

DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

BY HOFER BROS.,
Publishers and Proprietors.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By Mail.
Daily Journal, one month . . . 35c
Daily Journal, three months . . \$1.00
Daily Journal, one year 4.00
Weekly Journal, one year . . . 1.00
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THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

As most of the Christian ministers are poor men, why not expand our manifestation of the Christmas spirit by swelling their incomes a little at this time of the year?

HOW POWERFUL WOULD BE THE CAUSE OF CHRISTIANITY if we all gave ten per cent of our income to the support of the church, instead of about twenty per cent for patent medicines and other drugs?

If we could even give one dollar out of the hundred we make to some deserving human being as a complete surprise to the recipient, IT WOULD ADD TO OUR HEALTH AND ENJOYMENT OF LIFE A WHOLE LOT.

But the fact is, we minimize our giving, we squeeze the dollar so hard we have very few dollars and very often sickness instead of good health and the harmonious mental state that should be the product of the Christmas spirit.

There is a chance to reverse all this and substitute confidence in the source of all wealth and power and goodness, and to add to our own peace of mind by adding to the good-will that moves the world.

The Christmas spirit is the spirit that gives its best to others. The soul that only gives its dregs and dribblings to a little of humanity as possible soon LOSES ALL SEMBLANCE OF REALITY.

So let us cast our bread upon the waters. If we are Christians let us help the work of the Christian workers. Give all the poor a lift.

INDUSTRIAL WORK IN THE SCHOOLS.

The City of Salem has during the past two years invested nearly one hundred thousand dollars in bettering the public schools and has now one of THE BEST EQUIPPED PLANTS IN THE STATE.

The new high school with its equipment has cost about \$70,000. It has chemical and physical laboratories, a library, and a gymnasium are to be added.

Has not the time come to think seriously of making the schools more practical and effective for the development of useful and practical men and women?

These schools can be conducted to be MERE FEEDERS OF HIGHER INSTITUTIONS, merely preparing boys and girls for further excursions in the direction of theoretical and academical education.

The public schools should be conducted from the standpoint of turning out the well-equipped citizen, able to cope with the vital problems of existence, as nine-tenths never go a step farther in educational work.

Have we not reached the point where we are morally bound to give the boy the equivalent of a good commercial course, or even instruct him in THE RUDIMENTS OF MANUAL TRADES, LIKE WOODWORKING, ETC?

Has not the time come when the girls have a right to demand that the public schools give them instruction in plain sewing and cooking, arts that underlie the prosperity and integrity of the home and family as much as any two things that can be mentioned IN THE WHOLE FIELD OF EDUCATION?

Why should the schools of Salem wait for twenty years to do these things and allow a whole generation to grow up IN IGNORANCE OF WHAT ARE ALMOST ESSENTIALS to the successful man or woman of this busy and intensely practical age?

The Capital Journal believes the people are ready for this movement in the direction of establishing industrial work as a prominent feature of public education. The Capital City schools should lead off in this direction, and the movement would receive hearty support.

DRAWING THE CORPORATE FIRE.

A prominent Portland newspaper is drawing the fire of the corporations by representing that they are all combining to control the legislature with an immense lobby to prevent legislation.

THERE SHOULD BE A VIRTUOUS INDIGNATION at a combined effort of the great corporations to stamp the legislature, control its organization, elect speakers and presidents, etc.

Coming from a great newspaper that has always been the champion and the mouthpiece of the trusts and corporations, the warning is very significant. THE TRUSTS HAVE LOST THEIR GREATEST SPOKESMAN.

We may look for a pure and anti-corporation organization of the legislature. But is not the great newspaper itself a trust, with a monopoly of the Associated Press, which gives it a monopoly of the streets, the mails and the trains for the morning newspaper field in Oregon?

WHEN IT HAS SUFFICIENTLY DRAWN THE CORPORATE FIRE, will it not, to protect its own monopoly and corporate interests, be driven to make common cause with Harriman, Rockefeller and other wicked despoilers?

Is it not taking a sudden interest in the welfare of the people for a concern whose principal income has been from corporate sources?

A GREAT PRINCIPLE AT STAKE.

The selection of Jonathan Bourne and Fred Mulkey as the two U. S. senators from Oregon at the hands of the Oregon legislature is not a personal matter, or should not be with the legislature.

The people of Oregon DELIBERATELY ADOPTED THE DIRECT PRIMARY LAW under which those two gentlemen were nominated and made the people's choice at the primary and then were chosen according to law provided.

