

Clackamas County Record

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NOT ORTHODOX.

Dr. Lyman Abbott has brought upon his head the rage of the United Church. His alleged open renunciation of the faith is the current topic of discussion in religious circles.

Possibly these churchmen who denounce Mr. Abbott in the most scathing terms are not following closely in the footsteps of their great preceptor. We recall the scene of a guilty woman whose crime permitted of the punishment that she be stoned until dead, brought by her accusers before the great Teacher. We have in mind the sentence that must have come, if out from divinity, at least from a heart that held close communication with higher counsel than man. "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

The accusers of Dr. Abbott, it seems, have not waited for the most righteous to commence the attack, none has waited for the other, but they have yied with each other in their eagerness to "cast the first stone."

The haste with which these churchmen rush in to denounce a highly respected and able fellow-worker, would indicate to a disinterested observer a desire to proclaim their own adherence to the faith, rather than to accomplish good in the church. They seem over-zealous of pointing out the culprit, and apparently with a view toward hiding their own shortcomings.

It is claimed that Dr. Abbott, in the following language, has read himself out of the church. He remarks that "The Bible is a record of the religious experiences of imperfect men."

Though Dr. Abbott, in taking the view that he does, may be farther from the catechism, he is closer to the people, and he is within the current of modern thought. The church is not decreasing in the numbers of its membership, but it is certainly losing much of its power, losing much of its influence within and without its membership. It is losing this power and influence because of the insistence of its leaders to clothe the advanced thought of today in such tattered garments as the cant and dogmas originated by a narrow minded, State nurtured Clergy of two hundred years ago.

The people will not accept ideas of religion that are a reflection of the intelligence of the present time. As the thought of youth develops in the course of maturity, so the thought and intelligence of mankind develops as times grow older. The Church to hold its influence must accept this condition.

Mr. Abbott is undoubtedly attempting to bring the spirit of the Church in harmony with the spirit of the time. He has braved the world and the wrath of his old time associates in courageously announcing his convictions; for this he is to be commended.

CORPORATION TAX IS WELCOME.

Now that we are to have a corporation tax, the amount to be paid based on the capitalization of the corporation, the mining industry will be invited to pay a handsome tribute to the State of Oregon. Of the dozen or so corporations organized in the state each week, about three-fourths of them are of mining companies.

These are usually capitalized in sums ranging from one to ten millions of dollars, but with such ingenuity that their actual liability does not often exceed thirty or forty cents.

It is generally recognized, however, that there is a vast amount of property that escapes taxation by reason of its intangible nature. Telephone and telegraph companies reap a rich harvest from nearly every community, yet they pay a small part of the burden of government.

There are many people, students of George's theories of political economy, who believe in a land tax only. The

basis of their theory is that by collecting the whole revenue of Government from a tax on land, and that the land of the country would find its way into the hands of small individual holders. As this is only a theory however, and the burden of taxation as at present distributed a disagreeable fact, the law providing for a tax on corporations will find a welcome with the people of Oregon.

CHANGE IS DESIRABLE.

The bill placing the county judge at the head of the commissioners' court will meet the approval of the people of Clackamas County. Not because of the exceptional popularity of the present county judge, but because of the increased working facility of the court as constituted by the change.

There will now be present at all times a member of the court ready to give attention to matters of minor detail, and it will only be necessary for the court at its monthly assembling to ratify his action.

Citizens coming from a distance with matters needing the attention of the commissioners can explain whatever is necessary to the chairman of the board and he can lay the matter before the court at its regular meeting without its being necessary for the petitioner to make an extra trip. The new law will also remove many questions of jurisdiction. The statutes referring to the county court were passed when the court was thus constituted, and the removal of the county judge from the commissioners' court rendered them obscure and difficult of interpretation.

Clackamas County has at present three exceptionally efficient commissioners, and will reluctantly give up any one of them. Some section of the county however, will be called upon to sacrifice its representation on the board. We will still have, very fortunately, a board of commissioners broad minded enough to represent every section of the county.

NEW MAN IN CHARGE OF MILL.

Drive of Piling Starts from Mulino With Seven Hundred Logs.

MULINO, Or., Feb. 4.—(Special.)—Mr. U. G. Hardesty, wife and two children arrived here a few days ago from Salina, Kansas, to take charge of Mr. Howard's mill. Mr. Hein who has had charge of the mill for the last four years, will start for Roseburg today. The people of this community are sorry to see Mr. and Mrs. Hein leave us. We will miss their smiling faces and their ever helping hands but our loss is the people of Roseburg's gain.

