

The Oregonian

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problem. We are to have a yes and no vote by the people on the \$125,000 appropriation and nobody will be satisfied with the result, whatever it is. But a bill appropriating a reasonable sum under the initiative would stand a good chance, in the Oregonian's opinion, of removing the menace, for a number of years at least, that now shadows the university and will be over it constantly until some shall be authorized to express the public will on the subject. There will be no referendum on an initiative bill.

A PORT OF COLUMBIA YET.

The effect of defeat in the Supreme Court of the Port of Columbia bill will not be seriously felt by Columbia River shipping interests this season, as the O. R. & N. Co. has agreed to operate a tug service at the river entrance. But it will have the effect of placing our commerce at the mercy of the pilot ring for at least another year. Mr. Farrell, the Pilot Commissioners who brought the suit, will continue to sell beans and bacon in Portland and disclaim all knowledge of bars or bar pilots, and the latter, secure in their Astoria retreat, will go out in the weather suits and remain inside if it does not. They have had things to do, and as soon as the nervousness occasioned by the hanging over their heads of the Port of Columbia bill has worn off, they will resume their former attitude of doing as they please, regardless of the interests and desires of the port that is paying the bill.

THE REFERENDUM CLUB.

The ease with which the referendum can be carried out by its intended function and made to serve the purposes of a revengeful political machine is shown in the fight which the Multnomah County Commissioners are making on Sheriff Stevens. The County Court, which has permitted the sheriff to have full control of the county prisoners, including their feeding, enforced an old and almost forgotten law and took the prisoners out of the control of Stevens. In order that the Sheriff should still remain the custodian of the prisoners, the last Legislature passed a law which gave control of them, including their feeding, at a rate more than 30 per cent lower than that which the court had permitted his Democratic predecessor to charge. The County Court, not to be thus defeated in its attempt to strengthen the police machine, insisted on the aid of the referendum.

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND.

San Francisco continues to advertise to the world that neither labor nor capital is safe within its borders. The right of the American people to the land they see fit to deny, and the attempt to exercise that right is met with assault from a mob. No other city in the world's history ever struggled to its feet so quickly after going down before such an awful cataclysm as overwhelmed San Francisco. But, while the whirled city is pulling itself together and trembling from the physical shock and injury inflicted on it by the earthquake, it is being subjected to blow after blow from organized grafters and the peculiar brand of organized labor found there. In every other city in the Pacific Coast, the land and openings where it will not be placed in jeopardy from the assaults of professional labor agitation, and labor will find opportunities where it will not be in peril of bricks and firearms.

LET THEM TRY THE INITIATIVE.

The Oregonian has no expectation that the people of Oregon will veto the legislative bill appropriating to the University of Oregon the sum of \$125,000 per year, now submitted to the referendum. The Linn County Grange has so far had its way in opposition to the university; but the only result of its obstructive tactics will be, probably, to embarrass the work of an important state institution for the ensuing year or more. The university will get something in the meantime; but it will be subject to just such periodical attacks if a method shall not be devised for determining definitely and finally the proper amount of the state appropriation for the university. The Oregonian heretofore suggested the initiative as a means of determining the university appropriation

for that epoch in the city's history. Capitalists bribed the city and county officials and the police grafted from them whom they should have arrested. Capitalists secured pay for their bribery investments in the form of valuable franchises and other privileges. The men who sold these privileges were rich on the proceeds, and the police got what they could farther down the scale. With this example before them, there was a strong incentive before the laboring men to try and force wages to a higher level by artificial means. Bribery and graft could not help them even had they chosen to make use of them, so the strike and boycott were invoked.

It is possible that the strike and boycott might have been inaugurated even had there been no grafting and bribery, but there would have been less cause for a grievance. Organized labor could have money with which to bribe lawmakers; they also must have money for paying higher wages. As they could not, even had they so desired, enforce a division by the means employed by the grafters, the only means at their disposal was to strike and boycott. This might not have been right and just, but it was human nature, and Calhoun and his fellow-bribers are more to blame for the public sentiment which is now making so much trouble in San Francisco than are the union laborers.

The moral responsibility of the capitalist is always greater than that of the laborer, for his example is more certain to be followed than is that of the man who has no capital other than his labor. The atmosphere in San Francisco needs purifying, and the redemption of one man in the higher walks of life will be more beneficial than that of a thousand throwers of bricks. Calhoun, Glass and their friends sowed the wind and they are now reaping the whirlwind, with the barometer still in an unsettled state.

AT SACRAMENTO.

