

THE TIMES

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 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.

OUR PLATFORM

THE TIMES is earnest and outspoken. It advocates what it believes to be right, and that without fear or favor, and unencumbered by the shackles of circumstance. THE TIMES will not swerve from the path of duty, and it cannot be purchased or compromised. THE TIMES unqualifiedly subscribes to the great principles of human liberty under the law; of equal rights in all fields of legitimate endeavor, industrial freedom and to the advancement of the great Pacific Coast.

TO THE EMPLOYER—THE TIMES will ever be open to the employer of labor, that he may have, through its columns, an opportunity to place the truth before the public regarding the business conditions which govern him and his environments. The co-operation of the employer and the employe are the substantial proofs of what has made the Pacific Coast what it is today. Their interests are identical, are inseparable. The mutual experience, foresight and confidence between the business man and the wage-earner have made and are making for success. The investments of the one coupled with the efforts of both are solid bulwarks of present prosperity and the assurance of the future. Minus these, advancement along the lines of industrial and commercial progress of the Pacific Coast is impossible. Without this hearty co-operation, a continuance of the highest possible development of our agricultural, horticultural, timber, mineral and other resources is out of the question, and we must retrograde and decay.

TO THE EMPLOYEE—The columns of THE TIMES will always be open to the employe, whether he may be an independent toiler or claim affiliation with a trade organization. THE TIMES hopes that by thus affording a medium for the interchange of opinions and by untrammelled discussion of labor questions in its columns, that a better understanding will be brought about between the employer of labor and the man who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow. THE TIMES believes that by this method the rights of both will be conserved and advanced.

In the field of labor THE TIMES will champion the principle of "equality of opportunity," with all that it means to independent labor and to the average good citizen. This paper will be the staunch and undeviating friend of all honest toilers, of all unshackled, law-abiding, sincere workers; and while never denying the right of workmen to organize lawfully, this paper will be the unyielding foe of lawless, proscriptive, monopolistic and exclusive labor organizations, because they are the selfish enemies of their own class, and the common danger of the industrial world. Our position in this matter is unmistakable, and will be maintained.

THE TIMES will at all times stand for the conservation of human life and energy and character, with all their tremendous potentialities; for the preservation of the community and the nation; for the protection of property; for the flag and its glorious traditions; for the national life and honor with their pregnant possibilities; for the continuance of a brave, virtuous and patriotic citizenship, without which no nation can be either truly great or really good.

CONCERNING NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.

LONG HAS IT been the established custom for certain persons after having taken a retrospective view of their conduct for the year about to pass, to form certain good resolutions to be put into effect on New Year's Day. This idea of trying to work a reformation in one's character suddenly is a difficult one to bring about, and seldom succeeds. The "resoluter" may keep up his good work for a month or so, but little by little he gradually slips back into the old rut. We most heartily approve the idea that anyone should decide to lead a better life, because it is the better way, but why settle upon January 1 as the only day to make a start? If reform is good, it is good at any time and at all times. If a person studies themselves, they will soon discover their failings and weaknesses. With this knowledge they should use their common sense and seek to strengthen their character. For instance, if they find that they are selfish, they should at once cultivate unselfishness, which will finally become a habit. If one finds they are smoking too much, they should moderate their indulgence or stop entirely. The same rule applies to liquor, the abuse of which and not the use does the greatest harm. Profanity is not only wicked and immoral, but useless, and is never the mark of a true gentleman. But there is such a thing as profane swearing and that which is not. Now the late Harvey Scott was wont to say that the word "damn" is not profane swearing, but a good old Anglo-Saxon mouth filling word, whose place it would be hard to fill as an expressive expletive. It is no more wicked to say "damn" than to say "condemn" which is supposedly synonymous, although it doesn't really mean half so much.

In working reformation in one's character while trying to overcome serious faults one should not overlook petty failings. One of the most common failings is to speak slightly of another. Would it not be better if one can not say something kindly of another, to remain mute? One can often overcome enmity by such action and make a friend, and surely in this life one can not have too many friends. Don't condemn the other fellow but just try to do him a kindness. It really doesn't hurt much.

If we are going to try to do better, let us not wait till New Year's Day before we begin, but start right in now. We think the better way is to conquer one failing at a time, for lasting reformation, so far as human experience goes to show, are not the result of a sudden revolution. They are rather the matter of steady growth—of evolution.

