

The Oregonian

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Portland, Thursday, March 5, 1914.

NO CONCLUSION IN SIGHT.

Those who fondly imagine that President Wilson's policy of watchful waiting is leading to any definite conclusion in Mexico may be enlightened by reading an article by James Creelman, now written from Mexico City for the New York Mail. He describes a corrupt, bankrupt government, headed by a drunken dictator, who boasts that he is "just a common Indian"; a people aghast at the fate of the nation and given over to pleasure, while rapine and murder are on all sides; concessions hawked about the city and Huertista's fawning hake-off; armies of peons dragged from the fields and sent like prisoners to fight for a cause in which they have no interest. The white men own practically everything except the government; the population, which is 65 per cent pure Indian and 20 per cent half Indian, is in a state of anarchy, the war or the future of their country. He sums up the situation thus: President Wilson's theory that the masses of Mexico are yearning for constitutional government is a delusion. The consequences of his blunder not so terrible as he would have us believe.

SEATTLE AND REFORM.

Seattle has taken Hi Gill back to his forgoing arms. Seattle is assured that he is a different Hi Gill; the world at large is not so sure about it. But perhaps the election of Mayor Gill is primarily Seattle's business and not other people's. It happens that in the changing Seattle fashions as to Mayors Hi Gill suits the present humor of that volatile city.

DRUG HABITS AND THE LAW.

The spread of the addiction to habit-forming drugs in the United States is said by specialists who have investigated the subject to be a menace to our National life. They tell us facts of the most ominous description. For instance, we are assured by Dr. Charles B. Towns, a great authority, that in the United States we consume more opium per capita than the United Kingdom, and that the United States is the largest consumer of opium in the world.

HOW CAN TAXES BE LOWERED?

Where is the best place to begin pruning cost of government in Portland with intent to reduce taxes? We fancy that the strongest objection among the taxpayers today would be placed at the head of the municipal government with autocratic powers. In 1913 the tax rate levied for city purposes produced \$2,418,614. But Portland was assessed \$6,000,000 more than that for Port, School District, State and County purposes.

THE LITTLE FELLOW'S CLAIM.

The gentlemen who are organizing a campaign for a referendum upon the Daly water meter imposition are obviously in earnest. They are preparing their plans in the open. They are supported by an overwhelming public sentiment. They are making a direct appeal from the three-to-two decision of the City Commission to the rate-paying public. They are strictly within their rights. They are performing what they conceive to be a public duty. There is no hypocrisy or huffer-mugger or humbug about the matter.

BUILDING UP AN ALASKA LINE.

The Alaska steamship line which was started from Portland yesterday is the result of earnest work by enterprising, public-spirited citizens, who have brought about commercial relations with the canners of Alaska. They have secured traffic for the steamship and business for Portland merchants by representing to the canners that they can not only buy their supplies here, but they can obtain banking accommodations here.

ON A VOYAGE WITH STEVENSON.

Famous Poet Is Vividly Recalled by Mr. Hartog. PORTLAND, March 4.—(To the Editor.)—Your article on "Robert Louis Stevenson" brings back to mind the trip from Hawaii to Samoa which he and his wife took to the S. S. Mariposa, the year of the Chicago World's Fair. How well I remember the first impression on seeing them take their seats opposite me at the captain's table.

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Democracy Rule in Philippines Disastrous to Welfare, Says Traveler.

PORTLAND, March 4.—(To the Editor.)—I have just returned from the Philippines, and I have to say that the islands are absolutely correct, if not underdeveloped. The rule of Governor-General Harrison on his arrival at Manila was a population of the Americans in office in the islands. While I was in the islands I came in contact with some of the largest business interests of the Philippines. They told me of the depreciation in value of real estate in Manila alone ran in the millions of pesos.

New Marriage Law.

PORTLAND, March 3.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly tell me where I may find out about the law requiring persons to pass a physical examination before marriage. L. W.

Petition Pests.

By Dean Collins. The Spring is the season when every-thing buds and grows. From seeds into stalks, buds and blossoms doth spring. And poets are wont, almost every day, To tuck up their tyres and uncork a new lay.

Women as Jurors.

PRAIRIE CITY, Or., March 3.—(To the Editor.)—Under woman suffrage in the State of Oregon, can women be drawn on the jury for the same as men? 1. Will they be compelled to serve if drawn? 2. Do women have the same rights in all laws as men? A SUBSCRIBER.

How to Get Patents.

PORTLAND, March 3.—(To the Editor.)—Please let me know how to proceed to obtain a patent through the Patent Office at Washington, D. C. A SUBSCRIBER.

Tommy Is Late at School.

Teacher—Tommy, you have you any good excuse for being late? Tommy (beaming)—Yes, ma'am. Teacher—What is it? Tommy—Waffles.

Answers All Your Wants.

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