

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, FEB. 21, 1913.

THE COMPENSATION LAW.

The workmen's compensation law enacted by the Legislature is the product of a commission in which employers, labor and the taxpayers were equally represented.

While America has drawn on Europe for undisputed evidence of the method of putting compensation into effect which will be the best for our political and industrial conditions is yet to be demonstrated.

The Oregon law is founded on the insurance plan. The employer and the workman in certain lines of hazardous employment and the state will each contribute a certain premium to a fund to be administered by the state.

The workman who elects to come under the provisions of the act will be assured speedy and certain compensation if accident befalls him. There will be no lawyers to hire, no costs to pay, no court to consider whether the accident was his fault or the fault of the employer.

General rejection of the act by employers or employees would, of course, be of much of no value. It would place the state in the position of an insurance company doing a small business among risks scattered over a wide territory.

Compensation is due the Legislature for withholding itself from controversies over forms and details. Such discussions would merely have confused the issue.

Now the worst example of squandering the public land is the great railroad land grants which were made by Congress between 1850 and 1880.

The first of those grants were made before even Colorado had a voice in the National Union.

Much of the land granted to the states has been squandered, sold at absurdly low prices, but take the land grant states in general and their administration of their own land will compare very favorably with that of the National Union.

Only a few extreme opponents of the Pinchot policy ask that the National Forests be handed over to the states for administration.

To our great comfort the Sun's newer lists pay more attention to art and letters than the ones first evoked.

P. Morgan's influence on the art ideals of his home city. The same person who supports the glory of Cadmus, who has written the alphabet, and of Gutenberg, who certainly invented printing.

Mr. Strom's list contains only three Major-Generals, Caesar, Alexander and Gustavus Adolphus, while he puts down an equal number of scientists, Galileo, Franklin and Watts.

CHOOSING A SUPERINTENDENT. If Louis R. Alderman should be made Superintendent of the Portland schools the choice would be a happy one.

In the new educational endeavor to unite the influence of the home with that of the school Mr. Alderman has shown the reputation of a pioneer.

Mr. Alderman is a young man of exceptional ability and progressive character. He is familiar with the best ideas of the best thinkers in his profession and he has the energy and executive ability to put them in practice.

Indorsement by Senators Root and Crane of the movement for a Republican National convention this year, following like action by leaders of the progressive wing of the party.

A fruitful source of corruption and of dissension in the party will be removed when the basis of representation is changed.

Let us insure that future conventions shall speak the sentiments of the Republicans of each state and district, and we shall hear no more of busses and the steam roller.

PINCHOT SOUNDS THE ALARM. Pinchot has sounded a cry of alarm. He is desperately afraid the Western states would rob themselves for the benefit of the monopolists if they were given the right to mine.

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precisely as the school books teach. But he does say that, in the light of the newer knowledge, there are many excuses for collecting or rent on power by the Government.

The heart of the conservation movement is development and use," says Pinchot truly, but he goes on to attribute the criticism of the Forest Service to "those whom it has prevented from grabbing public resources."

It has twisted conservation into the service of those very timber barons whom Pinchot so abhors, for it has caused Government timber to be sold at prices which agree with the value set by monopoly on its holdings.

POWER OF THE DEAD HAND. The difference of opinion in the Senate committee on the policy of chartering the Rockefeller Foundation with an endowment of \$100,000,000 arises from fear that control of the conditions of wealth by perpetual corporations might prove a danger to the state.

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In more recent times the power of the "dead hand," which is the English meaning of mortmain, has been seen in numerous charitable bequests, which have long outlived their purpose.

Another old Londoner left the income of a small tract to be spent in feeding the birds, and expended in a certain churchyard. It was only enough for the purpose at the time the bequest was made, but has grown to such proportions that it would keep millions of birds in luxury.

These extreme examples are cited only to show the danger of creating an endowment which is not a living purpose, good as that purpose may have been originally.

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TRANSMUTING THE ELEMENTS. An atmosphere of romantic witchery surrounds Sir William Ramsay's theory of the transmutation of the elements. As he interprets his experiments they prove that the metals, gases and so on can be made to pass into one another.

The need of a slang dictionary which is accepted as authority in the courts will be met by the Dartonian dictionary, which holds good in all such operations.

The money trust committee had no difficulty in finding the trust, but is puzzled about the most deadly weapons with which to kill it.

Offered the post of Mayor, a Jacksonville, Or., woman sought her husband's support. That's hardly the true suffragist spirit.

A strange malady is reported to be killing off many goats near Cottage Grove. We thought the Oregon goat indestructible.

The Albany judge who refused a divorce to a couple past 70 probably felt that they were old enough to know better.

Women in registering may rightfully give their age as 21, provided they are not younger. Quite an inducement to register, eh?

