

## THE OREGON WEEKLY

Published each Monday during the college year by the students of the  
**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON**

Entered at Eugene postoffice as second class matter.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year, by mail, - - - \$1.20  
One year, by carrier, - - - 1.00  
Single copy, - - - .05

Advertising rates made known on application to Business Manager, P. O. Box O, Eugene, Oregon.

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MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1904

### AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW

Every great social and ethical advancement has been the effect of proportionately serious troubles. Revolution, first must come to shatter and disorganize the old order of things and upon the ruins is inaugurated more advanced and stronger conditions. The ninety-five theses of Luther denouncing the wallet of papal indulgences caused religious wars and effected the Reformation. The result of the Civil War is a more developed and perfectly united union. Reform and progress, generally, is the sequence of revolution.

This fact, however, does not warrant blindly plunging into trouble with the optimistic idea that better conditions are sure to follow. A majority of the people concerned must agitate revolution before the success of the progressive movement is assured. A strong minority, however, necessitates a highly developed majority and subsequently perfects the conditions of society; but a weak minority, continually disturbing the peace of any organized union, is not always rendering services that end in better conditions.

Before action is taken against what is thought to be unjust suppression, especially when only a few realize that all are wronged, the effect upon the majority ought to be considered. A few moments of quiet contemplation should be indulged in for ineffective action does injustice to all.

Nevertheless one thing must be acknowledged and that is that action is an indication of vigorous life. It is an impossibility for a people to remain long in one stage of development. Something must

be doing either for retardment or for progress. A ripple on the pond, usually, is an assurance that the water is not stagnate; a trivial misunderstanding in university ruling whether resulting in student chastisement or not indicates that some college life is about the campus.

The American College student is clamouring for greater liberty in thought and action. This innate desire to bring about certain conditions in order that the student may act and think in accord with his or her own pleasure is frequently made evident, and so long as it meets with such delicate refinement as all institutions must stand for, it is good.

It indicates that a sense of justice is more powerful than is a thousand laws so far as maintaining order is concerned. It impresses people with the fact that strict discipline and suggestion of the knock-out variety are not now effectual but on the contrary make it impossible to bring about the very change that is being sought. Students who are advanced to College standing, let it be hoped, have been educated to know what is refined and advancing. The high school and the home teach such primary, yet important subjects, and it ruins the power of university life to give notice to trivial errors.

### A PARALLEL

Other people have troubles. This time it is the women of the University of California who are indignant. It is difficult to locate the party in error when a student body and faculty are tangled in a misunderstanding, but it is not difficult to realize that such episodes spread broadcast in the public press do an institution much damage. The California students, no doubt, think it a jocular event but they do not consider that such an incident does the university more of an injury than a strong corps of instructors can amend in years. Of course, it is not always the case that the students are in the wrong but in every instance it is better that such troubles be given little or no notice.

This is a good admonition for local talent to study. It is evident that a mistake has been made at Berkeley but "Sweep before your own door," is a splendid proverb.

As for Pacific, Willamette and the rest, nothing much is doing, and at present it would seem that O. A. C. and Oregon will compete for state honors in 1904.

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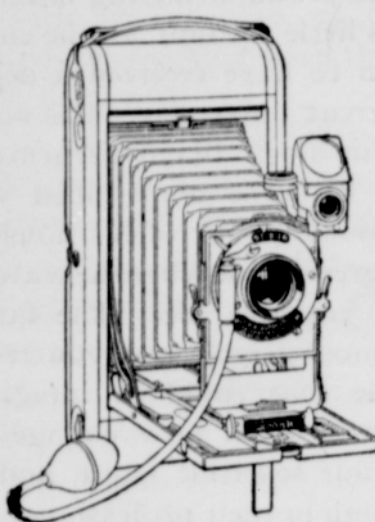
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