

The Oregonian

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and vilifying the Oregonian, to the limit of his powers, as a blackguard. Hence it is worth while now to reprint here an estimate of him given by the chief newspaper of his state.

THE GAS INVESTIGATION. Yesterday, before a special committee of the Common Council, inquiry was begun into the service, quality and price of gas furnished in the City of Portland. The investigation seems to be a consequence of complaints against the service, published from time to time by the Oregonian. In opening for the gas company, Mr. Joseph Teal assumed, as it appeared, that the Oregonian was on trial, for having called into question the efficiency of the service, the methods of the company and the price of gas.

What the Oregonian has done is simply this: It has given voice to the complaints of many people against the quality of the gas, against the methods of the service and the price. It has exposed the general complaint against the exactions of the meter system and the "hot air" sold as gas; it has shown that the rates were high in comparison with those elsewhere, and has reminded the public that here was a public-service corporation using the streets as will, breaking pavements and obstructing streets, yet paying nothing to the city for the occupying privileges and the right on which the whole of the system, its business and its profits, depend.

THE LOCK CANAL FAVORED. The world's trade routes have been shifting in the past few years, and, unless commerce settles down in beaten tracks, there is a large amount of it susceptible to diversion. This is the principal reason why there should be no delay in rushing the Panama Canal to completion, and, in order to build it in the shortest time possible, it becomes necessary to adopt the lock type of canal.

EVIL THAT GOOD MAY COME. What is the value of a young man's soul? Plainly, Mr. Rader thinks it is not a great deal. A man who supplies a youth of 19 years with funds for debauchery and sends him into the streets to participate in beastly orgies thinks lightly of decency and virtue. So much is certain. Mr. Rader will reply, perhaps, that he bargained for this young man's destruction with a good motive. He wished to obtain evidence against saloon-keepers. He wished to convict prostitutes. He is not the first to plead a good motive for a wicked deed, but the plea never has availed and it never will.

TO PAY A DETECTIVE OF MATURE YEARS and formed character to investigate a man who is bent upon unwholesome acts savors of the abhorrent. The right judgment of men condemns the practice and judges have denounced it from the bench, though we may sometimes excuse it as a last resort when crime can be detected in no other way. But to select a boy for this vile purpose, to provide him with money to encourage him to plunge into debauchery, to sacrifice his soul and body for the sake of making a case in court—surely Mr. Rader must have dragged his conscience before he could do such a deed. Or is there an extremity of fanaticism which destroys the conscience and makes a man morally dead?

AMERICAN MUSIC. About thirty students (colored) of the industrial institute located at Manassas, Va., were a few days ago presented to President Roosevelt by Dr. Edward Everett Hale, the venerable chaplain of the Senate, and Booker T. Washington, of the Tuskegee Institute. The students sang two or three songs during the interview, and each singer was later cordially greeted by the President. Luchon was not served, hence the traditions were not shocked at the occurrence.

THE FEDERATION FEELS. Many thousand years have elapsed since primitive man dwelt in caves and with bludgeon or stone hammer enforced that ancient unwritten law that "might makes right." Unfavorable environment and the undeveloped mind of those early savages may to a degree have excused their religious adoration of that peculiar rule for settling disputes. There is nothing, however, in the civilization or environment of the people of the present day that offers any excuse for relapse to the methods of savagery which prevailed thousands of years ago.

Under a tyrannical, brutal form of government, such as has forced the colored student who sang themselves into his favor, spoke the dignified and importance of their musical work, urged the development of this talent among a people awaking to their opportunities, and added: "I feel that there is a very strong probability that gradually, out of the capacity for melody that your race has, we shall develop some school of American music."

Complicity in these crimes was, of course, denied, for the midnight assassinations and bombings are always a coward, and guards closely his own worthless life; but these denials were never accompanied by any satisfactory expression of disapproval of the foul

deeds. An erroneous belief is prevalent that this Western Federation of Miners is a labor organization of standing similar to the American Federation of Miners. Nothing could be farther from the truth, for this Western Federation is in no way allied with the American Federation of Miners, which is a respectable, law-abiding labor organization. On the contrary, it is cordially detested by all honest American union labor men, for the reason that, through confusion in the public mind, decent, respectable union labor has at times had to bear the consequences of the odium attached to the organization.

While the limelight was playing so brightly on the ship subsidy bill before the Senate last week, two important features in connection with American shipping may have escaped notice. One was a bill developed by the American people which permitted an American citizen to secure American registry for a wrecked foreign vessel, after he had expended a certain amount for repairs. By repeal of this law it is again necessary to have Congress grant special permission before we can make any new additions of this nature to the American merchant marine.

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who fought were not thieves." The boldness of this statement consisted in the insinuation of rascality in the construction and equipment of the Russian fleet, though for obvious reasons no specific statement was made in substantiation of the rascality implied. He spoke, however, of the force of Japanese shells, which, exploding in the water, opened great seams in the armor of the Russian ships, through which the water poured, and of the shells which hit the vessels squarely and were as destructive as mines. The inference was that neither the offensive nor the defensive power of the fleet of Russia was as highly developed as that of Japan, and that this was directly due to the constructing and not to the operating force of the Russian navy.

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THE SILVER LINING.

In San Francisco it is the officials of the gas company who do the kicking in the case of the consumer. This is what they did to Julius Wolfmer: Julius Wolfmer declared that Stephen A. Byrne, superintendent of the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company, kicked him three times in as many different portions of his middle and lower anatomy, but Mr. Byrne would admit that he planted his foot upon only one of the spots described by Mr. Wolfmer and that the planting was not performed with anything like the violence alleged by that gentleman.

