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While other cities have been busily engaged in organizing prize fighting clubs and seeking an uneivable notoriety by offering large purses for noted bruisers to make chopping blocks of each other within their precincts, Portland has cast her influence on the side of decency and decreed in favor of genuine athletics, devoid of degrading brutality. More than 200 of the best young men of the city have organized an amateur athletic club upon a solid and permanent basis, from which the professional slugger will be as rigidly excluded as a case of smallpox.

One by one those Oregon cities that in the past made records for moss-backism that bid fair to endure till the end of time have shaken off the ceremonies of the grave and risen to a new life. Astoria is the last addition to the list. Her failure to support the railroad scheme and other movements designed to increase her commercial importance seemed to mark her as hopelessly inert, but when a city can rustle around and in a few hours raise \$17,000 for a prize fight there is at least a reasonable hope of resurrection. Nearly every city except Astoria has a railroad, but few of them have the enterprise to bid so high for a prize fight, and Astoria is to be congratulated upon her unique position.

Foreign newspaper correspondents are again plunging Europe into war, in accordance with the usual spring custom that has prevailed for years. That at any time there is ample foundation in the large armaments and numerous international complications for the scribblers to work upon is what lends plausibility to their theories and gravity to the situation. When men constantly go "breeled" for a fight there is every prospect that a fight will not be long delayed, and this is as true of nations as of individuals. But there is a deeply rooted aversion to war among the people of all nations upon whom the suffering and misery it would create must fall, and this sentiment would be so intensified by the actual resort to arms by some aggrieved or ambitious potentate, that consequences not taken into the calculation might be the result. Upheavals from within might produce a greater and more lasting change in the present political condition of Europe than any possible success in arms, and it is doubtless through such a source that this change, so desirable for the progress of the human race, will come.

It has been finally determined that the Pacific coast will have the pleasure of entertaining President Harrison, who will leave Washington on his western trip two weeks hence. He should be welcomed and entertained as the president of the United States, rather than an individual, and all political sentiment should be laid one side. It is for the interest of the west that the nation's public men should visit it and become conversant with its needs and the conditions under which it is making such wonderful progress. Ignorance on the part of members of congress and cabinet and departmental officers has deprived the west of much that is needed to promote its development, and the only cure for the evil is education. If the journey shall open the president's eyes sufficiently to make him see the advisability of having the Pacific coast represented in his cabinet, it will be of great advantage to us in the more intelligent treatment western interests will receive at the hands of the administration. Aside, however, from any considerations of this kind, the presence of the chief magistrate of the nation should be considered an honor calling for a proper testimony of our respect.

It seems only necessary for one individual to deliver an historical lecture on the subject of the settlement of the country for forty others to start a bombardment of it in the press. The "Whitman Myth," as the anti-missionary historians call it, is as hard to lay as the ghost of Banquo, while the other

party find as much difficulty in making the people look upon it as genuine flesh and blood. Apparently it has never occurred to these controversialists that there is a middle ground of truth lying somewhere between them upon which they all could stand if they would but give up the prejudices engendered through years of dispute and make a dispassionate review of the evidence. Such an investigation would doubtless result in a majority report that the extravagant claims of the missionary party have little else than zeal and the product of a lively imagination for support, resting, however, upon a foundation of fact; and that the absolute negation of the other side requires maternal modification. It would reveal the fact that while the cod fishing tail, the Fort Walla Walla wings, and the long ears of the dramatic incidents said to have occurred in Washington, could be shaved off, and with them the legs and feet of the story about raising a train of immigrants, there would be still left a respectable body to the missionary animal, which the other side might see if they would remove their smoked glasses.

Under the caption of "A Noble Boy," a contemporary presents the following:

George Bunn, of Emigrant Springs, in Wasco, Oregon, has a son, Peter, eleven years old, who began plowing at the age of eight, when he plowed 200 acres with three horses. Between the age of eight and ten he ran a gang plow with five horses, and during his eleventh year he ran a four-horse drill and drove a four-horse header wagon all through harvest. Few boys of the same age can beat that record. If there are any who can, we don't know of them. Such boys are worth raising, and are a blessing to a mother and a joy to a father, which last forever. Strange, all our boys can't come up to the Wasco fellow.

The boy is all right, but what can be said of a father who will require a boy of such tender years to exhaust his vitality in doing a man's hard labor? This habit, so common among farmers, of making slaves and pack horses out of their children, checking the proper development of both mind and body, is more indicative of an undue regard for economy than a desire to provide for their welfare. It explains why those who are reared in such a school are behind the rest of the world in mental endowment and opportunity to enjoy the blessings of life, and also why those who are able to break away in youth from such an environment never willingly place themselves within it again—why, in fact, the "boy leaves the farm." If farmers would pay a little more attention to the education of their children and a little less to getting a man's work out of a boy of ten years of age, it would not be many years before the condition of the farmer would be so much better than it now is that it would not be necessary to resort to the questionable measures proposed by the farmers' alliance to improve it.

It is a matter of congratulation that a western man has been selected for land commissioner, a man who is sufficiently well acquainted with the needs and methods of settlers to construe the law according to its spirit in their interests, and not harass them by absurd, technical decisions and regulations, as has been the custom of the past. Under the Cleveland administration the land office was conducted on the theory that every man who entered a tract of government land did so with the purpose of defrauding the government. Thousands of cases where settlers had complied with the law in every particular were held suspended in the general land office because the commissioner had not time to give them a careful investigation to see if there was not some possible technical defect upon which the refusal of a patent could be based. Meanwhile, without patent, settlers could not borrow any money upon their claims for the purpose of improving them. A cry of protest went up from all over the west, but was unheeded, while the suspended cases continued to pile up in the land office. With the Harrison administration there came a change, and the good, old, common law rule that a man must be considered innocent until proved guilty was substituted for the theory of total depravity, and settlers began to receive their patents. But even then the interests of settlers were made a secondary consideration, and the affairs of the department were not ordered in sympathy with them. The appointment of Hon. Thomas H. Carter, of Montana, to this position is a final recognition that the west itself has a greater interest in the honest and judicious settlement and cultivation of its own lands than any other section of the country, and that a western man is consequently the most competent and serviceable person to have at the head of the general land office. It is conceded that ignorance of the condition and needs of settlers upon public lands has had more to do with the apparently hostile position assumed by the officials at Washington than any desire to retard the settlement of public lands or to make a record, and the appointment of Mr. Carter removes this great source of trouble. An intelligent construction of the land laws and revision of departmental regulations may be confidently anticipated.