

The Sentinel.

BY LEW. A. GATES.

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"ARMY OF A DREAM."

Capt. J. C. Johnson seems to be having a difficult time in recruiting Company E of this city, the young men apparently preferring to devote their leisure time to purposes other than preparing themselves to defend their country should occasion demand. Nothing in Kipling's fascinating "Army of a Dream" is more naturally worked out than the organization of the schoolboys of England into battalions for drill and public maneuvers, either among themselves or in combination with the volunteer and regular forces. Probably nothing served better the serious purposes of that skit than this picture of how the spirits of boyhood and the inherited instinct for war could be employed to train the future generation for protection of the nation or defence of individual liberty. Youth is the time to learn arms, of all things. It is the season when the mind best apprehends their use, since childhood trails clouds of military as well as spiritual glory from the dim past of the race memory. The citizen armies that made our nation and saved it hunted and played at war with arms as children. Since young Americans no longer do this generally, the best security for a nation's future is the military training of its National Guard.

The time is still distant when nations can survive for long without power to take care of themselves, and this power depends more and more on trained skill and habitual discipline. Therefore The Sentinel would like to see the young men of Cottage Grove become identified with Company E. This service is not play. Zeal and energy are necessary. Somebody said that the battle of Waterloo was won on the Elton, and other public play-grounds where the English troops toughened their muscles and stiffened their courage as boys. Some victory as precious to the United States may be won in the future by boys who learn war in the National Guard.

CIGARETTES HIS DOWNFALL.

"Cigarettes have been my undoing," said poor Carl Phipps, who attempted to take his own life in this city last week, and who is now recovering from the self-inflicted wound made with a 32-calibre revolver. Of how many more might the same be said? Ruin is stamped upon many young men who have from some source or other imbibed entirely false ideas of life. Some are from good families and some from bad, but most of them are graduates from an environment in which cigarettes and melodramatic literature are two of the most prominent features. It is difficult to separate and define the distinct responsibility of cigarettes and those literary influences comprehended under the general term of dime novels. They seem to go together naturally. The walnut fingered youth who furtively or openly sucks his cigarette generally possesses the degree of mentality that is most responsive to melodramatic and suggestive literature and pictures. It is certainly conceivable, however, that if his mind and body were denied these things in his youth they would not crave them in adult age nor demoralize him to the point of the commission of crime or physical deterioration, while still on the verge of manhood. We have a right to make men of our future citizens and to destroy those influences that make them criminals. This right is the foundation stone of our system of public education, but our superstructure is not as yet so broad as the foundation.

SOFT DRINK HABIT.

The soft drink habit is not so notorious as the opium, cocaine, chloral and patent medicine habits, but probably it is more widely spread than all of them together. This is not to be wondered at in the light of the assertion of a recent government publication that the supposed innocent draughts we call soft drinks include all of the above mentioned drugs and some even more harmful. This may not seem so terrible to persons who take to soft drinks as a substitute for the demon rum when the latter is denied them. But it must give a painful shock to the more innocent persons who voluntarily prefer the deadly drugs of soft drinks to the undisguised demon of the still and plume themselves on their superior virtue in doing so. If the government bulletin is to be believed, delirium tremens

itself is a more welcome visitant than the ills that follow indulgence in the drugs that lie in wait for the unwary in soft drinks.

The bulletin in question was prepared by a division chief in the chemistry bureau in the department of agriculture and 47,000 copies of it have been distributed to the public. It groups with the soft drinks of the drug stores and blind pigs, various soothing syrups, headache mixtures, cough remedies and other solaces of the weary and afflicted and names among the hurtful drugs they contain morphine, cocaine, chloroform, chloral, opium, arsenic, ether and the ghastly nervous poison, cannabis indica or Indian hemp, which is the raw material of the Oriental hashish. Other poisons are named but they are better known to medical science than to the public, and would be terrifying only because they are strange.

IT'S THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS.

Before The Oregonian continues further its rambling remarks concerning county division it might be well for that publication to inform itself regarding the several points it aims to discuss, prominently among which may be mentioned the one concerning overlapping boundaries. In a recent editorial that self-appointed dictator of state affairs, political and otherwise, The Oregonian asks: "Question now vexing direct legislation statesmanship is, what will happen from enactment of all these counties with conflicting boundaries," referring to Nesmith and Williams, and Hudson and Orchard. The law plainly provides that the measure receiving the greatest number of votes cast for such measures shall prevail, and hence the writer cannot conceive why there should be any vexing question in this respect. The same publication would have us believe that Umpqua county overlaps the proposed Nesmith county, whereas such is not the case. Umpqua county as proposed joins Nesmith on the west, its east line being that of proposed Nesmith, and takes the coast sections of Lane and Douglas counties, when it has long been conceded by both Lane and Douglas counties forms a logical county. Williams county overlaps Nesmith to some extent, and is alleged to be a scheme promoted solely for the purpose of defeating Nesmith, the popularity of which is state wide. Should Nesmith county, as it unquestionably will, receive more votes at the polls next November than the proposed Williams county, the latter will be left with scarcely sufficient territory to maintain a government of its own, a fact which is clearly shown by a glance at its map.

