

DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

BY HOFER BROS.



THE COLORADO SITUATION.

The Colorado strike situation is serious, in fact is a disgrace to our entire country.

Viewing it as we must from this distance we are led to believe that a great wrong exists and both sides are perhaps to blame for the condition now prevalent in that unfortunate country.

For a period of seven months the mine owners and workers have been battling with each other and the end is not in sight.

Blood has been shed in profusion and many hundreds of poor families have been rendered homeless by the lawlessness of one side or the other. The presence of the militia has been necessary most of the time and bull pens and jails have been filled with American citizens.

This state of affairs should not be tolerated in a free country and the state authorities should deal summarily with all parties concerned. Not only should the workers be punished, but the men who own the mines and are deaf to reason should be hanged.

If the owners were imbued with a spirit of justice they could reach an understanding with their workmen. This is certain, but they have started a freeze out game and they will expect the state officers to assist them in the nefarious plans.

The deportation of citizens is wrong in spirit and is a precedent that should not be allowed to continue. Extend to other troubles and other states the practice would soon lead to revolution and anarchy. If the great corporations once knew that they would be allowed to exile and banish men and women from their homes with scarcely an hour's notice and on some trifling pretext, our country would soon lapse into absolute despotism.

The citizens committee, organized to assist the mine owners is nothing short of an auxiliary to the large corporations. They are business and professional men it is said, and many of the noxious decrees have emanated from their self appointed court.

They own property in the district and claim the right to take the law in their hands. They forget that the miners are also entitled to consideration. The business men do not care for the man who digs in the ground, when ever he interferes with their trade. They are there to get money and when he asserts his rights they say "move on" and we will find another slave.

The reasonable people of Colorado will force an early adjustment of the difficulties, at least it is their plain duty to do so.

REFORMATION OF CHINA.

The comprehensive scheme of Sir Robert Hart, superintendent of Finances, for the reformation of China, has been made public in its details, and is now before the Viceroy of the empire for their suggestions. It is probable the scheme will be adopted, for the Chinese have learned that the wholesale corruption and inefficiency existing in the civil and military departments of their country are working rapidly to its destruction—moreover Japan is urging the scheme earnestly.

The underlying feature of the scheme is the division of the viceroys of the empire into land districts with the imposition of a direct tax on land and—most important of all—with returns made direct to the imperial treasury at Peking without passage through the tarred fingers of local officials. The present revenues of the empire, derived from customs duties, salt dues, etc., produce a revenue of less than \$9,000,000 taels annually. More than 50 per cent of the sum is payable to foreign governments on account of indemnity funds and interest—and there is an intimation by Sir Robert that the greater percentage of the remainder is lost, strayed or stolen, most probably the latter.

The important point in the scheme of Sir Robert, however, is to be found in the military reformations he urges on the Dowager Empress. He insists on not less than four army corps, each

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consisting of 50,000 men, with three fleets, one for the north, one for the south and one for the center. Each fleet is to consist of ten battle ships, ten cruisers, ten torpedo boats and 50 destroyers, with military and naval schools for the instruction of cadets, and their training for the contests in which reformed China may be engaged.

There is something in the suggestions of Sir Robert which indicate that, under the tutelage of Japan, something formidable may be made of China, and there is something to cause the government of the world to do some thinking. It was the opinion of General Grant that all the Chinese required to make good soldiers was adequate training. They are patient, loyal and devoted—but with the success of Japan and the reformation of China in her civil and military departments will there come a coalition with which the world will have to reckon?

THE CORPORATIONS AND THE PUBLIC.

The revelations of the magazine writers as to the methods of corporations have become the text for much lurid rhetoric in the sensational press, and many despairing utterances from clergymen and college presidents. As a matter of fact, conditions do not differ in any material way from those which have obtained for the last quarter of a century, and, upon the whole, are doubtless improving. There "revelations" are of course, all put in the way to make the most readable story, but in the main they probably represent matters about as they are and as they have been long known to be by well informed men.

Thus far the consuming public has seldom been the direct sufferer from "corporate greed," except as the result of the acts of legislative bodies procured by corporate lobbyists. In but few cases have the prices of commodities been unjustly raised as the result of combinations, because they could not be. The power of the combination is in its ability to undersell competitors, and there are social philosophers who stoutly hold that cheapness, which in many cases they concede, is too dearly purchased at the cost of the elimination of the small independent manufacturer or dealer. The great present evil is the hold on state, national and municipal governments which is possessed by the great corporations. It is not likely that they bribe members of congress to any important extent. They do not have to. They nominate and elect their friends of both parties. They do bribe members of state legislatures, as has been proved in Missouri and might be proved in many other states by sufficiently resolute prosecution. Municipal bodies are usually controlled through the "bosses," who get the money and di-

vide or keep it as circumstances permit.

