

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY

Capital Journal Printing Co., Inc.

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:

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

FULL LEASED WIRE TELEGRAPH REPORT



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THE ALASKAN ROAD A NECESSITY.

THOSE who object to government ownership of railroads, in making their arguments, will do well to leave the Panama railroad out of it. That road is capitalized at \$7,000,000, and last year earned in net profits \$2,180,000, or about 31 per cent on its capital stock.

The government plans to continue operating the railroad after the canal is in operation, as adjunct thereto, and it will, of course, not earn so great a surplus after the canal is opened.

The proposed Alaskan road is a different proposition. Those who oppose the building of this road by the government forget that it has already built several roads, or at least paid for building them, the only difference between what it has done and what it proposes to do being in the fact that when the roads already built were the property of the men who used the government's money to build them, and with the Alaska road it is proposed that, after the government has built the roads it will hold on to them, and retain the ownership.

Of course, the Alaskan road will not earn such dividends as the Panama road, and for some years will probably be a cause of expense.

It is a question of developing the government's property and making it valuable. At present most Alaska lands are absolutely worthless on account of lack of transportation. They are so situated that private capital will not undertake to develop them, unless it is given a bonus in the shape of lands, and this would simply be a duplication of the building of the Union and Central Pacific, and the passing over to the company of vast tracts of land.

Uncle Sam has given the railroads lands larger in area than the whole state of Texas, which has 265,780 square miles. This would make a tract of land nearly three times as large as Oregon, and 242 times as large as Rhode Island.

It has vast timber wealth, untold stores of copper, lead and iron, and is the only American possession that yields tin. Its value is beyond all calculation, but it is safe to say that its mineral resources are such that its wealth can only be estimated in billions.

The policy of keeping this great territory for exploitation by the individual, rather than by great companies is the correct one, and the building of the Alaskan railroad is a wise measure. It certainly has more good sense behind it than the expending of the same amount for useless battleships, that can never by any means produce anything or bring in any returns.

THUS ARE OUR PLEASURES MADE ODIOUS.

THE abuse that has been heaped on the fragrant, and, perhaps, somewhat too much so, tobacco may be deserved, for its use is in many ways bad. But while the dear little, dainty women, are objecting to it, and wifely tries to get hubby to swear off, what are they going to do with the charges made against the seductive and fragrant chewing gum? The habit of chewing gum in public is not a graceful one, and while it has been claimed that it overdevelops a woman's jaw, which is conceded to be superfluous, and at the same time injures the eyes, it is not on this account that Dr. T. H. McClintock attacks it.

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gum is gathered in Mexico, and is very soft and sticky. The Mexicans who gather it are not very clean, and are somewhat unfamiliar with soap. The air is filled with all kinds of insects, and these are trapped by the gum, and worked up in the finished product, since they cannot be worked out of it.

W. H. Childs, a manufacturer of New York, in discussing the proposed anti-trust laws before the congressional committee recently said: "What we would like to have this committee do is to report a bill that would be simple in itself and would not compel us to hire a high-priced lawyer every time we wanted to make a move."

Sixty-four attorneys, comprising the entire membership of the Lane county bar, regardless of party affiliations, have endorsed the candidacy of Circuit Judge Lawrence T. Harris for supreme court justice.

John D. has asked for further time in which to make report on his taxes. As he is credited with owning \$900,000,000, it will be seen that it is a very difficult job for him to make an accurate report.

It has developed that Sir Lionel Carden, who is so profoundly interested in having Huerta recognized by the nations of the world, owns some 40,000 acres of oil lands whose title depends on Huerta remaining in power.

Petitions are being circulated in Portland asking Jonathan Bourne, Jr., to become a candidate for United States senator in the Republican primaries.

Hi Gill has shown his ability to come back, by winning the regular primary nomination for mayor of Seattle. How is that for Hi!

Of course that \$43,000,000 river and harbor bill is popular in sections where it is to bespent.

THE ROUND-UP.

It was settled Monday night when the council sustained the mayor's veto of the bill ordering its purchase.

Portland's underground steam heating system is being tested and steam was turned through 15 blocks Tuesday.

When Ezekiel Beers was buried at Gresham last Sunday there were seventy relatives at the funeral. There were 39 grand children and 13 great grandchildren present.

Baker City says that the indications are that wool will be higher this year, and in the face of numerous resolutions by the wool growers announcing that their business was ruined.

Baker City has 27 dogs in the pound under arrest and sentenced to death, unless their owners rescue them and only the coin of the realm will do this.

The class of 1913 has placed in the library of the Coquille high school a complete set of the works of Henry George, with biography, 10 volumes in all.