The Oregonian also expresses the opinion that "there is need of a general law confining initiative elections for division and partition of counties to the local territory affected; that electors of the state do not possess the knowledge required for intelligent voting on these county questions." It is as much the duty of every elector to inform himself concerning these questions, which are of vital importance in the upbuilding of Oregon, as it is to inform himself on the qualifications of the candidates for the high offices within his gift. The law provides that every voter shall receive arguments for and against these county measures, to be sent out by the state, and hence we say, if the electors of Oregon cannot vote intelligently on county divisions they certainly cannot on candidates with whom they have no acquaintance, or probably, knowledge, except through campaign literature. The constitution of the state especially provides for the creation of new counties by the direct vote of the people and not otherwise. There are but two ways of creating counties, i. e., by the legislature or by a vote of the people, and if left to the former, which is generally dominated by selfish policies of county seat politicians, history would undoubtedly repeat itself, and Oregon would get a new county about every 20 years.

The creation of new counties builds up new cities, new industries, new centers of wealth, develops and enhances the value of realty within that territory, increases population, and hence must prove an important factor in the making of a Greater Oregon.

The effect of cutting up the big counties into smaller ones is identically the same as cutting up the big farms into smaller ones. New cities are built, new industries spring up, new centers of wealth are created and the population of the state increases more rapidly when more new counties are created. There are only two ways to create a new county—by the act of the legislature or by vote of the sovereign people. The legislature has not created a new county since Lincoln county was created, or about one in twenty years. The legislature is generally dominated by the narrow, selfish policies of the old county seat politicians. They create nothing new, bright or original, but do create high taxes, new offices for themselves or extend their terms or increase their own salaries.

The power of creating new counties cannot be left to the voters of the old counties for they would never create a new county. The Constitution especially authorizes the creation of new counties by the direct vote of the people

and not otherwise. The contention that no new counties should be created until a special law has been passed is fallacious. It would block all creation of new counties for all time to come and the legislature would never pass such a foolish law. It would be a perfect godsend to Oregon if ten new counties could be created and would hasten the development of the state.—Salem Journal.

The average annual salary of a minister of the gospel is but \$663, in all the denominations represented in the compilations on this subject in Part 1 of a special report on the Census of Religious Bodies for 1906, which is now in press preparatory to its submission by United States Census Director Durand to Secretary Nagel, of the Department of Commerce and Labor. The report was compiled under the supervision of William C. Hunt, chief statistician of population in the Census Bureau, and the statistics were collected partly by correspondents and partly by special agents.

Of the grand total of 186 denominations in continental United States, the report states that 15 have no regular ministry and 69 either pay no stated salaries or made returns which were not sufficiently complete to warrant tabulation.

Of the 201,351 organizations composing the 102 remaining denominations, there were 164,229, or 81.6 per cent, which made the returns to the census inquiry, and the report states there is reason to believe that these are substantially complete and accurate, and it is thought that they embrace a sufficient number of organizations of the respective denominations to be fairly representative of conditions as to the average salaries paid to ministers. The figures in the tables are for continental United States, for each of the four principal classes of cities—this is, those having a population in 1900 of 25,000 to 50,000 of 50,000 to 100,000, of 100,000 to 300,000, of 300,000 and over, and for the area outside of them.

The denomination showing the highest average is the Unitarian, with \$1653, while the denominations next in order are the Protestant Episcopal church, \$1242; the Universalists, \$1238; the General Convention of the New Jerusalem in the United States of America, \$1233; the Jewish congregations, \$1222; the Presbyterian church in the United States of America, \$1177; the Reformed church in America, \$1170; the United Presbyterian church of North America, \$1096; the Congregationalists, \$1042; the Christian Catholic church in Zion, \$1037, and the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian church of North America, \$1008.

The small boy who ties tin cans to the caudal appendages of dogs to see them run has been outdone. A little girl of Vulcan, Col., hitched her mother's wash boiler to a burro's tail and got in to take a ride. The little girl is doing as well as could be expected, but the natives are ever and anon awakened at night as the burro and the wash boiler continue their jamboree among the eternal hills.

One may read between the lines of the Commoner that William Jennings still has the presidential bee in his bonnet. The Sentinel would not be surprised if this perpetual candidate tried for the nomination.

The Silverton Leader is no more. Editor Hosmer shup up shop this week because he had failed to make both ends meet. His journalistic downfall was justifiable, because he knew not the fundamental principles of newspaper making.

Congressman Hawley has lost his job as head manager of the Woodmen of the World, though he made a strenuous effort to again land the one-hundred-a-month position.

An Oregon newspaper announces that it will publish nothing on any pending measure before the people unless it is paid ten cents a line. Public measures pertaining to the general interests should be discussed and both sides given a hearing, or else the newspaper does not give the news. If the press of Oregon generally takes this stand, the people will find other means of securing information and news, and the local paper be still further shorn of influence and subscriptions. The refusal of the average country paper to discuss matters of interest to the people has already resulted in weakening of the power of the press.—Labor Press.

Speaking of county division The Drain Nonpareil says: "The Umpqua county folks seem to have abandoned their scheme for the present, and will await results. Their effort seems to have been made without a due regard to the wishes of a large number of people in and around Florence."

If the United States doesn't know art, it certainly knows how to pay for art. It is estimated that four opera singers who recently sailed from New York for Europe on the same steamer took away with them the lump sum of \$200,000 for the past season's work.

Wheeler county, since its creation, has erected a handsome courthouse, constructed three expensive bridges across the John Day river, assumed a portion of Grant county's indebtedness, and, running on a 12-mill tax, is today in debt only \$21,500.



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