Now, we hope that every reader of THE TIMES will have a Happy New Year and a prosperous one, and let us hope that a year from now we may all of us be better men than we are now, at the close of 1911, *Anno Domini*.

The spirit of the younger Chinese element in Portland shows it to have passed far beyond the control of the elders. These young men, many of them born in Portland and others of them educated here since early childhood, shows them to have drifted away from the joss and from ancestor worship, so sacred to their fathers. It is the result of environment. These young men recently decapitated and hacked up a number of josses, much to the horror of those who believe in them. To the latter this was an act of sacrilege; to the former it meant nothing but the removal of a lot of useless junk. It is threatened that blood will flow. THE TIMES hopes not.

CHRISTMAS REFORM NEEDED.

CHRISTMAS has come and gone. Many who expected to be remembered bountifully, were only scantily remembered. Others who had reason to believe that they would be forgotten, had their hearts made glad. This is the way of the world. The unexpected always happens. There were some heartburnings, no doubt, but on the whole the needs of the suffering were supplied, and many a poor child now firmly believes in the real existence of Santa Claus. The "good fellow" movement in Portland was largely responded to, and many a man learned that "it is more blessed to give than to receive". The Salvation Army and the Volunteers of America, besides a number of charitable institutions, public and private, did much to give happiness and comfort to many who would have otherwise been forgotten.

The custom of gift-giving at Christmas time has its uses and its abuses. Custom—a tyrannical master—has made it seemingly incumbent upon most of us to feel that we must give gifts often beyond our means to many who do not in the least appreciate them. These latter feel that it is but a matter of courtesy for them to do likewise. Such gifts as these mean absolutely nothing, and this custom is not only a travesty upon the original Christmas idea, but one that should be reformed. We have in this country well established the idea of a sane and safe Fourth of July, and there is no good reason why we should not work out a safe and sane Christmas. THE TIMES believes that gift-giving should largely be limited to children, and especially to the children of the poor. A simple token, and that inexpensive, would do as well between elder people. It is the kindly spirit back of the gift, not its lavish cost, that makes it worthy. Perhaps society some day will do away with some of the follies of Christmastide.

ELIMINATION OF INSURANCE RISK.

INSURANCE IS A necessary, proper and legitimate expense, and one which the business man and householder must maintain for his own protection. In a growing city like Portland, the general tendency is toward a lowering of rates on account of the class A buildings being constructed. While this is true, there is an element of extra hazard which might well be considered and eliminated, if a suggestion made recently by the Board of Underwriters should finally be adopted. Every possible added element of danger increases the rate.

The Board of Underwriters has called attention to the fact that the man who controls the city fire alarm system is only human, after all. While on duty he might suddenly be stricken with death, overcome by illness or perhaps be murdered. In such an event, supposing a big fire started, if the controlling brain of the fire alarm system was incapacitated, a tremendous conflagration might ensue before the fire department could get its apparatus on the ground. The Board of Underwriters suggests regular shifts of additional help, and says that this would tend to reduce rates. Many prominent business men take the same view, but the city administration demurs, it is said, because this would entail an additional expense of about \$4000 per annum. There might arise, at any moment, a contingency whereby extra help would be doubly welcome and a saving of many times \$4000 a year effected. Before the Underwriters' idea is cast into the discard, this matter should be very carefully considered.

COMMENDING THE WESTERN UNION.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY was recently commended by THE TIMES for the change in its policy in prohibiting messenger boys from engaging in the service of the various sinks of iniquity in this city. THE TIMES again has occasion to praise this corporation in that it has placed its ban upon cigarette-smoking by messenger boys. It is a vile and, soul-destroying practice, too often leading to moral degeneracy in growing youth. The habit has not one redeeming feature and it can be defended on no grounds whatever. No growing boy should ever use tobacco in any form. When he arrives at the age of twenty-one if he chooses to enslave himself that is his own affair, but THE TIMES believes in saving the boys, if possible. The action of the Western Union is a big step forward in the way of reform and is a good stroke of business policy as well.

