

The Evening Statesman

Published by THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING CO. PERCY C. HOLLAND, Manager. Office, No. 9, Third St., Near Main. Telephone Main 123.

One year (delivered by mail in advance)	\$6.00
Six months	3.00
One month, by carrier	50
One week, by carrier	15
Weekly Statesman, one year in advance	1.00
Six months	50

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The complete telegraphic news service printed in these columns daily is furnished by SCRIPPS NEWS ASSOCIATION, and is by far the best report published in Walla Walla.



NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

Copy of change of advertisement must be delivered to the business office by the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. to insure insertion in the issue of even date.

WEATHER.

Tonight and Saturday occasional rain or snow; cooler tonight.

HIGHER WAGES FOR TEACHERS.

The State Teachers' Association at Spokane yesterday decided to begin a systematic campaign for higher wages. In this effort they will have the sympathy of everybody who knows anything about the work and the worries of the average teacher with poor pay and uncertain tenure of position. The rural teacher especially is underpaid and it is seldom that he is able to give "general satisfaction" to the patrons for more than one school year. The average length of the term in the rural districts is about six months and on the wages earned in that time the teacher must eke out an existence unless he can get work in the harvest fields, as a book agent or in domestic service. The pay may be large enough for the girl with well-to-do parents who is teaching merely to get a little pin money or to provide for extra pleasures, but it is wholly inadequate to meet the needs of the man or the woman that is seeking to build a permanent home or to establish a competence against the period of old age.

Because of the low wages paid and the insecure tenure of position, teachers generally look upon their work either as a makeshift or as a stepping stone to something better. In order to make teaching a permanent profession worthy of the name the average wages should be doubled and provision should be made for insuring competent teachers permanent positions. Under present conditions teachers are under the necessity of spending a large part of their meager wages in seeking positions.

It is not quite so bad in the cities as in the country districts. A city superintendent is usually given the authority to assign teachers, and he can so shift them about as to get the best results, give the best satisfaction to patrons and at the same time insure the teacher a position. The schools of the county should be subject to similar supervision. The superintendent or some central board should have the power to assign teachers to the several districts, thus insuring the competent teacher a position somewhere in the county. By weeding out the incompetents the number of teachers would not exceed the demand.

The state association passed a resolution in favor of an act of the legislature to fix a minimum salary to be paid teachers, this minimum to be \$60 a month for holders of first grade certificates, \$55 for second grade and \$50 for third grade certificates. It may be a question whether the legislature has any better constitutional right to fix the wages of school teachers than it would have to fix the wages of preachers, printers, bricklayers and other wage-earners, but it will be generally agreed that the minimum scale named by the association is low enough.

The time will come when the rural

schools will have as long a term of school as the city schools and then we may expect teachers to be employed by the year at respectable wages. Not until that time comes will teaching be placed on a permanent professional basis.

A DANGEROUS USURPATION.

For the supreme court of a state to assume authority to supervise elections and to constitute itself a returning board is something new in the history of this republic. It remained for the supreme court of Colorado to blaze the way for this new departure from old ideas of the proper functions of the three departments of the national and the state governments, executive, legislative and judicial.

Shortly before the November election the two republican judges constituting a majority of Colorado's supreme court appointed as watchers for the 204 precincts of Denver heeled selected by the republican machine. Not a single democratic watcher was appointed. These watchers in several instances purposely provoked riots at the polls in order to vitiate the returns. In other instances they took charge of the ballot boxes after the polls closed and tampered with the ballots so as to make it appear that democratic election officers had been guilty of gross frauds. The supreme court has sent over 30 democrats to jail for alleged frauds that were in fact committed by the crooks appointed for the purpose by the court.

By throwing out all the democratic wards of Denver Alva Adams' 11,000 plurality over Governor Peabody will be overcome and the latter will be given a second term. To complete this work the republican state returning board has given certificates of election to several republican candidates for the state senate who were defeated on the face of the returns. This will give the republicans control of both branches of the legislature and this body will review the contested election returns and declare Peabody elected.

The head and front of this damnable conspiracy is the Colorado supreme court, or rather the two republican members of that court, which has only three members. It is another example of the evils of government by injunction, and it should arouse the American people irrespective of party lines to take decisive steps to put an end to such abuses and outrages in the future.

MAKING GOOD PROGRESS.

Legislation by the present congress at this closing session with reference to railroad-rate regulation is not probable. Less than two months of actual working life remains of the present congress, and the proper remedy for railroad abuses is not yet formulated with sufficient definiteness to expect enactment of new laws in the closing days of this congress.

