Washington Standard

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON,

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1913.

PUBLISHED BY

The Effenbee Publishing Company

EAGLE FRESHWATER.....Editor
H. L. WORTMAN, Advertising Manager

DEMOCRACY

OFFICIAL CITY PAPER.

THE MAYORALTY SITUATION.

One year very frequently is too short a time for a person in an executive capacity to accomplish results which have for their motive the development of a city along improved civic lines, the breaking away from a program which is believed and declared to have been wrong and wasteful, the changing from a loose to what is claimed to be a more businesslike system, and the accomplishment of all he has set out to do, and this is all the more the case when he is hindered by obstacles of more or less temporary nature that prevent the possibility of his giving adequate test to the efficiency and probable worth of a particular project. Such circumstances do not give him an opportunity to determine to the satisfaction of himself, his friends or enemies, whether or not he was wrong in his advocacy of that project.

It is not more than right, then, when such circumstances intervene, that he should be given more time in which to carry out his plans. Inability to test the value or uselessness of an idea does not condemn that idea; generally it gives rise to later assertions that if such and such had been the case, so and so would have happened—the declaration being that the idea was correct. Consequently, wherever possible, it behooves those who have it within their power to grant an extension of time so that the value of the idea can be determined once and for all.

This is not a college lecture on some kind of "osophy"; it is merely an observation concerning the present mayoralty situation. The money market has been in such a condition ever since the bonds for Olympia's proposed municipal water plant were authorized that it has been almost impossible to sell the most gilt edge security; consequently this proposed issue has not had the favorable reception in the financial world that easier market conditions might grant it and the question whether it can be disposed of has not been determined under usual, normal conditions. Therefore the success or failure of the project still hangs in the balance.

This is the particular plan of the present mayor. He was elected as the result of a campaign attacking the old company; his recommendation that a municipal plant be constructed was sustained by a big majority. He has given much of his time, has made a considerable sacrifice and to a certain extent, perhaps, has suffered business loss to devote his time and attention to the city's business. Moreover, he has spent or directed to be spent some $1,132.70 of the city's money to date in the advancement of this municipal project.

To defeat him for re-election will mean the utter wasting of this money of the taxpayers, and though the general opinion seems to be it has already been wasted, to re-elect him will give him the opportunity to settle once for all the actual worth of the plan and might save that amount of money to the taxpayers. It will also place the responsibility for that expenditure and the success or failure of the plan right where it belongs and right where the present mayor, by seeking re-election, wants it put.

Let's put it there—it's the best thing we can do.

RESUMING THE ARGUMENT.

Somewhere down in the wilds of the Columbia river in a little town called Cathlamet there is an editor whom we would like to know. Our reasons are entirely selfish—he has gone out of his way a couple of times lately to throw "bouquets" at us—and we want to thank him personally.

In the last issue of his paper, the Columbia River Sun, he takes up our proposed reform of the state government by the elimination of the state legislature and the adoption of a legislative commission, and discusses it in this wise:

The Olympia STANDARD, an up-to-date newspaper published at the capital of Washington, is edited by a vigorous writer—Eagle Freshwater. Barring Freshwater's politics, which are Democratic, he is as sound as a nut. In his usual stirring fashion in a number of recent issues he has been rousing up the state press with some clever and convincing arguments on the necessity of reforming the state legislature. This reform is worthy of the name for it consists of swatting the body out of existence as you would a poisonous fly. Upon this bleed-some corpse premises Freshwater would begin immediate erection of a commission form of state government. Says the STANDARD in its direct way:

"We are discussing a principle, advocating a reform which anybody who knows anything at all about a legislature realizes is demanded, urging a plan whereby the people can get more direct action, whereby those who seek their exploitation cannot hide behind numbers and pull the wires through the speaker and a couple of the members of the rules committee, as they did at the last session.

"That principle is incompetency, inefficiency and buncombe about the wisdom of our fathers against directness, fixed responsibility, efficiency and the teachings of bitter experience.

