

Mt. Scott Herald

Published Every Friday at Lents Station, Portland, Oregon

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Entered as second-class mail matter February 14, 1914, at the post-office at Lents, Or., under act of congress, March 3, 1879.

Subscription Price - \$1.50 a year

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

The Oregon Journal has come out against the school bill.

Sensational news of this character merits at least an extra head.

There will be those to cavil at this announcement and to say that it would have been more to the point if the Journal had come out against the bill before the election; but such an attitude shows a failure to consider the long and recondite study which the Journal gives to matters of first-rate importance. Others may be able to make up their minds in a day or two or at most in a few weeks, but when the Journal is called on to consider a great public question it considers it. No snap judgment is permitted to interfere with the Journal's methods of orderly thought. Therefore, even though seven weeks have passed since the school bill became a law, we congratulate the Oregon Journal on its patiently-won disagreement with the Scottish Rite Masons, a disagreement painful to the Journal because, in its own words, "As a general thing, the Scottish Rite Masons are most excellent citizens."

The Journal's announcement is made in the course of an editorial calling down the New York Tribune and Governor Olcott for libeling Oregon. The Tribune, dealing with the Oregon school law, said: "After 1926 it will be impossible for an Oregon mother to organize even a neighborhood class for her small daughter. Education can come from the state alone. Free choice is barred." The Journal calls this "gross misrepresentation" on the ground that, "Two years at the beginning of the child's training can be in a private school. The entire high school and college life can be in private institutions."

Everyone understands that the law deals only with the elementary schools; the Tribune's reference to the "small daughter" shows that it had elementary education in mind. Talk of high school and college education is beside the mark.

But the Journal's notion that private individuals are free to maintain schools for the first two years of the child's school life certainly shows a curious conception of freedom. If the state were to undertake the publication of daily newspapers, leaving the Journal "free" to print only its first two pages, our neighbor might have a livelier appreciation of the grim humor of its suggestion.

It is ridiculous to presume that private schools could exist in any numbers for the first two grades only; the overhead charges for administration and supervision could be borne only by well-to-do families.

The Journal ends its account of the matter by saying: "It will take a good many Frank Branch Rileys to undo the harm done Oregon by the Tribune's libel"; and, let us add, by the Journal's supineness in not opposing an infamous piece of legislation when opposition would have been of value.

VIEWPOINTS

The publication of the letters of the late Franklin Lane, secretary of the interior in the Wilson administration, does a good service to Mr. Wilson even though Lane passes some very sharp adverse judgments on the ex-president. The Tumulty memoirs gave the impression that President Wilson was not nearly so strenuous a defender of neutrality as his public utterances indicated in the period before this country entered the world war. Lane's letters, on the contrary, picture a Wilson who sought wholeheartedly to keep "neutral in thought as in deed" and had to be forced into the war by the renewal of German submarine warfare in 1917.

Tumulty, writing under the influence of post-war enthusiasms, wanted to picture his chief as being as anti-German and pro-ally as possible. Lane, on the other hand, wanted to get into the war as quickly as possible and his letters dealing with the day-to-day controversies in the cabinet give a view of Wilson from a different angle. The opposing views offer an excellent example of the necessity of reading history with one eye on the mental make-up of the historian, if such a feat be possible.

NOTES AND NEWS

Peace has its killed and injured even as war, according to the record recently broadcast by the United States public health service. Twenty-three thousand killed and 3,000,000 injured in a year is the peacetime record of this country. Great as is this loss there must be added the destitution brought to thousands of families by the death or injury of the breadwinner. Industrial accidents are a large contributor to the ranks of poverty.

Yesterday was Wilson's 66th birthday and his friends are taking advantage of the occasion to point out that there appears to be a rising market in Wilson stock. America, they say, has to fix up the European muddle before there can be that return to normalcy which was announced a couple of years ago by another distinguished American.

It is mentioned in behalf of the ex-president that he forecast for Europe the choice between co-operation and ruin and that the news from day to day brings new proofs of the accuracy of his forecast. No one, we presume, wants to deny that Mr. Wilson had a magnificent vision of a new world order; where he failed was in his assumption that his dream had come true at Paris and in his attempt to have America underwrite the Paris settlements.

It is apparent that this country must interest itself in Europe's affairs. When the farmers of America read Senator McCormick's statement, on his return from Europe, that Germany needs \$100,000,000 worth of American wheat this winter, but cannot arrange the necessary credits because of the reparations clauses of the Paris treaty, the question of German reparations at once becomes an issue in American politics. With a big sale like that to be put over, the people who have the wheat will want to know what is holding up business in Europe.

