do so but do not want to be a party to deceiving the oppressed farmers into believing that the Columbia will be opened while anyone now living is alive.

Senator Mitchell has been whooping things up for the oppressed farmer for twenty years and so have the rest of the politicians. But they are nearer stripped of their belongings than ever before.

In 1895 this writer favored a bill for the inland farmers on behalf of a Portage road at The Dalles, that would haul their grain around for actual cost. It got five votes.

In the meantime the politicans of the state have taxed the inland farmer enough for scalp bounties to have paid for that portage road, and the inland farmer elects such statesmen and goes wild for Mitchell.

Before Mitchell and Turner ever get to Washington they have used up enough free passes on themselves, their families and friends to mortgage them to the transportation syndicates for life.

It costs several hundred dollars to travel with your family in a luxurious palace car from Oregon to Washington The people pay these senators big salaries, pay them mileage, and then they take "courtesies."

Is this fair? Is it honest? They all do it. Does that make it just?

Shall this farce ever end this side of state socialism or anarchy? That might be worse. But talk about saving the oppressed farmer?

Long-suffering Moses, look down from Mt. Hebo and lead thy children once more out of the wilderness. Yes, Mr. Hollon Parker, thy wish shall be gratified. We'll send Mitchell and Turner marked copies on behalf of the oppressed farmers and "others" of the inland empire.

But we might as well place strawberries before a wooden jackass, so far as the farmer is concerned. He is worked to a dead finish in the game of politics.

He's easy. The slot machine victim is a financial genius compared to him on election day. He is duped by the trusts and their confidence men and will be for some time to come.

### THE BATTLE OF THE PEOPLE.

The battle to infuse business methods into our state administration must be fought out by the disinterested citizenship of Oregon if it is to be won.

The politicians, those holding offices, the hangers-on of the legislature, those who go to the legislature to promote personal schemes and get offices or grafts, cannot be trusted to favor any business reform.

A business administration of the city of Salem shows for three years constantly increasing revenues and constantly decreasing expenditures. The same program backed by the same class of officials can do the same in our state affairs.

But the managers of politics and political combines cannot be trusted to carry into effect such policies. There is no boodle in them. They do not want to hold office and render service on a business basis.

THE JOURNAL is backed in this fight to enforce a business program in state affairs by many prominent and active Republicans, many of the newspapers of the state and some of our present state officials.

But unless the facts can be placed persistently before the great mass of the people no great reformation can be produced. For six weeks THE JOURNAL has given a page of its daily, a page of its weekly and a page of its special edition to this cause.

The paper has been sent as sample copies to lists of prominent citizens and taxpayers in all parts of the state, so that probably ten thousand a week have been reached. But it should go to fifty thousand.

Every copy printed should go from hand to hand and every taxpayer who has enough interest in our state to want to see it governed cheaply and honestly and who is honest enough to want to put an end to extravagance and corruption should labor to carry this program into effect.


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