

The Weekly Chronicle.

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A SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

A meeting of the citizens of Olympia was called recently to consider the proposition of erecting a monument at the state capital in memory of the volunteers from Washington, who have given up their lives for their country in Cuba and the Philippines, says the Spokesman-Review. A committee was appointed to take the matter in charge and circulars have been sent out asking the people of the state to co operate in the work of paying deserved tribute to the fallen.

The people of Washington, it need hardly be said, will not hesitate to do honor to the memory of the heroic dead of the late war and subsequent insurrection, but it may be fairly asked if a movement for the erection of a soldiers' monument is not at this time premature. Our army is yet in the field and fighting. Casualties are occurring daily and the end is not yet in sight. From all accounts military operations of considerable importance are still in prospect and in them it is not unlikely the troops from Washington may play a conspicuous part.

Until the troubles in the Philippines are settled, or at least until the soldiers from this state have been returned home and mustered out, it may be just as well to postpone the performance of tribute paying which a grateful people will be all too willing to participate in. When the sword has been sheathed and the time is opportune there will be a noble response to any and all calls for a fitting perpetuation of the story of sacrifice by the sons of Washington. A monument will, no doubt, be put up, but as to what it shall be and where it shall be and how it shall be erected are matters which, perhaps, can be taken up more appropriately and satisfactorily at a later day when our volunteers have been released from service by an appreciative government and the list of heroes, living and dead, has become a part of history.

THE MASS OF CUBANS FRIENDLY

Passing events show that the great majority of the inhabitants of Cuba are well-disposed toward the United States. A few ambitious politicians are anxious to hurry our forces out of the island in order to try schemes of their own, but the people in general are not acknowledging their leadership. This fact is apparent in the acceptance by the enlisted men of the money offered by the United States. They refuse to listen to the heroics of bothead officers who want to use them for future political ends. Common sense assures the Cubans that the \$3,000,000 is tendered to aid disbanding soldiers to make a fresh start in civil life and not as a bribe, nor with any ulterior designs. Each soldier can take his share without loss of manly self-respect or making any pledge of future political action. He is paid because it would be unfair to turn him back to ordinary industries in a penniless condition.

Some of the officers, however, take a singularly wrongheaded view and are eager, by what they say and write, to breed mischief. Gen. Collazo publishes in a Havana paper an article in which he remarks that "the offer of charity affronts the dignity of our people, and the gratuity of \$3,000,000 insults them. The United States government, if it intends to free the island, should pay what is due the army in the form of a loan to Cuba, which Cubans would gladly and easily repay. We do not want gifts." It would be hard to condense into the same space more foolishness and misrepresentation. The money is not offered as a gift. The United States has already freed Cuba. Its greatest gift to Cuba is liberty. It is one the Cubans wanted very much and for which it implored the aid of

this country. No loan could be made to Cuba at this time. It has no government except by our military authorities. Gen. Collazo may have a plan of his own for governing it, but he will be allowed but one vote when the time comes to decide the matter.

The action of the Republican representatives of New York in falling into line with the majority of the other Republican congressmen in support of Gen. Henderson removes the last vestige of doubt of the nomination of the Iowan. Sherman, of New York, was the earliest of all the speakership aspirants to put himself into the field. It was thought by his friends at the outset that he would have a long lead in the speakership caucus. The fact, however, that he had a rival from his own state in Payne, which was not suspected until Sherman had been in the field several days, weakened his supporters, and destroyed all his chances to get many votes, even in his own section, if he should have remained in the field. His withdrawal, which has not taken place, makes a clear field for Henderson. He will probably get a unanimous vote. An honor of this sort, at a first election, comes seldom in the United States. Reed, Crisp, Carlisle, Randall and all the rest of the speakers for many years past had, at their first election, opposition in the caucus of their party. The distinction of a unanimous nomination which Gen. Henderson is likely to receive is rare enough to be notable in American annals.

IS IT EXPEDIENT?

