

La Grande Evening Observer

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CURRY BROTHERS, EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS, United Press Telegraph Service.

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TALK HEALTH.

Talk health. The dreary never-changing tale Of mortal maladies is worn and stale. You cannot charm, or interest or please By harping on that minor chord, disease. Say you are well, or all is well with you, And God shall hear your words and make them true. —Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Were we to follow Germany's attitude regarding the punishment of homicides we would not have the unenviable record we now present. Human life is held entirely too light in this country, and we cannot expect much change until public sentiment demands more convictions. Germany convicts 95 per cent of her murderers, the United States 13 per cent. Germany, during 1907 had 567 murders, the United States over 10,000. Even Spain can set us an example. Out of 1584 trials for murder 1085 convictions followed. The most startling fact is that homicides are increasing in our land of liberty, instead of decreasing. From 1885 to 1904—20 years—the average number of murders committed was 6597 annually, for the past two years we have exceeded the 10,000 mark and convictions are not as common this decade as it was the last.

Ten million represents the total membership of fraternal organizations of the United States. However, this is misleading on the face of it, as there are not 10,000,000 people who belong to some such organization as a great many belong to more than one. We presume that those who belong to more than one would decrease the total individuals who do belong to at least 6,000,000. The three leading orders are the Odd Fellows, with a membership of 1,396,318; Masons, 1,288,562; Modern Woodmen of America, 920,079.

We believe the business men will soon realize that they did a "forward march" act, when they decided to change the closing hour from 6:30 to 6. This half hour earlier will make little if any difference to the purchasing public, while on the other hand it will permit the proprietors and employees to reach home one-half hour earlier, which will add greatly to their comfort. Under the 6:30 regime the majority of the business men did not reach home until nearly 7 o'clock, and often after. This extra half hour will permit of many a pleasant evening that was not possible heretofore.

Governor Chamberlain's message contains 15,000 words, covering many of the phases of the very things the legislators will be called upon to legislate. Among other things it is gratifying to note that the state is at last receiving something in proportion to the true value for its remaining state lands. Had this policy been followed in years past, before, as stated in the governor's message, the crown of it was all gone, our reducible school fund would be many times what it is today. Our sister state of Washington profited by our extravagance, and is accumulating a large fund that will redound to her credit in the years to come.

It may be simply a case of history repeating itself. Senator Tillman's voice thundering up toward the balconies of the senate chamber, to the effect that the president was a liar, may be an echo of the late Senator Mitchell, who once upon a time, not so many years ago, enunciated a similar declaration. The president in due time proved that Mitchell was the liar and the public will await results before taking Senator Tillman too seriously.

Many a passenger at this time of the year goes from ocean to ocean with little if any delay that would not otherwise not think of attempting the journey had not some inventive genius a few years ago perfected the rotary snow plow.

One week from today our United States senator makers meet in joint session to select a successor to Senator Fulton. While many feel or rather say they feel confident as to the outcome on the first ballot, there are very few who will not anxiously await the result of the first ballot.

It is commendable to note that the general treatment of prisoners in our state penitentiary is becoming more and more merciful. A few years ago there were so many reports of inhuman treatment that brought forth criticism on the management.

The state of New York contains 2,900 more Indians than the state of Oregon, which has 3590 and Wisconsin has 7000 more. The savage of our past history is being eliminated rapidly.

CHAMBERLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1.)

ished, and although strict discipline is maintained, the prisoner are treated more humanely than ever before. The result has been good, and it has been found that where a disposition upon the part of the officials is evinced to place some confidence in the prisoner, it is appreciated, and is not apt to be betrayed.

Taking Prisoners to Penitentiary. A great saving can be effected in the matter of bringing prisoners to the penitentiary if the same system is adopted with reference to that institution as was heretofore adopted with respect to patients for the asylum.

