

Washington Standard

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A GROSS NEGLECT OF DUTY.

One of the claims put up by those who are defending the county commissioners is to the effect that they are helplessly in the grip of the bridge companies, because they say these companies have divided the state among themselves and that while all may submit bids when asked to, Thurston county is asserted to be a part of the territory assigned to the Coast Bridge company of Portland and by the terms of an alleged understanding, agreement or association of some kind among the bridge companies, it is claimed that bids are so manipulated that the Coast Bridge company gets the contracts.

That is about as weak an excuse as could be offered. It does not explain, of course, why practically all the bridges built in Thurston county since January 1, 1911, have been built under the emergency clause; it does not explain why the Coast Bridge company got every contract let under the emergency provision and in one or two instances failed to get it when bids were called for, though it had previously been awarded the contract on an emergency and the county attorney ruled that the situation did not warrant an emergency; it does not explain the complaint of different bridge companies that there is no use of their submitting bids in Thurston county because they say they stand no show of getting a contract.

We have it on the authority of one of the best engineers in the state that, so far as he knows, no such an alleged agreement, understanding or association exists among the bridge companies and he bases this statement on the fact that while he was county engineer for a neighboring county up to a year ago he was always able to obtain bonafide competitive bids on bridge contracts in his county. If such an agreement, understanding or association did exist, would it not have come to his notice?

But, granting that such an alleged condition does exist, the fact remains that the county commissioners of this county have been grossly negligent of their duty in failing to call it to the attention of the proper authorities, so that those composing the alleged agreement, understanding or combination could be prosecuted under the state anti-trust laws. The commissioners were not helpless—they had and still have every authority of the county and state to break up such an alleged combination in restraint of trade if it does exist, as their friends say.

That they have failed to do so demonstrates that they have not exerted themselves to the best interests of the county. There can be no mistaking that fact; neither can it be dodged.

WHY SO MUCH CRIME?

There are some people who will tell you unhesitatingly and unquestioningly that the recent wave of crime throughout Western Washington is the direct result of the abolition of the death penalty by the last legislature. There are others who will blame it on the indeterminate sentence; others who will declare the "too human" treatment of prisoners at the penitentiary, in striking contrast to the practices of a few years ago, is responsible; others who will say the exercise of the pardoning power is another important factor. Then these people group all these alleged causes together and argue that they produce the belief in the mind of the possible criminal that if he does commit a crime in this state he will receive but little punishment for it, and so he is more liable to break the law.

It is needless to say, of course, that the people who advance these statements are of "the old school", who believe in the severest punishment for all infractions of the law, who believe in the old theory of revenge upon a criminal for his crime and not in the newer one of correction and education to convert the criminal from a criminal to a law-abiding citizen after his release. And in the crimes of the last few weeks these members of "the old school" find sufficient justification for their arguments.

Such may be the case. The writer is not sufficiently versed in criminology to be able to say it is or it is not, though he admits that the newer theory appeals to him far more strongly than the old, that to him the building of a character instead of the destruction of it, seems to be the wisest

course. It may be that our new theory is not yet rightly applied; it may be that we have not given it sufficient opportunity to accomplish what it should in individual cases, and it may be that the crimes of the last few weeks can teach us lessons in the application of our theory that will insure greater success for it.

Let us all hope so. Let us demonstrate conclusively that it is better to build a man's life than to destroy it, just as we know it is better to build an institution of a government than to destroy it. We should go forward in the newer theory, not backward to the old.

IT'S DIFFERENT—ON THE OUTSIDE.

Do you remember, during all of the years the Republicans controlled the United States senate and one presidential nomination after another was presented to it for confirmation, ever having heard our own beloved Wesley L. Jones protesting against the executive session as he is now protesting when the Democratic party is in power? You never did, of course, and so this is just another instance showing how different things look when you are on the "outside" from what they used to look when you were on the "inside."

We, however, join with our beloved senator in opposing the executive session and we trust he is wholly sincere in it and is not merely talking for the effect "back home." The days of the "star chamber" are passed—the people want the people's business transacted in the open. They were passed twenty-five years ago, in fact, for in the issue of The Washington Standard for April 12, 1889, appears the following significant editorial:

"There is not the slightest doubt that the coming decade will witness the abolishing of the star chamber executive session of the United States senate, particularly those applying to the confirmation of nominations made by the president of the United States, and this is as it should be. The senators, who are public officers, are working in the employ of and for the interest of the people and they have no more right to shut themselves up behind barred and watched doors while transacting the people's business than a non-stockholder in a business concern has the right to examine the books of the affair at all. Let the senators who have anything to say speak it out like Americans and not have their words strike only the iron doors of the senate chamber, there to stop."

So, you see, Senator Jones might have discovered twenty-five years ago the "awfulness" of this institution—the "star chamber" session—but somehow or other, he didn't!

The record of economy established by the Democratic members of the public service commission who during their first year spent but one-third of the amount appropriated for them for two years, is the kind of a record Governor Lister promised the people of this state for his administration. In other words, the Democrats are doing what their leader said they would, and the members of the public service commission are to be congratulated for accomplishing what they have.

