

Oregon Labor Press

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REASONABLE, LOGICAL ARGUMENTS FAVOR STATE PRINTING TEXTBOOKS.

The state publication of the elementary school books is one of the most important subjects engaging the attention of Oregonians at this time. Commercial bodies, Parent-Teacher associations, the Granges, the Unions, Legislators and the citizenship generally are becoming more and more interested in this plan for saving money for the school patrons, simplifying the work of the teachers, giving more work for Oregon workmen.

Two states are operating plants for printing textbooks. California is the more notable as an example, as its plant has been established for years and the experience of that state has been most varied and profusely commented upon. After years of political strife and bickering, the printing plant of that state has made good, despite its detractors and critics. The savings last year to the people of that state, over the retail prices charged by the book publishers for the same texts, amounted to over \$250,000.00. With the same ratio of saving that California has effected, Oregon would have spent \$70,000.00 less for textbooks last year than she did. Kansas has established its plant but recently and, on account of the state being under contract with publishers for many of their texts, only a small percentage of the books are now printed in the new plant. The savings made for the five months ending December 1, 1915, were over \$30,000.00. The percentage of saving is approximately the same as the present experience of California and with increased production the percentage of saving will naturally increase. From the experience of these two states Oregon, if state printing of texts is adopted, will save at least 40 per cent on the texts she is using, which will amount to \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00 a year.

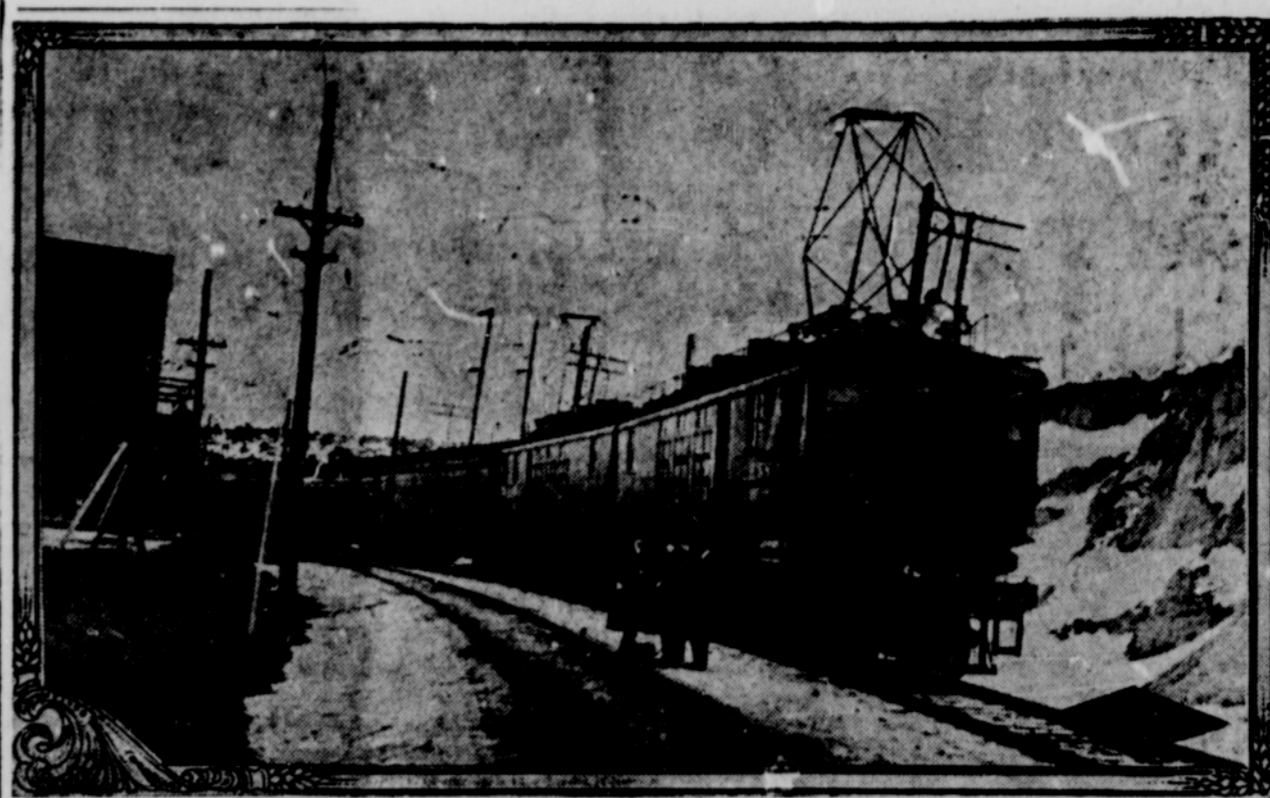
In addition to the actual saving of thousands of dollars, there must be taken into consideration the fact that all the money paid out for labor and some of the materials used in manufacture will be kept within the state of Oregon, helping to build up the state and improving industrial conditions, not alone at the capital city, but at the paper-making centers.