The second drive of piling on the Molalla started last Friday. They started with seven hundred logs and ten men to do the work. They want to get to the Willamette river in ten days. The first drive took twenty-seven days.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiles were called to Portland last Sunday to attend the funeral of a friend.

Mr. George Bedker, of North Yakima, Wash., was the guest of P. P. Murphy last week.

Vocal Music Concert.

Next Wednesday evening the closing concert of the Y. M. C. A. vocal music class will be rendered in the Baptist Church. A very interesting programme has been prepared, and it will be a treat in the music line not usually equalled in Oregon City. Several members of Portland talent will assist instrumental and vocal music and recitations. Among those from Portland are the following: Miss L. Viola Gilbert, solo soprano; Miss Katherine Covach, solo soprano; Miss May Stanton, contralto; Mr. Theodore Esser, bass; Mr. George C. Watkins, bass; Miss Florence Walton, reader; Mrs. W. F. Wershkuhl, accompanist.

Special Council Meeting Wednesday.

The city council will hold a special meeting next Wednesday evening to take some action on the sewer construction in district No. 2. The sewer will run from the alley between Seventh and Eighth streets to Thirteenth street on the hill and Fourteenth street below the hill and from the river to the center line of the block between Jackson and Van Buren streets. Changes will probably have to be made in the grades of portions of the streets before the cost of the sewer can be determined.

"Ye shall be known by your good works." Watch for the mammoth street parade. It will be a hummer, two drum majors, Big Silver Cornet Band and "do coons dat make you larf." 40 of them, count them. Don't forget the date, February 19. Wait for the big show.

Born—Wednesday last, to Mr. and Mrs. John P. Keating, a son.

SCALP BOUNTY LAW

BILL TO ABOLISH SCALP BOUNTY BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE.

Fellow-Servant Bill Passes Both Houses By Unanimous Vote—Resolution to Amend Constitution to Make Terms of County Officers Four Years Passes Senate.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 6.—(Special to the Record.)—Representative LaFollett, of Marion County, has introduced a bill to repeal the scalp bounty law. The bill was reported favorably by the committee on agriculture but when it came up for action in the House it created a sensation. Eastern Oregon members oppose the repeal of the law and the bill has been referred to the committee on assessment and taxation.

Eddy's bill providing for an annual tax on corporations, has passed both Houses. The measure is expected to produce an annual revenue to the state of \$100,000 and prescribes certain fees to be paid when articles of incorporation are filed and an annual license tax for the privilege of doing business in the state. The fees are graduated, so that the tax will not fall heavily upon small corporations engaged in development enterprises, such as local irrigation companies, creameries, etc. The bill will become a law 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature.

The fellow-servant bill has passed both Houses by a unanimous vote. The bill makes an employer liable for damages when an employe is injured through the carelessness of a fellow-servant.

Senate joint resolution No. 2 to amend the constitution so as to extend the term of office of county officers to four years, passed the senate yesterday. The vote on the resolution stood 13 to 11.

The Senate has passed a bill to fix the fees to be paid by litigants. The jury fee is reduced from \$12 to \$8. The bill contemplates an advance of about 40 per cent in the fees to be paid by litigants.

Webster's bill to limit liability on counties for personal injuries received from defective highways was defeated in the House yesterday by a vote of 37 to 19.

Representative Webster's bill to make sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and constables ex-officio fire, game and fish wardens passed the House yesterday. It gives these officers power to enforce the fish, game and forestry laws and to arrest offenders. The passage of the bill in the Senate is probable. Officers are given power to search "without warrant, any boat, conveyance, vehicle, fishbox, fishbasket, gamebag, gamecoat or other receptacle for game or fish when they have good reason to believe that any of the laws for the protection of forests and timber lands, game, and food fish have been violated; and the said sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, constables, or wardens shall at any time seize and take possession of any and all birds, animals or fish which have been caught, taken or killed at any time, in a manner, or for a purpose, or had in possession or under control, have been shipped, or about to be shipped, contrary to any of the laws of this state, and seize and take possession of any and all fishing appliance and boats, fished, operated or maintained in violation of any of the game or fish laws of the state. All birds, animals, or fish, or nets, or fishing appliance or apparatus seized by any sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable or warden shall be disposed of in such manner as may be directed by the court before whom the offense is tried, and such sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable or warden shall not be liable for damages on account of any search, examination or seizure, or the confiscation of any nets fishing appliance or apparatus of any kind in accordance with the provisions of this act."

