

The Washington Standard  
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON,  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1914.

PUBLISHED BY  
The Effebbee Publishing Company  
EAGLE FRESHWATER, Editor  
H. L. WORTMAN, Advertising Manager



OFFICIAL CITY PAPER.  
Subscription Price \$1.50 a Year.

THE RIGHT WAY.

The policy that should have been adopted a year ago, a policy that would have saved the citizens of Olympia the bitter campaign over the issuance of the municipal water bonds last summer and the taxpayers \$750 or perhaps \$1,000 for the expenses incident thereto, was recommended by the mayor this week when he urged upon the members of the new city council the passage of an ordinance authorizing the condemnation of the present water works system at its actual cash value.

THE WASHINGTON STANDARD would have been glad to endorse such a policy then as it is endorsing it now. We do not now and have not at any time favored the establishment of a competing plant by the city, though we have at all times and do now favor the municipal ownership of such a public utility, and we beg to recall to your minds the fact that during last summer's campaign THE WASHINGTON STANDARD not only endorsed municipal ownership but pointed out at the time the difficulties in finding a sale for the bonds which the mayor this week acknowledged had thwarted his original plans.

When it comes to the purchase of the present system we believe the people of the city can rest assured that their every interest in this instance will be well protected by the mayor, that no exorbitant price will be paid for the plant—which is most important—and that the mayor's own experience with the water company is liable to redound to the city's benefit, for he will be loath for the city to pay more than he thinks the plant is worth.

But if we may be pardoned, we would like to suggest to the city council the possibility that the purchase of the plant might be satisfactorily settled by arbitration, thereby saving the city the cost of condemnation. We do not know whether this could be done, nor do we know whether a satisfactory price could be reached in such negotiations, but it strikes us that the council should not order condemnation proceedings instituted until some effort at least to this end has been made.

FEEDING THE "HUNGRY."

We are inclined to agree with the Clarke County Sun when it speaks editorially against the resolution now pending in Congress aiming to take assistant postmasters in first and second class offices out of the civil service, thus providing a horde of new "jobs for the faithful," and to stand behind Postmaster General Burleson—a Democrat—in his opposition to the resolution.

The Democratic party is pledged in its Baltimore platform against any disruption of the civil service, is pledged, in fact, to the extension of that service. Was that just a "sop" to the people—a "high sounding" phrase to gain popular favor on a governmental point which every one knows the people most heartily endorse? Or did the party mean it when its representatives in convention wrote that provision in its platform?

Some few job-hunting Democrats may favor that resolution; we can say frankly that we do not. Rather do we favor a strengthening of the civil service, an extension of it so that the practice better serves the theory, a development of it to the point where its best purposes cannot be subserved by designing politicians.

The resolution should be killed.

MANY THANKS, BROTHER HOPP!

We beg to acknowledge gratefully the kind compliment and well wishes expressed by a fellow editor, George W. Hopp of the Camas, Wash., Post, in the following editorial last week:

Eagle Freshwater, the young and versatile editor of the Olympia Standard, is making a mighty good paper of the oldest paper in the state, published for more than 50 years by the venerable John Miller Murphy, an editor of great ability of the character of the late Harvey Scott, although of the Democratic brand. The STANDARD, under the new manager, is advocating some reforms for this state that will come sooner or later, one of which is cutting down the size of the legislature, and creating the commission form. The commission form may not be the best scheme in the world, but almost any form will beat the present legislative system as it is doled out

to us under the direction of three or four men. Such are the bright spots in an editor's life—many thanks, Brother Hopp!

CURRENCY BILL IN BRIEF.

There are some 15,000 words in the currency bill—here, in 129 words, is a statement of its aims, prepared by Frederic C. Howe for an Eastern magazine:

1. To cheapen the cost of credit to the business men and farmers of the country.
2. To make credit available on more equal terms, and to free it from control by a few large banking groups, and especially by Wall Street.
3. To provide for the easy expansion and contraction of the currency and credit to meet seasonal and other industrial emergencies.
4. To mobilize the credit of a region and keep the deposits of each section within that section and prevent their flowing to Wall Street to be used for speculative rather than for industrial purposes.
5. To retire the United States bond secured currency of the national banks and to substitute therefor currency based upon the currently created wealth of the country.

This is very brief but it puts into the fewest words the best explanation of the currency bill we have found in any newspaper or magazine. Cut it out and save it.

