

Editorial Page of The Daily Journal

By HOFER BROTHERS.



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Entered at the postoffice at Salem, Oregon as second-class matter.

Weather—For today and tomorrow, take a guess.

DEATH OF AN ILLUSTRIOUS DEMOCRAT.

Ill at the theater Friday night, dead under ether Tuesday afternoon.
Thus is chronicled the swift passing away of W. C. Whitney, of New
York.

The ex-Secretary of the Navy under President Cleveland was descend-
ed from the old and illustrious Massachusetts family of Whitneys.

His greatest work was beginning the construction of our present
navy. He laid the foundation of the armament at sea that made victory
over Spain easily possible.

Whitney was a man of great wealth and position, and yet a man of
the people. He was loyal and warm-hearted in his politics, a lover of
sports. A MAN WHO WOULD FIGHT FOR A FRIEND, AND WHO
HAD NO ENEMIES.

To show his warm impulsive nature, only a few days before his last
illness he was in a town in his native state; a fire broke out nearby,
and Whitney personally took a hand in extinguishing the flames.

He encouraged, organized and led the firemen as coolly and as surely
as he led the Democratic hosts to victory in two presidential cam-
paigns.

OREGON'S GOVERNOR WAS FIRST.

Now that Democratic senators are swinging into line for the Panama
canal treaty, it should be recalled that Governor Chamberlain was the
first to take that patriotic stand.

The next day after Roosevelt declared for the recognition of the
Panama republic the doughty Democratic Governor of Oregon flatly
said Roosevelt was right.

The Journal is pleased to see one after another of the intelligent and
influential Democrats in the national congress endorse his position.

There was never a great national crisis that progressive Democrats
could not be found to take a stand for right even if it was against
party.

A DIRECT PRIMARY THAT IS RIGHT.

The framing of a direct primary nomination law that is right is a
very important matter to the people.

The U'Ren-Woods bill that is to be submitted by the initiative is
not right. It has serious and grave defects, that will cause its rejec-
tion.

But its submission and agitation will develop sentiment for direct
nomination even if this bill is defeated.

A bill that proposes to abolish political corruptions is chimerical, be-
cause conventions were a step toward popular rights.

A direct primary bill that is right will not take away any existing
privileges or abridge the rights of individuals or parties.

The Oregonian cites direct nomination as adopted by the Republi-
cans at the Salem city election.

That direct primary was conducted at the expense of the aspirants
for nomination—not at the expense of the taxpayers.

The U'Ren-Woods direct primary is to be at public expense. It would
virtually be holding another election at the expense of the already over-
burdened taxpayer.

Give the people direct nomination of the county ticket at expense of
those seeking nominations and do not abolish conventions.

BREAK THE POWER OF THE CORRUPTED, LOGROLLING CONV-
ENTION by giving the people a direct vote, step by step.

Then the corruptious will be confined to their legitimate sphere of
declaring the expressed will of the people, filling vacancies on the
ticket, making platforms, and maintaining party organizations.

ANY INTERFERENCE WITH THESE FUNCTIONS OF A PARTY
CONVENTION WILL DEFEAT DIRECT NOMINATION.

A SUGGESTION IN GOOD FAITH.

The statement is published that the Gilbert Bros. bank assets may pay
out about forty percent. So far the creditors have received twenty
per cent.

It is not known how much the depositors will lose, but there is little
doubt that the entire loss to the depositors will aggregate fifty thousand
dollars.

One Salem banker distinguished himself by taking up and paying the
deposits of the public school children in full. That was a good ad-
vertisement for the banker, a good thing for the town and the children
were taught honesty.

Would it not be a good thing for the other bankers to pay the adult
depositors in full? The Journal makes the suggestion in good faith,
and under all the circumstances it would look well and make everybody
feel good.

A banker who is estimated to be worth several millions, who has
made it all out of the community and who cannot take his wealth with
him when he dies, would teach the adults a lesson in honesty, if he
made good the losses sustained by innocent depositors in a neighbor
bank.

It would be a graceful act and an expression of good will towards a
community of people who have all contributed to his enormous wealth
and he would never feel the loss.

Of course, he could accomplish some good by donating the sum to the
community in the form of a fine park or public library, but the other
plan would be much more just and satisfactory to the depositors of
Gilbert Bros.

It must be recalled that the high federal court declared that the Gil-
bert Bros. bank was not insolvent. This other Salem banker doubtless
could have all the assets of Gilbert Bros. turned over to him by the
receiver agreeing to pay the depositors in full.

Judge Bellinger virtually held that there were sufficient assets to pay
all the depositors in full.

Such a high court, after a full investigation, could not make so great
an error as to not come within fifty per cent of guessing the true state
of the bank's affairs.

The assets cannot have shrunken sixty per cent. They have not been

eaten up by the receivership and attorney's fees.

Why not silence all disagreeable inquiries by a generous act of good
business faith that would be understood and appreciated by the depos-
itors and the public as well, and conclude an episode in the history of
Greater Salem that would be highly creditable?

NO ROOM FOR DEPRESSION.

In spite of the usual forecasts of depression in a presidential elec-
tion year, the sag in prosperity does not materialize.

An energetic, aggressive President like Roosevelt has much to do
with this bracing condition of things. Under a weaker administration
it might become possible.

Stocks are advancing, the produce market is stiffening, wheat is go-
ing to the dollar mark, and all trade is holding up bravely.