"Business has discarded the 'wisdom of our fathers' for the wisdom the present day needs demand. Why should not we in our governments?"

Words of sense that carry conviction are these, brethren, and if the suggestion be carried out it would save an immense amount of money. The rattle-headed business management of the last legislature is now coming to light with an increased state tax of 53 per cent, and the general fund levy at the limit with a deficit staring the taxpayer in the face.

Yet the Sun is not optimistic that the change will suit the voter. Cities that have tried the commission form of government are now advocating something else as a panacea for their ills. The representative form of government is ideal and the voter is to blame is he gets bilked in its operation. When a session of the legislature is over he will holler his head off if his representative doesn't bring home some bacon, and when tax paying time comes he damns him because of the high cost of the same bacon. The experiment of letting one man rule the roost will doubtless be a sensible and economical reform, yet if a restless American will permit one man even of his own choosing, to rule him for more than 60 days he has changed his temperament recently. The experiment might be tried, however, for like the old woman who doses herself with patent medicines the dose will make her feel good until she reads of another "cure."

We are blessed with a little more faith in human nature than is this brother of the typewriter and we confess we believe the American people would be satised with the reformed system if that system were more efficient, more direct and less expensive, as we believe it will be. The "cure-all" era in American life, from patent medicines to systems of government, is nearly over; as a people we want results at the cheapest cost and these the commission form of state government will give.

Just one more glimpse at another angle of this subject before we drop it for the present. The Coulee City Dispatch last week said:

There were a few people so wrapped up in their political prejudices during the last session of the Washington legislature that they could see nothing to criticise but the action of Governor Lister, who was trying to keep the appropriations down, while nearly every member of both houses was bent upon getting all the appropriations possible for their respective constituencies. Though the governor cut off millions of these appropriations, the taxpayers will have to pay nearly $2,000,000 more under the 1913 levy for general purposes than they paid the year before. The proposition to abolish the state legislature should, under the circumstances, receive serious consideration, ere it bankrupts the state. A commission form of state government might help.

It most certainly would help. It would remove to a very large measure that sectionalism referred to in both these quotations and so would do away with a very large part, if not all, of the "log rolling" and "pork barrel" methods that now disgrace every legislature in the land. The beneficial effect upon the lone matter of state appropriations, state expenditures, that would consequently follow, can hardly be estimated; it alone would be a sufficient reason for the adoption of the reform.

HASTEN THE CURRENCY BILL.

The attention of the country is now centered on the currency bill upon which President Wilson is endeavoring to get some immediate action out of the senate. "Naturally and properly it has been a storm center of criticism ever since it was published," as the Saturday Evening Post put it recently, "but do not let that mislead you as to the main point that it is substantially a good bill. Any other bill would have drawn an almost equal fire of criticism. If it passes it will immensely improve our banking and currency system and go a long way toward putting us abreast of all other great commercial nations in the fundamental matter of dependable credit facilities."

The Post is not an administration paper. Neither is the Portland Oregonian, but they are two striking examples of how the leading journals of the country are joining together, regardless of politics, to aid the president in obtaining quick action from the senate. Whether he will be able to accomplish this purpose remains to be seen; just now the senate appears to be in no haste, and yet in the last year or so the upper body of Congress has become more responsive to the expressed desires of the people and action on the currency bill may come sooner than the present situation indicates.

The Oregonian wants members of all parties to get behind the measure and pass it. "They can do so without running counter to the dominant party on those points where it is pledged to a definite policy," it said in a recent editorial, "and without doing violence to their own opinions on vital points." Continuing, it said:

In their opposition to the proposed constitution of the board, bankers ignore a condition of public opinion which can be changed only by slow degrees. This is a fixed conviction that the banks are now under the control of a small coterie of very rich men who use their power in a manner inimical to the public interest. The people are determined to wrest control from these men and the Democratic party is pledged to vest it in the government. As Senator Root has said, rightly or wrongly, the best financial brains of the country are under suspicion. As to some few bankers in New York, this suspicion is justified; as to the great body of bankers throughout the country it is cruelly unjust. But we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that it exists and that its existence renders impossible the passage of a law which does not impose close government control on the banks.

