

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

HOFER BROS., Publishers and Proprietors
 THE JOURNAL STANDS FOR PROGRESS, DEVELOPMENT, GOOD GOVERNMENT, AND NO DEGRADED LABOR.

HAVAGES OF THE "RED PLAGUE"

Nearly 7000 lives lost and more than \$500,000,000 worth of property destroyed—this is the havoc that marks last year's path of the "red plague" from San Francisco to New York.
 Every day of the year just ended, on the average, twenty lives and nearly \$1,500,000 were sacrificed upon the altar of the fire god.

NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD IS THE FIRE LOSS IN BULK OR PRO RATA ANYWHERE NEAR OUR OWN.

The average loss is now \$200,000,000 a year, and still no effective means are taken to check it.

Something like an adequate conception of what these losses mean is arrived at by considering what the half billion dollars thrown onto the national ash heap last year would buy.

IT WOULD PAY FOR A FLEET OF FIFTY BATTLESHIPS, every one equal to the "Dreadnought."

It would support the United States army for the next seven years.

It would pay for one-half of our imports and wipe out half the national debt.

IT WOULD COVER THE COST OF FIFTY SKYSCRAPERS.

A practical suggestion as to one way of reducing the fire loss is being pressed upon the attention of American municipalities by the International Society of Building Commissioners and Inspectors.

The argument of this organization is that fire losses and costly fire departments **ARE DUE MAINLY TO DANGEROUS BUILDINGS**, and that these buildings should, therefore, pay higher taxes than are assessed on fireproof structures.

The society, with headquarters at Washington, and others similar to it are carrying on an active campaign of education **IN FAVOR OF FIREPROOF BUILDING.**

That absolutely fireproof construction is a possibility has been shown by the national board of Fire Underwriters.

Walls of brick and floors, partitions, roof and stairway of hollow burnt brick are the main features of **THE BUILDING THAT CAN NOT BURN DOWN.**

The most vehement of the national resolves that are in order at this season should be one that will mark the end of the era of flimsy, dangerous building and the beginning of the fireproof age.

GO SLOW ABOUT NEW BURDENS.

This paper understands the people of this part of the state somewhat and it believes they are not in favor of very many new commissions and new offices.

Between the recommendations of the governor and the measures proposed by the ninety members about forty new commissions, and a hundred new offices are proposed.

It is understood that what is here said is not a personal objection to the proposition of any individual, but an expression of general opposition to new commissions and new departments.

The tendency of the times is to have the irrigation systems, the banking systems, the mining business, the barber business, the horse-shoeing business and forty other business "commissionized."

There might as well be a journalistic commission, a poultry commissioner, and a millinery commissioner, and a laundry commissioner, as many commissions we already have.

Let us go slow on these things. A bill last year to abolish four boards of normal schools commissioners and have only one small business commission was in the right direction.

Some great public work like the portage road, or the free locks at the falls of the Willamette or the selection of textbooks may endure to have a commissioner, but even those should be only temporary expedients.

This paper will not help fight on the state any new taxes, offices, commissions. The taxpayers have about all they can carry now.

AN OPEN WILLAMETTE RIVER.

The Capital Journal believes the present legislature should take action to secure the opening of the Willamette river free and unimpeded from Eugene to the Columbia.

The legislature need not take any hasty action, and if there is any reasonable opportunity to secure the appropriation needed at the hands of congress, let us wait for that.

But this state and the people of western Oregon should not pay the tax imposed on their industries by the lockage charges for an indefinite time without taking action themselves.

A commission can be created and a fund can be provided, by a tax of not over a quarter of a mill extending over a period of four years, and within that time the river should be made free.

In four years the producers of western Oregon will pay at least four hundred thousand dollars in tonnage fees and added freight on their products and incoming merchandise.

In four years the locks can be constructed and built new if necessary and that is what the state must prepare to do. Personally we have little faith in the ability or disposition of congress to buy and operate the locks.

