

THE TIMES

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A FEARLESS EXPONENT OF INDUSTRIAL PEACE

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1911

Each man should have the right to earn his way,  
And each should have for fair day's work a fair day's pay,  
Each man should governed be by Justice's right  
And gain his ends by peaceful means—not dynamite.

PRISON POLICY OF GOVERNOR WEST.

GOVERNOR WEST has seen fit to establish a unique position for himself in the administration of his office. His policy as to prisoners, for example, is not working out very satisfactorily. There have been altogether too many prisoners paroled "on honor." The Governor's confidence has been frequently abused, for his "honor" men have broken their paroles and fled far beyond his jurisdiction in many cases. Then, again, Governor West has commuted the sentence to life imprisonment of many men whose hanging had been ordered by courts, presumably upon sufficient evidence and the verdict of competent juries, and in accordance "with the statutes in such cases made and provided." Governor West has stated that so long as he occupies the gubernatorial chair he will not allow any man to be hanged, or, at least, he is so quoted. It is understood that Governor West's attitude is taken on the grounds that he is opposed to capital punishment.

Desiring to do Governor West justice from the sentimental side of the question, at the same time his attitude is in conflict with the oath of office which every governor must take. The statute lays down the procedure in cases of conviction for a capital crime. When all the processes of law have been duly carried out, there remains but the scaffold. On the grounds of newly discovered evidence and the probability an execution would be but a judicial blunder, or murder, the governor has the unquestioned right to exercise his prerogative. But he has no legal right, no matter how tender, how sympathetic his heart may be, or how firm his belief in the wrong or inefficacy of capital punishment, to make his prerogative a rule of general application. Even the great Lincoln, whom Governor West says he seeks to emulate, tender of heart and humane, did not always save the lives of men convicted of murder. Investigation of the instances where he exercised clemency will be found to be fully justified, when all the facts are reviewed. It takes a man of strong character to know when to temper justice with mercy, and when not to do so. THE TIMES does not condemn Governor West. It believes the Governor is actuated by lofty motives, but lofty motives are not the rule to guide one's conduct by, if they conflict with one's sworn duty. If Governor West really thinks that no man, however guilty, should be hanged, and is to carry out that rule throughout his administration, it is his duty to resign. No man is above the law, not even the Governor. Under a Republican form of government, there are three divisions of political power, the legislative, executive and judicial. The legislatures make the laws, the courts interpret them, and the executives carry them out. Neither branch is permitted to infringe upon the jurisdiction of the other. The legislature cannot try a man accused of a crime; that is the special business of courts and juries, acting under court direction. The judges cannot abrogate or make the law. They must take it just as it comes to them. The Governor cannot make a law or suspend the operation of one, or interpret one in any case passed upon by the courts. His sworn duty is to carry out that law. This is all there is to it.

JUDGE PIPES' ARRAIGNMENT OF PARKISON.

READERS OF THE TIMES will remember its recent expose of the methods of H. J. Parkison, ex-labor leader, in relation to the circulation of petitions touching upon the squelching of the State University appropriations at Eugene. It was simply and very clearly a piece of questionable work, to judge from the recent investigation made showing forged signatures. Arguing to a logical conclusion, appearances would indicate that the aforesaid Mr. Parkison, miffed because he could not unionize Eugene, making threats at the time against the city, went forth to Cottage Grove. He there tried to stir up prejudice against Eugene, because certain people of Eugene had shown opposition to the pet scheme of certain people at Cottage Grove, who desired to form the new county of Nesmith. By invoking the referendum, he could thus help Cottage Grove to revenge itself to the injury of Eugene and also make a piece of money. It is refreshing to read this extract from the argument made by Judge Martin L. Pipes in the referendum case, before Judge Galloway. Judge Pipes said:

"Fraud vitiates everything. Parallel to every case there is the moral issue standing before all parties like the ghost that will not down. This referendum against the University was immoral in its inception, and is immoral up to this minute. It came out of a local fight between two communities. It was not instituted for the purpose of using the referendum power for the interests of the whole people. The movement was started by parties who made up a purse to fight the University that they might compel Eugene to quit fighting the county of Nesmith. I think Cottage Grove is now ashamed of her part in the bad business, and is trying to make her part in it good. Their first move was to employ Parkison, who held no honest views of opposition to the University. He went into it to make a little money. He then went into the dives in the North End in Portland, and employed crooks—no more fitting place could be found to employ men to fight education. If other interests are backing them, all are equally guilty."

The above is a fearless and justifiable arraignment; it rings true, down to the last syllable.

THE GOVERNORS' PILGRIMAGE.