An evening paper says that Agnes Thekla Fair, a Socialist worker in Albina, has presented a list of 43 married men with families, who are in dire need, to the authorities. Some of these, who were trying to secure homes on the installment plan, now being out of work, are in danger of losing their homes. THE TIMES is not surprised to learn that some of them formerly worked in the Southern Pacific carshops. They listened to the siren call of the labor agitators and went on strike some months ago. They are now facing the results of their own folly, which they might have foreseen. THE TIMES is sorry for them and all other unfortunate who have not wherewithal to buy bread.

Here's a real human interest story. The State Tax Commissioner of Washington wrote to a man regarding his deceased brother's estate. It certainly seems that "13" must have been his bete noir, or his hoodoo, as American slang has it. He was born on the thirteenth, bought worthless stock on the thirteenth and made his will on the thirteenth. He was always an easy mark for smooth-tongued sharpers, who seem to have had no difficulty in getting all he ever earned away from him. The decedent's brothers says of the departed frater: "His property consists of a number of valueless papers, chiefly worthless stock certificates. His personal property was his best suit of clothes, which went into the grave. His working clothes and bedclothes went into the fire. He has no real estate of any kind."

When a man has lived to the good old age of 92 and has amassed a fortune of \$7,000,000, \$6,770,000 of which he has given to worthy causes of charity, it is unusual. But the strangest part of it all in the case of Dr. D. K. Pearsons is the fact that on Christmas Day his health was so extraordinarily good for so aged a man that he expects to live a great many years yet, and is getting anxious lest his \$30,000 should prove insufficient to keep him in comfort. Now is the time for some of the institutions he has so generously endowed, to give the kindly old man assurance that they will look after him if any emergency should arise, for they owe him that much, which is very little.

The massacre of defenseless people in Persia by Russians, after Persia had submitted to all the unreasonable demands made by the government of the Great White Czar, show how barbaric and unfeeling are the Russian soldiery. The horrible cruelties that Russia has permitted her fiendish Cossacks to wreak upon the poor Jews was damning enough, but this latest outrage is even worse. No country which countenances assassination is worthy of recognition in the great family of nations, and the blood of murdered Jews, Armenians and Persians is upon the head of the Czar. It is high time that every self-respecting nation make a formal protest to Russia.

There is no danger of race suicide in the family of J. K. Irby, of Sunnyside, near Baker, Ore. Mr. Irby is the father of 22 children, all living, the latest arrival—a boy—having put in an appearance last week.

Alfred Larson, aged 22, who saved James O'Connor, aged 32, from drowning in the Willamette River, regardless of the danger and discomfort to himself, is deserving of a Carnegie medal, and THE TIMES hopes that he may get it.

There is still a little aftermath of the Gipsy Smith revival lingering in Portland. It appears that the harvest of souls, when the matter was checked up, was not nearly so great as expected. Local ministers have been checking up the addresses of alleged converts, as given, and find that among the more than 2,000 give are a large number of fakes. Chinese laundries, vacant lots and vacant houses are given. The whole matter savors of a travesty on religion. It isn't the fault of Gipsy Smith, nor of the local ministers. While THE TIMES does not believe in emotional religion, which is only a form of emotional insanity, it does believe in fair play and decency. The individuals who gave fictitious addresses deserve condemnation.

Andrew W. Mellon, a millionaire banker of Pittsburg, has sued his wife, Mrs. Nora McMullen Mellon, for divorce. If all the things charged against the woman be true, he ought to get his divorce. Captain George Alfred Curphey, a gay and debonnaire British army officer, is named as co-respondent. The plaintiff's attorney has taken the unusual stand of urging the court to prevent publicity in hearing of the evidence on the grounds that it will injure the public morals. The attorney intimates that the evidence will be quite risqué, since it will relate to "kissing, fondling, embracing car rides" and other very naughty incidents. The decision of the court is awaited with interest.

Dr. Mary Walker, she of the man's bifurcated garments, has once more sprung into the limelight. Dr. Mary has made a scientific discovery which may not be far off from the truth, after all. She believes that no small percentage of mysterious cases of insanity among men are directly traceable to the pressure of collar buttons upon their cervical vertebrae. Another of Dr. Mary's beliefs is that if women would only discard skirts and envelope their nether extremities in the real trousers of men, great progress will be made in the extermination of tuberculosis. Perhaps, Mary, you're right on both of these propositions.

