

THE TIMES

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MISSIONARY WORK.

Why are newspapers published? For some papers this would be a hard question to answer. For this paper it is simple. This paper is published to awaken, to as great an extent as possible, the public conscience to certain frauds that are foisted upon a gullible public from time to time. There is no malice in this but, merely is it the belief of the people behind it that the truth ought to be pointed out with greater simplicity than it is sometimes set forth elsewhere. Perhaps this aim is not always achieved, but effort is made to accomplish it.

For instance, in the matter of the proposed commission form of government for the city of Portland, this paper thinks that a great deal of truth should be brought to light that is now being cleverly hidden or ignored. This paper believes that the adoption of this system of local rule would be an evil of considerable magnitude. This paper believes that as long as the people of Oregon, as a whole, believe in the most democratic form of government possible, that it would be a grave mistake to turn the running of the city of Portland over to a clique of men who would have the maximum of power and the minimum of direct responsibility to the voters and taxpayers.

Some of Portland's departments are at present operated by commissions. Three men control, for instance, the police department. That is to say, they are supposed to control it. As a matter of fact, they sit back and listlessly permit one man to control it. When they do take action, they seem to have the misfortune of doing the wrong things. A majority of two out of this trio can mismanage the police department to such an extent that Commissioner Fitzgerald is powerless to interfere.

Suppose a commission of such men were vested with supreme control of Portland's welfare. Is there any reason to believe that they would manage the city's affairs as a whole any more creditably than the affairs of the police department have been managed? Is there any guarantee that there would not be similar unpleasantness over such affairs as the Bailey tangle?

Right now bobs up the knowing citizen and shouts that along with the commission form of government the people would have the recall, and that commissioners who did not do what they should would be removed. True. Portland citizens have the recall at present, too, but it has not been used to painful excess as yet, nor has it been used to particular advantage. And right near home have been examples of this recall stunt.

Tacoma adopted the commission form of government. Tacoma has been recalling her mayors and commissioners ever since. Some of the recalls have so tangled up the official signatures upon Tacoma bonds that there has been a hesitancy in financial circles about accepting city paper. Spokane adopted the commission form of government, and attempts to recall some of the men who at once built up an adamant political machine have failed.

Out here in the wild and enthusiastic West a great many people refer to this proposed scheme as the Des Moines plan. Des Moines used to be proud of the notoriety thus gained. The commercial club of that city used to emblazon upon its stationery, "Des Moines originated the commission form of government." However, even a commercial club may have sense, and now, after some years of experience with the plan, Des Moines no longer boasts of the fact that she ever perpetrated such a thing. Des Moines has learned something, mayhap; and the lesson might be taken to heart in Portland.

Parish Priest Honored by Ex-President Roosevelt



Photo by American Press Association.

FATHER JOHN J. CURRAN of Wilkesbarre, Pa., is one of the most popular Roman Catholic clergymen in the anthracite coal districts. He has been the friend and adviser in things temporal as well as spiritual of the miners in many a labor difficulty, and so they made a gala occasion of the celebration of his silver jubilee as a member of the priesthood. Chief among the well known men who gathered at Wilkesbarre to do him honor was Colonel Roosevelt, whose friendship for Father Curran dates from the strike of 1902, when the priest was one of a committee that called on the president and gained his consent to intercede and bring about a peaceful settlement. The illustration shows the colonel, with Father Curran on his left, and Bishop M. J. Hoban of Scranton, who was one of the dignitaries of the church who took part in the celebration.

FELINE WHISKERS.

Delicate Sensitive Hairs That Record the Slightest Touch.

We are apt to think that the cat's ability to see in the dark is due entirely to its eyes, but competent authority assures us that the feline's power in this respect is due almost as much to its "whiskers."

These delicate hairs that project from the muzzle of the cat family are wonderful mechanisms. Each one grows from a follicle, or gland, nerved to the utmost sensibility. Its slightest contact with any obstacle is instantly felt by the animal, though the hair itself may be tough and insensible. The exaggerated whiskers on the muz-

zle often project to such a distance that from point to point they indicate the exact width of the body of the beast.

Consider the lion stealing through the jungle at night in search of prey, when the least stir of a twig gives alarm. The lion's whiskers indicate, through the nicest nerves, any object that may be in his path. A touch stops him short before pushing through some close thicket where the rustling leaves and boughs would betray his presence. Wherever his head may be thrust without a warning from the vibrance there his body may pass noiselessly. It is the aid given him by his whiskers, in conjunction with the soft cushions of his feet, that enables him to proceed as silently as a snake.—Harper's Weekly.

Vice President Sherman And His Cheery Helpmeet

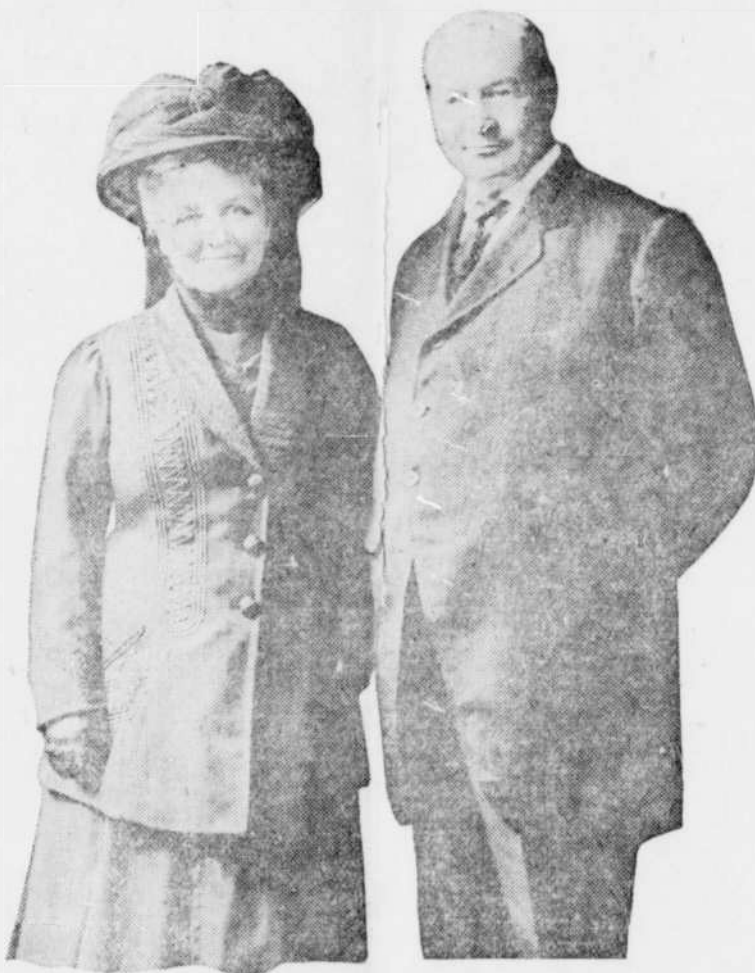


Photo by American Press Association.

THOUGH her health has not always permitted her to take an active part in the social life of Washington, Mrs. Sherman, the wife of the vice president, is one of the most popular women in the capital. While her husband was still a representative in congress she was mainly instrumental in forming the Congressional club, which is made up of the wives of senators and representatives. She is small in stature, has gray hair and, like her husband, has a youthful face, which usually wears a smile. Mrs. Sherman through her many years spent in Washington has obtained an insight into politics that few of her sex possess. She is abreast of the times and is an interesting conversationalist on events of a public character. Mrs. Sherman was the daughter of General Elakim Babcock and was married in 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Sherman have three sons.



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