THE PILGRIMAGE of the Western governors to the Eastern States was one of the most diplomatic moves that has ever yet been made. It gave the two sections an opportunity to become better acquainted, and this should prove invaluable to all concerned. The exhibits shown on the governors' train has proven a great educator. To quote the words of ex-Governor Brady, of Idaho:

"The Western Governors' special tour has assumed larger proportions than its most sanguine friends ever hoped for.

"The result of this tour will cause the people of the East to turn their faces toward the West; the different sections of the country will become more harmonious, and we will, in the future, be one great unified nation.

"We have taught the people of the East that the great co-operating feeling existing in the West is the secret of our success, and they have learned that the secret is worth emulating.

"Our exhibit cars have been exhibited to more than 90,000 people, who have studied and been astonished at our greatness."

WHEAT EXPORTS VALUED AT \$5,351,163.

PORTLAND'S CLAIM to being the greatest wheat export city in the United States is verified officially by the report of the Department of Commerce and Labor, recently made public. This shows that for the eleven months ended with November, 1911, the total wheat exports were 6,244,833 bushels, valued at \$5,351,163. The total shipments from Puget Sound ports were 2,170,687 bushels, worth \$2,247,483. For the same period in 1910, Portland and the Puget

Sound ports were more closely together, Portland showing 3,355,364 bushels and Puget Sound 3,582,331 bushels. While Portland's wheat exports this year are 100 per cent greater than those of Puget Sound for the eleven months named last year, she has also exceeded her 1910 record by 75 per cent. While Puget Sound fell short in wheat exports, her flour exports were nearly three times those of Portland. The eleven months' figures show: Puget Sound, flour, 1,867,356 barrels, valued at \$7,130,935; Portland, flour, 688,077 barrels, valued at \$2,723,184.

AMERICAN BANK & TRUST CO.

DECEMBER 18, State Superintendent of Banks, Will Wright, ordered that the American Bank & Trust Company's bank, Portland, should close its doors. There was not a shortage. The funds on hand amounted to \$179,043.41, which sum is 25½ per cent above the legal minimum. The occurrence scarce made a ripple in banking circles, which indicates the soundness of local financial conditions. The difficulty arose over securities which had depreciated, and in order to fully protect the depositors' rights, Mr. Wright thought the wise plan to pursue was to close the doors so that matters might be adjusted. In his opinion the bank will, within 30 days, be able to pay depositors 50 per cent of the amounts due them and in a very short time 25 per cent more, though the necessary delay may cause some inconvenience.

THE SKIES ARE CLEAR.

The United States is facing a clear and unclouded sky for 1912. This is all the more remarkable inasmuch as 1912 is a presidential election year. It had become a practically established fact that because an election was pending, that necessarily all matters financial were in a shaky state. There never was a good reason for anything of this kind, but Americans had become accustomed to it, and accepted it as a matter of course. Recently large banking interests and leading financiers boldly took hold of this matter and, to infuse so great a spirit of optimism that a financial depression will be impossible. That is a sensible way to do things, and is a remedy worthy of frequent application. But in this instance, intervening is based upon the most solid reasons. Dun's Mercantile Agency, after viewing the present year, is able to confidently predict that 1912 will be a most prosperous year. Judge Gary, President of the United States Steel Corporation, agrees with this view. All this is most assuring.

Recently President Taft announced that the Panama Canal will be thrown open to traffic July 1, 1913. This is one and one-half years in advance of the previously announced date of opening—1915. The lumber industry of the Pacific Coast for a long time has been in a most unsatisfactory state, but this canal opening has put heart into coast lumber manufacturers, and will serve to stimulate output and establish the market upon a more satisfactory basis. This will mean that lumber shipments through the canal will be accelerated to the Atlantic coast at lower freight rates. Our lumber interests are important. What helps them, helps all of us.

The local bank clearings are more than satisfactory. The building outlook is good. Exports surpass all previous records. Real estate values hold firm. There is no slump, because values are real and not inflated.

In the outlook, the Pacific Northwest stands most prominent over all other sections in the limelight of prosperity.

So Russia does not like the attitude of Congress in the matter of the abrogation of the Treaty of 1832. In the United States of America we believe that every American citizen has certain inalienable rights, guaranteed by the Constitution. This appertains to the native-born and the naturalized American as well. Russia, in seeking to discriminate against Americans of Jewish birth, Roman Catholics, and others, forbidding them the same rights she is willing other classes of Americans should have, has already been permitted too long to have her autocratic will regarding the subjects of other countries. The Sulzer resolution is not a whit too strong. Every American citizen is under the protection of his flag, wherever he goes, and the sooner all nations of the world learn that this is a fact, and not a mere statement, the better. And we can back any statement we make.