THE PROFITS FROM THREE PIGS.

Eastern Washington newspapers are carrying a little "story" these days with a great big moral wrapped up in it and just because we think it offers a suggestion that some of you might profit by, we have clipped it out and are passing it on to you:

Out of the profits realized from three pigs purchased a year ago for \$30 each, J. K. Smawley, a farmer living south of Spokane, has started on a trip around the United States. Smawley has \$525 for the trip, and in addition has the three pigs with which he started his herd. At the Lewiston live stock show a little more than a year ago he purchased the original trio of Berkshire hogs for \$30 each. With a delegation of their offspring he returned to the live stock show this year and his young pigs won six blue ribbons. There was a lively demand for Smawley's young porkers, and he sold 15 for \$35 each, a total of \$525. With this amount, which he characterizes as "velvet" because hog raising with him is a side issue to wheat farming, Smawley has started his journey.

You may not want to take a trip around the world or around the United States or even around this state; you may want to stay right at home—but is that all the point there is to that "story"?

And by the way, are there any little "porkers" on your farm?

The state of Washington got an enviable lot of publicity this week when a national capital press bureau sent out a "story," published elsewhere in this issue, that it is the healthiest state in the Union, with a death rate of but 8.7 per 1,000 of population. The beauty of it is that it went to the small town dailies and weeklies throughout the United States—the kind of publicity that counts.

"Bowing to public sentiment"—that, virtually by their own acknowledgment, was what J. P. Morgan & Company did last Friday when they resigned from the directorate of 27 of the largest corporations of the country. Therein we see the power of the "new freedom" of which our president has spoken and written—the influence, too, of the newspapers and magazines of this day and age. The evil of interlocking directorates is passing.

Have you sent your boy's name yet to H. P. Briggs, Olympia, master of the Thurston County Pomona Grange, so that he will have as good a chance as every other boy in the county to spend a week at the state fair next summer at the expense of the state? "Get a move on" if you have not—names will be accepted only three or four days more and then the lucky boy will be chosen.

What do you think about "fines for improvements"? Write and tell us as our farmer did this week. His letter will be published next week.

SEATTLE BOY WINS.

Gets Rhodes Scholarship on Final Test—Shelton Boy a Candidate.

Charles Harold Gray of Seattle, a graduate of the 1913 law class of the University of Washington, was last week awarded the Rhodes scholarship from this state and will enter Oxford university in October. Mr. Gray was named after the final elimination tests before the examining board in Spokane and is the fifth University of Washington man to win the honor.

Leslie C. Hill of Spokane, a junior at Whitman college, and John H. Binns of Shelton, a sophomore at the Washington State college, were the two who were considered with Mr. Gray in the final tests.

Alice Pollman of Tenino has been granted a divorce from William P. Pollman by default, the latter not contesting the suit, the custody of the two minor children and the community property in Tenino.

Press Comment

Likes Ferris' Suggestions.  
(Arlington Times.)

It seems a pity that a man with the artistic tastes and vivid imagination possessed by E. W. Ferris should be saddled with such a prosaic title as "state fire warden." It was Mr. Ferris who started the movement for the reservation grounds on our salt water shores, and who suggested a grand scenic swing around the circle by means of a scenic highway starting in Skagit county, crossing the Cascades, circling through the Columbia river valley, re-crossing the Cascades and striking the Pacific highway in the southern part of the state. Now this same gentleman comes forward with a suggestion along similar lines, but probably more practical. He wants small tracts of virgin timber, about an acre in extent, left standing at various points along the main highways as recreation grounds and as an object lesson showing the real nature of Washington's forests. From a scenic and aesthetic standpoint the suggestion has real merit, and it is made at an opportune time, for, even now, bodies of unspoiled native timber are none too frequently met with along the main highways. In a few years tracts of green forest along the roads would be a source of real interest and pleasure to the travelling public.

The Express Companies' Lesson.  
(Raymond Herald.)

The express companies, which had a cinch on the universe with a down hill pull, are just beginning to realize that they carried their excessive rates a little too long, and now that the parcel post is taking the business away from them, they are revising their rates preparatory to meeting government competition. A little revision some years ago would no doubt have made the parcel post unnecessary, and there would have still been a good margin of profit for the express companies. The time for making from 100 to 1,000 per cent, in the public service corporation business has passed, and it will not be long until some other businesses which the public is forced to patronize will come within the price fixing powers of the government and state.

