

# The Sentinel.

BY LEW. A. GATES.

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## THE MAN WHO WRITES.

The orator revels in the rhythm of the language and charms with the soothing notes of a well-modulated voice—whispering low his confidential talk and shouting with all of the force of his stentorian voice the splendid climaxes of his dramatic sentences. The minister waves his index finger toward the heavens and shouts the glad tidings of divine promise—talks in confidential tones to the members of his flock—and pleads piteously with all of the fervor of an emotional personality to the wayward sinner who comes within the hearing of his voice. And likewise the actor, the princely knight with his evening of song and story, and the oily-tongued gentleman who pleads for political favors at the hands of the people. Each may make mistakes. All of them do. And the world soon forgets.

Only the printed things are remembered, preserved and resurrected. And only the man who writes is haunted by the mistakes of the past. Poor mortal—the man who writes. He writhes eternally under the lash of his own logic. But the man who writes is not without his reward. It is his privilege to reason when emotion is dead. It is his office to speak when the world is best prepared to listen. It is the written page that lingers longest—and lives. Cold type can be made to laugh. The printed page can weep with the tragedy of a well-told story. The written paragraph can strike where the force of oral expression would be lost in the noisome jeers of an incredulous crowd. And the man who writes can choose his audience—swell it at his will—diminish it at his pleasure.

This number of The Sentinel, for instance, goes into more than one thousand homes, where it will be read religiously by more than four thousand people. You may not agree with us altogether. Some of you will not agree with us at all—except that we are honest in our contentions and frank in the expression of our personal views on the many matters that come within the scope of legitimate discussion. And the editor of The Sentinel is not different from a majority of those who are industriously engaged in the task of making the newspapers of Oregon. Take the good things for what they are worth. Forget that which appears to be bad—and remember, please, that the man who writes is only human, after all.

## DESERTING FARM BOYS.

Every season, the question comes up about farm boys deserting the land. Generally the argument is that the farmers' sons are unlike the sons of other people in that they do not stick to their fathers' calling. In point of fact there are about as many farmers who bring up farmers as there are merchants and professional men who have sons to take their places. If all the sons of ministers took to the church the country would be overrun with evangelists out of a job. Were all the sons of merchants to go into shopkeeping there would be stores without custom enough to pay rent. It is the same with most callings, excepting perhaps the few skilled hand trades.

A variety of reasons that seem plausible are given why farm boys quit the land these times and run off to town. But it is not a new phase. When agriculture was confined to the ocean coast boys ran

away to sea. Later came the railroads and the big machine shops, all of which were recruited from the farms. Lumbering and mining depleted the farm help. More recently with the spread of education, it has been the profession and the nondescript callings of the towns.

As a rule, it is not a desire to shirk work that impels boys to desert the fields. They often tackle harder problems.

Observers who live close to the farms have noted two powerful incentives for boys to leave the plow. They want money, and they want "life." Some few boys want the ready money which comes regularly on stated days just to have a good time. But the majority are earnestly bent upon improving their condition. One wants to marry, but has no farm and hopes to earn the price quicker in some of the great industries than on the farm. Another has a sweetheart who looks higher than farming. Millions and millions of railroad, lumbering and mining wages paid to boys reared on farms flow back into land. This shows that it is not wholly hatred of toil that strips the harvest field of help, but discontent under the conditions prevailing. Every farmer can pick out the boys of his family and of his neighborhood who will make good farmers. These lads should be given every encouragement to stick to the soil. A little pocket money now and then and vacation trips to see the world will open their eyes and make them more contented and can't spoil boys who really have the making of farmers in them. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." The farm is the last place in the world where dullness can get on, for the farmer should be an all round man, a sterling citizen and genial neighbor as well as a soil, crop and market expert.

## MOST POPULAR COMPOSER.

"No man," said Johnson, "is a hypocrite in his pleasures." In an age given to posing this may be taken with a grain of salt, but it is a fair criterion that what the people call for most is liked genuinely. No less an authority than Sousa, and who could ask for a better judge of musical taste, says that Wagner is the most popular name on his program. The German, who died in 1883 and was considered a musical anarchist, has achieved a permanent place after a lifetime of storm and stress.

To the older members of European culture he was a madman who found no safe anchorage until he came under the protection of a lunatic. His successors have carried his theories to so strange an extreme that to the average music lover Wagner's great tonal compositions seem rational and pleasing. If he has found a place in the hearts of the people he has attained immortality. The so-called intellectual enjoyment of the German in his music is a mere term invented to differentiate the stolid Teuton from the more lively French, emotional Italian and sensuous Spaniard. Only the elect may grasp the meaning of leading motives or guiding themes, but the people know when their feelings are touched and that is the true end of song.