The Harbor says the people of North Bend are looking forward to the most prosperous year in the history of the city—not waiting, but doing things all the time.

Reminiscence of date June 17, 1895, reprinted in Prineville Review: "Late Charley Summers has a pet magpie which he calls Mose. He carries the bird around in his arms and has taught it to speak its name."

Rogue River Argus: "Twenty-four hour telephone service now. Heretofore a doctor's call was all that was cared for after 9 p. m. but now we can visit all night if we wish to, or in other words we can use our phones any time, night or day, for anything we wish."

At the head of the editorial column

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of the Lafayette Visitor now appears the name of Henry T. Willey, and in last week's issue appeared this announcement: "We have accepted Mr. Hart's offer of purchase on the Weekly Visitor. All we now need is 500 White Leghorns to earn us a living."

PRESBYTERIANS WILL AID IN COAST DRY CAMPAIGN

New York, Feb. 18.—The Presbyterian church will send some 250 temperance workers into Washington, Oregon, California and Colorado, in an effort to swing these states into the "dry" column at the next fall election.

Charles Scanlon, secretary of the board, said that at a meeting of the temperance commission of the Federal Council of Churches, to be held today in Philadelphia, he would ask the 30 religious denominations that belong to this organization to unite with the Presbyterian board in this work.

"The tendency of the Presbyterian Church," said Mr. Scanlon "is to show the effect of alcohol on industry, offspring, longevity, health and efficiency. We will endeavor to supplement by education the political attitude and the legislative activities now under way. We will make a special appeal to the women of these states, all of whom have the right to vote."

The executive commission of the Presbyterian church at its meeting today approved an appropriation of \$30,000 for the temperance work to be carried on in the west.

HELD FOR PLANNING TO ASSASSINATE HUERTA

Mexico City, Feb. 19.—David Guzman, a stranger in the capital, was held at police headquarters last night while the police investigated a theory that he was attempting to assassinate President Huerta. Guzman was arrested at the national palace after having been refused an audience with the president and General Blanquet, minister of war.

It is said that when Guzman was searched a dagger was found and that in his pocket was a letter from revolutionary sympathizers in Guadalajara and a list of addresses of members of the cabinet and other prominent residents in the capital. Guzman, who is a young man and well dressed said last night he was innocent of wrong intent.

BANDIT IS BADLY SCARED

MISCREANT WHO CAUSED DEATH OF MANY IN MEXICAN TUNNEL NEARS BREAKDOWN.

Hachita, N. M., Feb. 19.—Maximo Castillo, the bandit was brought here late yesterday by United States troops. With him were his brother, his trumpeter, and the latter's wife, and two Indian women. None was mounted. The bandit apparently was not averse to placing himself under the protection of the United States.

Since the Cumbre tunnel disaster he has known no rest, and he seemed to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown when brought here. On his person was found the check for \$1000 given him by W. A. Rosby as a ransom. Rosby, an American, who is manager of a Mexican ranch, was held up by Castillo a week or more ago. He is now in El Paso, where the bank has been instructed not to honor the check.

Castillo was not talkative. He looked at his inquisitors out of his bloodshot eyes, but vehemently asserted his innocence of complicity in the Cumbre tragedy. He said he was a Socialist and that he was conducting a separate revolution in order to attain that form of government for Mexico.

Cell for Him in Fort. El Paso, Tex., Feb. 19.—Maximo Castillo will be interned at the Mexican prison camp at Fort Bliss today, according to information received by General Hugh L. Scott.

He will be placed in a cell near that

of General Jose Ynez Salazar in the post guardhouse.

RECALL OF JUDGES RAPPED BY TAFT IN AN ADDRESS

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Amherst, Mass., Feb. 19.—Prof. Wm. H. Taft, of Yale university, delivered the second of the Henry Ward Beecher lectures at Amherst college last night, taking for his subject, "The People, the Constitution and the Courts." He touched on the woman suffrage question, saying: "We exclude women from voting. If they can show that a government in which they partook would bring about greater happiness, or if they can show that the electorate would be bettered for the sake of society, they would establish their case. The argument of the militant suffragettes is that of an anarchist."

Mr. Taft spoke strongly against the recall of judges.

DIVORCES GREENBAUM.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] San Francisco, Feb. 19.—Mrs. Dorothy H. Greenbaum was granted a divorce here yesterday from Leon S. Greenbaum by Superior Judge Mogan on the ground of failure to provide. Mrs. Greenbaum is the daughter of Herman Heyneman, a millionaire tobacco manufacturer.

JUMPS TO HIS DEATH.

[SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE.] San Francisco, Feb. 19.—Crazed by drink, M. Kamamoto jumped from the second story window of his room here yesterday. He struck on his head and died later at Lane hospital.

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