

Medford Daily Tribune

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FREEDOM OF THE PRESS SUSTAINED.

Freedom of speech and freedom of press are the bulwarks of American liberty. Criticism of delinquent public officials is part of the recognized duty of newspapers. Abuse of power by those entrusted with it, use of the strong arm of the law by those empowered to enforce it to gratify petty spite, to salve wounded pride, to smooth ruffled feathers, are not condoned outside of Jackson county, hence the vindication of the editor of this paper by the supreme court of Oregon.

Justice as has been administered by grand juries of Jackson county is cock-eyed. One grand jury finds no crime in a murderous assault with an ax, but discovers a heinous crime in the criticism of its own delinquency, and brings about an outrageous arrest, has the critic pulled off a train and summarily thrown into a filthy jail in a strange city and denied all courtesies in order to humiliate him. Another grand jury exonerates a thug, who publicly assaulted the editor, because months before he had exposed the thug's torture of prisoners entrusted to him as a public official.

But all things, even fair play, come to those who fight strenuously enough—despite grand juries who think they are surrounded with that ancient and obsolete prerogative of infallibility. It was left to the supreme court to say whether justice was administered in Putnam's case without malice and vindictiveness, and the court's decision speaks for itself. Justice, though leaden-footed, has found her way through the meandering maze of the law.

The Tribune purposes in the future, as it has in the past, to turn on the light whenever or wherever there is malfeasance in office—and neither jail, nor fine, nor assaults upon its editor, will swerve it from its course. "In morals, as in medicine, there is no antiseptic like the sunlight of Almighty God."

The freedom of the press is the freedom of the people, and the vigilance of the press, the vigilance of the people. No public official can safely be elevated above fair criticism.

RUSH TO OREGON IS CAUSE OF JEALOUSY

Towns in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota face depopulation because of immigration to Oregon, declares Charles Acres of Moscow, Idaho, who has just finished a tour of the states mentioned. "Newspapers of that country fanning the loss of all their subscribers and of business calamity are printing fake reports of disasters attending persons who come into this state," said Mr. Acres. "They print statements purporting to have been made by people who have moved to Oregon, nearly starved to death, then moved back again. They declare that statements relating to the resources of this country are all untrue and that an expedition over here is more foolhardy than was the discovery of the golden fleece because these poor people have the wool pulled over their eyes before they start, and that it is very ordinary wool with no suggestion of gold about it."

TEACHERS' MEET NOT YET DATED

SALEM, Ore., March 10.—The executive board of the Oregon State Teachers' association was unable to agree about anything at the meeting in State Superintendent Asherman's office Saturday, and will hold another meeting Monday, April 17. It was practically decided to shun at least two speakers of national reputation to address the next convention, but no time was set for it. The discussion of the finances of the organization occupied most of the time of the meeting.

EVOLUTION OF THE 'JAG' AS GAY NEW YORK SEES IT

NEW YORK, March 10.—Magistrates in the night courts have classified "jags" which come before them as sentences and the penalty inflicted is in proportion to the condition of the prisoner. Magistrate Koussheon today explained that he grouped his cases thus: "Stew," \$5; "mouse," \$5; "fun," \$5; "jag" (without trinkets or noise of feet), \$2; "piffle," \$1. In cases where these psychological conditions occur on one's birthday, at a christening, wedding or when the fine is remitted. The penalty for a plain drunk scales as high as \$10 or six months in the work house.

ROOSEVELT'S BODY GUARD REWARDED FOR SERVICES

"Jimmy" Sloan, former President Roosevelt's closest companion and body guard for the last five years, has been rewarded and within the next few weeks will resign from the United States secret service to become United States marshal for the Southern district of Illinois. Sloan's appointment has been agreed upon by Speaker Cannon, in whose district the new marshal will take office. Sloan's home is in Danville. Sloan will continue in the secret service as the personal body guard of President Taft until the duties of protecting a president have been fully learned by Louis C. Wheeler.

STUDENTS TO ENTERTAIN KERMIT ROOSEVELT

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., March 10.—Plans are being made hereby fellow students of Kermit Roosevelt at Harvard university when he returns to school, next week, to wind up his school affairs before departure for Africa with his father. Several dinners will be given in his honor, and he will be the central figure in a number of college events. Kermit left the university immediately after the close of the mid-year examinations, leaving his effects in his room here.

POLICE CHIEF KILLED BY WOMAN BANDIT

CITY OF MEXICO, March 10.—Police Captain, captain of the police at Vera Cruz, is dead from the effects of a knife wound inflicted recently by a woman member of a gang of bandits whom Portuna and his posse were pursuing according to a dispatch received here today. The gang was led by Edipo Lagunera, who is wanted on the charge of murder. The police engaged in the running battle with the bandits during which a woman sprung at the captain and stabbed him. The bandits escaped with the woman with them.

CRIME KEEPING ARREAR OF GOTHAM'S GROWTH

NEW YORK, March 10.—Crime is keeping ahead of the city growth, according to the annual report of the secretary of the police department, which has just been issued. The figures show that while the city has increased in population at the rate of about 1 per cent a year, the increase in the number of crimes reported in 1908 over 1907 was some 11 per cent.

AVIATORS HAVE NARROW ESCAPE FROM DROWNING

ANTWERP, Mar. 10.—Hector de Bille and Louis Dumont, French aeronauts, had a narrow escape from death by drowning recently while crossing the North Sea in a balloon. The balloon was in the middle of the river for the shore and started to come down. They seized the two and struck the water, the wind blowing the balloon over the surface. Finally the balloon was driven to shore and the two men, half-drowned, were rescued.

KLAMATH STOCKMEN SAY THAT RATES ARE TOO HIGH

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., March 10.—Stockmen of Klamath county will suffer heavily if the increase in the shipping rates from all points on the Klamath division is allowed to go into effect. Montague and Gazelle have been the points most used by Klamath shippers and the announced increase will make a difference of \$15 on the car from either of these points in Oakland, while from points on the California Northwestern the rates will be so high that it will be impossible to use the nearer points and still compete with California stock growers.

Prepaid Railroad Orders.

"Something which is of considerable interest to the public generally and which is perhaps not generally known is the system of prepaid orders now in effect between such as of the Southern Pacific company and all points in the United States. By means of this system tickets may be purchased at Medford from any place in the United States and mailed or telegraphed direct to the party wishing to come here. Sleeper accommodations and small amounts of cash in connection with these tickets may also be forwarded at the same time."

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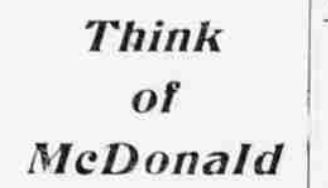
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