The state might convey them to the national government after they are built or bought, on condition that the national government maintain them free of expense to the people of this state.

SMILES.

It's a good thing the saloons have been closed at midnight when we are to have the Elks on top of the legislature in Salem this week.

It would be interesting to know just what there was about the Marquis Moran on the Paris stage that the French people objected to on the ground of immorality.

The nation waits with bated breath to know whether Taft or Foraker is the favorite son of Ohio. As goes Ohio so goes the nation.

Four Rockefeller! His reduced incomes on account of the Lawson high finance campaign, permits him no longer to eat oysters.

In the present state prosperity would be a good time for the state to buy and clear off the block east of the state house and put in a heating plant so the state capital may not burn down almost any day.

Albany Herald: If the Willamette valley had the competition in railroad building it has in telephone service people could soon go any where they desire by rail and at a minimum cost.

A legislature with its pockets full of passes will never do anything for the people in giving them railroad relief.—Albany Democrat. They can at least give us open rivers, and let us take care of ourselves. Let freight rates take the water cure.

Wanted—A state law to tax the knockers at so much per knock.

Frank C. Baker left an estate valued at \$250,000. His will gives \$2500 each to the Portland Baby's Home, Boys' and Girls' Aid society, the Children's home, Florence Crisstanton refuge home, Patton Home for the aged, the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A. and Salvation army. There is set aside \$15,000 for a monument to the memory of Oregon pioneers, and \$1500

each for eight drinking fountains; also \$50,000 to beautify the parks. The balance of his fortune goes to his relatives.—Albany Democrat. Mr Baker was a man who made no pretensions or professions of religious nature. He was a man who speculated. Who bet on elections, on horse races, and what-not. He was not a saint. But he was a man with a good heart and more humanity than all his critics and revilers put together.

Albany Herald: Poor Oregon. In the coming session of the legislature endeavors to grant all that is asked in the way of appropriations.

Springfield, Fairmount and Eugene may all be incorporated as one city some day.

Two Splendid Magazines.

"The Story of the Plum Flower" is the leading feature of the January Craftsman. It is written by Mary Fenollosa, who has lived much of her life in Japan, and who not only has many interesting facts to present, but a remarkable gift in expressing in words, color, perfume, indeed all of outdoors. Her story is illustrated by reproductions from famous old Japanese prints and some modern photographs. The Sho-gatsu, the Plum Flower festival, is celebrated the first month of the year in Japan, so that Mrs. Fenollosa's story is fittingly presented in January.

In the same issue of The Craftsman Edward Carpenter gets forth the not too often recognized fact that work is an excellent teacher of manners. He contends that modern manners are meager because we are too self-conscious and disinclined, and, I think he would have liked to add laziness. This essay "Manners as a Fine Art," is both severely critical and pleasantly instructive.

In this issue Gustav Stieckley talks about the modern home, and its many problems. He believes that, one way to meet domestic problems is by building the right sort of houses which do not furnish burdens. To lessen work for women in the care of homes is to do away with problems, which is much easier than coping with them. This is the first of a series of articles on the household difficulties found in the average American home; every man and woman who wish to live comfortably, peacefully, and beautifully will find these articles to have a profound significance.

The Outing Magazine for January is a worthy success of the December Christmas number, and the two form a remarkable holiday couplet, of which the Outing Publishing Company may feel justly proud. In the strength of articles and in the beauty of its colored plates, the January number ranks with any other magazine ever issued.

Easily first in vital interest among the special articles is "The Last Stampede for Cheap Homes," by Emerson Hough, who is journeying through the Northwest in the interests of The Outing. Other special articles of prime importance are: "Clark's Conquest of the West," by Tow Sprague; "Hunting Without a Gun," by T. S. Van Dyke; "Spring on the Mississippi," by Clifton Johnson, illustrated with some very interesting photographs taken by the author.

Mr. Whitney devotes "The View Point" to a review of the football season, a topic of commanding interest, in view of the test to which the game with its new rules was put.