It is not to be inferred, however, from this state of facts, that progress is not being made in the direction of governmental regulation. Apparently they are not talking or thinking of much else in Washington these days. The president has made rate regulation the important current issue. There is something doing. He has not committed himself to any particular plan or measure. Even the suggestions of Secretary Morton are not understood to be the president's plan necessarily, but a tentative scheme thrown out for the consideration of congress and the public and the railroad managers, and as an aid to a satisfactory solution or agreement toward which the president is pressing as rapidly as circumstances will permit.

That so much progress has been made is due mainly to the earnestness and zeal of the man in the White House. He means business, and he has even secured a concession on the part of obstructionists in the senate to the effect that something must be done, and an exhibition of willingness, however reluctant it may be, to let the matter have consideration before the upper house.

It is extremely gratifying to the general public to see the success with which the president overcomes the resistance and sweeps away the opposition of that little coterie in the house and senate who have been masters of the situation for many years heretofore, and have held within their grip the possibilities of legislation on all matters of importance.

The president is not ignoring these men. He recognizes their ability, their experience and their influence. But he is compelling them at the same

time to recognize and respond to public sentiment. The president is going upon the principle that the people generally know what they want and are entitled to have it, and he is going to see that they get it.

CORPORATION REGULATION.

Mr. Garfield, federal commissioner of corporations, does not report in favor of any hitherto unprepared method of dealing with corporations engaged in interstate commerce, but he does unqualifiedly recommend that method which has most strongly appealed to all who have looked into the question. The requirement of federal permission for a state corporation to engage in interstate business is the easiest and most effective manner of bringing under firm federal control those phases of corporation management which now succeed in escaping all control because they are beyond the powers of the individual states.

Mr. Garfield is quite right in maintaining that the federal government has the power to create corporations, and congress should make provision for such corporations. But as all our corporations, except the national banks, are now organized under state laws, it would raise a host of difficult problems and lead to endless confusion if they were to be required to reorganize under federal laws. The requirement of a federal license of a state corporation before it can do an interstate business will necessitate the elimination of objectionable features of its organization and bring it directly under the supervision of the federal government. Under such an arrangement no state—as New Jersey is today—could be the paradise of corporations except such as should confine their operations to the territory of the state. As there is scarcely a business corporation anywhere that does a strictly interstate business, the adoption of a federal license law would bring practically all of the corporations of the United States under federal supervision to the extent that it is necessary to keep them from escaping punishment for wrongdoing by playing off the states against each other.

By the way, William J. Bryan was the first to suggest federal licenses for corporations doing an interstate business and it now seems likely that his suggestion will be adopted by the Roosevelt administration.

The discussion of the whole question of corporation regulation seems to be coming to a head. For years we have sat around and talked about national regulation of railway rates as something desirable but essentially utopian, and now all at once we are right in the midst of the problem of working out some method of regulation. The nation proposes to be the master of its corporations.

NOTED EDUCATOR'S VIEWS.

President Jordan, of Stanford Talks of Russ-Japanese War.

"Oregon students are among the best at Stanford university," said David Starr Jordan, president of that institution, while spending a short time in Spokane attending the meeting of the State Teachers' Association of Washington. "The attendance this year is excellent," he continued, "we have 1600 enrolled in the university."

Dr. Jordan's interest in world affairs led to the present Russian war, and he states that he has the word of an eminent Russian official that the czar has not been sane since he was struck on the head at a riot many years ago at Otsu, when he was still czarvitch. He considers Japan already a winner and believes that the present war will let light into Russia.

"Russia stands no chance against Japan in the present war, and will ultimately be driven out of Manchuria. Governed as she is by so much official rottenness, Russia cannot hope to win against a nation like Japan, whose every citizen is permeated with an intense national spirit. The result of the war will be humiliation for Russia and the betterment of conditions in that benighted empire."

"I was familiar with the state of Japan when the present war started, and she was in a splendid condition of preparedness. Every man and boy in the empire is willing and anxious to die for his country if necessary, and with such a spirit the Japs cannot lose. She has an admirable soldiery and is now providing abundant resources for continuing the war."

"No nation in the world is so well organized, and in the Japanese empire we find the advantages of feudalism joined to those of civilization. When you array such a people against a power like Russia, where there is practically no national spirit, and where internal conditions are so unspeakably rotten with irresponsible grafters occupying the highest positions, with an insane ruler at the head of things, and the overpowering burden of carrying on a great war thousands of miles away from home is added, there can be but one result—defeat. I predicted disaster for Russia when the war started."

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