

...CAPITAL JOURNAL'S EDITORIAL PAGE...

HOFER BROS., Publishers and Proprietors

THE JOURNAL STANDS FOR PROGRESS, DEVELOPMENT, GOOD GOVERNMENT, AND NO DEGRADED LABOR.

BUSINESS DOES NOT OBSTRUCT.

There is such thing as being too fastidious about obstructing the sidewalks with business.

A Portland business man demands that Front street merchants **BE ALLOWED GREATER FREEDOM IN USING THE SIDEWALKS TO DISPLAY WARES.**

The Salem business man who is paying high rent ought to have more sidewalk privileges.

The cry that no wares be displayed on the sidewalks, and no boxes, bales or merchandise be allowed on the walks is not sound.

Nothing gives a city so much appearance of life as crowded sidewalks, THROGGED WITH BUSY SHOPPERS, AND CONGESTED WITH TRAFFIC.

Occasionally some lady will get her skirts against a fishbox. Or some over-fastidious pedestrian will step on a banana.

Society people sauntering alone the business streets may find a lot of bales and boxes across their pathway.

But all these little annoyances are indicative of life, activity and the business enterprise that gives employment to labor.

Let us not be too sensitive. Let us give the business man a chance to sell his wares whether it be dry goods, fish or newspapers.

Business builds up the growth of the city. It never obstructs. **WE NEED MORE EVIDENCES OF BUSINESS AND LIFE ON THE STREETS.**

The retail district of Broadway, New York, for a mile is jammed and "obstructed" with traffic, with sidewalks piled and stacked with wares.

We are not yet greater than Greater New York.

PORTLAND'S ENORMOUS LEVY.

In the past Portland property has been assessed at a valuation of about forty per cent.

One Sigler as county assessor of Multnomah county, has been able to raise the assessments to about 100 per cent or market value.

This was done on the theory that levies would only be one-half or two-fifths as much as under the old forty per cent valuation.

Now that valuations are increased one hundred and fifty per cent the levy is actually to be raised on top of that. **A MILLION DOLLARS IN ROUND NUMBERS WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF TAX PAYERS FOR THE CITY GOVERNMENT ALONE.**

Of course, that will not be done in Salem where property has been assessed at a cash valuation, following the Sigler example. Tax levies in Salem and Marion county should be reduced about one-half at least.

Merchants whose stocks are assessed at two to three times former figures will not stand to have the same levies as in the past.

But it seems the levies are to be higher at Portland in spite of the raise of valuations. **THERE WILL BE MORE DIRECT TAXATION THAN EVER BEFORE.**

The Capital Journal believes that state, city and county taxes should be raised more from indirect sources, and that is right.

The Sigler plan of raised valuations is all right if levies can be kept down. It is beautiful in theory **BUT IN FACT IT WILL NOT WORK.**

Portland's enormous levy on raised valuations will be a black eye to the development of that city. The people are entitled to the lowest tax levy on record with present high valuations.

OBEY THE CONSTITUTION.

That wise provision of the Oregon constitution that the legislator shall not hold other offices should be better enforced.

The departments of the state government should be rigidly kept separate. Let the sovereign law-making power be kept **UNDEFILED WITH PROFESSIONAL OFFICIALISM.**

Behold the embarrassment of Hon. Milt Miller, who is State Senator, State University Regent and State Textbook Commissioner.

County officials should not be given state offices to fill by appointment. A number of times members of the state supreme bench have been made regents of state institutions. **WHY NOT TAKE MORE BUSINESS MEN?**

There is no such scarcity of material and no such lack of able men that any citizen should be called upon to hold two or more offices. It is not keeping separate the departments of government.

Let us get away from the tendency to create **A CENTRALIZED OFFICIALISM THAT IS GREATER THAN THE PEOPLE,** and stand for the strict adherence to the letter and the spirit of the constitution.