THE TIMES heartily endorses the plan now forming to educate Portland boys and girls, as well as those in other towns, into the plan of turning vacant lots into gardens, and raising something worth while. If the rising generation has an opportunity to work off some of its surplus energy in so useful a pursuit as gardening, Juvenile Courts will have much less to consider. Governor Pingree, of Michigan, was the originator, we believe, of this plan, which worked very successfully. Raising vegetables and flowers is better than raising—bades.

Announcement is made that Councilman Maguire, elected principally by those who did not know him, intends to resign on April 1, next. It is said that he will devote himself to intensive farming. It is to be hoped that he will succeed as a farmer, and make a better record at that class of work than he has of politics. There are other members of the Council who would do well to emulate Councilman Maguire's example. They never would be missed.

If Governor West, hastening from St. Paul to Oregon to greet his paroled convicts on Christmas, was a timely trip. Had he remained away much longer there wouldn't have been any of them left to greet him.

The Rose Festival Association deserves encouragement, and it should not be a very difficult task to raise the \$60,000 required to make next year's festival a success. It is one of the most valuable advertisements Portland has. It is very encouraging to the officers to know that many of the contributors of former years are now doubling their contributions. Property owners, as well as business men, upon whom the expense has largely fallen in the past, should willingly do their part.

There should be cleaner and more sanitary methods of collecting garbage in Portland. Open wagons, filled with an ill-smelling mess, and often spilling fifth upon the pavements, are not an inspiring sight, and such things do not make for good health. The wagon boxes should be of galvanized iron, with close-fitting covers to the compartments, following the system in vogue in Eastern cities. These wagons should be frequently flushed and kept clean. Will not some City Councilman propose an ordinance covering these ideas?

The control of the Northern Pacific gained by the Chicago & Northwestern is but a change from Hill to Harriman control. In the hands of either the Hill system or the Harriman system, the Northern Pacific is bound to continue a great railroad. All trans-continental lines are great developers of the territory through which they pass, and none bear a prouder record than does the Northern Pacific. In the hands of the new owners it will continue along the path it has so long followed, fulfilling its destiny.

Frank Ross, of Chester, Mass., is, according to his own story to a magistrate at Winnipeg, Man., a much persecuted man. He said that he had been chased out of four stables by members of the grave diggers' union, and that he had sought an asylum in Canada. He had been assaulted, and told the judge that his assailants were medical students whom he sought to prevent robbing graves of their bodies. Ross does not believe that any such form of resurrection should prevail.

Let the readers of THE TIMES, to whom we extend our Christmas greetings, open their hearts and purses to satisfy the longings of the children of the unfortunate this season, who might otherwise be forgotten. Add a little brightness, too, to the hearts of the aged, who are sometimes forgotten. The benediction of God rests upon every such gift.

Mr. Shuster, the American retired treasurer of Persia, is a man with a backbone.



MISS STRACHAN, TEACHER WHO WON "EQUAL PAY" FIGHT

AFTER a seven years' struggle the women teachers of New York city have succeeded in placing upon the statute books a law granting equal pay for equal work to men and women employed in the public schools. The leader throughout the fight—the word is not too strong to describe some of the aspects of the agitation—was Miss Grace C. Strachan, for the last few years district superintendent of the Brooklyn schools. The increase in pay for women teachers consequent upon the law going into effect on Jan. 1 will be about \$200,000 a month. It has been suggested that a sum representing this increase for the first month be raised by the teachers thus benefited in order to establish a fund for Miss Strachan. This if invested at 3 per cent would yield an income of \$6,000 a year, which it is proposed to continue to her for life in recognition of her service to her fellow teachers.



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W. M. SHUSTER, PERSIA'S AMERICAN TREASURER GENERAL

WHEN the newly established constitutional government of Persia asked the administration at Washington to name an honest and capable man to put her finances on a business basis President Taft and Secretary Knox picked out the man who has for months been the storm center of Russo-Persian politics, William Morgan Shuster. The president particularly had reason to know his man. He had seen him at work—a youngster of less than thirty—as collector of customs at Manila and afterward as secretary of public instruction for the Philippines while Mr. Taft was governor general. Returning from the east, he took up the practice of law in Washington, but relinquished it at the president's request to undertake the task of straightening out Persia's tangled finances. As treasurer general he has antagonized the Russian government, which regards Persia as its legitimate prey, and under pressure from this source the Teheran government, which was in the midst of a ministerial upheaval at the time, disavowed some of the acts, such as the employment of a British officer as commander of the gendarmery, which irritated Russia.