If the opponents of government control succeed in preventing the passage of the bill at the present session of Congress, they will prevent passage of any banking and currency bill until the regular session and perhaps delay the reform indefinitely. They will doom us to a continuation of the present no-system, with its periodical panics. They may cause the financial question to become a party issue. The resultant controversy would then inspire such doubt as to the business future and would stir to activity such a crop of financial quacks with absurd nostrums that it might of itself provoke a panic.

It is the part of patriotism and sound business sense for all forward-looking men, regardless of politics and regardless of their objection to non-essential details, to accept President Wilson's invitation and get behind him on this measure. The fears bankers express as to the effects of federal control may and, we believe, will prove unfounded. If they should prove to have any basis, this detail can be changed later and bankers may be given a larger part in the administration of the reserve system when they have lived down the suspicion which now envelops them. In the meantime we should have enjoyed the beneficial results of the system, which is, in the main, the same as the Aldrich scheme. Shall we sacrifice the vast gain because of some details which are not to our liking? By backing up the president we can get currency reform, and get it now, thereby removing a constant menace to business stability.

There is the situation as far as the currency bill is concerned. The Oregonian's concluding sentence is significant. If the Republicans oppose the bill from partisan motives, they probably will not accomplish its defeat, the Oregonian says, and adds: "Then the Democrats will be entitled to and will get all the credit and the Republicans will be in the position of having opposed a measure which is generally recognized as highly beneficial by the people as a whole."

We trust the senate will heed the nation's call. The reform is as necessary as was the tariff; the sooner it can be brought about the sooner will the country be able to take advantage of the greater expansion of credit, the greater freedom of legitimate commercial operation, it will afford. The senate should hasten.

WHAT OUR FATHERS READ ABOUT IN THIS PAPER FIFTY YEARS AGO

(From the Washington Standard for October 17, 1863. Vol. III, No. 49.)

A slight shock of an earthquake was felt at Victoria on the 9th ult.

Red cloaks and shawls are said to be all the style in the East this fall.

We learn from a gentleman just returned from Walla Walla that a prominent member of the Walla Walla delegation in the next legislature will at an early day in the deliberations of that body introduce a measure for the construction of a road across the mountains to connect the Upper Columbia regions with those of the Sound. The project is not only a feasible one, but of vast importance to the territory; it is the only way to break the grinding monopoly of the Columbia river, which is now totally absorbing the profits of the rich trade with the upper country.

San Francisco papers contain a dispatch from St. Paul to the effect that the Canadian Telegraph company will build a telegraph line to Victoria next spring.

The Oregonian says that D. G. Majors of Washington, who has been intrusted with the survey of the boundary line between this territory and Oregon, has arrived at Portland and will at once commence the work assigned him.

Two schools have been opened at Bannock City, Idaho territory. Tuition is $1 a week.

A recent conveyance of the New Alamaden mine required $1,000 in revenue stamps to make it valid.

The receipts for one month at the San Francisco custom house, ending the 26th ult., amounted to $525,000.

THE RESULT

BY WALT MASON.

The season is pretty near ended, the season for swatting the flies; our labors have surely been splendid, and doubtless our motives were wise. We swatted when drearily sober, we swatted when all lighted up, and now that it's October, O say, is there joy in our cup? We killed off the flies by the bushel, ay, millions and millions we slew, and murmured, "The whole measly push'll be slain in a season or two." Buoyed up by this hope of achieving, we switted and swatted and swote, all over the furniture weaving, to capture some bluebottle's goat. And now at the end of September our feet have grown weary and cold; I try, but I cannot remember when flies were so sassy and bold. They buzz round our heads by the million, and nothing their efforts can foil; they crawl on the panes by the billion, so what have we gained by our toil? They camp on our necks when we're working, and not all our thunders unloosed, and not all our shaking and jerking will drive them away from their roost. They bite and they biff and they burrow, they tickle and torture and tease, they plow in your person a furrow, they sting like a parcel of bees. So what have we gained by our swattin', by toiling until we were blinds? Each fly that is dead and forgotten left ten million daughters behind.

