

OREGON EMERALD

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Wednesday, April 24, 1912.

Form vs. Substance.

Ho say that the decision handed down by the Supreme Court yesterday was a disappointment to the University students, faculty, and supporters, is putting it mildly. The money provided for in the bill in question is so badly needed that any further delay to its forthcoming, or any obstacles thrown in the way of getting it, strike hard at the hopes of everyone.

We have no desire to criticize the superior court of this state, for it probably acted in strict accordance with former precedents which cover certain parts of this case. But to our lay minds, it seems hard that the justice of the case should go down before a mere technicality. What essential difference does it make who brings the complaint to the court, so long as the justice of it is settled? And to refuse to even consider the content because a state official should have brought suit and not a private citizen, strikes us as a sacrifice of content for form, of justice for expression.

There is something wrong with our judicial system when the emphasis is placed on form. The English courts do not do it. With them the important thing is substance—the determination of truth, equity, and justice,—and the unessential technicalities are oftentimes over-looked, we are told, in behalf of the substance. They practice discrimination in the matters of form and in this differ from our own courts which know no such discrimination.

This decision makes it practically safe for forgers to sit down and write out initiative and referendum measures and secure their being placed upon the ballot for some technicality, some faulty expression will surely be found in every complaint, and the judges will throw the case out of court. It will then be time, not to prepare another complaint, but to vote on the forger's self-prepared measure.

As for the University, there is but one thing left to do, make the best of the hard luck and rally for the fight soon to commence.

Moralist.

By the Oregonian this morning we see that H. J. Parkinson, somewhat familiar to everyone in Eugene, is rejoiced that "justice" has prevailed and that he and his "gang" are victors.

The decision is a blessing to the people of the state and to the higher educational institutions of Oregon," he says, "and those interested in taking the University and the Agricultural College out of cheap log rolling politics in the legislative assembly and placing our schools on a higher and more dignified basis, will now propose a law and constitutional amendment which will propose the consolidation of the University and Agricultural College at Corvallis."

Some of our readers will doubtless remember that Parkinson was shocked at the "logrolling," by which

every bill passed the last legislature, especially with that part of it which gave the University a much needed appropriation, and that he gathered about him a gang of "blackleggers" and forgers and sought to secure justice and morality by filing a referendum petition, the great majority of whose signatures were forgeries. He may experience some difficulty after this in convincing the voters of Oregon of his own integrity, should he try to correct any more evils.

His article goes on to state that a consolidation of the two institutions would have meant a saving to the state of one-third of a million dollars this year alone, plus the annual cost of duplication of grounds, buildings and salaries, but he did not state how, nor can he. In the first place, the total annual budgets of the two institutions do not aggregate over one-third of a million dollars right now, and if either institution had their way about it, they would use, and to good advantage, too, three times one-third of a million dollars. The saving from duplication would be small, as will be shown later.

When the University publishes figures in the papers soon, showing that in states which have combined the two institutions, it has cost more money per student for higher education than in states where they are separate, Parkinson will find his arguments for consolidation sticking in the craws of the voters of Oregon, refusing to digest, and then when the people are shown that the department of agriculture will surely lose in efficiency by the union, that even now at Corvallis the elite of the school in numbers and social prestige are not the agriculture students, but the engineers, Parkinson will find that his would-be statesmanship will be sounded on the deaf side of the practical voters of the state.

As to preventing the University from decay, we suggest that the best thing Parkinson can do, is to remove his interfering hand from off it and let it alone. It won't decay, if let alone.

"RED RAG" EMERALD OUT

Stay-over Newspaper Hopefuls Manage to Start Something When Not Watched.

The perpetrators of the Doughnut Emerald, "that alluring Red Rag," caused a furore even if they didn't completely dim the glory of Horace Greely and Charles A. Dana. Among the features deluxe was the lurid poetry of our "Busher," it is rumored that Tom Word is going to take him on as assistant extra-special of the Monthly Poetry Department.

The chief interest of the week-end seems to have centered in the social affairs given for and by the stay-overs and they were certainly written up in style. Some are objecting to a sometimes overdone personal touch, which worked both ways occasionally, but the victims seem on the whole to have taken everything in good part.

The editor and his staff succeeded in making everyone look twice, and even those returning from their vacations made a mad scramble to get copies for their memory books.