There is a feel of baseball in the air, despite the calendar. But a few weeks and the fan will be rampant on a green field.

THEORIES OF LIFE DISCUSSED. Nature's Color Schemes Best. Adapted for Use of Made-in-Oregon Building Material.

GOLD HILL, Or., Feb. 17.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian some days ago carried an interesting comment of reported discovery of Ramsey. The Oregonian may well ask "what is energy?"

What is motion? The answer to the first of these questions would include the complete answer to either of the other two. There is no life or energy without motion, no motion or life without energy.

These secrets of life or existence are not all to be seen in the world of existence, but having no cosmic reactions. The planet repeats over and over its orbital relations to the sun.

Twelve different elements or forms of matter, carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, magnesium, sodium, according to the formula of nature in the construction of so-called living matter.

For convenience we say there are three kingdoms of matter, mineral, vegetable and animal. All who have considered the subject well know that there are no hard and fast lines between the elements.

Each factor of life represents also both the male and female principles, thus accounting for right and left handedness. This is the definition for life, viz. polarization, and for death depolarization.

Winberry, Or., Feb. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Now, when the Thorpe incident has reminded us of the Olympic last Summer, why not let the official be substituted for the athlete, and interesting, even if we did not have the first place.

Sweden, Feb. 12.—(To the Editor.)—I read a dispatch in the Oregonian saying that I was in jail for carrying a revolver. The reporter made a mistake, but I am glad it is in jail and not I.

John Benson Not in Jail. GOLDENDALE, Wash., Feb. 18.—(To the Editor.)—I read a dispatch in the Oregonian saying that I was in jail for carrying a revolver.

Life Preservers on Rosecrans. WOODSTOCK, Or., Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I saw published an article in reference to the Rosecrans wreck stating that the rescuers reported the life preservers up to requirements.

Women on Marches. PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—The reports indicate that every time a "suffrage army" marches in this country, the generals, colonels and privates become impatient because of court troubles.

Many More Greatest Men. The New York Evening Sun's erudite correspondents have enriched the world with several new lists of "the twenty greatest men" of the world.

Twenty-five Years Ago. From the Oregonian of February 21, 1888. Washington, Feb. 20.—Before the House committee on public lands today Congressman Herrmann objected to further consideration of any pending measures until the question is determined as to forfeitures of unearned lands.

California Notes.—Dr. W. Lang Chapman, formerly of Portland, is now surgeon on board the steamer Belgic, which is en route to the East.

New York, Feb. 20.—Joseph Hoffman, the boy alibi suspect, returned from the stage. His health is giving way. Manager Henry E. Abbey has brought action for breach of contract for \$57,500 against Hoffman.

Fractional block 111, situated in South Portland, was sold at auction yesterday at the corner of First and Washington streets for \$1900.

Half a Century Ago. From the Oregonian of February 21, 1863. The people of Forest Grove and neighborhood are striving in the matter of building a woolen factory at that place.

Washington, Feb. 9.—General Hamilton is said to have received an assurance from the Government that there is an expedition shortly to be fitted out, which has for its object the reclamation of Texas for the Union.

Jackson, Feb. 4.—The Federal ran Queen of the West, which passed Victoria on Monday morning, arrived at the landing at Vidalia, opposite Natchez, on the same evening.

The venerable Dr. Lyman Beecher died at his residence in Brooklyn on Saturday evening, January 10, aged 87.

The Great American Prince of Humbugs, Barnum, has got up a new scheme which is likely to create a little sensation. It consists in nothing less than a projected marriage between General Thomas Thumb and Miss Lavina Warren.

The remains of the Oregon Democrat have been dug up and galvanised into something like life with James O'Meara as editor.

The Friedman Cure. PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—It is to congratulate the Oregonian upon its splendid editorial, "The Friedman Cure," that is prompted to address you.

Amundsen gives a graphic account of his great exploit in penetrating to the Southern axis of the earth.

Bernhardt in Portland.—The famous actress writes for the Oregonian of her recent sojourn in Portland.

Firebugs.—Jack Rose in his seventh article writes of the " arson trust," and describes how the pernicious crime is followed as a profitable business.

Living Cost Pinches King.—That King is none other than the British monarch, and the high cost of living has caused him to curtail expenses.

Women in Heroic Roles.—Steady nerves and a strong spirit required of the woman in Uncle Sam's lighthouse service.

Felix Diaz' First Revolt.—An unusual page of timely news-papers by a Mexico City newspaper man who describes the fiasco at Vera Cruz.

Culture Mad.—A Dresden correspondent spends a day with a most interesting and unusual culture community.

Raising Colms.—A page account in colors of how the most deadly diseases are produced like vegetables in a garden for experimental purposes.

Many Other Features.—Order today from your newsdealer.

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