The more clearcut and direct and separate and individual each public office can be made the better. No member of the legislature should be eligible to appointment during his term of office.

As it is men go to the legislature to create office that they **MAY BE APPOINTED TO THEM,** a temptation being held out to load the people with offices and commissions by those who are to be the beneficiaries.

THE TREND AWAY FROM THE FARM.

The time has come to strike an effective blow to stop the drift of our young men away from the farms and towards the cities.

A new president of the State Agricultural College is to be chosen and it would appear that the time had come to **RECONSTRUCT THAT INSTITUTION A LITTLE ON THE RIGHT LINES.**

It seems ridiculous to an outsider for that college and the state university to both carry on schools of pharmacy and engineering and mining engineering and some other branches within fifty miles of each other.

It would seem as though the State Agricultural College should teach **ONLY THOSE STUDIES THAT ARE NECESSARY ADJUNCTS** to the science of practical applied agriculture.

The education of the farmer at the farmers college should not be such as will take more of the young men and young women away from the farm but such as will keep more of them on the farm.

The president of the institution who is soon to be chosen should be a representative of agriculture and not of political or the legal or other learned profession.

There are plenty of thoroughly practical and educated men who are capable of making a first class college president, whose whole lives have been connected with agriculture.

Why should the regents go **OUTSIDE OF THE CALLING THEY WISH TO FURTHER DIGNIFY AND ENNOBLE** and drag in a man who has not been engaged in agriculture to put him at the head of a farmers college?

The constant danger to the institution is that of filling it up with the theoretical class who hold degrees but who have **NO PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF OR SYMPATHY WITH THE PURPOSES OF SCIENTIFIC FARMING.**

It is probably impertinent and useless to make these suggestions to the regents of the State Agricultural College, but it appears to an unsophisticated outsider as if they had some relevancy to the situation. There is too much duplicating of educational work at present.

PLAIN FACTS ABOUT STATE PRINTING.

It should be remembered that a campaign has been waged for six years to place all state officials on flat salaries.

That reform was contended for by this Capital Journal alone at first, but for the past four years is **BACKED BY THE ENTIRE STATE PRESS.**

But in spite of ridicule and broken promises and delays in the legis-

lature the flat salary reform was finally enacted and goes into effect January first of this coming year.

This reform could not be made to apply to the state printer until the constitution was amended, and last June that was brought about for the sole purpose of reaching the state printer.

That amendment was especially adopted **TO STOP THE STATE PRINTING GRAFT** and was unanimously voted for by the tax payers, and has been proclaimed by the governor as part of the constitution.

Now in spite of the slowly accomplished reform, and in spite of the amendment of the constitution to put the state printer on a flat salary, it is proposed to have the old system of mulcting the state continue.

It is argued that the state printer-elect, Mr. Duniway, was at great expense in his campaign, and ought to be given a chance to set up a new printing plant in the state house and continue on the old plan.

The Capital Journal stands not alone in demanding that the people be given what they voted for, **WHAT WAS PROMISED THEM BY THE PARTY AND THE CANDIDATE.**

The press of the state is demanding that the law be put into effect, and that the state printer be placed on a flat salary.

The Capital Journal has shown how, if the state would not farm out the supreme court reports, the office could be made self-sustaining, and that is really what should be done. It should not cost the people a dollar of taxes.

The Baker City Herald under head "Stop State Graft" has the following editorial:

"Some editors in the state, evidently 'on the inside,' are attempting to show that it would be unprofitable for the state to own its public printing plant and that money would not be saved by putting the head of that department on a flat salary. To do this they are using the figures in the bills prepared by the Capital Typographical union to be introduced at the next assembly, providing for those two reforms.

"THIS ATTACK UPON THE BILLS IS SIMPLY JUGGLING OF FIGURES as those used in the bills are merely tentative. The people should not be led away from the main objects of the proposed legislation by this trickery.