The state of Oregon has abolished all schools but the public schools. The same thing would unquestionably happen in Ontario if the constitution of Canada enabled the bigots of that province to bring up by the referendum at any time the whole question of separate schools. There are some advantages for religious minorities in having a parliamentary constitution which is not at the mercy of a bigoted electorate. — The Casket, Nova Scotia.

On the other hand the American system of federal judicial review of state legislation offers a protection to minorities lacking under the parliamentary regime of Canada and England.

WHAT SCHOOL BILL DID

La Grande (Or.) Observer
Picking flaws with the majority is never very pleasant, but try as best one can it is hard to agree with the majority who voted in Oregon for the compulsory school bill at the late election.

The first direct business result we have heard of comes from the Ochoco irrigation project in Crook county. Everyone knows there is a fine project, irrigation ditches in, bonds issued and interest piling up and the thing that is lacking to make it a success is people.

Driven almost to exasperation on account of lack of settlers leading men in the Ochoco project, together with Prineville business men and railroad officials of the O.-W. jointly formed a plan to send a colonizer into Wisconsin and secure settlers for this fertile area. This was progressing well and a number of Lutheran families had formulated a colony to come to Oregon when the news of the late election reached Wisconsin.

Bing! It was all off! No Lutheran families would think of entering a state to make their homes where the compulsory school bill prevailed.

As a result Prineville has lost a lot of prospective citizens, the Ochoco project will have to look elsewhere for people and Oregon as a state suffers a setback in business and population which cannot be denied.

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REMEDIES ARE PROPOSED

GOVERNORS SUGGEST EDUCATION, PUBLISHING OF NAMES AND OTHER PLANS

Washington.—Bewilderment and apprehension are the outstanding characteristics of the attitude of the governors of most of the nineteen states represented at the Governors' Conference at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., last week, regarding the rise and activities of the Ku Klux Klan. To say the governors fear the Klan would probably be an unjust accusation in most instances; but to say that they are apprehensive of the results that may follow its expansion and that they are puzzled as to how it can best be met, is to give expression to an absolute truth.

Even those few executives who stood up boldly in the conference and denounced the Klan in unqualified terms and who indicated that they are willing and anxious to do all in their power to prevent the invisible empire from supplanting the constitutional form of government, were frankly puzzled when asked to suggest methods by which the pernicious activities of the Klan may be checked.

Time for Silent Treatment Passed

Most of the governors when interviewed privately by a representative of the N. C. W. C. News Service were inclined to believe that the Klan is necessarily of an ephemeral nature and will die out within a short time. Several of them expressed the view that publicity even of an adverse nature was a factor in helping the Klan grow in its early stages, although practically all agreed that the organization has now reached such proportions that it can not be given the silent treatment at the present time. As to the Klan's lease on life, Governor Allen of Kansas disagreed with other executives. "The new Klan will not die as soon as the A. P. A. movement did," he said, "because back of the Ku Klux Klan there

is a clever, able, invisible government with its eye fixed on the \$10 admission fee."

Backing his contention on the experience of his own state, Governor Olcott of Oregon sounded a warning that the Klan can not be ignored on the assumption that it will die of its own inherent weakness. "We ignored it for two years in Oregon and then we woke up one morning and found that it had captured the state," he said.

Education, publication of names of members, filing financial reports with state officials under state laws, and control through the exercise of discretionary power by the charter boards of the various states, were some of the methods of combatting the Klan menace that were suggested at various times during the conference. However, none of the governors making these suggestions appeared to be very confident that his own particular remedy would be entirely successful. They were tentative proposals advanced for purposes of discussion rather than the expression of deep seated convictions. The impression could not be avoided that the Klan, to put it frankly, has most of the governors either puzzled or politically terrorized.

Danger of Organized Minorities

"Why is the Klan?" was a question which every governor asked in one form or another—and to which no specific answer was made. That it is a reaction from the psychology of war times was a favorite solution offered. According to Governor Hyde of Missouri, the Ku Klux movement is only a manifestation of a general movement, "a symptom of a disease that is deeper." "The country is overrun with organized minorities," he said. "They are becoming innumerable and each one is trying to dictate the course of the entire country without regard to the general welfare, but caring only for its own particular interests."

Governor Sproul, of Indiana, and Governor Morrison, of North Carolina, took the same view from a slightly different angle. He said he thought it was "an answer to the Knights of Columbus," but refused to elaborate upon that statement. Governor Morrison, incidentally, was the only governor present who came forward with even a qualified defense of the Klan.