In the course of his comment upon enforcement of the land laws at the Irrigation Congress at Sacramento Monday, Governor Chamberlain proposed a new plan for the purpose of dealing rapidly with large holdings. His scheme is not aimed particularly at owners of land "grabbed" from the Government, nor, indeed, at men who have secured land by questionable methods. He proposes that a graduated acreage tax be imposed, the rate being rapidly as the acreage increases, thus placing a heavy burden upon the holder of large tracts and practically relieving of any tax burden the man who has but the few acres necessary for the support of himself and family. The Governor disclaims any intention to advocate a system of confiscation, but asserts that men who hold land for speculative purposes should be compelled to pay a license tax for the privilege. In its practical operation his scheme would result in reduction of the large holdings by sales in tracts of such an area that the tax would not be burdensome.

The question that immediately arises is that of constitutionality. The Governor meets this in advance by mentioning the inheritance tax, which is a graduated tax, bearing most heavily upon the larger inheritances of small amounts. This is probably a complete answer to the question of constitutionality, so far as the matter of a graduated tax is concerned, but it may be doubted whether the similarity to the inheritance tax comes in, in principle, when the tax is levied according to acreage rather than value. For example, if one man may own a city block in which 250 persons live and which has a value of \$500,000, why may not one man own a farm property of similar value and capacity of affording homes for a hundred families? There is a difference in conditions justifying a different application of principles of law, but attorneys for corporate owners of large tracts of land are great sticklers for equality when the constitution may possibly afford the proper protection against new laws in legislation.

If the constitution can be satisfied, there is little doubt that legislation of the kind proposed by Governor Chamberlain would be effective. Imposition of a graduated acreage tax would make a rapid disposition of those large tracts, numerous in Oregon, which retain ownership of land desired by homesteaders. Noteworthy among Governor Chamberlain's remarks is his apparent reversal of his attitude toward the forest reserve policy of the State. The expansion "apparent reversal" may seem out of place when the Governor clearly announces that he has changed his views, and yet it is probable that his opinions have not undergone as much change as he indicates. Like many other states, Oregon has men in Oregon the Governor protested most strenuously against that forest reserve practice which created reserves of territory embracing worthless lands which railroad companies thereby were enabled to surrender to the Government, taking valuable timber lands instead. It was the combined operation of the lieul-law and the forest reserve practice that Oregon protested, and it is scarcely probable that Governor Chamberlain has changed his ideas of that feature of forest reserve achievements. The policy of the Administration in the creation and management of forest reserves the Governor warmly commends, asserting that through this system the people are protected from the complete monopolization of timber lands. The extremely generous commendation which Governor Chamberlain voices when speaking of Chief Forester Pinchot leaves no doubt that the Administration will have a firm friend in the seat of the presiding officer at the Irrigation Congress at Sacramento this week. And this is of no small consequence at a meeting in which the opponents of the Administration are likely to try to secure adoption of adverse resolutions. Governor Chamberlain expresses no more than the views of the people of this state when he commends the forest reserve idea. At the same time, this state has no monopolies to make for the criticisms that were uttered when the Northern Pacific and other corporate holders of "scrip" were permitted to come here and take the best timber lands, unsurveyed as well as surveyed, in exchange for worthless lands elsewhere.

Nothing can justify such lawlessness as disgraced San Francisco on Labor day, but the provocation for the sentiment which caused it can be found in the acts of such men as Mr. Calhoun and other members of the "indicted" club in San Francisco. Bryner and Ford have not a lot in San Francisco, not only since the earthquake, but before that epoch in the city's history.

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Medical Men Stamp Newspapers as Best Means of Publicity. E. E. Munger, M. D., of Spencer, Iowa, in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

There has always been a wide difference of opinion between physicians and newspaper men as to the propriety of advertising. There has been occasional newspaper comment relative to the much talked of, but little understood, "Ethics" of the profession. It has been assumed that it militates against the advertising function of the newspaper. The true physician has nothing to advertise except that which is found in the simple card which announces his presence and location in the community.

Physicians are the guardians of the health and physical welfare of the people; newspapers are the molders and often the creators of public opinion. The moral profession, personally, and the newspaper fraternity, through the press, come into closer contact than in any other way. No other two societies of men have so keen an understanding of human nature, and its desires, passions, virtues, weaknesses and faults. The relations of the physician and the newspaper to the public, embody great reciprocal obligations and rights.

Let medical men continue to guard the public health, but let them put away their "Ethics" and their "vicious contentions" that open the gaps through which pretenders enter to mystify and cajole some of the most intelligent and honorable physicians. Let them enlist the newspapers in a righteous cause and be conductors of the enlightening of suffering humanity from a thralldom which has already enslaved too large a part of the human family.

