

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL TALKS WITH AND ABOUT PROMINENT OREGONIANS

I met ex-Senator James H. Raley of Pendleton and he told of the unexpected good grain crops and good prices in Umatilla county. It is very dry over there now for putting in the fall seeding.

But there is a long Fall and Winter ahead and I can safely predict adequate moisture. Of course, for the man who has done good Summer fallowing, has his land well plowed and dragged, there are crops possible with the minimum rainfall because he lets nothing get away.

"Pendleton has built up a little the past year. A few residence houses have gone up, but almost no business buildings. We formerly had thirty saloons and while the four Pendleton precincts went wet by 400 majority, the country precincts went 800 the other way, and the painful wrench from wet to dry has hurt our city for the time. The transformation is too sudden. It will take a long time to get adjusted to it. In time the saloon business—and we still have the near beer saloon licensed—will pass into better hands and be better regulated, just as men would conduct any other business."

State Senator Beach has gone to Chicago to attend a conference of Employers' Typothetae and supply men in the printing trade. Senator Beach does a large job printing business at Portland. He is the Ben Franklin of the craft on the Pacific coast and a kind of a referee in matters affecting the trade. He was named census supervisor of the second district and says the population census is to be completed in fifteen days and the vital statistics in thirty. Whether it will be published inside of ten years is another matter. The census bureau has become a continuous graft, a department where statisticians and experts galore are employed for life. In

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England a complete census is taken in twenty-four hours, but in our country the civil service system is extended over the department and it is visualized from the standpoint of what the traffic will bear. Beach has practical ideas and is trying to apply business methods. He is trying to select enumerators with whom he is personally acquainted, is enlisting the co-operation of the commercial bodies and real estate men to take a decent census of his district. He hopes to dip up enough population for one more congressman at least for Oregon.

I have met Mayor Simon twice since he entered upon the duties of his office. He is the same quiet, unassuming, devoted master of details he always was, and the hardest worked official in Oregon. He is at every session of the council, attends all meetings of his executive board, and is present at many committee meetings. He gets all over the city and has his hand on the throttle all the time. Nothing escapes his attention, and for the first time in their lives the organized array of municipal grafters are up against the real thing. Mayor Simon is a big property owner, a partner in some large concerns, one of the ablest lawyers in the state, and something of a politician besides. He left a law practice estimated to have been worth at least \$50,000 a year—left it absolutely; is not practicing on the side; has absolutely no dual relations of public official and private counsel—and has given his undivided time, talents, energies and affections to

the task to which he was called by the people of Portland. I say he was called to it, because I know personally that he did not seek the job; that he declined it over and over; that he went personally to at least two gentlemen and begged them to take it—Ben Selling and Andrew C. Smith; and when he finally accepted it did so reluctantly and out of regard for the wishes of Portland. I know there are persons who give no one credit for sincerity of motives in political matters; they imagine every word, thought and act of any man proceeds from selfishness incarnate in that individual's consciousness. They never generously give any man credit for honesty of purpose or disinterested sincerity as underlying his position. So they will be surprised when I tell them that Senator Simon is not even caring whether he is ever again elected mayor. He is doing his utmost to bring order into the chaos named city government handed over to him by Mayor Lane, who was still camping in the woods away from all the known trails near Crater Lake when last I heard of him. Simon is not thinking of running for governor, say his closest friends. One term in the United States senate gave him an awful dislike for public office. He returned from his career at the national capital completely disappointed in many ways with his experiences. Naturally modest and wishing to do his best work without blazoning it upon the highways he was not a fruitful source of information to the newspaper reporters and after a few

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