That the profits from the sale of sheets, pillow-slips, memberships, etc., constitute one powerful motive for the existence and organization of the Klan, is a proposition that was generally accepted by the governors. This was perhaps most forcefully expressed by Governor Allen of Kansas, who said:

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"Probably the saddest reflection upon the intelligence of the Americans who are joining this organization is the case with which they have been exploited by the profiteers who are capitalizing their religious and racial prejudices for the benefit of this Atlanta outfit. It is another nostrum from the home of patent nostrums."

Governors Sproul, Parker, McCray, Olcott, Ritchie, Hyde, and others expressed opinions to the effect that the element of personal profit was probably the major impelling force back of the organization of the Klan.

A woman in Montreal, more than 100 years old, has outlived all the beneficiaries in her will, her husband and her two children, as well as the executors of the will and the notary public who drew up the document.

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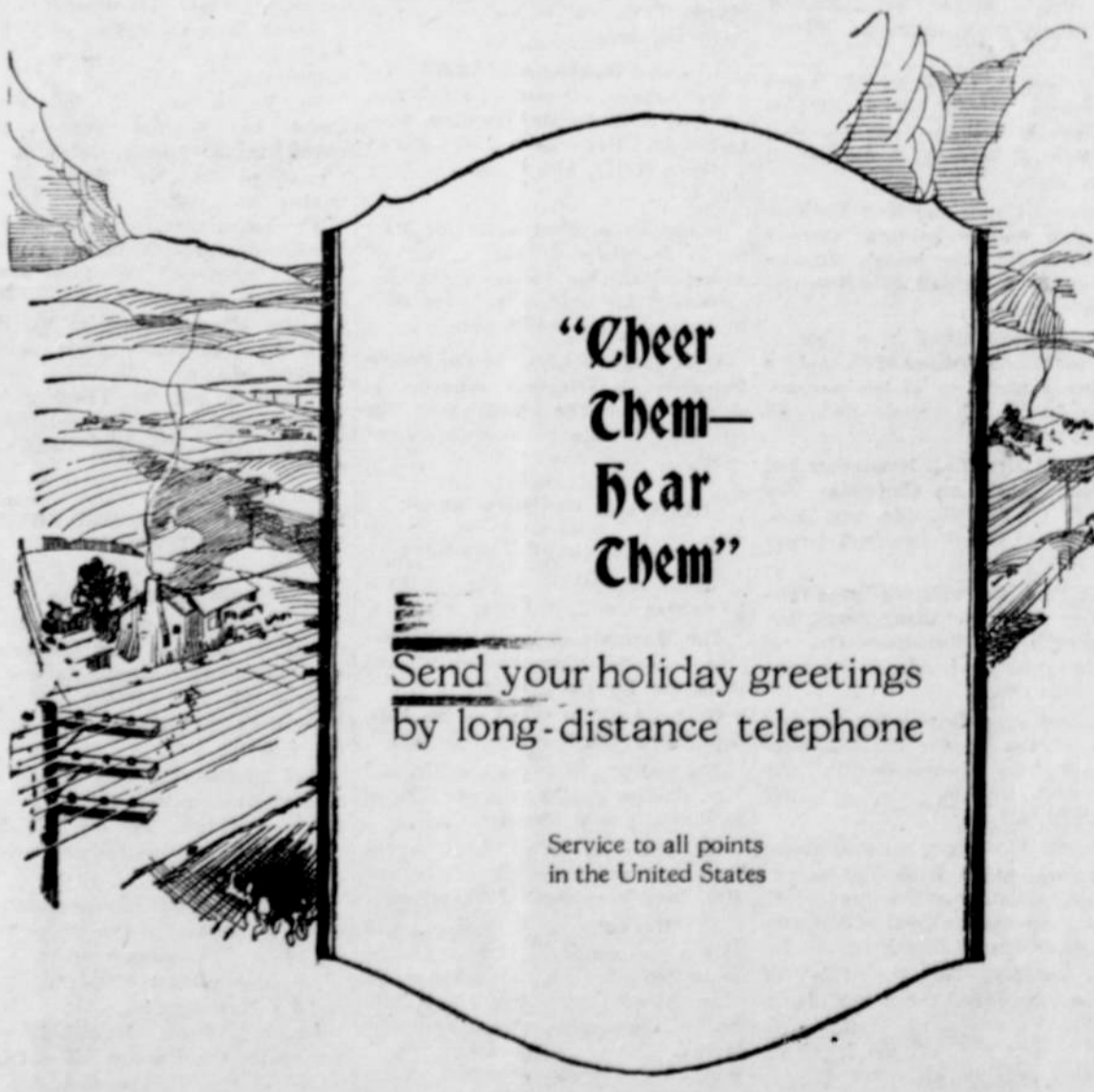
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