As we do in a nation of newspapers and magazine readers, are we discharging our duty to society when we fail to make use of these large and powerful educational institutions? Instead of being chary about newspapers, might it not be advisable to use a little of their space for the education of the people for the exposure of fraud and the teaching of the plain A, B, C's of health, free from technical phraseology and verbiage counteracted by the present, and ultimately wipe entirely out, the columns of rot with which so many papers are filled, setting forth the great efficiency of some medicine, or the virtues of some of the ages that any of the great discoveries made by men of science, who have labored unselfishly, without hope of reward, and given the fruits of their labors to humanity, should be prostituted, as they are, by mendacious charlatans.

It is but one medium through which the people can be taught; it is the same medium that has furnished the instruction for present intemperate habits; it is the greatest educational medium for the masses extant; it is the medium most eagerly sought and perused; it is the criterion of almost every freeman's newspaper.

How shall we make use of this medium? Certainly not by abusing it, for it has not been shown that even the great wisdom of the newspaper fraternity is sufficient to enable them to detect the cunning duplicity of their advertisers. Let the American Medical Association establish a Bureau of Education for the dissemination of such knowledge and advice as will enable the people of this country to act intelligently in matters pertaining to their own health and lives. It is possible for them to assist the medical profession in their efforts to prevent disease, relieve suffering and prolong human life. A national medical association, now in this bureau would be in affiliation with each state and county society and could be such a division of the labor incident to the writing, editing and distributing of suitable articles for publication as would make a systematic campaign of education practicable. Organizations like the Austin Flint-Cedar Valley Society should also be affiliated with this bureau.

Every newspaper in the United States would co-operate in this work by giving space in its columns to be filled with true information regarding health and everything affecting it. News of this kind would be of surprising and surpassing interest to readers. With the friends of the press more in the way of creating public sentiment in favor of certain reforms and matters of legislation than they have accomplished by medical journals in the next 25 years.

World Blow in a Million. This telegraph strike has shown us that a whole lot of stuff sent over the wires daily to the newspapers and published as "news" is not wanted by the public, and the data papers have been more readable without all of this rot than with it. We sometimes wish we had about a million start real "news" papers along our own folk, crank lines. It would be about one-fourth the size of The Oregonian, and would contain the real news of the world in a single column, and would convey sensationalism of every sort. It could be read in an hour, and the headlines would give the gist of the articles so succinctly that anybody could get all the news wanted or needed to know in five minutes. Would such a paper pay? asks the reader. Does the Postoffice Department pay? Does the Brougham church pay a dividend? We would go "bust," but we would set a pace that others would eventually follow, and will follow, for newspapers will come back to first principles and the death of a few men of the Hearst and Pulitzer stripe.

Army and Navy Pay. New York Times. Assistant Secretary Whitney, representing the Navy; Assistant Secretary Wentworth, representing the Treasury, and General Ainsworth of the War Department, got their heads together the other day and approved a bill drawn by Representative Capron raising the pay of non-commissioned officers and privates 30 per cent of Captains and Lieutenants and of Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels and Majors 20 per cent. Senator Hale, Speaker Cannon and Chairman Hull of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs have all agreed not to oppose this Capron bill. The President is for it, the people are not against it. The long-suffering Army and Navy must submit to congratulations in advance.

Fame. London Daily News. A learned correspondent writes: "I was examining a manuscript of an elderly woman last Thursday. On my inquiring her name she said it was Mrs. Bardell, and that she came from Gravesend. I asked: 'But you have been in London for some time, haven't you?' She replied: 'You mean the undertaker? Such is fame.'"

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Superstition is Widespread. California Professor Says Educated People Believe in "Spooks". Providence (R. I.) Journal.

Does superstition prevail among a majority of educated people? Professor Fletcher Bascom Dresslar, of the University of California, has just issued a report on "Superstition and Education" based on inquiries extending over a period of ten years among the normal school pupils of California.

Some startling figures are given as a result of this research, the conclusion being that education is by no means a sure cure for superstition. As expressing the attitude of many educated people Professor Dresslar quotes the remark of a French writer: "I do not believe in ghosts, but I am afraid of them."

Professor Dresslar made inquiries of 875 pupils, mostly young women, the majority of whom stated frankly their belief or disbelief in one or more particular superstitions. The total number of separate "confessions" made by the 875 was 718. Of these 363 were expressions of disbelief, 232 of partial belief, and the last two groups, gives 44.9 per cent of the number who admitted being influenced to some extent by superstitions and 55.1 per cent of those who were not influenced at all.