In the last half century music has been in the turmoil of a revolutionary movement. The combined realism and romanticism of Wagner, with his newer modes of expression, struck the first note of the revolt. If the ninth symphony of Beethoven was the climax of the older form, Wagner blazed the way towards new orbs beyond the limitations of the old. The average ear is not yet attuned to the ultra-school which is reaching out, groping toward the music of the fourth dimension. Maybe in the popular growth of Wagner is to be found the rainbow bridge to carry mortals over into that utmost realm of unfathomed sounds.

Following the practice in many of the insurance departments in the different states, Insurance Commissioner Sam Kozer has just issued his first bulletin relating to departmental matters concerning the insurance situation in Oregon. This bulletin

is issued with the avowed purpose of giving to the citizens of the State much that is important that they should know affecting insurance matters with which they are daily brought in touch and which are of vital importance to the successful conduct of their respective businesses, and in providing ways and means in the future for those who are directly dependent upon them.

The contention of one Herr Kurt von Strantz, in an article in a Berlin journal, that it was only a single casting vote in the American congress a hundred or more years ago that made the United States an English-speaking instead of a German-speaking nation, is only a romance of history. It may be quite true that more than a third of the population of the United States at the present time is of German or Teutonic origin; that the German blood is predominating as compared with the English blood; but any one who has studied the history of the 13 colonies and of the successful struggle for independence knows that it would have been impossible to establish as the national language any other tongue than the English.

Notwithstanding the fact that 45,312 veteran pensioners of Uncle Sam died during the past fiscal year, and over 3,000 more were dropped from the rolls from other causes, the amount paid out in pensions during that year was larger than for any preceding year; the amount was \$161,973,703. Commissioner Warner explains these facts by showing that a large number of new pensioners were placed on the rolls by the act of February 6, 1907, granting \$12, \$15 and \$20 to survivors of the war with Mexico and the civil war on reaching the ages of sixty-two, seventy and seventy-five, regardless of injuries having been received.

The common people of all countries will resist the tariff war deliberately invited by the new law of the United States as earnestly, if less violently, as the people of industrial Spain resisted the mine capitalists' war in Morocco. All governments must respect this public opinion, even those not directly responsible to the people. Only very rich and wasteful countries like the United States can suddenly put up the cost of living with impunity.

It is rather late in the day for the British people to complain of King Edward for asserting his royal prerogative at home, after praising him without stint during several years for his vigorous assertion of it abroad. The most remarkable thing about the modern revival of the royal power in Great Britain, is the popularity of it. No English monarch since the Georges has exercised so much real power as King Edward.

President Lowell, the new head of Harvard, adopts the current impression of the phase of Shakespeare's later life when he says in one of his recent addresses, discussing the ineffectiveness of mere opportunity: "Shakespeare himself did much of his writing under the pressure of finishing plays for the stage; and even Shakespeare, when rich enough to retire as a country gentleman, wrote no more."

Notwithstanding the current talk about the tendency of the rural population to abandon the farms and flock to the cities, there seems to be still a pretty keen hunger for land, judging from the number of inquiries being received by the Cottage Grove Commercial club.

Doan's population estimate of Oregon cities is being scored by the newspapers of the various sections, and The Sentinel wants to attest to its inaccuracy. It gives the population of Cottage Grove as being 2,000.

Considering the prices they have to pay for them you can't blame the women for wanting to have their hats as big as possible.

Under a recent law a rating bureau has been established in the state by the general agents of authorized companies for the purpose

of establishing fair and equitable rates on the insurable property in Oregon. This bureau is now engaged in re-rating the different cities and towns and endeavoring to fix equitable rates thereon in proportion to the liability of risk assumed.

Oregon now has the largest salmon hatchery in the world in the Bonneville institution, which was opened on Friday with appropriate exercises. The new hatchery is a model plant, and has a capacity of 60,000,000 eggs, there being now about 20,000,000 on hand. Nursery and feeding ponds are provided for 3,000,000 young fish.

Most of the speeches made by President Taft on his recent tour were good speeches; not great speeches, such as President Harrison made on a similar trip, but good, sound speeches, filled with common sense and practical advice.

If the importance of a town is to be judged by its newspapers, Springfield is certainly a humdinger. The News indicates that the business community is alive to the benefits to be derived from newspaper publicity.

Ten deaths and 100 badly injured is the football record thus far and the season has only fairly opened.

Dairying should be a most profitable industry throughout this section.

Portland and Return Only \$5.90. The Southern Pacific Co. is now selling round trip tickets to Portland from Cottage Grove for \$5.90 good Saturday on No. 16 at 1:50 a. m. train, returning Monday evening on No. 13 leaving Portland at 7:30 p. m., giving all day Saturday, Sunday and Monday in Portland. The same arrangements apply from Portland giving Portland people a chance to visit valley points at greatly reduced rates.

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Better ones at	4.00 to 6.00

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