With the close of the Standard's great popularity contest just eight days off, it might be well for us to repeat what was said in our issue of February 20, just after the contest started. Speaking of the contest we said: "Back of it stands the high reputation for honesty and square-dealing this newspaper bears and the positive assurance that nothing will be guaranteed in this contest but honesty and fairness among all." Irregardless of all the stories you may hear, that assurance has not been changed.

Carrying with it that impression of loftiness of purpose we as a people like to receive from those who would serve us in high public office, the platform announcement of George F. Cotterill, one of the Democratic candidates for United State senator, calls to all Democrats and all progressive citizens to gather to the support of Woodrow Wilson. Whether Mr. Cotterill is the man whom the Democrats of this state want to fulfil that mission, whether he is the man that should fill that position, the coming campaign will decide. His platform is published in this paper so that the people may know the things for which he stands.

If the city of Olympia has not sufficient money to meet its expenses, those expenses must be reduced in every possible way, regardless of all the "tommyrot" that the opponents of the present administration seek to circulate. There is not one of us, friend or foe of the city administration, that wants to see such drastic measures taken if they can be avoided, but when the issue is squarely before us, we must meet it the best way we can. It is too late then to quibble over "what might have been if—" for what followed that "if" is past and gone.

Partisanship makes no difference in facts—and the farmers have the facts and know it, presented straightforwardly and without any prejudice, bias or party color. The facts hurt—there's the rub.

"If Bettman Is on the Label You Are Safe."

"What do You want to pay?"



\$1.00---\$1.50---\$2.00

This is not an auction

We just want to impress you with the fact that you can pick out one of the noblest shirts you ever saw and at the price you want to pay.

We are here to serve you, not with a \$2.00 shirt if you want one at \$1.00, but with the best value ever shown at \$1.00, if that is what you want to pay—or \$1.50 or \$2.00.

Glance at the new ties at 50c, 75c and up. They are great.

Yes, and take just a few minutes to look over the new Spring Styles in Clothcraft Clothes at \$10 to \$20—the clothes that are making other makers think about prices.



BETTMAN

Everything to Wear for Men and Boys.

WHAT HAPPENED IN OLYMPIA AND STATE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(From The Washington Standard for April 12, 1889. Vol. XXVIII. No. 20. Whole No. 1,301.)

The steamers each evening bring to Olympia about 200 passengers.

The foundation for the new hospital is ready and work will be commenced at once.

Work on the new hotel is progressing favorably. Tomorrow the concrete for the foundation will be placed in the trenches and as soon as it has hardened the erection of the building will commence.

A number of our citizens have filed oyster claims in front of the city. There are 10 in all and they range along the city front from the Second street dock to the entrance of the long dock.

The new machine at the Eastside yard turns out 1,000 bricks per hour.

Nothing is or can be more indicative of the general prosperity of the Puget Sound basin than its wonderful activity in railroad development. At the present rate it will not be more than five years until there will be a complete network of railroads on both side of the Sound.

The reception at Columbia hall Tuesday evening tendered by the citizens of Olympia to Governor Moore and Secretary White, as well as an indication of respect to the retiring officers, Governor Semple and Secretary Owings, was a memorable occasion.

WHAT OUR FATHERS READ ABOUT IN THIS PAPER FIFTY YEARS AGO

(From The Washington Standard for April 9, 1864. Vol. IV. No. 22.)

Town election: The following gentlemen were elected a board of trustees for the ensuing year, on Monday last: Henry M. McGill, Edward Eddings, Jr., L. D. Durgin, A. J. Burr and Jesse Chapman. At their first meeting Thursday evening E. Giddings was chosen president of the board and Richard Lane clerk.

We observe that many of our citizens on Main and Fourth streets are setting out shade trees. They will add greatly to the appearance of the town in a few years.

The Oregonian of April 1 says that a private despatch has been received by a gentleman in Portland, dated March 29th, stating that the bill for a mint in Oregon had been defeated.

Early Rose Potato Seed

60 cents for 100 pounds

Can get the spuds at Mottinger's Garage on Columbia Street

EMERY C. WILLIAMSON

126 4th St. Olympia

Ship us your eggs by Parcel Post

WE PAY HIGHEST MARKET PRICE—CASH ON DELIVERY OR CHECK MAILED EVENING OF SAME DAY AS GOODS ARE RECEIVED.

SEND US YOUR POULTRY, TOO—WE'LL BUY THAT. PORK, VEAL AND PRODUCE HANDLED ON COMMISSION.

A TRIAL SOLICITED.

Capital Poultry Company

HORR'S DOCK

314 WEST FOURTH ST.

OLYMPIA, WASH.

NAVY "DRY" JULY 1. Secretary Daniels Bars Liquors From All Ships and Shore Stations.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels this week made public an order which not only will abolish the traditional "wine mess" of the officers, but will bar all alcoholic liquors from every ship and shore station of the navy after July 1 next.

This order was issued upon the recommendation of Surgeon General

It follows: "The use or introduction for drinking purposes of alcoholic liquors on board of any naval vessel, or within any navy yard or station, is prohibited, and commanding officers will be held directly responsible for the enforcement of this order."

The Northern Pacific is again offering special prices for potatoes weighing two pounds or over and those interested are directed to communicate with H. J. Titus at Seattle or St. Paul, Minn.