

THE TIMES

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Saturday, August 31, 1912

BEING ON THE JOB.

Maybe the State of Oregon and the City of Portland in particular is not gaining anything from being advertised as an abode of the lawless. In fact, it is extremely to be doubted if Governor West's campaign is accomplishing half as much good as it is harm. His Excellency may be forcing a few corrupt officials out of office in the smaller cities, and he may be frightening some of the few Portland n'er-do-wells into better ways; but the good thus accomplished will never in the world offset the black eye he is giving the State in the eyes of people residing outside its borders. These people do not know our Governor as we know him, they do not understand the political intricacies of the present upheaval. They only know that they read in the papers that Oregon is such a frightfully wicked place that its Governor has to dash madly about, from one hellhole to another, using the militia to keep down the vicious element.

Portland business men got riled up pretty well last Spring over the "famine letter" sent out, in which it was set forth, quite truthfully, that there were more laboring men in Portland than there were jobs. But that famous famine letter never did half the harm to Portland and to the State that the spectacular maneuvers of Governor West are doing at the present moment. The famine letter was not printed as general news in the daily papers of the East, whereas the actions of the State Executive are detailed in every small paper from the Pacific to the Atlantic. People read these things and not knowing local conditions, they picture Portland as a frontier mining camp in a community of savagery.

THE TIMES does not discredit Governor's West's motives. This paper believes that His Excellency really thinks there is work cut out for him to do. But it does disapprove of the grandstand methods he is adopting, and it believes further that political considerations are causing Mr. West to magnify the ills that he feels called upon to correct. And this paper further believes that Portland and Oregon will suffer greater harm from the efforts of the Governor than it would have suffered from the conditions which he is trying to correct. Every community of the size of Portland has its vicious element. This element must be kept in constant check, it must be consistently combatted. But there is no need to advertise the State broadest as a hotbed of corruption and crime merely to do this.

Yet at that Governor West is to be admired more than some other officials. The Governor, no matter what his reasons, political or otherwise, is doing something. He thinks he sees an evil, and he promptly calls out the artillery to swat it on the head. This may be something like using a thirteen-inch mortar projectile to kill a mosquito, but nevertheless there is a certain amount of commendable action in it. Nobody can say, when reviewing the Governor's action, that he is not following out the heat of his convictions. They can find fault with his methods and with the over-production of destructive energy. But in the final analysis, it must be admitted that the Governor is doing something.

Contrast this with the action of some other officials. Just for instance, contrast it with the manner in which John B. Coffey is unostentatiously filling the office of police commissioner. Mr. Coffey tells his friends that he doesn't approve of a lot of things in the police department. He is reputed to have a stack of affidavits a mile or more high, relating to misdeeds on the part of men connected with the police department. If the Governor had as much information as this he would need the army and navy both to act upon it. But not so with Mr. Coffey. He sits in his tailor shop and tells his friends what he knows, and then goes toddling on his way, oppressed with his insight into the misdeeds of others. Other influences run the police department, influences which Mr. Coffey could combat if he would—influences which perhaps he could defeat. But to do this

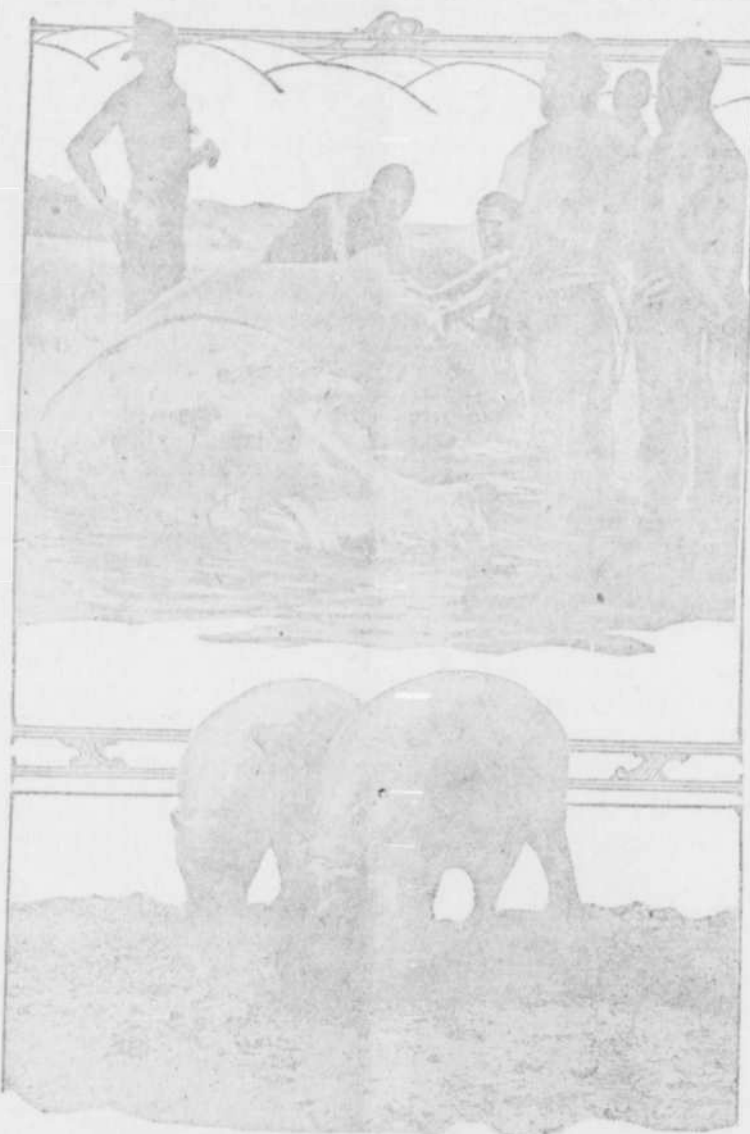


GILBERT & SULLIVAN FESTIVAL COMPANY AT HELIG THEATRE
 WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1.
 The big opera organization of 100 people will present "The Mikado," "The Pirates of Penzance," "Pinafore" and "Patience" at the Helig Theatre, 7th and Taylor Sts., during the week beginning Sunday, September 1.

would be to jeopardize political friendships and combinations, and Mr. Coffey wouldn't do this for the world.

Between Governor West, with his misguided enthusiasm and his personal bluster and fanfare, and Mr. Coffey, with his smug silence and quiet subservience to political expediency, this paper prefers the Governor. Officials are elected or appointed to office to do things, and if they overdo them the blame is less than if they fail utterly to do anything at all.

Hippopotamuses—The Pygmy And the Ordinary Size



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A PAIR of pygmy hippopotamuses has been acquired by the New York Zoological park at a cost of \$12,000. They are the first pygmy hippopotamuses to be exhibited, the pygmy animal having been regarded as almost mythical. They were captured in Liberia by an intrepid hunter and explorer in a country reeking with cannibals. An ordinary hippopotamus will weigh more than 6,000 pounds and measure some eleven feet in circumference and twelve feet in length. The male of these pygmy hippopotamuses weighs 410 pounds, is thirty inches high at the shoulders, seventy inches in length from end of nose to base of tail, and the tail itself is twelve inches long. The female stands eighteen inches high at the shoulders and weighs 170 pounds. The skull of the pygmy is more convex or rounded on its upper surface, its legs are longer and more slender in proportion, and its eyes do not protrude like those of the giant species. The face of the pygmy is relatively smaller than that of the large species. The lower jaw bears only two incisors, while the large species has four. The eyes are not set as high in the head of the small animal as in the large one.



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