The annual worry incident to the demands of graduation from the high school is taxing the energies and straining the financial resources of a score of families, more or less, in this city at the present time, and of a multitude throughout the country. A bevy of young women educated in the main without the slightest reference to the reasonable requirements of their future lives, daughters of work-a-day parents who are straining every nerve to bring up their children intelligently and to provide for their bodily comfort, are being bedecked for the graduating occasion in a style that lays heavy tribute upon the domestic purse, and perhaps foredooms the rest of the family from the father down to the nursing (and certainly the self-sacrificing mother) to go shabbily clad for half a year.

This is one of a number of ways in which our grand system of common school education has grown into a heavy tax upon its supposed or intended beneficiaries. It will be said, of course, that judicious parents, who cannot afford to spend from \$25 to \$50 in this way, should be independent enough to refuse to comply with the demand of custom and dress the daughter for the occasion simply and in accordance with their means. But this is shallow, being wholly at variance with human nature. Talk as we may about independence, the fact remains that this principle is not a ruling force in the domain of fashion—that, in fact, it has seldom been introduced therein, and never except to be quickly frowned down and out.

The very spirit that urges parents who cannot afford to spend the sum of money required by the present graduating custom to enter and keep up with the grand educational procession, often at the cost of the most pitiful and pinching economy in the essentials of life, is the basis of the high school structure. The idea is to give the children of the poor the "advantages" of a more or less ornate education, equal in all respects to those which the wealthy may buy for their children; to bridge, so to speak, the channel between two distinct stations in life and merge them into one.

Having been encouraged to do this, is it reasonable to expect parents to fail at the last moment to meet the requirements of the situation? Is it any wonder that it is decided in family council that Mattie, or Mamie, or Jennie, must have an overdress of organdie and lace, over a white satin petticoat, though mother's rusty serge must again be darned and turned; that she must

have white kid slippers, though Johnny cannot go to Sunday school because he is barefoot; that father's battered old hat will "have to do," but a "class pin" must be bought?

These are homely, commonplace things, but they represent conditions that are familiar in myriads of beset, straightened households today. The weary mother, striving, with an inadequate knowledge of "styles," to make the girl's graduating dress herself and thus save something toward the ribbons and flowers at the expense, as one recently expressed it, of her own "blood and bones." (She was not a high school graduate, otherwise she would have said at the expense of her "vitality.") Anxious fathers, chafing under the strain, but striving manfully to meet it; fagged young women, approaching the occasion as one might approach a dentist's chair and wishing it were all over—friends, is it not true that we have encouraged a growth upon our educational system that bears no relation whatever to real education?

In completing a course of study at the public schools, have we not grown into a display that apes wealth without compassing its advantages? Since individual parents are powerless in the matter for reasons that are clearly patent, is it not time that the brakes were put upon the machine by those in control, to the end that its headlong course be arrested and its movements be made to conform more strictly to the needs of the public? In short, is it not time that, with all our getting, we should strive to get understanding?—Oregonian.

Some time ago penny savings societies were organized in a number of the cities of the country, the aim of which was to cultivate the habit of saving among young people, and particularly among school children. The scheme provided for stamp cards, upon which anybody could be given credit for every small coin which he desired to save. When a sufficient number of these coins were accumulated, an account could be opened at a regular savings bank. The scheme added a total of \$16,588.70 to the savings bank deposits of Chicago in the first four months of the current year. The amount was made up of exceedingly small sums. The average was about eight cents apiece for the school children of the city, though, of course, very many of the 200,000 pupils of the schools made no contribution to the fund. The manufacturers of chewing gum, the purveyors of penny grab bags and dealers in catch-penny devices generally are among those who are opposed to the scheme as conducive to juvenile parsimony.—Oregonian.

The Second Oregon is the first regiment of volunteers ordered to prepare for the homeward journey and will probably embark in a few days. They were among the first sent over and they will return with a fine record for bravery, for obedience and splendid fighting qualities.

