

ANOTHER DEFENDER OF THE THEATER

Judge Kelly Points Out How Stage Was at One Time the Means of Presenting Religious Precepts to the People by Clergy—History of Stage.

Medford, Or., February 5.

Dear Sir—I have been deeply interested in the controversy between the Rev. Reuter and Ed. Andrews touching upon the moral effect of the stage, and while the subject seems to have been pretty well thrashed out by these cultured gentlemen, it occurs to me that there is still something that may be said in behalf of the better class of theaters that took only the higher grade shows, and since an enterprising gentleman has promised such a theater to Medford, I take the liberty of submitting, as briefly as the subject will admit, my views on the matter.

That the stage, in the earlier history of christianity, was a great factor in the promotion of the christian religion is a fact that cannot be denied. According to J. J. Jusserand, "the oldest dramatic representation of which there is any record in England took place at the beginning of the 12th century and was brought about by the Norman French influence. It had for its subject the history of that St. Catherine of Alexandria whom the Emperor Maximilian caused to be beheaded after she had been the means of converting 50 orators sent to her for the purpose of winning her back to paganism. A little later in the same century, under Henry II, formal evidence shows the representations of miracles were of common occurrence in London."

The early drama, it appears, was wholly created and played by the clergy of that time, and represented usually the principal subjects of the christian faith, as the fall of man, and the nativity, passion and resurrection of Christ. The plays were conducted in the open air in various parts of the kingdom. Stages on wheels were used by the performers and this mobile theater was moved about from place to place. These sacred representations soon became the subject of much abuse. The clerical performers introducing degraded buffoonery and irreverent treatment of these sublime themes until they played, originally intended to communicate religious instruction, degenerated into objects of vulgar burlesque. The 13th, 14th and 15th centuries saw the religious drama at its height in England, and the 16th century, with the discovery of printing by Gutenberg, its decadence. But the religious drama had served its purpose, and during three of the dark centuries in which civilization battled for supremacy it had been a great factor in keeping the christian faith alive. So much for the early drama—it had its inception at the hands of the clergy and christian civilization owes much of its progress to it as an educating factor.

While it cannot be denied that there is much that is pernicious in the modern drama and that the stage is given over to much flippant burlesque, the great bulk of the productions at really good theaters are on a high moral plane. As an instrument of the instruction and entertainment of mankind the stage has played a most prominent part in history. Who can estimate the debt mankind owes to such plays as "Hamlet," "Macbeth," "Othello," "Leontes," "Ben Hur," "Eurek Tom's Cabin" and the host of great moral and epoch-making plays; to the great masterpieces in grand opera of Verdi and Wagner and to the hundreds of soul inspiring grand operas and lyrics that have graced the boards since the days of the great bard of Avon. When skeptics ridicule the bible and tempt to point out parts of it that seem repugnant to 20th century thought, are not to lose patience with them or finding only the faults where there is so much that is really beautiful. Let us be as charitable with the stage, giving it credit for the manifold good it has already accomplished and hope that its achievements in the future may be still greater.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK

Notice is given that the county school superintendent of Jackson county will the regular examination of applicants for state and county papers at Jacksonville, commencing Wednesday, February 12, at 9 a. m. A complete program will be furnished on request. Applicants writing here from other cities should secure consent of the superintendent of the county where employed. P. H. Daily, county school superintendent.

NEWS ITEMS FROM TRAIL

Joe Bless has been helping Jesse Iron cut wood the past week. Mrs. Perry Chamoe spent at A. A. Hall's residence. Attention is going over the line for mail service from Eagle Point 1, and one line from Trail to 4; also another from Trail to 1.

Pharmacist has been ill for some time. Mrs. S. E. Nelson visited this place today. Clarence Middlebroser returned from Medford Saturday.

Leo Black was out to Jacksonville a few days last week. A Waldron was a Trail visitor Monday. Squire Allen is working on his ditch. George Weeks' sister, who resides in Montana, is visiting him this week.

WINTER BLOOMS.

When to Take Bulbs into the Window After Treatment.

The treatment of bulbs of the Roman and Dutch hyacinth and narcissus is discussed by William Hunt in the Canadian Horticulturist, in which he says in part:

After the pots have been in their dark cool quarters in a cellar, close cupboard or dark basement for four or five weeks they can be examined. If their delicate white roots appear through the holes in the bottom of the pots, the bulbs can be brought into the window.

If No Roots Appear.

If no roots appear, then the pots can be taken out and carefully examined. This is best done by taking the pot in both hands, turning the pot upside down and striking the edge or rim of the pot on a solid bench or table until the ball of earth and roots is removed. If the bulbs are as well rooted as seen in this picture, the pot should be placed over the ball of earth while still in the position shown and then restore the pot with the plant to its proper position. Examining the rooted bulbs is a delicate operation and should be done as seldom as possible, as there is danger of breaking the ball of earth and the roots, which latter would seriously injure if not ruin the bulbs altogether. The bulbs should be watered at once again after being examined to settle the earth around the roots. The bulbs can remain in their cool dark quarters for several weeks after being rooted if desired, but must be brought into the window when the top growth has attained a height of about two inches or the flowering results will not likely be as good as they should be. When brought into the window place them in a not too sunny position and see that the soil is kept well moist by reg-



POT OF BULBS NICELY ROOTED.

ular and copious waterings, always giving enough water to moisten all the soil in the pot.