A list was prepared including what are called the "most common superstitions," and the following table shows the number of pupils expressing full belief, partial belief, and disbelief in each: If you drop the dish raw you will have company, 71 30 22. If a rooster crows before a battle, war will come, 75 49 13. If you break a looking-glass you will have bad luck, 45 46 16. Evil will come to you if you start on a journey on Friday, 52 24 21. If a rooster crows before a battle, war will come, 75 49 13. If you break a looking-glass you will have bad luck, 45 46 16. Evil will come to you if you start on a journey on Friday, 52 24 21.

WHERE SPEED MEANS LIFE. Seton Thompson Discusses on Wild Animals' Running Abilities. Chicago Inter Ocean.

Ernest Seton Thompson has been making investigations into the comparative speed of certain American wild animals, and publishes in the August Success an interesting analysis of the results.

The unthinking reader might suppose this analysis to be rather interesting, but scientifically valuable. On the contrary, speed is a vital factor of survival with many of the wild creatures. Since the law of the wild is to eat and be eaten, it follows that those wild creatures who cannot protect themselves by speed are doomed to extinction. Thus on the ability of the pursued to escape the pursuer by superior speed depends its very existence.

Wentworth on Bryan. Louisville Courier-Journal. Mr. Bryan is not the choice of the best intelligence among leading Democrats of a single Southern state. The whisper goes around among the timid, time-serving politicians of the South that "we can't elect him, we've got to elect Bryan." Can Mr. Bryan believe that he can be able to survive another defeat? Can he believe the party may? Yet he holds the destiny alike of his party and himself in his own hands, and by reaching this, might save the future of both. The Courier-Journal has no other idea than that of supporting the ticket, but that support and the support of all the leading Democratic newspapers in the country, especially in the debatable states—can only be broken-winded and one-legged, the editors, like the lie-leaders everywhere, feeling it short of some unlooked-for anatomy—doomed to defeat.

BACK TO THE JOBS. Startling as some of the recent developments in the field of communication by means of electricity have been, none is more startling and unexpected than that recently perfected by First Lieutenant A. C. Knowles, of the United States Army. In which he uses the bodies of living cavalry horses as a part of his telegraph circuit. By his system it is possible for a cavalry officer at headquarters to communicate with a scouting party on a patrol, recalling them or changing the orders as expedient.

Proves Mars is Inhabited. New Observations Show That Planet is the Abode of Life. London Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.

In answer to a request from the editor of Nature for an authoritative statement of his observations of Mars made during the 1907 opposition, Professor Percival Lowell communicates to that publication what he believes are the most important facts obtained.

Professor Lowell declares the planet is at present the abode of intelligent, constructive life. "The results obtained," he writes, "exceed what seemed likely in view of the unfavorable declination of the planet to a position so southern as to render it practically unobservable in England, France, or the northern part of the United States. From the fact that these observations were begun in March, three months and a half before opposition, it is possible to catch both caps at an interesting phase of their careers, the southern one at its maximum and the northern at the minimum extent."

The southern cap at this epoch stretched across 33 degrees latitude, counting from one side of it to the other, the northern only eight degrees. Since that date the dwindling of the southern cap and the making of the northern has been carefully watched to the complete satisfaction of the curious manner in which the crater is formed, as witnessed here at two previous oppositions.

The next observed was the development of the canal system in the arctic and south temperate zones. After the waiting of the south polar cap had got well under way the canals began to make their appearance, fulfilled and increased down the disk. Then the canals left its edge and joined the rest of the system in the lower latitudes.

Those on the south, such as Amphithea and Bathys, were darker and more pronounced than those running north. Tuberos, for example, which showed evidence of being in its dry or skeleton condition while the former were in the full tide of development.

Meanwhile the equatorial canals were steadily fading out. The process of evolution was keeping up with the method of development found here for the northern canals in 1903. In fact, it is of the nature of a prophecy fulfilled and not only supported by previous observations but confirmed by the results deduced from them to have been correct. It is direct sequitur from this that the planet is at present the abode of intelligent constructive life.

"I may say in this connection that the theory of such life upon Mars was in no way on a priori hypothesis on my part, but a deduction from the results of observation and that my observations are fully confirmed. No other supposition is consonant with all the facts observed."

Another result of this opposition has been the success of the photographs taken of the planet. I have already mentioned the Little canals leading to cause of the unmistakably in the prints. Such greater markings as the dwindling of the southern cap appear beautifully, and it looks much better conditioned than they are as if the result of positioning the points of Martian topography by means of the photographs was in process of realization.

CAUSE OF RAILROAD ACCIDENTS. Revenue and Dividends First and Safety Appliances Afterward. Chicago Journal.

The trouble with the railroad business in the United States is made clear by statistics of railroad accidents.



THE ANNUAL LEAVE-TAKING OF THE SUMMER RESORT PROPRIETOR IS NOW ON.