OUR OPERA HOUSE.

If Any Thing Is Done Let Us Build a New One.

Our contemporary in an article in yesterday's edition regarding the opera houses in our city, makes a suggestion which THE CHRONICLE cannot conscientiously second.

We do not deny the fact that we are sadly in need of a theater, where the acoustic properties are good and where one can sit comfortably throughout a performance without feeling every moment that he is about to turn a somersault and thus furnish amusement for the entire audience. Neither do we take issue with Bro. Douthit regarding the fact that it is more easy to suggest than to put in practice that suggestion. It is easy enough for a community to sit and complain as to the state of affairs and how they shall be remedied, but to put themselves in Mr. Vogt's place and do as they tell him to do is another thing.

On the other hand, we believed that the objectionable features of the building cause many of the failures to secure an audience. Unless theater-goers feel positive just what sort of a play they are about to hear, they will consider some time before spending \$1 to hear only half of the performance and be uncomfortable the entire evening.

As far as the proprietor is concerned, he has done more now than perhaps any other citizen would have done. Indeed, were every other citizen as enterprising as Mr. Vogt, what a city we

would have. But, in the first place the building was intended for an armory, and is a good one, but we do not believe an armory and opera house can ever go successfully hand in hand. In the first place, the floor of an opera house should not be level; in the second, shifting seats can never be made comfortable. And we might go on, like the preacher, until we reach lastly. As regards the stage, judging from our own experience and those of others more competent to judge, it is all that could be desired, roomy and well supplied with scenes. The dressing rooms also are comfortable, and if receipts would admit of a janitor being employed who would clean them up and keep the stage and stairs leading to these rooms in a respectable condition, not a fault could be found.

The Times-Mountaineer suggests that the talent of The Dalles agree to give at least two entertainments a year for the benefit of the opera house—to improve the building. While we feel positive, having heard it discussed, that the home talent would not only give two, but many entertainments for the purpose of securing a good opera house, at the same time we do not believe they would be willing, nor would it be expedient, to expend money on the building now in use as an armory, and it is claimed that this is the only means by which any money is made on it. The Dalles is not in need of such a large opera house; a smaller one would be much better adapted to its use. Would it not be a better plan to leave it as it is, with the exception of purchasing scenery, etc., from Mr. Vogt, and let the building be used as an armory, for mass meetings and the numberless things for which such a building is required. Then if a lot could be obtained and a neat, inexpensive opera house built, with perhaps offices over it or store rooms beneath, it seems to us it would be a much better plan, a more paying one and at the same time more satisfactory.

Should Mr. Vogt care to consider such a plan, we feel assured the home talent would make some arrangement to assist in the scheme, either by forming a stock company with him or on their own hook. Just how the plan could be formulated might be considered later should it be thought advisable.

Mrs. Lushley—"Oh, you needn't try to conceal your condition. You're holding the paper upside down." Mr. L—"I know't m' dear—did it on purpose—something here no deshent man oughter read."

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Frank Tucker, is a prominent farmer, of Versailles, Indiana. His daughter, Lucy, is now fifteen years old; three years ago she began ailing. The rosy color in her cheeks gave way to a paleness, and she became rapidly thin. As she grew weaker she became the victim of nervous prostration. Most of the time she was confined to the bed and was almost on the verge of going into St. Vitus' dance.

"Finally the doctor told us to give her Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Said he was treating a similar case with them and they were curing the patient. We began giving the pills at once, and the next day we could see a change for the better in her. The doctor told us to keep giving her the medicine. We gave her one pill after each meal until she was well. We began giving her the medicine last August, and she took the last dose in October, having used eight boxes. She is now entirely well and has not been sick a day since. We think the cure almost miraculous."

FRANK TUCKER, Mrs. FRANK TUCKER.
HUGH JOHNSON, Justice of the Peace.
Versailles, Indiana, April 28th, 1897.—From the Republican, Versailles, Ind.

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