There is no financial issue involved in this campaign, although there
may be before the year is up. Our financial system is not perfect and
the Secretary of the Treasury is not considered a strong man.

There should be no ripping up of the industries over the tariff ques-
tion. Let well enough alone. Our exports are not falling off.

Barring an unexpected financial collapse, and the improvement of the
iron trade almost precludes that, there is a bright business prospect
ahead of this nation for 1904.

BUILD A PERMANENT ROAD.

The committee in charge of the South Salem street improvement
should consider nothing but a permanent street improvement.

A roadway honestly constructed of proper material should be good for
fifty years, if cared for properly.

The supply of broken rock is inexhaustible south of the city. The
supply of clay is inexhaustible for making brick roadways.

There is no excuse for spending any more public money on dirt roads
or rotten gravel roads. Give us broken rock or brick.

FOR HARMONY AND JUSTICE.

It is gravely announced that Senator Brownell was in town the other
day "and nobody had a fit." And it was remarkable. Such a thing
couldn't have happened in the days when "Brownell, Kuykendall and
Co." were about the worst ever.—Salem Statesman.

Our readers will permit us to suggest that there are few things as
laudable as promoting harmony and doing justice to political opponents.
The Journal will confess it has not always had the highest admira-
tion for Senator Brownell and Kuykendall. But why not at times admit
your were mistaken in your estimate of a public man? Others have been
mistaken in us and we presume the same has been true with Editor
Geer.

But why not try to see some good even in Senator Brownell or Geer?
A review of the former's legislative record compels us to revise some
of our severe condemnations of him as a politician.

And we are not so small but that we confess to a real pleasure in
having to raise our estimation of a public man.

He is entitled to credit for the passage of his bill to exempt from at-
tachment thirty days' wages of workmen.

He fought through the senate the initiative and referendum amend-
ment.

He unearthed the \$32,000 school land defalcation.
He championed the direct primary bill at the last session and will do
it again.

The editor of the Statesman has been in the legislature and was
speaker, but has he any such achievements to his credit as a legislator?
In our humble way we shall do all in our power to harmonize the Re-
publican party in this Presidential year. We are also not above doing
justice to those we may formerly have differed from politically.

\$24,000,000 FOR WAGON ROADS.

There is pending in congress a bill called the Brownlow bill, intro-
duced by Hon. Walter P. Brownlow, of Tennessee, which appropriates \$24,-
000,000 as national aid for the building of wagon roads. This sum is to be
available at the rate of \$8,000,000 a year; is to be divided according to
the population of the different states, but no state is to receive less than
\$250,000. Every state receiving national aid must appropriate and spend
a like amount.

The asserted growth of sentiment in favor of the measure has been
chiefly due to the situation and extension of the rural free mail delivery
system, which has brought the disadvantage of poor roads home to the
farmers and other country dwellers. Applications for the extension of
the free rural delivery system are being refused by the postoffice au-
thorities on account of the roads, and the disappointed communities de-
mand their improvement. These demands are so in excess of the liability
of the local boards to respond to that for a year past Highway Commis-
sions all over the country have been putting themselves on record in
favor of national aid.

It is claimed on behalf of the bill that the plan of distribution is more
equitable than the distribution of some \$32,500,000 a year under the
rivers and harbor bill, which goes principally to the seaboard states and
to the Mississippi delta.

In support of the Brownlow bill, as a general measure, attention is
called to the fact that France has 23,603 miles of wagon road, which are
built and maintained by the nation, and Italy about 5000 miles, while
many of the states of the Union spend hundreds of thousands of dollars
annually in aid of highway improvement.

JOURNAL X-RADIUMS

A Willamette valley duck hunter, who has always enjoyed gunning af-
ter ducks in the winter, figures out that all the ducks he has captured
this year cost him \$8.00 each.

What is the matter with a motor line to Eola?

We repeat for the benefit of another subscriber that the Baker Stock
Company is not a part of the Kansas City fine stock show, nor a part of
The Dallas Mohair and Merino exhibition. It is a theatrical company.

"A big team—Abraham Lincoln and Jo-Jo and I," says an esteemed
contemporary.

Japan continues coolly to prepare for action. After awhile Japan will
get ready to strike, and will strike hard.

Politicians do not want Roosevelt half as badly as they want success.

A club at Pendleton put in an evening studying Elbert Hubbard
might as well attend the Ibsen drama in a body if they want to study
the degenerate.

Wild roses are found on every continent in the world excepting Aus-
tralia.

A London paper gives away the secret that Irishwomen's native shawls
are wholly made in Scotland.

The Farmers' Anti-Automobile league has been organized in Illinois
to stop scorching, which has resulted in many serious accidents to
property and persons.

A notable result of the recent Daily News census of church attend-
ance in London is the discovery that prayer meetings, which were once
regarded as the vital breath of the life of the church, have almost
ceased to exist.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

If your doctor says this is the best cough medicine you can take, then take it. We are willing to leave it with him.

Farming and Horticulture.
The farmer is satisfied if his cereal crop yields him a profit of \$15 or \$20 an acre. The horticulturist—and I mean by this term the man who grows fruits or vegetables outdoors—must get from \$50 to \$5000 per acre; and to do this must be able to make use of every possible fact which science and practice have shown to be of value.—The World's Work.



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