

Washington Standard

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OFFICIAL CITY PAPER.

THE EASTERN STORMS.

Confronted with disasters such as swept the Middle Western states last week the people of the state of Washington awake to a realization of the unusually favorable weather conditions in which they live. Nor is this by any means combined to the residents of the Puget Sound country, for, as the Colfax Commoner puts it, "Palouse country residents have been complaining bitterly of the continued cold weather, with its snow storms, freezing and discomfort. It is disagreeable in the extreme but we have little of which to complain. When one thinks of conditions in other places the Palouse country seems to be favored by weather conditions."

Residents of Western Washington naturally think theirs the most favored section and agree with the editor of the Quilcene Megaphone when he says: "Hereafter when you read the Megaphone's kicks against the lapses of the incomparable Puget Sound weather you may attribute it to a grudge against the groundhog." The Benton Independent comes in with a little humor when it remarks: "It's about time for some Republican or Bull Moose to bob up and charge the administration of Woodrow Wilson with being responsible for the floods and storms that have devastated the Middle West and East."

And so, "when inclined to grumble just a little about this moderately cool weather," as the Island County Times says, "pick up a daily paper and console yourself with reading about the loss of lives and property in the East and Middle West. It's a good thing to be here." "We may and do generally grumble at the weather we are having," says the Castle Rock Independent, "but this is paradise compared to the terrible cyclones of the East and Middle West."

"With dwellings destroyed and families separated, more distressful conditions, save in war times, are seldom encountered," says the Columbia River Sun, epitomizing the general belief that the disasters are the most appalling in the nation's history. "We of the West who are prone to grumble at a little chilly weather can now realize our blessing," in the opinion of the Benton Independent. "When we know of the misery and suffering in the stricken East we can but think of our fortunate lot in this favored land where storms never reach destructive proportions and where floods never bring about wholesale destruction of lives."

"Horrors succeed horrors in the Central states," says the Fairfield Standard, and "we . . . must admit," adds the Chewelah Independent, "that after all our complaints are nothing." The Cle Elum Echo carries this thought a little further and says: "No matter how dissatisfied people may be with their own lot . . . they can hardly fall to forget it in giving ear to the cry of the thousands that have been overtaken by misfortune who are asking—not for money because they have no use for it—but for food and clothing. The touch of pity of the kind that makes the world kin is present—and apparent."

The aspect of man's weakness when confronted with the forces of Nature appeals to the Mabton Chronicle and then it adds: "Destitution, suffering and sorrow follow in the wake of such appalling disasters as the world is called to look upon in the Central states today, yet out of it grows a closer brotherhood and the earth becomes brighter because of it. From every part of the globe the helping hand is stretched forth and the bond of sympathy becomes entwined around every heart."

"The details of the two great disasters of the month, as the facts are slowly becoming known, indicate," according to the Mason County Journal, "that the wreck of the Titanic was a minor affair, either in loss of life and property or in the hardship and suffering of the victims. Puget Sounders ought to be thankful." Using this same comparison the Reardan Gazette adds: "It matters not whether on land or sea the elements can reduce the work of man to atoms in the twinkling of an eye."

So it appears that Washingtonians, extending sympathy and opening their pocketbooks to the sufferers of the East, parted themselves on the back at the same time, glad to be living where they are and thankful for the mildness and safety of their climate.

JAMES H. DEGE—SENATOR.
It may not be amiss for us to add our word of approval to the following remarks in the last issue of the Progressive Democrat of Tacoma, even though the season be early:

If James H. Dege would take it into his head to allow his many friends in every part to back him for United States senator, Tacoma would break all precedent by electing the first Democratic United States senator that was ever elected from the state of Washington. It would make little difference who the Republicans, Bull Moosers, or Socialists might bring out for United States senator, Jimmie would win simply because he is a business man that has made good, a citizen whose family life has been ideal.

Everybody who knows Jim Dege likes him and most everybody knows him, at least through a reputation which is envied by every business man, if not personally. And as things political work out during the next two years Jim will be one who will bear watching.