Prior to the 1913 session of the Legislature the State Printer made a voluntary report. This report contained the following figures: "Gross total for the entire six years, 1907 to 1913, \$230,442.23; average per year, \$38,407.04; work performed in 1911, \$43,382.90; work performed in 1912 (incomplete), \$40,244.59." These figures represent the moneys paid the State Printer for the work he performed as printer, and do not include the items of paper stock, ruling, binding and making of cuts.

The total expenses for 1915 are as follows: Office and plant payrolls, expenses and depreciation, \$24,035.94; outside press work, \$87.00; lithographing, \$400.00; cuts, \$214.85; total expenses, \$24,737.79. Compared with the cost of the 1912 work, \$40,244.59, this is a distinct saving to the people of \$15,506.80, and, with 1914, a saving of \$12597.33. The amount of paper stock purchased in 1915 was \$11906.29, which was greater than a half of the cost of materials for 1911-12, and the cost of ruling and binding was \$9,030.72, which was within \$3,500.00 as much as was expended for the same item in 1911-12. It stands to reason that greater demands are being made on the printing office than ever before in its history. The amount of stock necessary has increased, and the cost of binding has also increased. Yet under state ownership the state has cut its printing expenses nearly in half.

Careful investigation into the affairs of the larger book publishing houses reveals the fact that many do not print or bind a single book. The subject matter is edited and compiled by them and then turned over to printers for manufacture into books. This work can be done more economically here under state printing than it is done in the East. Besides this, there will be saved to the people of the state three sets of profits derived from as many transactions — the printers', the publishers' and the jobbers'.

The prevailing contracts on the adopted textbooks expire in 1919-1920. In order to give ample time for preparations necessary to change to state publications, the next Legislature, to convene in 1917, should make such changes as will carry out the general policy of having the texts printed by the state. Failure to do so would necessarily throw the entire matter over for six years more or run the risk of confusing and handicapping the public school system. To purchase additional equipment and install it; to choose a set of textbooks and print them; to arrange for their distribution, are all matters involving immense detail and requiring abundance of time to perfect. Careful business methods require that this urgent demand for state-printed texts be given as early consideration as possible that essentials may be worked out prudently and economically.



A WATERFALL PULLS A FREIGHT TRAIN OVER THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway has expended twenty million dollars in developing a water power and producing an electric system for the operation of 440 miles of railroad through the Rocky Mountains.

Mrs. O'Sullivan Scores

"Is this Mrs. O'Sullivan? It is? I was told on the floor below that you lived in this tenement and I naturally supposed that you were Mrs. O'Sullivan when you came to the door. Now, Mrs. O'Sullivan, I am a worker for the Home Charity Society and also for the United Uplift League, and just now I am also helping to take a religious census. May I come in, please?"

"Oh don't moind if you do or don't. It's for you to say about that."

She removed several things from one of the four chairs in her room and offered it to the caller who said sweetly, "Thanks. Just wait until I get my pencil and notebook and some blanks from my hand-bag. We want our statistics to be as accurate as possible. Here is a blank I will fill out first. You are married, I believe, as I have been told that you are Mrs. O'Sullivan. What is your husband's first name?"