It is this condition of affairs which is really the cause of the demand for "publicity" of corporate affairs. It is known that they expend large sums illegitimately, but nobody can prove it except those who get the money, and they will all swear that no money was paid. The Missouri exposure became possible solely by reason of the recklessness of the criminals. The object of "publicity" is to find out what the great corporations do with their money. Stock jobbing by directors is the evil most talked about, but the evil most thought about is their control of public servants. One way of checking this abuse is to make the financial books of political campaign committees public records, not so much for the purpose of finding out how the money is spent as to learn who contributes it. When sugar trust magnates testified before the Industrial commission that they contributed to both parties, it could not be claimed that the contributions were for the promotion of political principles, for the contributions neutralized each other. They were plainly for the purpose of political control. There is but one safe rule to adopt in dealing with corporations, and that is that they can have no secret which the public is bound to respect. In the application of that rule the only matters which the public would usually care to know about would be the things which the managers were most anxious to keep secret. This is the "sane and dangerous" method of dealing with our great corporations, which care very little, indeed, about yellow rhetoric.

COST OF THE THIBETAN MISSION

The Thibetan expedition under Col. Younghusband, which started across the Indian frontier on what was announced to be a peaceful mission, is turning out to be a costly affair says the San Francisco Chronicle. Colonel Younghusband was dispatched to the land of the Lamas to arrange a conference for the discussion of the treaty of 1890 and provide for the enforcement of the commercial obligations the Thibetans assumed under it toward India. Since the treaty was negotiated the Thibetans have not respected any of its provisions and the Great Lama has repeatedly broken his promises to send commissioners to confer with the British on the subject. A small military escort accompanied Younghusband across the Thibetan frontier.

Since then the peaceful character of the mission has entirely disappeared through the resistance which the Thibetans have persistently offered to the advance of the expedition toward Lhasa. Its final investment at Gyantse by the armed forces of the Lamas has created a state of war in Thibet, which the British gov-

ernment has informed parliament now exists. The original cost of the expedition, on a peace footing, was \$250,000 a month, according to a statement submitted to the House of Commons by Broderick, secretary of state for India. Henceforth he announced, it would be at the rate of \$1,500,000 per month, which is the strongest kind of proof that the British government has decided to wage war against the Thibetans in dead earnest. While the trade which India can get from the sparsely populated territory of Thibet is not likely to compensate the British government for the outlay, the government probably finds it necessary now to carry the expedition through to the sacred city of the Lamas for the preservation of British prestige in Central Asia, and to defeat the aggrandizing schemes of Russia, who is believed to be encouraging the Thibetans to resist the British advance for the sake of acquiring the territory herself. The country to be traversed before Lhasa is reached is rough and inhospitable and comparatively easy of defense. The Thibetans are well armed with modern long-range rifles, and they possess some light artillery. As the nature of the country favors their kind of warfare, they may be able to impede the progress of the British advance for a time, although they are little better than a disorganized mob. But the war will probably end in the occupation of Lhasa, however costly may be the task, and the establishment of a British protectorate over the country, as a preliminary step toward its final annexation.

A GOOD MAN DEFEATED.

The defeat of Senator A. C. Marsters of Douglas county is to be regretted, and it will be hard to fill his place in the upper house of the legislature. Factional strife led to the result and he was slaughtered to satisfy petty party jealousy. Senator Marsters has worked hard for the party and his friends, both in Douglas county and the state deserved better treatment. He has been victorious in every fight until now. Attorney General Crawford was nominated through his hard work more than any thing else, and Congressman Hermann had an able lieutenant to manage his campaign prior to the nomination. Oregon will hear of Mr. Marsters again in the political field and it is to be hoped that his home people will better appreciate his ability when he comes before them again.

A NOVEL PUNISHMENT.

The mayor of Selma, N. C., has adopted a novel method of ridding the town of the tramp nuisance, says an exchange. The railroads run straight through the place, and alongside the track is a street one-half a mile long. The tramps are arrested as they enter the town. They are finally lined up at one end of the street mentioned

and given the opportunity to secure their freedom by racing to the town limits, with the understanding that the last man to reach the boundary line must work 30 days on "the roads." A policeman is in waiting at the boundary, and he takes in the last man in the race, who is put to work on the roads at once and made to serve out the term of his sentence. Tramps that have once passed through the novel experience fight shy of Selma for all time thereafter.

New Dentist.

For the benefit of those employed during the day, I will keep office hours from 7 to 8 evenings, and from 10 to 12 Sundays. Phone Main 1671. Gray building. 5-24-tf

Wasco County Commitment.
Mrs. Lydia Messenheimer, of Hood River, was brought to the asylum last evening by Deputy Sheriff O. S. Olinger, of Wasco county, and attendant, Mrs. H. S. Root. The unfortunate woman is laboring under the impression that her husband is prosecuting her and she is of homicidal tendencies. She is 32 years of age and the mother of two children. This is her first attack, and she has been suffering for about nine months.

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- 100 men wanted to wear his best corduroy pants, worth \$2.50 per pair, now at \$1.45.
- He wants a few more to wear his President Suspenders at 41 cents per pair.
- 300 men wanted with \$5.00 each to buy \$8.00 suits.
- 75 men with \$7.50 each wanted to buy his \$12.50 suits.
- 25 men with \$9.00 each to buy his \$15.00 suits.
- 35 men with 67c each with which to buy 75c striped overalls and jumpers.
- Wanted—50 laborers to buy the best King Overalls at 49c per pair.
- Wanted—100 laborers to buy the Pacific Coast Overalls at 46c per pair.
- Wanted—50 painters to take his Painter's Suits at 62c each.
- Wanted—75c carpenters to take his aprons at 17 each.

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