WE ARE GRATEFUL.

To those papers throughout the state that commented favorably and felicitously on the fifty-third birthday of THE WASHINGTON STANDARD, the editor desires to express his personal gratitude and his pleasure in being one of that group of editors throughout the state among whom prevails the broadest spirit of fraternity. The well wishes are all the more striking in view of the fact that the editor is not personally acquainted with these brothers of the pen and places him under an obligation which he is eager to assume and just as eager to repay.

A FARM EXPERT.

It was not so very many years ago the opinion prevailed that a man who failed at everything else could run a farm. Nobody paid much attention to the farmers—all they had to do was to stick something into the ground and go around a few months later and pick it out. Nature was supposed to do the rest.

But Nature did not always do it and the American people began to look around and to wonder why. In the course of time they discovered a farmer had to know something after all and they began to give every impetus and aid they could to educating the farmers, past, present and future.

The results so far more than justify the effort and the cost. The American farmer today knows far more than his brothers did ten years ago; the American farm today produces far more than the farm did ten years ago. But the farmer does not know as much as he ought to now and the farms are not yielding as much as they ought to yield and here enters the farm expert.

It is because the farmer himself is anxious to learn more about his own business that the farm expert is valuable. He starts a new settler right, but he does not stop there—he shows the older farmer how to do better than he was able to do in the past. He improves the farmer and his farm and the community derives a direct benefit as a result.

Hence a farm expert for Thurston county would be one of its most constructive assets. We realize that financially it would add an expenditure the county had not anticipated, but we believe the county can well afford to spend money in developing its resources. Constructive expenditures are far more valuable than those merely administrative. Thurston county most certainly should employ a farm expert.

J. PIERPONT MORGAN—FINANCIER.

Type of the lion of finance, resourceful, heartless, a wonderful organizer, an intrepid fighter, a deadly enemy, J. Pierpont Morgan personified greater than any other single individual the era in which he lived. An era of colossal expansion it was, of heartlessness in business and industry, of a grasping, grinding commercialism that gave no quarter and asked none, and withal an era of constant awakening to business, civic or domestic ills, of educational, commercial and industrial advancement.

But the old era is passing and with it has passed its greatest figure. The American people are taking on a new view of business, industry and society and their myriad correlations and while flowers are being strewn on the grave of him who was the greatest exponent of the old order every effort is being bent to prevent the wielding of such tremendous financial power again by one individual.

J. Pierpont Morgan will go down into history as the world's greatest financier—and history will forgive or forget many things.

SOME PRESS COMMENTS

Favors Initiative, Re-apportionment.
(South Tacoma Press.)

The people of Washington are going to initiate a law just as this paper predicted less than a month ago. We predicted that if the Washington legislature did not pass a re-apportionment bill dividing the legislative districts according to population in conformity with the constitution, that the people in their might would. The legislature, in spite of having a mandatory law before them on the question, adjourned on the 15th of March without carrying out the wishes of the majority of the majority of the people of the state. These legislators, when before the people, will prate about the people's rule, but once they get down to Olympia and combine a raid on the taxpayer, they forget all the good things they promised the people. There were two or three laws introduced which would have given the people a re-districting of the legislature, but owing to the fact that those counties had failed to keep up with the procession when it came to growing would more than likely lose some representation, the representatives failed to pass a law.

We will vote to help re-district the state out of fairness, if nothing more. We will vote to district the state according to population, simply because it is right and the organic law of the state calls for it.

Concerning the Minimum Wage.
(Columbia River Sun.)

An arbitrary minimum wage will kick back and defeat the very ends it is intended to create by legislation. For the abuses of unpaid labor investigation and action by a governmental commission would seem to be the common sense solution of the matter. If a minimum wage raises the price of living in the same ratio or eliminates the lazy and incompetent employe, who is hurt worse than the wage earner? A corn on the toe may be relieved by cutting off the foot, but what good does it do to the body?

Admires Wilson's Simplicity.
(Seattle Republican.)