Battleships vs. Agriculture.  
(Big Bend Outlook.)

With \$250,000,000 a year appropriated for the navy and only about \$7,000,000 a year for agriculture is it any wonder that the cost of living is so high? And the worst of it is that money spent on battleships is as bad as wasted. In a few more years all of our great vessels will be consigned to the scrap heap, while the money used to develop our agricultural resources will be bringing in results many years from now.

Extravagance—the World's Trouble.  
(Puyallup Valley Tribune.)

Cheap credit is as necessary to profitable industry as cheap bread to the workman, and here is the record and explanation of dearer credit than the world has ever seen before, taking the nations together. Private credit is dear because public credit has been overworked everywhere. Public borrowing must lessen before there can be easy money for trade and manufactures. Public borrowing will lessen because the world's taxpayers have revolted. The cry about the cost of living is the outward and visible sign that the private budgets are in a state as deplorable as the public budgets.

In both public and private finance there is one common point—the cry of scarcity and exhaustion concurs with an unexampled abundance. Never were public or private incomes so large as at the time that the cry of exhaustion arises. The cause and the explanation are the same in both cases—lack of restraint and sense of proportion in self indulgence. With wages what they have been, self-denial would have enabled other generations to grow rich on their savings instead of poor on their spendings. There is nothing the matter with the world except that it has run so fast that it is out of breath, and must stand still to recover it.

If the resources of civilization are turned to production instead of destruction there will be plenty for all. If the governments which are aiding the poor would lessen their taxes they would do more for them than in any other way. If the governments would stop borrowing they would replenish the wages fund and allow the world to earn itself out of its slough. There is no need for a miracle, for a saviour, for a regeneration of society. The world is not perfect, but it is approaching perfection as fast, at least, as at any time in its experience. There is no greater deterrent than those who would unnerve the toilers by weakening their energies and increasing their burdens. Give the poor man work by ceasing to tax industry into starvation and leave his wages with him. It is better for him to do the rest for himself.

WHAT OUR FATHERS READ ABOUT IN THIS PAPER FIFTY YEARS AGO

(From the Washington Standard for January 9, 1864. Vol. IV, No. 9.)

We had a fall of snow on Wednesday evening last upon a frozen ground and of course the merry chime of sleigh bells was a natural sequence. The weather is now moderating.

The Mary Woodruff, the neat little steamer commanded by Capt. John Swan, arrived at the Olympia wharf on Thursday last and left in the evening of the same day.

Judge Wyche of the Walla Walla district and Hon. Leander Holmes of Vancouver called upon us one evening this week.

(Practically all of this issue is given over to the message of William Pickering, territorial governor, to the legislature then convening. Among the acts introduced were: to incorporate St. John's church, Olympia; changing the name of Sawamish county to Mason county in honor of C. H. Mason, former secretary of the territory; acts establishing various ferries and incorporating various logging companies; to protect white labor against Chinese; to provide a fee of \$1 for recording marriage licenses; etc.)

The New Year and Lippincott's.

Lippincott's begins the new year with promise of excellence maintained and interest still further advanced. The January number contains an engrossing complete novel by Carolyn Wells, entitled "A Maze of Mystery," while there are also some unique short stories, including "Every Dog—" by Theresa Helburn; "On the Level," by May Royce Ormsbee; "The Sailor of the Sall," by W. O. Stevens; "A Tyrant Abdicates," by Rex T. Stout; "The Whirligig of Time," by Mary Eleanor Roberts, and "The First Floor Front," by Kate Masterson.

Among the special articles is the second of Samuel Scoville's series, "Trappers of Men." Edward Sherwood Mead tells all about the income tax law which is proving such a puzzle to many people. "Factors of Safety," by John B. Huber, M. D., and "False Alarms," by Clifford Howard, are both seasonable and interesting. "Efficiency and Chronometer" is a satirical sketch by Ellis O. Jones. Another brief sketch of unusual merit is "Er-s" by Minna Thomas Antrim.

Garrecht Now U. S. Attorney.

Francis A. Garrecht of Walla Walla, one of the best known and popular attorneys of Eastern Washington, is now United States attorney for that district, having been appointed ad interim by Federal Judge Frank H. Rudkin when the department of justice notified Oscar Cain, the former incumbent, that his term expired at the end of the year.

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