The artistic features of the magazine are illustrations in color from paintings by H. T. Dunn, N. C. Wyeth, Stanley M. Arthur, Lynn Bogue Hunt and Oliver Kemp and drawings by Frederic Don Steele, Sydney Adamson and Philip R. Goodwin. 35 and 37 West 21st street, New York.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.

Take LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine Tablets. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature on each box. 21c.

This is the best month in the year to start a savings account.

You can keep it growing steadily by cutting off a few useless and unnecessary expenditures, and before long you will have a nice sum to use when opportunity knocks at your door. It will come useful some day.

In the meantime every dollar deposited to your credit will be earning interest.

Savings Department
 Capital National Bank

SPIRIT MESSAGES.

Tell Widow to Pay Debts That Never Existed During the Life of Husband.

An attempt at blackmailing Mrs. John M. Bloss, widow of an ex-president of the O. A. C., is told in the following dispatches from Muncie, Indiana, in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch:

"That an attempt is being made to blackmail the widow of John M. Bloss, former state superintendent of public instruction, is the latest theory of friends and relatives who have received, on heart shaped slates, supposed 'spirit messages' from Bloss.

"The several messages thus received have all been of one tenor—that Bloss should give up certain sums of money alleged to be due several persons from Bloss. Thus far all the persons save one indicated by the 'messages' say that Bloss did not owe them a cent and that, as far as they are concerned, the writing on the mysterious slates is untrue.

"Mrs. Bloss, who lives alone on her country estate, save for servants was for awhile, alarmed by the writing, but now has come to believe as the others, that an interested person is the writer of the messages, and has lent her aid to authorities who are trying to unravel the mystery.

"One of the mysterious slates was found on the doorstep at the home of Harvey West, now trustee of Hamilton township. In effect it was as follows:

"When I left the office of trustee of Hamilton I was deeply in debt to the township. Tell my wife and she will pay you. John M. Bloss."

Mr. West says he has examined the township books and finds that Mr. Bloss died without owing the community a cent.

George Sheets, an intimate friend of Bloss and a business partner of his, found a message similar to the following inscribed on the slate left at his door:

"I took pecuniary advantage of you in several trades in which we were interested jointly. Find out the amounts and I will pay you. John M. Bloss."

Mr. Sheet says that he and Bloss had traded together for many years and had many ideas in common, but that Mr. Bloss was strictly honest and at death was not in debt to him a dollar.

"Other messages left in various places were of similar purport, all containing demands for money. One of these was left at the home of a man who had been a tenant on one of the Bloss farms, but who had been discharged. This message said that Mr. Bloss had treated the tenant unfairly, but that Mrs. Bloss would make it all right with him. A message similar in sentiment was received by Mrs. Bloss, and the tenant came to her with the slate he had received."

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss:

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, county and state aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY.
 Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 6th day of December, A. D. 1882.

A. W. GLEASON,
 (Seal) Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO.,
 Toledo, O.

Sold by all Druggists, 75c.
 Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.
 The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Druggist*

One of a Great Family.

The spectators in attendance upon the opening session of the legisla-



OUR BOYS

We have Clothing for them all.

1-3 to 1-2 OFF

The latest and best makes in every department. Visit our clean sweep sale and save coin.

G. W. JOHNSON & CO.

ABSENT MINDED MEMBER

(Continued from page one.)

done it, however, until he realized his mistake, and made haste to recover. He leaped to his feet and changed his vote to Hodson right away, but it was too late; two or three others had jumped to their feet simultaneously, all Democrats, and changed their votes to Haines, and brought about his election on the first ballot of what was intended to be a long-drawn-out fight, with Haines 17 votes to the good; Hodson eight; two Democrats scattering and two Republicans absent.