Dancing School.

Turney starts a school at the Beaver Creek hall. Meet every Wednesday night from 8 to 12 o'clock. Admission, gents 50 cents, ladies free.

Beatie & Beatie, dentists, Weinhard building, rooms 16, 17 and 18.

HE WAS A PAINTER.

A Drunken Prisoner's Excuse in a New York Police Court.

It is characteristic of almost all the prisoners except the drunks that their chief concern is to secure a delay. They plead and beg for an adjournment, which they know will only postpone the inevitable for a day or two, and that although, through their inability to obtain bail, they will have to stay in prison just the same. The most plausible explanation is that they all are fatalists, always hoping that something unexpected may turn up to save off the impending catastrophe. The drunks, on the other hand, are more eager to face the arbiter of their fates, knowing that nothing worse than a fine is likely to befall them and that the sooner it is imposed the sooner it may be paid or served off. And then there is the chance, if the magistrate is in good humor, that they may get away unscathed at once.

As a rule, although not seldom still in their cups, they are loath to make any incriminating admissions. "No, sir," protested a man who kept himself from falling over by holding on nervously to the bar; "I'm not drunk, 'cause no one's drunk who's not falling all over himself." Excuses of the most wonderful kind, some of them really ingenious, others merely ridiculous, are put forward when the fatality of feigning innocence has been discovered. The cleverest explanation of that kind that I ever heard was advanced by a man who, when taxed with having displayed unmistakable signs of intoxication, simply replied that he was a painter by trade.

"That has nothing to do with your condition," said the magistrate. "Of course it has," rejoined the prisoner. "I was painting a barber pole and kept on twisting after the stripes until I got so dizzy that the cop thought I was boozey."—Edward Birkman in Century.

HE WORKED THE BANKER.

How a Clever Merchant Killed Two Birds With One Stone.

Recently a wealthy merchant in Paris who does an extensive business with Japan was informed that a prominent firm in Yokohama had failed, but the name of the firm he could not learn, though he was most anxious to ascertain whether it was the one with which he did most of his business in that city. He could have learned the truth by cabling, but instead he went to the man, a well known banker, who had received the news and requested him to reveal the name of the firm to him.

"That's a very delicate thing to do," replied the banker, "for the news is not official, and if I gave you the name I might incur some responsibility." The merchant argued, but in vain, and finally he made this proposition: "I will give you," he said, "a list of ten firms in Yokohama, and I will ask you to look through it and then to tell me, without mentioning any name, whether or not the name of the firm which has failed appears in it. Surely you will do that for me?"

"Yes," said the banker, "for if I do not mention any name I cannot be held responsible in any way." The list was made. The banker looked through it and as he handed it back to the merchant said, "The name of the firm which has failed is there." "Then I've lost heavily," replied the merchant, "for that is the firm with which I did business," showing him a name on the list.

"But how do you know that is the firm which has failed?" asked the banker in surprise. "Very easily," replied the merchant. "Of the ten names on the list only one is genuine, that of the firm with which I did business. All the others are fictitious."

Two Impossible Men.

Dr. Hausleek once asked Schumann how he got on with Wagner. "Not at all," replied Schumann; "for me Wagner is impossible. Doubtless he is a very clever man, but he talks too fast—one cannot get a word in." Some time after, in an interview which Hausleek had with Wagner, allusion was made to Schumann.

"With Schumann," said Wagner, "it is impossible to arrive at an understanding. He says nothing. Some years ago on my return from Paris I called upon him to talk of operas, concerts, composers and other interesting matters with which I had become acquainted. Schumann looked at me stolidly, or rather he looked into space, without saying a word. Faith, I took leave of him almost immediately. He is an impossible man."

Taking No Chances.

"Do you mean to say that you don't want a railway through Crimson Gulch?" asked the astonished surveyor.

"That's exactly what I mean to say, young feller," answered Broncho Bob. "Cactusville got a railroad, didn't it? And they hadn't it two weeks before a couple of men won half the money in camp, got cold feet, took the train and was gone forever and ever. Crimson Gulch ain't takin' any such chances."—Washington Star.

A Rub For Tennyson.

When Alfred Tennyson appeared in the Oxford theater to receive his D. C. L. degree, it is said that his disheveled hair and generally negligent state provoked the undergraduates into greeting him with the inquiry, "Did your mother call you early, call you early, Alfred, dear?"

Better Left Unaid.

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