"Moike. Phawt is de name av your own husband if yeez happen to hav wan?"

"My husband? His name is Oliver. Now your first name, Mrs. O'Sullivan?"

"Honory. And yours, ma'am?"

"Mine? Why, my first name is Ruth. And your age?"

"Forty-sivin come the tinth av Siptimber. An' how ould may yeez be?"

"I? Really, Mrs. O'Sullivan, I fear that you forget that—but no matter. We will—"

"If it was a guess Oi had to mak. O'd say yeez would never see forty-foive again. You're young to be havin' to wear a false front, ma'am."

"Why, Mrs. O'Sullivan! I fear that you—but we will let it pass. Do you work away from home any?"

"Oi do not an' in that respect Oi seem to be more fortunate than you seein' that you are away from home workin' now. Is it because your husband boozes?"

"Certainly not, madam and—"

"O'ive had leddies loike you ask me does O'Sullivan booze an Oi 'ot Oi'd git in me quistion av thot 'oind first in case a similar wan was comin' from you. Phwat is your ould man's job? An' wud yeez moind tellin' me how much a week he gets? An' O'im interested to know if yeez have children an' are they byes or girruls an' do anny av 'em wurruk an' how much do they get an' do yeez bake your own bread or buy it off the bakeshop, an' do yeez ever touch a dthrop now an' thin your own self an' do yeez—"

"See here, madam, I want you to know that—"

"An' do yeez know that there is as much noorishmint in the chape cuts o' beef as there is in the more xpensive wans an' thot yeez save money by buyin' coal by de ton instead av by de bag or basket, an' thot tay an' coffee isn't good for your baby an' thot—do yeez take a bath iv'ry day, ma'am? An' do yeez attend Sunday school an' choorch?"

"There's a lot more Oi'm interested to know, same as yeez are so interested in me own affairs. Are you puttin' anny money in de savin's bank, an' do your husband carry loife insurance an' is it for your binifit should he croak, an' do he—you going, ma'am? It's insultin' Oi

am? Well, luk at thot now! Oi niver tuk it thot way whin other leddies loike you in de uplift bizzness asked me ten toimes as many quistions as—luk out for de sharp turn in de stairs, ma'am. Aisy, aisy, ma'am; not so fast or yeez moight get a fall an' thin other leddies loike 'me wouldn't have de binifit av your upliftin', ma'am. She's wint, an' widout puttin' annyting over on Honory O'Sullivan thot Honory knows of!" — Max Merryman, in "Judge."

MARY ANTIN TO LECTURE.

"Americanization as a National Project" is to be the topic of Mary Antin's lecture at the Little Theatre Wednesday night. There is probably no one in the United States so capable of handling such a subject.

She is a Russian immigrant herself and has made a great study of the immigration problem. Her "Promised Land," and "Those Who Knock At Our Gate" are familiar to all who are interested in the most vital problems of our country. Tickets for her lecture may be secured at Gills', Meier & Frank's Book Department, Olds, Wortman & King's Book Department.

BADLY RATTLED.

Everyone but the new curate seems to enjoy it when he nervously tells his congregation that "Esau sold his message for a birth of pot-riht." That is what happened the other Sunday night in a Portland

church. The young clergyman, however, may take heart. He is not the first preacher to get "rattled" in the pulpit. It is on record that a minister of Seattle became so confused as to refer to the miraculous cure of the "duff and demb" man. A titter pointed out the error, whereupon he corrected himself by adding, hastily: "I made a mistake, brethren. I should have said the 'demb and duff' man." Then, seeing that things were still wrong, he rushed to his own rescue by shouting: "I mean the 'demb and duff' man."

A young woman in the South set a date for her marriage to a fictitious bridegroom. Still, the bridegroom never cuts much of a figure anyway.

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SOCIALIST LECTURE.

Albert Streif will speak on "Wall Street and Mexico" at Arion Hall, Second and Oak Streets, Sunday, April 23d, at 8 P. M.