It was somewhat of a surprise to the Democrats, too, for, while it was understood that Haines had them lined up to vote at the proper time, or whenever he could show them that he had 15 votes, it was not their intention of going over to him at that time. The four Democrats who brought about Haines' election were Coshov, of Douglas; Caldwell, of VanHill; Hedges, of Clatsamas, and Smith, of Umatilla. With Senator Mays in the city and Senator Coke, of Coos and Curry on the road, both Hodson men, the latter combination hoped to hold out, and prevent the election of Haines until they could force their demands for a change or some recognition.

When seen after the election Senator Wheelton acknowledged that it was absent-mindedness on his part that he voted for Haines. He has always been identified with the Haines element at previous seasons, but he says he does not approve of some of the methods adopted by Haines in his organizing his support for the presidency, one of which was the soliciting of the Democratic support, and he was determined to fight it out to the finish.

How It Was Attempted.

It is also learned that a proposition, very unique and novel for a situation of that kind, was made by the Hodson supporters when they were invited from their closet to join the Haines caucus. It was not intended that this proposition should become public property, but it was upon the same principle of "murder will out;" it was too good to keep. By this interesting little bit of scheming, should it prove successful, the Hodson men hoped to break into and scatter the Haines strength but it failed utterly, in fact it raised a perfect uproar of laughter in the Haines stronghold.

They proposed that each side should line up, like a "spella" bee" and choose one after another from the opposing side, who should be herded into one corner of the room, and considered out of it so far as their nomination for the presidency was concerned. From what was left of both sides, each side having drawn eight men from the opposite force, a candidate that would be agreeable to both sides was to be selected by ballot and agreed upon as the choice of the caucus for the supreme ruler over the upper branch of the legislature. The Haines men did not consider the proposition seriously for a moment, and the Hodson forces, of course, kept their own corner.

One of a Great Family.

The spectators in attendance upon the opening session of the legisla-

ture were given their first treat to a little amusement yesterday afternoon, during the perfection of organization, by Representative Rothchild, of Union county, the only Democratic member of the house, which let a little light in upon the unique and amusing situation in which he finds himself.

It was when nominations were declared in order for the speakership and W. I. Vawter, of Jackson and Douglas, had just finished placing Mr. Davey's name before the house as the choice of the Republican caucus. Mr. Speaker pro tem, B. E. Jones, of Polk county, asked if there were any further nominations, when Mr. Rothchild arose and addressed the chair. He said, in substance:

"Mr. Speaker, I arise to place in nomination for this honor a man who is the unanimous choice of the minority party of the house for the position. We are so few that it was not necessary to hold a caucus, so we arrived at a decision individually. This man, whose name I am about to mention is the only Democrat on the floor of the house who can and will uphold the dignity, honor and integrity of his party. I refer to the Honorable Herman Rothchild, of Union county, whom I now place in nomination for speaker."

The little impromptu speech elicited a roar of laughter, and Mr. Rothchild smiling resumed his seat amid a storm of applause. When the ballot was taken, however, Mr. Rothchild voted for Mr. Davey, and the latter returned the compliment by voting for Mr. Rothchild.

The Bryan Program.

About ten of the members of the Bryan reception committee, of which Senator M. A. Miller, of Lebanon, is chairman, held a meeting in one of

will be paid to any person who can find one atom of opium, chloral, morphine, cocaine, ether or chloroform or their derivatives in any of Dr. Miles' Remedies.

This reward is offered because certain unscrupulous persons make false statements about these remedies. It is understood that this reward applies only to goods purchased in the open market, which have not been tampered with.

Dr. Miles' remedies cure by their strengthening and invigorating effect upon the nervous system, and not by weakening the nerves.

"I consider that there are no better remedies put up than Dr. Miles' Nerve, Anti-Pain Pills, and Nerve and Liver Pills. We have used them for years, and recommend them to many others. My wife is using the Nerve, and considers it the best medicine in the world. A lady friend of mine, who was almost a total nervous wreck, through my earnest solicitation has used several bottles of the Nerve with wonderful results."

Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills are sold by your druggist, who will guarantee that the first package will benefit. If it fails, he will return your money. 25 doses, 25 cents. Never sold in bulk.

Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

\$5,000 Reward