"The general appropriation for printing is cited to prove that the expense of the office is not large. The fact is that aside from this, an amount equal to its total is expended for printing each year, from the public funds, by the state institutions. The report of Secretary of State Dunbar for the past two years shows conclusively that the state printer during the past two years has been paid **FULLY DOUBLE THE AMOUNT** shown in the general appropriation.

"State Printer-elect Duniway made his campaign on a flat salary plank. He advanced many arguments in its favor 'before' he was elected. He is silent now but his friends are not. They are working, as they never worked before, against the bills which, if passed, will place him upon a flat salary.

"IF WILLIS DUNIWAY IS TO PROVE THAT HE IS AN HONEST MAN AND THAT THE THINGS THAT HE SAID IN THE CAMPAIGN WERE NOT LIES he must now declare himself for a flat salary and furthermore must show by sincere and earnest work that he will do all in his power to have the state printing office purged of graft and he himself placed upon a flat salary.

"It is very probable that some change will have to be made in the bills prepared by the Salem union. They may not meet all requirements **BUT IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY HONEST MAN IN THE STATE OF OREGON** to make it his business to see that they are not hacked and juggled so that when they are passed they will prove worthless. This is too often the case and it should be stopped by the might and power of public sentiment."

Really it looks as if Mr. Duniway could not afford to stultify himself and **PUT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN THIS STATE ON THE DEFENSIVE** by doing anything else than accepting such salary as the legislature may enact.

We believe that is what he will do as an honest man when the law is framed and put through the legislature. The people have a right to expect that of him and will be disappointed if they get anything else.

THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE.

Not of many books is it possible to utter the two contradictory but truthful statements which we find in current exchanges regarding the Bible.

"Nobody reads the Bible," says the Providence Bulletin, while the Louisville Courier-Journal says: "The annual report of the American Bible society show that **THE BIBLE IS STILL THE 'BEST SELLER.'**"

This book is often ignored by persons who assume the possession of good taste in literature, although it is still bought and read by the masses.

It is "smart" to be ignorant of the Bible, and the number of "educated" persons who could pass even a superficial examination in its most interesting narratives is probably less today than it was half a century ago.

This fact has led Professor William Lyon Phelps to advocate in the Yale Alumni Weekly that a fair knowledge of the Bible be made a requisite for entrance to college.

"It is certainly unfortunate," he says, "that the best book ever written should be so little known, and that the frequent references to it in practically every English author should be meaningless."

THIS IS COMMON SENSE.

The Bible deserves to be read as literature, quite independently of its value as a body of religious teaching. Speaking of Professor Phelps' proposal to make it a college entrance requirement, the New York Times says:

"Its influence is, of course, direct and dominant over all our literature; its style, whether narrative, descriptive, poetical, dramatic, argumentative, or oratorical, has been the supreme model for the Lincolns, the Burkes, the Cokes, for the Carlyles, the Addisons, the Swifts, the Defoes, and it overshadowed Milton and Shakespeare.

"The products of the entire range of English literature and history may be considered only as corollaries to its mighty argument. How profound must be the ultimate ignorance of these to students who have not approached them through the noble and simple master medium!"

Similar utterances might be multiplied from hundreds of writers not especially religious.

No student of literature can afford to neglect the stores of human interest and imaginative beauty contained in the world's greatest classic.

Car Shortage.

The inability of shippers to procure cars for the movement of their traffic is the subject of numerous and grievous complaints which come to the commission from all parts of the country. A car famine prevails which brings distress in almost every section, and in some localities amounts to a calamity. The extraordinary prosperity which everywhere abounds with the high prices obtainable for all classes of commodities have so stimulated production as to yield a volume of transportation business which far exceeds in the aggregate the carrying capacity of the railroads. In a word the development of private industry has of late been much more rapid than the increase of railway equipment.