Pahetic indeed is the downfall of General Bernardo Reyes, the one-time great military leader of Mexico. In his attempt to start a revolution against the Madero government the broken-down man sadly says: "I called upon the army, I called upon the people, and no one responded." General Reyes has learned the truth of the adage that "Republics are ungrateful." His devotion to the lost cause of Diaz reminds one of Cardinal Woolsey's saddened lament: "O, Cromwell, Cromwell, had I but served my God with half the zeal I served my king, He would not have left me in mine old age stricken and to mine enemies."

And now comes Jay Bowerman, one of the attorneys in the Oregon Trust & Savings Bank stench, which it seems will never get out of the public nostrils, and charges Thomas C. Devlin, receiver for the wrecked bank, with double dealing and with being responsible for an indebtedness of \$600,000. Mr. A. E. Clark, Mr. Devlin's attorney, smilingly intimates in effect, "wait and see". Well, we are waiting. Everybody will be glad when the Supreme Court finally disposes of the matter.

"Ol' Marse" Henry Watterson of the Louisville Courier-Journal, has thrown another fit. He is greatly worried lest Roosevelt should be again made president, and recently declared: "If Roosevelt is put in the White House in 1912 we will never get him out again except feet first." It is probable that Taft will be nominated and elected, but if Roosevelt should be nominated he probably would be elected, and Colonel Watterson shows by his declaration that he fears he will be.

The chances seem to be very bright for Abe Ruef, who may be paroled any time now from San Quentin prison. Powerful influences are at work in his behalf. Meanwhile scores of men, not a thousandth part as guilty as is Ruef, will drag out their wretched existence behind prison bars, because no one thinks them "worth while". It is a strange old world we live in and one in which neither justice or equity have half their innings.

The joint plan of the city and county to give worthy men employment that they may earn something to keep away want and hunger, is a noble and worthy employment of any surplus moneys available in the strong boxes of the city and county. Perhaps a large amount of the present crime wave sweeping over Pacific Coast cities is due to the fact that men, who would be honest if given a chance to work, are made desperate by need and driven to wrongdoing.

There are even new wrinkles in burglary nowadays. Two men in Harlem worked a safe in a five-and-ten-cent store and made a haul of \$4000 on Christmas Day. The light-fingered crooks used gloves to avoid leaving tell-tale finger-marks and from a conveniently connected wire abstracted electricity to propel their drill, and then made a neat job of the whole affair by blowing off the safe door with nitroglycerine, or "soup," as they term it. Pretty smooth and up-to-the-minute work, that.

The commission form of government plan should not be allowed to die a-borning. Mayor Rushlight, prior to his election, pledged himself to this plan, and still favors it, no doubt. If committees devoting their time to the consideration of this subject, cannot get together and prepare a suitable charter, why should we as a body politic be able to judge for the best interests of our city?

Mr. Charles R. Anderson resides in Denver. Mrs. Anderson is in Salt Lake City, yet, thanks to that modern wonder, the telephone, they were able to annihilate the 500 miles existing between them, and to all intents and purposes, dine together on Christmas Day. During the singular meal husband and wife kept up a lively conversation, which cost only \$75.

All sorts of freaks are getting pulpit jobs nowadays. The latest aspirant for theological honors is Eddie Young, one time lightweight champion pugilist of the Pacific Coast, who has become a protege of Evangelist Billy Sunday, the slangy pulpit pounder who once twirled the ball on the diamond.

Jack Johnson, the prizefighter, has arrived in New York with his "golden smile" and a new English valet. He says he isn't broke, as reported, and the fact that he is reported to have brought back more money than he took away, seems to prove the assertion. If he was financially "busted," he would not scorn looking at any prize-fighting purse under \$30,000, as reported.

The spectacle of two little "newsies" "shooting craps" with cubes of loaf sugar taken from some restaurant, properly marked for the occasion, taken in tow by an officer and brought before the Juvenile Court, shows that the instinct to gamble starts in pretty early in Portland.

A novel situation was presented last Sunday in an East Side pulpit, when Chief of Police Slover preached a Christmas sermon on "Love". The idea was not a bad one, indeed, it was a good one, and if city officials would be a little oftener in churches, either in the pews or the pulpits, it wouldn't hurt them or the public either.