The simplicity with which Woodrow Wilson is running the presidential office of the United States has caused consternation to prevail among the office seekers and the would-be royalty apers, who hang about Washington city for the sake of "sawcety." It is simply Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States, without frock or frills, prefixes or suffixes. Keep it up, Woodrow, and all hell cannot beat you for a second term.

Bouquet for George Lee.
(Tacoma Forum.)

Geo. A. Lee of the public service commission is about to retire and the 1st of April has been chosen for his exit. He is to or has formed a partnership with Ben Grosscup and they are to practice in Seattle. It is said they will represent the big interests before the commission, interstate commerce commission, etc. There is a lurking suspicion in the minds of some people that Lee has been within speaking distance of these interests for the greater part of the time he has served on the commission.

Jack-Knife Traders—Oh, My!
(Sunnyside Observer.)

"The legislature . . . was not a body which could be appealed to through time-honored political methods." Great Jehosaphat! If, in the history of any state in this grand and indissoluble Union, there has ever assembled at any time or place a more thoroughly capable and enthusiastic bunch of political jack-knife traders, (and we do not exclude Brother Pliny from participation in the benefits), log-rollers and pork-dressers than the agglomeration which so completely misrepresented the various communities of the state of Washington in the session just happily closed we wot not of it. Had it not been for a governor with a conscience and a Bull Moose minority leader with a nerve the state would have been in for a looting such as has never been on land or sea or in the waters under the sea, except at the instance of the fish trust.

Here's the Other Side of It.
(Chehalis Bee-Nugget.)

We notice that a lot of the newspapers in the state like to take a poke at the recent legislature, and profess to have sighs of relief that it has adjourned. Of late years many editors like to appear smart by criticising the workings of the legislature, without taking the time to think about what the legislature has done or not done. Indirectly these selfsame editors are insulting their readers who sent the legislative members there as their representatives. No legislature or any other set of men can please everyone. It is a foregone conclusion that any body of men will enact some things they should not, and will fail to enact some things they should, for they are but men after all, and not above making mis-

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takes. What reason is there in sending men to Olympia to make laws for us, with our minds made up in advance that we will have some fun at their expense, and a croaking pessimism which is ready and anxious for a chance to criticize? As a matter of fact, the last legislature was no worse than preceding ones, and in many respects enacted more wise laws than any of its predecessors. It did not suit all, and there never will be a legislature or initiative or referendum measure that will be free from criticism, until we all reach the heavenly shore, where there will be no need for mere man-made laws.

Some Swell, Too.
(Skagit County Times.)

James Hamilton Lewis, our own dear Jim Ham, has been chosen by the Illinois legislature to represent that state in the United States senate, and gets the long term. Mr. Lewis should now be doubly dear to every citizen of the country—and of Washington in particular, because of the swell he gives to the Democratic majority in the senate.

Likes Powder Law.
(Nooksack Reporter.)

In our list of new laws last week, we omitted one of the most important ones—that of appropriating \$50,000 for the establishment of a state powder factory. Now we'd like to see this matter pushed as rapidly as possible. If the state can furnish us with powder at about half the price we are paying now, as is claimed it can do, this law will do a very great deal toward solving the logged-off land problem.

Once More—the Legislature.
(Nooksack Reporter.)

Realizing that their last day was at hand, the standpatters took advantage of their majority power in the late legislature to wreak a terrible vengeance on the Progressives and Democrats by saddling onto the taxpayers a \$20,000,000 budget, which is almost twice that of two years ago. We've always said Washington can beat the world in raising things and after this we won't except even taxes.

Will Employ Farm Experts.
(Bickleton News.)

A movement that is certain to bring great results in the agricultural districts of the state was given its first definite impetus when Lincoln county, as well as four other counties, took definite action toward employing a county agriculturist, for which purpose the Lincoln County Development league already has sufficient funds. The county will not be called upon to contribute anything. Twelve hundred dollars will be contributed by the federal farm extension bureau. The agriculturist will be under the direction of Byron Hunter of Walla Walla, the government representative who has the supervision of farm extension work in the state of Washington.
(Continued on page 7.)

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