The conditions now existing in the Northwest where large quantities of grain require immediate shipment, and in the southwest and trans-Mississippi region, where thousands and tens of thousands of live animals are denied movement to the consuming markets, may justly be regarded as alarming; while throughout the middle west and Atlantic seaboard the shortage of cars for manufactured articles and miscellaneous merchandise has become a matter of serious concern. In some cases it is simply a lack of cars, in others insufficient tracks and motive power, in still others wholly inadequate freight yards and terminal facilities.

The larger roads, which have been increasing their equipment, as their managers claim, as rapidly as it could be procured, are in many cases refusing to furnish cars for loading to points beyond their own rails, be-



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cause they are not unloaded and returned within a reasonable time. The decorating committee consisted of Dr. Corn, Mrs. Dr. Smith, Nettle Woods and Nellie Peterson. The decorations were appropriate, and in harmony with Xmas times. After being entertained for something over an hour in an appropriate exercise, "Old Santa" climbed down the chimney with care, and in a short time the well-loaded tree began to take on a more natural appearance, as one by one the presents came off. Each member and officer were well remembered. Mrs. Dr. Smith's class received an invitation to her home on Thursday evening for a holiday entertainment, gotten up in an attractive way with Christmas greetings.

Dr. Thompson, pastor, and Mrs. G. B. Cornelius, superintendent, were each remembered in beautiful gifts. The pastor received a gold-headed umbrella, and the superintendent a Bible. They expressed their high appreciation of the same. The good-night song and the invocation closed the "happy Christmas times."

Whatever the cause or however difficult to fix responsibility, the unquestioned fact is that the railroads can not or do not move the entire volume of traffic offered, and that shippers are suffering to a degree almost unbearable in many cases because they can not get transportation for their traffic. The railways, to use a common simile, are the arteries through which the commercial life of the nation circulates, but when this circulation becomes impeded because the channels are choked up or subjected to abnormal pressure the necessary and early result is an impairment of commercial vigor which is felt in every sphere of business activity. A situation of such gravity calls for every remedy that can be usefully applied.

The commission is without authority under any existing law to deal effectively with this condition. The regulating power of congress has not been exercised to control the physical operations of interstate railroads, aside from the safety appliance requirements, either as respects the movement of trains or the supply of equipment. Nevertheless, the commission, without waiting for further authority, has commenced an investigation of this subject with a view to ascertaining its causes, the conditions in different parts of the country, and the remedies that can be applied, either voluntarily by the carriers or by the compulsion of suitable enactments.

Christmas at Turner.

The Presbyterian church was filled on Christmas eve with an appreciative and enthusiastic audience. Miss Lizzie Cornelius was chairman of the Xmas ceremonies. The exercises began by the singing of "Glad Xmas," after which Miss Cornelius introduced Dr. Thompson, who delivered a short, entertaining and well-received address to our boys and girls. The doctor also presented all, little and big children, with neat cards, containing the pastor's greeting. Mrs. Conn trained the boys and girls for this Christmas occasion. All the children reflected great credit upon the trainer. The exercises were beautiful and received much applause. The music was under the direction of Elmer Mangio, Clyde Wellborn, Anna Robertson and Merle Wetzel. We listened with delight to the rendering of the Xmas

Baker Boy Says the Japs Have Us Foul.

(Baker City Democrat.)

One of Baker City's boys, Arthur J. Lowell, formerly connected with the postoffice here, recently in the postal service in the Philippine islands, yesterday returned home from Manila after a journey nearly round the world. Mr. Lowell says he is glad to get back amongst old friends and scenes. Asked about the Japanese situation he said:

"The trouble over the Japanese school matter and consequent discussion arose after I left the islands. But from what I know, I think it is safe to say the Japs do not want war. If they did we could not prevent them from taking the Philippines as well as the Hawaiian islands. It is only a question whether they want to do it or not. I believe the estimates in the public press as to probabilities and results are about right. Probably there will be no war and if there is we may have to take some medicine before we win, as we eventually will."

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