FINAL STUDENT BODY INFORMAL FRIDAY NIGHT

The last student body dance of the college year will take place Friday evening, April 26, in the Men's Gymnasium.

The music will be furnished by Burns Powell's orchestra. Although the dance will be strictly informal, as usual, one formal innovation will be a short grand march, led by the President of the Student Body, Leon Ray. The usual admittance fee of fifty cents will be expected, the surplus of which goes into the Student Body fund.

The patronesses will be Mrs. P. L. Campbell, Mrs. A. Ellen Pennell, Mrs. Arthur Collier, Mrs. Richard H. Dearborn, and Mrs. Letta Powell.

Stanley Kirkland, of Portland, was in Eugene last week-end.

Ben Harding is doing thesis work in the Tualatin Valley this week.

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Lila Sengstake will return to Eugene this week, but will not enter college again this semester.

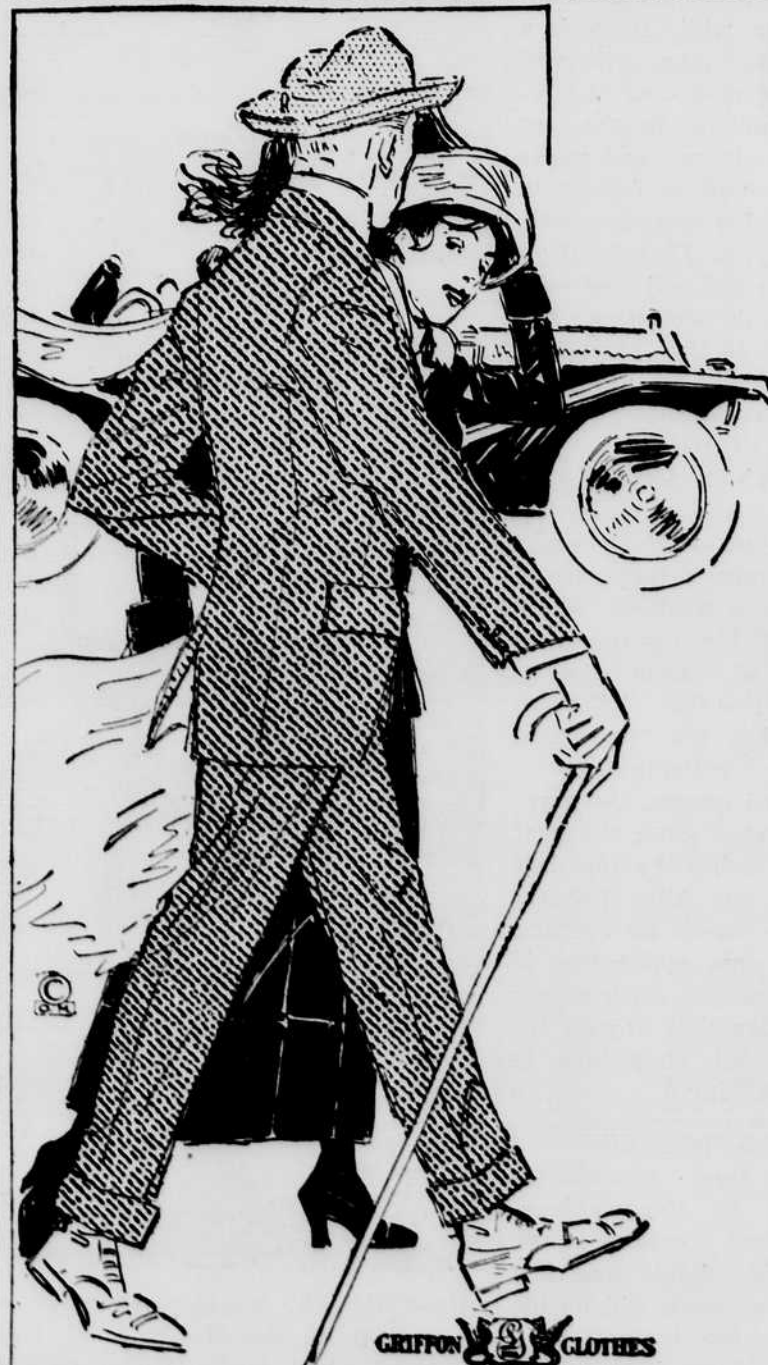
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