Bulbs grown in pots in the winter are seldom of any use for the following season, and it is better to purchase fresh bulbs every year. After flowering the bulbs can be dried off gradually. When the foliage is quite dead no more water should be given them. Stand the pots away in a cool place until spring or summer, when the bulbs can be planted out in the border, where they may throw a few blossoms the next season, especially the narcissus. The hyacinths are not as likely to give good results in this way, especially Roman hyacinths, as the latter are not hardy out of doors.

Young Peach Trees.

Rapidly growing peach trees from one to four years of age are rendered hardier, both in wood and fruit bud, by the use of cover crops that check growth in late summer, but while cover crops are valuable in lessening winter injury they are not so important as the choice of hardy varieties or the selection of a comparatively high site for the orchard. In other words, a very tender variety cannot be grown here successfully even by resorting to the use of a cover crop, and no variety is as reliable on low ground with a cover crop as on high land without one. But even hardy varieties on high land are made more reliable by means of cover crops.—Nebraska Experiment Station.

Benefits the Soil.

With winter digging, which is often practicable, the surface may be left in rough ridges so that the winter elements can not upon as great an exposure as possible and by such means kill a quantity of the vermin that always abound in rich garden earth. All soils are benefited by exposure of this kind, and they also require the mellowing influence of frost tempered by the pulverizing action of air and moisture, so that much can be done in ameliorating the condition of the soil in rendering it fit for cropping and giving succeeding vegetation a chance to survive the hot seasons that follow.

Seed Sowing.

Mignonette, pinks, manradia, tea weeks' stocks, tobacco, golden feather, veronica, Salvia splendens, sensitive plant, dianthus, antirrhinum and many others may be sown for early strong plants.

The Bogonia.

The bogonia is a house plant that is both attractive and of easy culture. It thrives in a light but not too sunny place, and in a good moist soil does well, hence its popularity.

ORDINANCE NO. 142.

An Ordinance regulating and licensing the business of real estate agents and brokers in the City of Medford, Oregon, and providing a penalty for the violation thereof.

The People of the City of Medford do ordain as follows:

Section 1. It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person to conduct, engage in or carry on the business of a real estate agent or real estate broker or solicitor within the City of Medford, Oregon, without first obtaining from the City Recorder of said city a license so to do, and paying to said Recorder for such license the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per year in advance.

Section 2. A real estate broker or real estate agent, within the meaning of this ordinance, is defined to be one who negotiates or solicits the sale or purchase of real property belonging to others for hire or commission or other compensation.

Section 3. Any person, convicted in the Recorder's court in said city, of violating the provisions of this ordinance, or any of them, shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, and shall pay the costs of the prosecution, and in default of payment of such fine or costs, or both, shall be imprisoned in the city jail one day for each \$2.00 of such fine and costs remaining unpaid.

Section 4. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this ordinance.

The foregoing ordinance was passed by the City Council February 4, 1908. Trowbridge voting "aye." Olwell "aye." Merrick "aye." Wortman "aye." Eifert "aye." Hafer absent.

Approved February 4, 1908.

J. F. REDDY, Mayor.

BENJ. M. COLLINS, Recorder.

Death of Mrs. B. F. Reeser.

At her residence in Ashland, Monday morning, February 3, 1908, Matilda Jane Root Reeser passed away.

Mrs. Reeser was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, May 29, 1841, and was married to B. F. Reeser, January 9, 1861, in Tipton, Ia. On the 15th day of April, 1861, she started "across the plains" for Oregon, with her husband and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Root, and arrived at Phoenix on the last day of August of the same year. She has lived in the Rogue River valley ever since. For the past 38 years she has resided in Ashland.

She was the beloved mother of nine children, Olive Lizzie Reeser and Benjamin Reeser are deceased. The surviving children are: Mrs. F. L. Camps of Ashland, Mrs. D. C. Herrin of Portland, Mrs. G. W. Pennelaker, Mrs. C. E. Hopper, Miss Margaret Reeser, Mr. Horace Reeser, all of Ashland, and Mrs. H. H. Carpenter of Dunsmuir, Cal. The children were present when she passed away.—Ashland Tidings.

Eagle Mills Sold.

The Eagle mills property, located on Bear creek, just north of Ashland, and including 23 acres of land, is about to change ownership, and fall into the possession of a Californian, P. Braghetta, who has been represented locally in the negotiations for the purchase by his friend, D. Peruzzi, the well-known dairyman. The Eagle Mills is one of the landmarks of this section of the valley and for nearly 50 years has been a possession of the Farham family. In the division of the estate some years ago it became the property of C. Farham, who now disposes of it, retaining, however, a tract of land adjoining.—Ashland Tidings.