Probably no one single thing will advertise the agricultural possibilities of Thurston county so much as the fact that one of its ranchers went into the heart of the apple county at the state fair and in state-wide competition won first prize on Wealthy apples, in spite of the oft boasted prowess of Eastern Washington apple orchards. It should settle once for all in our own minds, too, that we can raise as fine apples here as anywhere else in the state or in the country, if we but take care of them, and whatever applies to apples applies even more strongly to the other fruits and berries which grow so abundantly here. "You can raise as good fruit here as anywhere in the world," is the comment of J. H. Perkins, state commissioner of agriculture, "but your farmers won't take care of it." The showing made by one farmer who did take care of his apple trees is a sufficient endorsement of the commissioner's statement.

There probably is not a Democrat in the country who does not want to see Representative Underwood of Alabama, the man whose generalship won the day for tariff reduction, achieve his ambition to represent his home state in the United States senate. Such an achievement would be a most fitting reward for the service he has given.

COLLIER'S BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCKS

Have won their way to popularity both in the show room and egg basket. I have two hundred young **BUFF ROCKS** comnig on that are fine. If you want a start in a good all-around-family fowl, let me hear from you.

Prices of Buff Rocks are as follows:

Cocks, $5 to $15.
Cockerels, $5.00 to $20.00.
Hens, $5.00 to $10.
Pullets, $3.00 to $10.00.
Eggs, $3.00 and $5.00 per 13.

..Send two dollars and get the latest Standard of Perfection.

HARRY H. COLLIER,
1003 Realty Building,
TACOMA, WASHINGTON.

Victor Victrolas $15, $25, $40, $50, $75, $100, $150, $200.

Edison Amberola's $30, $45, $60, $80, $200.

Complete stock of Edison and Victor Records, Machines sold on easy payments.

E. E. TAYLOR

314 E. 4th St. Phone 379

BOATS for TACOMA and SEATTLE

EVERY DAY

Remember the Hours—7:30 A. M., 12:15 P. M., 6:00 P. M.

Steamer Magnolia leaves Olympia daily at 7:30 A. M., arriving at Tacoma at 10:30 A. M. and then goes through to Seattle, arriving there at 12:30 P. M. (Noon). Daily, except Sunday, leaves Seattle at 3:15 P. M. for Olympia direct, arriving at 8:00 P. M.

On Sundays only, Steamer Magnolia leaves Tacoma for Olympia at 7:00 P. M.

Steamer Nisqually leaving Olympia at 12:15 P. M., makes direct connection at Tacoma with 3:00 P. M. boat for Seattle, arriving there at 4:45 P. M.

Steamer Nisqually leaving Olympia at 6:00 P. M. makes direct connection at Tacoma with 9:00 P. M. boat for Seattle, arriving there at 10:45 P. M.

Nisqually leaves Tacoma for Olympia at 9:00 A. M. and 3:00 P. M. P. M.

OLYMPIA & TACOMA NAVIGATION CO.

J. C. PERCIVAL, Secretary.

Office: Percival's Dock. Telephone 16.

TALCOTT BROS.

The Oldest Jewelry House in Washington, Established 1872.

DEALERS IN

WATCHES, DIAMONDS, JEWELRY, CLOCKS, SILVERWARE, CUT GLASS, LEATHER GOODS, CUTLERY, NOVELTIES, SEWING MACHINES, SUNDRIES.

MANUFACTURERS OF

NOTARY AND LODGE SEALS AND UMBRELLAS

REPAIRING IN ALL DEPARTMENTS

424 and 426 Main Street. Olympia, Wash.