This was all done deliberately and in compliance with law and amid free discussion and fullest consideration of the merits and demerits of candidates, and the merits and demerits of the law.

THE PRINCIPLE INVOLVED is that of recognizing as paramount the fully-expressed will of the people acting under a law made by themselves under the operation of the initiative and referendum amendment to the constitution.

There may be members of the general assembly who doubt the wisdom of the laws under which all this has been brought about. But they cannot deny that all has been done BY THE PEOPLE WITH DELIBERATE INTENT.

Let the responsibility rest upon the people for the abolition of the old convention system, for the abolition of the old way of selecting U. S. senators. Let not their representatives assume to be greater than the people.

If the choice of the people be not ratified by the legislature, the constitution as amended, the law as enacted, the system of direct choice of senators will still stand. THE OLD SYSTEM WILL NOT BE RESTORED.

No one is hardy enough to propose alteration of a line of the laws enacted by the people to bring about a new and a better way of selecting senators. No law is proposed to abrogate direct nomination or election.

THE MACHINE POLITICIANS OF THE STATE, great and small, would doubtless be glad to set aside the will of the people, because the

new system dethrones the boss and enthrones the popular will in making senators.

The triumph of the popular will in Oregon involves too great a principle for any representative of the people to trifle with. It will accomplish a reform at one stroke that the national congress has been attempting to bring about for twenty years and has so far failed.

TWO DANGERS TO AVOID.

The new city government that is to be inaugurated should avoid two rocks that stand right in the midst of the navigable channel of good government.

THE MACHINE POLITICIAN WHO WANTS OFFICE AND POWER for personal purposes and profits for himself and friends, is always busy as long as he has breath, and he operates through the city council.

He is opposed to application of business methods and business principles because the application of those principles to public business means the elimination of grafts and that is death to the machine.

THE OTHER DANGER TO PROGRESS of the community is the element that insidiously resists public improvements by always wanting something else, by posing as favoring competition, or favoring economy, etc.

Generally when those propositions are skinned bare they emanate from those who are opposed to all improvements, opposed to progress that costs them anything, and hence insincere at their very foundation.

Members of the city government who do not want to become mere tools of the chronic conservatism that has kept our streets in a state of filth for two generations, SHOULD TRACE OPPOSITION TO ITS SOURCES.

When they find it emanating from the horse-leech stripe of citizen who has sucked the life-blood of the community and given little or nothing in return, they should consider its source.

Citizenship that never permits any improvement except at the end of litigation or an officer's warrant, backed by an order of the city council, cannot be relied upon to produce a live city, but a dead one.

This city has reached the point where it must be very much alive OR IT WILL BE A LONG TIME DEAD. Avoid the machine grafter, and the grafting resister of all improvements, who is enriched by the enterprise of his fellow citizens but refuses to contribute in any way to the same policy that has made him prosperous.

He should at least not be allowed to dictate too much in the affairs of the coming city government.

ROLLER
SKATING
TONIGHT

Grand Opening of Auditorium
Rink at 8 o'clock

There will undoubtedly be a large crowd at the opening of the Auditorium rink this evening, Christmas eve, when a large representation of Salem will be there on the rollers, or will try to stay on them, and then will be wondering for the next few days what made them so sore and stiff. But roller skating is great exercise and after it is once started there will be no lack of a crowd any evening at the Salem rink. The maple floor is finished up in fine shape and is one of the best in the country and there are also raised seats on one side to accommodate those who do not wish to skate but want to see the fun.

Saturday 250 pairs of Winslow's celebrated ball-bearing skates, equipped with special red fibre rollers, were received and will be in readiness for the opening tonight. Standemeyer's orchestra will be there to furnish some excellent music, which greatly increases the joys of roller skating. On account of the stores being open until 8:30 the rink will not open until 8 and will be kept open until 11. Everyone new to this sport should be there tonight and learn with the rest of them, as there will undoubtedly be plenty of green ones.

The Crying Need.

"Those people keep twelve servants."

"Gracious! I wish they'd tell me how I could keep one."—Houston Post.

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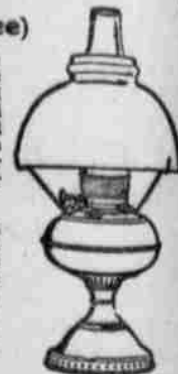
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