

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL

Published by
The Barnes-Taber Company
GRAHAM P. TABER, Editor and Manager

An Independent Newspaper Devoted to American Principles and the Progress and Development of Salem in Particular and All Oregon in General

Published Every Evening Except Sunday, Salem, Oregon

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
(Invariably in Advance)

Daily, by Carrier, per year \$5.20 Per month .45c
Daily, by Mail, per year 4.00 Per month .35c
Weekly, by Mail, per year 1.00 Six months .50c



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THE PASSING OF MORGAN.

On the passing of J. Pierpont Morgan one of the greatest financiers the world has ever known drops out of the public gaze, and will soon be but a memory. As men go he was probably not a bad man. He undoubtedly had real friends who valued him for other reasons than his vast wealth, and for whom he had sincere friendship. He didn't beat his wife, was kind to his family, and conducted himself much as other men do. Yet, outside of his little circle, and of the leaders in the big business of the country, with whom he was intimately associated, he will not be missed by the American people. With vast wealth gathered honestly enough, from the Wall street viewpoint, but by methods not strictly in keeping with the laws of good conscience, he seemed to have but two objects in life, and these both selfish. The one to get still more money, the other to regain his health. The first,

with his active brain, his business knowledge, his controlling wealth and the opportunities this vast wealth gave him, he was able to accomplish. In the business way there was nothing beyond his reach—but when it came to bodily ailments, to sickness and suffering his wealth did not, and could not, lift him above the level of the average man, nor could it put off the payment of the final debt that Nature puts us out of business with, and leaves us indeed bankrupt.

With such a fortune as 30 years ago was undreamed of, so far as known, Morgan did nothing for humanity, nothing in the way of charity, nothing to benefit his fellowman. Neither hospital nor college was endowed, nor charities organized, no betterment of human conditions in any form attempted, in fact the world is not better in any way for his having lived in it, unless, indeed, some whom his big schemes bankrupted can thank him for the act put them in that condition

and class where they might "inherit the kingdom of heaven." And the world was concerned at his going principally by the fear that his death might affect the markets.

In fact a close study of Morgan's life will show that he lived for business only. In that he found, apparently, his only pleasure and delight. Yet, why should we criticize him? He was born with a wonderful genius for making money. It was a gift, just as much as that which guided the brush of a Raphael or a Murillo, just as much as the divine spirit that woke the harmonies in the brain of Beethoven, Mendelssohn or Mozart; just as much a gift as that which gave Shakespeare's magnificent creations, as that which moved the spirit of Byron when "he stooped to touch what others soared to reach;" just as much a gift as that of Burbank's whom blossom and pollen obey, or Edison, whose wizard wand wakes to life the spirits of things unseen. Just as much a gift as that which sends the criminal to the galows, following blindly the unseen forces within him, and perhaps in Morgan's case nearer this latter class than any of the others of the same type, in fact as his namesake, Morgan, the buccaneer. They all follow those inclinations, so strongly developed in them. Were they to blame for doing so? And in fact could they have avoided following those guiding passions? Perhaps not. Yet to admit these things and carry them out to their legitimate conclusion, would bring one up against the naked doctrine of fatalism. That

what is to be will be, because what has been was to be, or it would not have been. Perhaps none of us are ready to go to this limit, yet there is the undeniable fact that genius exists, and certainly not self-created and whether the genius is for good or evil. Perhaps Mr. Morgan knows all about it now.

THE CITY ATTORNEY'S SALARY.

CITY ATTORNEY PAGE is the council last night made the assertion that he never asked for a raise in his salary and had nothing to do with its being given him, other than to prepare the ordinance at the request of some committee. He also spoke of the Capital Journal's personal attack on him. If his first statement has no more truth in it than the last, it will certainly bear investigation. The Capital Journal has made no personal attack on City Attorney Page nor any member of the council. It has asserted that it has no ill feeling against Mr. Page or any councilman and has simply claimed the principle of increasing any officer's salary while he was in office was wrong—and hence objected to it. The \$300 salary raise will not break Salem, is in fact a not very important matter but the principle involved is important.

The city attorney did not state which committee asked him to draft that ordinance raising his salary. Does he know? If so why does he not since he makes an effort to explain to the council about the ordinance, also explain to the people? They would like to know.

If Mr. Page's statement is correct that "the committee asked him to draft the ordinance, why does it bear the endorsement "Prepared and introduced by City Attorney?" How does it come that the city council records places the responsibility for the ordinance on the city attorney, and he in turn on the committee? If any committee authorized or ordered the ordinance drafted, why does not the ordinance show that fact, and mention the committee?

The whole proceeding with that everybody connected with that ordinance knows that it was wrong. It seems to have been "conceived in sin and begotten in iniquity," is illegitimate and its repugnant parents deny it. Well, considering its natural degenerate tendencies, and doubtful birth, along with its plenteous of male progenitors, none of them can be blamed for laying it on the other fellow, but the public would like the matter settled, and the real father made to acknowledge his child. In the meanwhile Mr. Page as city attorney is the only one benefited by the otherwise unwelcome visit of the political stork. He will no doubt continue to do so though he contracted with the city to do its work for \$1200 a year. He will do this because the city council last night voted to indefinitely postpone the ordinance introduced to put the salary back at \$1200. It will be noticed, too, that the council did this in an underhanded manner, postponing the ordinance indefinitely by a rising vote, 8 to 6, but the roll was not called, hence the way the individual councilmen voted is not a matter of record. One begins to wonder if the council can do anything openly and above board.

WILL GIVE PRISONERS A GENUINE TREAT

Governor West's prison reform policy will receive a severe set-back tonight when the Y. M. C. A. minstrel troupe goes to the state penitentiary to put on a show in the prison auditorium. The troupe will be even stronger than when it appeared at the Grand opera house a few weeks ago before a capacity Salem audience. New men have

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been added to the cast and the jokes and songs have been revised and expurgated.

Thursday night the troupe will appear in the opera house at Silverton. A special train for the occasion has been chartered and a crowd of about 50 persons will go along to chaperone the minstrels. The special will return immediately after the show.

PRISON GUARDS TO WEAR UNIFORMS

For the first time in the history of the Oregon penitentiary, guards at that institution will be required to wear regulation uniforms hereafter, D. R. Yantis having taken the measurements of about twenty-five of the men yesterday at the pen.

The uniforms will consist of blue suits, black shoes and light-colored medium-width brimmed hats. The clothes, while they will not be expensive, will be suitable for civilian wear and the prison authorities believe they will be an attractive feature to the institution.

Blue serge suits have been worn by the guards heretofore, but the men were not required to live up to any regulation style. The new rule goes into effect immediately and the uniforms will be on hand within a few days now.

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- 36-inch Curtain Scrim yard10c
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- Children's Trimmed Hats, all new spring styles, ea 25c, 35c and 49c
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SPECIAL Only For This Sale

- Ladies Rubberized Raincoats, all sizes\$1.98, \$2.50 up
- 500 Umbrellas with long handles, steel rods98c
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