The regular patrol, a little pale and took out his newspaper. "Streak, as per usual," said the waiter. "No, I am not tonight," the patron answered, "bring me a plate of hash."

It seems now that Baron Theobald Metzger von Weibom is not a myth, but a real Dutchman. It would be hard to accuse a man with a name like that of being a myth.

When "Jack the Stabber" was arrested in St. Louis, he said: "I just took that knife and stuck it into them. I don't know just how the idea first came to me." When he gets what there is coming to him he will know how that came to him.

A Klamath Falls man is making money through his skunk farm. Another case of tainted money. Dr. Washington Gladden will please take note.

A happy Illinois mother named Joy recently gave birth to a sixth pair of twins. Oh, Joy!

A useless word contest is raging in Kansas. A useless man contest, from the viewpoint of a mother-in-law, is next.

A German physician says that the fact that women are not allowed to wear is responsible for a vast majority of the attacks of nerves from which the gentle sex suffers. A Seattle wit, therefore, suggests that expletives be taught in every girl's school.

M. Fallieres, the new President of the French republic, is not worrying very much just now about governing France. He's trying to get thin. Sometimes he takes long walks in the Paris suburb, and he often mounts a stationary bicycle in his dressing-room and takes imaginary laps.

AWAITING HOYT'S RETURN.

Action on Bristol's Letter Delayed Again at Capital. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 20.—Owing to the failure of Solicitor General Hoyt to return to Washington today, no action was taken on the case of District Attorney Bristol, and as yet Mr. Bristol's explanation of his famous letter has not been laid before the President for final disposition. Mr. Hoyt was expected back this morning, but sent word he would be delayed one day. If he arrives tomorrow he will make a report to the President.

RAILROAD THREAT EFFECTIVE. Speed Requirement Cut Out of Stock Shipping Bill. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 20.—The Hayburn bill permitting shipment of livestock for periods not exceeding 24 consecutive hours is to be amended, the suggestion being that provision requiring railroads to maintain an average speed of 16 hours on stock trains. The railroad raised objections to this position to this feature of the bill and threatened to defeat it.

Buchanan Will Head Delegation. WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—It was said in the State Department today that William L. Buchanan would head the American delegation to the third International Conference of American Republics, which will meet at Petrograd, Russia, next July. Buchanan was appointed Minister to the Argentine Confederation as a Democrat by President Cleveland and was retained there by the late President McKinley. He was subsequently director-general of the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo and headed the American delegation to the conference at Petrograd.

Krag Rifles for Military Schools. WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—General Oliver, Acting Secretary of War, today authorized the issue of the Krag-Jorgensen rifle to institutions of learning where military science and tactics are taught, to replace the 24,900 Springfield cadet rifles, with which they are now equipped. The rifles were recommended by the Chief of Ordnance to improve the efficiency in small arms practice of all members of the organized militia and cadet students.

Farmet Wilson Gives Dinner. WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson entertained President and Mrs. Roosevelt at dinner tonight. Among other guests were Senator Alben Barkley and Mrs. Burrows, Senator and Mrs. Dooliver, Representative and Mrs. Mann, Representative and Mrs. Bowie, Representative and Mrs. Connor, Representative and Mrs. Curtis, Mr. Mrs. George E. Roberts, Mr. Stanley Mathews and Gifford Pinchot. In the absence of Miss Wilson, Mrs. Dooliver acted as hostess.

New Washington Postmasters. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 20.—Jesse R. Storey has been appointed regular, Robert Adams substituted as rural carrier, route No. 1, at Benton, Wash.

Indicted for Insurance Fraud. CRIPPLE CREEK, Colo., Feb. 20.—Information was filed in the District Court today against six persons for alleged complicity in an attempt to defraud an insurance company of \$100,000. The dead body of Robert Speed in the Three Jacks tunnel, on January 22, the defendants are J. J. McEachern, who was supposed to have been killed; Jennie McEachern, his wife, who got the insurance money; John Varley, Mr. and Mrs. F. Medlin and Lute Kellogg.

Ups and Downs of Politics. Pack. Croesus, though ambitious for political preferment, had about made up his mind that he would not run for such a post. "There's a popular prejudice against rich men," he said. The committee whispered apart for a little. "Sir," said their spokesman, at length, "we advise you not to give up."

Both Parties Pleared. Indianapolis Star. Sarah Bernhardt was so displeased with the small audience that greeted her in Youngstown, O., that she turned in and gave her hearers a good roasting in French, of course. "Thinking that, perhaps, Sarah was displeasing to compliment the city on its live iron mills, the audience vigorously applauded. And Sarah, thinking that the applause was a recognition of the justness of her complaint, became more amiable and acted her best. "Where ignorance is bliss," etc.

FINISH INQUIRIES AND DIG.

Taft Wants to Get Down to Work on Canal. DETROIT, Mich., Feb. 20.—Secretary of War Taft last night at the annual dinner of the Detroit Board of Commerce discussed the building of the Panama Canal, saying: "To me just at present, and under the circumstances, the construction of a waterway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans seems to be more the Nation's task than any other. I am glad to say with respect to Chief Engineer John F. Stevens that James J. Hill told me that Mr. Stevens had been chief engineer under him for 12 years, and that if any man could build the Isthmian Canal Stevens was the man."

Creelman's Failure Causes Fear for Jackson Trust & Savings. CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—A run was started today on the Jackson Trust & Savings Bank, the failure of which has caused many of the depositors to think that the institution is involved by the failure of the Bank of America three days ago.

Process May Reduce Yerkes Estate to \$6,000,000. CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—The Chronicle today says: Startling reports have reached the ears of Chicago financiers that the reported \$25,000,000 estate of the late C. C. Yerkes is fict