The cost of this service to the state under the present system for the two years ending September 30, 1906, was \$13,573.45 for 378 prisoners, an average cost of \$35.91 per capita. For the two years ending September 30, 1908, it was \$17,726.74 for 462 prisoners, an average cost of \$38.37 per capita. The cost of conveying 114 insane patients from July 1, 1905, to July 1, 1906, was \$5,668.52, an average cost of \$49.72 per capita. For the two years ending September 30, 1908, it was \$14,911.12 for 382 insane, an average cost of \$39.03 per capita.

A saving of more than 50 per cent may be made to the state.

Railroad Commission.

The railroad commission has been in existence scarcely two years, but the work it has done has already vindicated the judgment of those who advocated its creation with ample powers and the legislature which passed it. No one who has the best interest of the state at heart will for a moment listen to a suggestion for the repeal of the present law.

Insurance Commissioner.

The governor thinks the time has arrived when this state should have an insurance commissioner, and the \$50,000 deposit now required should be abolished and in its place an indemnity bond would provide security and permit strong companies to operate in the state who are now practically prohibited.

Noxal Schools.

The governor, like many politicians, touches the Noxal school question rather gingerly, but contains the recommendations of the regents and provide for three schools. To have made this part of his message interesting in the extreme, he should have stated the one in his opinion to be abolished.

Oregon National Guard.

The Oregon National Guard was never in a higher state of efficiency than at this time, and your attention is called to the report of the adjutant general for information as to its present condition. Larger support is given each year by congress to the states for assisting in the equipment, maintaining, and instruction of the National Guard, because it is better understood

now than ever before, that in time of war, it is to a well-trained militia that we must look for protection.

Water Legislation.

A carefully prepared code of water laws was submitted to the last legislature, but was defeated. The need for such legislation was apparent then; it is more apparent now, and as time slips by and more land is brought under irrigation, the difficulties growing out of conflicting claims to the use of water become more difficult of adjustment.

Unappropriated Water Powers.

The unappropriated water powers of the state ought to be reserved for the use of the public. Many of the most valuable water powers have been appropriated by corporations and individuals, not for present, and sometimes not even for future use, but for the purpose of speculation.

Lincoln's Birthday.

Many states have enacted laws making February 12 a legal holiday in honor of the birthday of the immortal Abraham Lincoln. Oregon ought not to be the last state to do honor to "one of the few immortal names that were not born to die."

Tuberculosis.

The world is coming to understand that while tuberculosis is one of the greatest scourges of the human race, yet that it is a preventable disease and, in a large percentage of cases, curable if taken in time and properly treated. The legislatures of many of the states have passed laws having for their object the prevention of the spread of the disease and appropriating money to establish sanitariums where it can be properly treated. Oregon has done nothing, and measures

ought to be passed at this session having for their object the comprehensive and effective treatment, prevention, and control of the disease.

TRAFFIC OPENS ON MAINLINE

Forty-six hours after it left Portland, the train that should have arrived in La Grande Monday morning, reached the city this afternoon at 2 o'clock, bringing with it the first passengers and mail from the metropolis or any other point west of here since early Monday morning. Many passengers on the delayed train were bound for La Grande and reported extremely dreary waits at frequent intervals. The train was not held at one place continually, but wormed its way eastward by slow degrees.

Two Trains Tonight.

Traffic has opened up and may soon assume the normal again. At the present time the schedule for tonight is two trains from the west. The first section will arrive at 8:30, and the other 30 minutes later. The train service from the east is demoralized. The morning train did not arrive until after 3:30 this afternoon.

Miss Ethel Gulling is home from Portland to accept a position in Division Foreman Watson's office, as stenographer.

GEORGE PALMER, President W. H. BRENHOLTS, Ass't Cashier
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"WHERE NOTHING IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE.

A new magazine, "Eternal Progress," has made its appearance, and seems to be a very high class publication, filled with uplifting articles. We would be glad to have you examine it.

The February Cosmopolitan is in. There are stories by Julian Hawthorne, Bulley Millard, another chapter of Arthur Brisbane's "Owners of America," an appreciation of Poe by a member of his family, and besides the regular departments and serials, at least one real poem "I Sought Him," by Helen A. Saxon.

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