FUNGI ON ROOTS CAUSE OF ORCHARDS DYING OUT

A report comes from Benton county that the orchard of A. V. Carter, which was set out seven years ago, is dying of some unknown cause and is practically of no value. For two years the trees have been suffering. Experts from the State Agricultural college on examination found a fungus growth on the roots of the trees and that this was due to the fact that the trees were set out on land that had been cleared from oak groves and the particles that re-

BUSINESS CARDS.

- E. L. BALCOM. New West Side Confectionery—Fruit store—candies, nuts, cigars, tobaccos, fresh fruit in season. Near Hotel Monte, Medford, Or. R. R. HAMILTON, M. D., Physician and Surgeon. Successor to Dr. E. S. DeArmond. Office in Ritter-Duglas Block. Phone 683. Wm. M. Colvig, Medford, Or. COEVIG & DURHAM, Attorneys-at-Law. Geo. H. Durham, Grants Pass, Or. WM. W. P. HOLT, M. D., Physician and Surgeon. Eagle Point, Oregon.

mained in the ground, in the process of decaying affected the roots of the young trees. It is considered advisable to thoroughly clean out land that has been recently cleared before planting trees thereon. A thorough plowing for several seasons and the growing of grain is advised. Mr. Carter's orchard will be grubbed out and replanted.

FOSSEL WOMAN APPOINTED AS FEDERAL COMMISSIONER

There is only one United States commissioner in the state of Oregon who is a woman, and she was appointed today. Her name is Grace Fixel of Fossil, Wheeler county.

Although she is the only woman commissioner in the state at this time, there have been a few other women to hold that position. One of her most famous predecessors in office was Marie Ware, of land-fraud fame, who was commissioner at Eugene.

The duties of a commissioner, it is thought by federal authorities, may be performed by a woman equally as well as by a man. The appointment was made this morning in the federal court of this city.

SALE OF MUNICIPAL BONDS.

Sealed proposals will be received by the city council of the city of Medford, Oregon, at the office of the city recorder of said city, until Tuesday, February 18, 1908, at 6 o'clock p. m., for the purchase of \$40,000 in ten-year, 5 1/2 per cent coupon bonds of said city, in denominations of \$500 each, interest payable semi-annually. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check for an amount equal to 5 per cent of the amount of such bid, payable to the city of Medford, and said city council reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Dated at Medford, Oregon, January 31, 1908. BENJ. M. COLLINS, City Recorder.

Coal for Sale.

We are now prepared to furnish hand picked coal at the mine, five miles east of town, in any amount desired \$7.50 per ton. PACIFIC COAL CO.

Business Chance

Fifteen furnished rooms; all occupied; clears about \$150 per month; 5 year lease. Owner leaving city reason for selling. Investigate. The price is right.

ROY B. ROBERTS

MEDFORD NATIONAL BANK BLDG. C STREET

A SQUARE DEAL

The Rogue River Land Company has always contended that there is no good reason why the real estate business cannot be carried on honorably and honestly, with due regard for the rights of both purchaser and landowner. Actuated by this opinion, the company has never yet misrepresented as to the character of the soil or the quality of the fruits produced on same, with the result that all who have bought orchards through this agency so far could sell out, if desirable, at an advance of 100 to 500 per cent above the purchase price. This is a history of which we are proud, and we shall continue along the same lines in the future. Men who come into this favored valley looking for a new place of abode are entitled to fair treatment. We only ask of them that they will exercise ordinary business sagacity in investigating the resources of the valley before buying.

There are three things the average investor wants, if he buys country property in this valley. First and foremost, he wants a home where he and his family can enjoy good health and the fruits of this section. Usually he wants to get located where he is within easy reach of the leading commercial centers and close to local markets. And he always wants property which will bring in a good income and is sure to advance in value as the valley develops.

Will he be apt to find this combination in the hands of the street-corner broker or the average "butter-in" who persecutes the homeseeker about the hotel offices? When one considers that the situation is not urging many men with good holdings to sacrifice their property here, it is up to the homeseeker to apply to the regular dealer for what he wants. If he wants the VERY BEST IN THE WHOLE VALLEY he must apply to the Rogue River Land Company. When in Medford, do not fail to call on the

AT THE EXHIBIT BUILDING.

Rogue River Land Co.

EXHIBIT BUILDING, MEDFORD, OREGON.

New Spring Styles

In Snappy Summer Suits Have Just arrived at VAN DYKE'S. First showing of Advance Styles. See Our Window Display

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No Fire in the Kitchen Range No Hot Water in the House

Then is the time you appreciate the convenience of

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Attach a plug to the nearest lamp socket and turn the switch

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Only, to get a Good Sized Tract of Land near Medford Cheap; only

\$75 Per Acre

Many are looking for tracts to divide. This is by far the best chance at the right price. Don't wait until some other fellow buys this and then scold your wife because you did not seize the opportunity

FOR SALE BY

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