

Oregon City Enterprise

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Maybe the voters of Oregon would not retire Treasurer Steele on a referendum vote!

The Benton County Republican says that Corvallis is full of cranberries. Well, we can beat that, for the Willamette Valley is full of prunes.

President Roosevelt's message was the longest in the history of Presidents; likewise one in which the Chief Executive had much to say and in which there was no mincing of words.

The matron of the dormitory of an Eastern college told the co-eds in her charge that "it cheapens a girl to dine with a man." Perhaps that's why Eve felt so cheap when called to account for her error.

In a caustic editorial the Oregonian formally announced its complete divorce from the Republican party organization in the State, and declares that in future it would discuss political policies from the standpoint of an independent newspaper.

The preachers of Portland, in a ministerial association gathering Monday, had a wordy war for a few minutes. It was over the meeting of bankers and business men in Portland Sunday. Hot talk passed between several of the sedate divines, but peace was finally patched up between them.

The White River Utes promise to be good—for a while, at least. That old plan of charging up the death of an individual to the town nearest the finding of the body, when no better evidence could be found, might prove a good plan in dealing with bad Indians.

Of course, Foraker has no expectation, whatever, of securing the nomination for the presidency, still the fight is on in Ohio against Taft. That "fixed" league of Republican clubs cuts no ice with the rank and file of Republicans. The scheme is to influence votes outside of the state. It's just a play to catch suckers.

A return to a cash basis seems near at hand at Chicago. Sixty thousand dollars in clearing house checks were destroyed Wednesday, making the total retired \$210,000. Only \$19,000 of the checks have been given out this week and depositors' requests for money have been met without question. Practically all country correspondents of Chicago banks have been taken care of and still the reserves have been kept up.

Mayor Tom Johnson, of Cleveland, Ohio, has won in his contention for three-cent carfare in that city and the big railway company has conceded his claims and given up the fight. Before the fight was given up Courts had been prostituted, officials turned traitors to the people's cause, and Johnson himself threatened with the penitentiary and bodily harm. But the fight has been continued until the rapacious company had its fill and it now looks as if the people would come into their own, in Cleveland, at least.

The new light being turned on the affairs of the defunct Title and Trust Company, at Portland, shows conclusively how the officers of the bank speculated with the assets of the bank under the guise of holding companies. Few banks fall through transacting business along the lines for which banks are chartered, but the incentive to "plunge" is very strong, and a certain few win out, with the result that the number of plungers increases; likewise the number of broken banks. If the public would learn to at once withdraw deposits from a bank on the first intimation of "plunging," they themselves might work out a cure for the evil.

There's always something doing in politics. The contest over the excise law was not ended until John C. McCue, of Astoria, came to town with his little boomlet under his arm. Mr. McCue was a member of the lower house of the Oregon Legislature at the last session and is now Deputy District Attorney of Clatsop county, and will probably be a candidate for the Republican nomination for District Attorney for the Fifth Judicial District, comprising Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia and Washington counties. E. E. Tongue, of Hillsboro, is an aspirant, also, for this place. Mr. McCue was looking over the field in this county, and sounding the politicians to see whom he could count on as supporters.

We have been reading much the past few weeks of the crime of hoarding. But what about the crime of exploiting, which led to the hoarding? Only the exploiters know the extent of their folly; and when the public is put wise to the fact that there is exploiting folly in the air, not knowing to what extent it exists and not knowing just who have been and are still guilty of it, is it any wonder they become scared and begin to put away for a "rainy day?" Hoarding makes a bad matter worse, but the hoarding is the result of folly in exploiting, and the man to receive first criticism, is the one who commits the crime that causes the unrest that enhances the hoarding trouble.

WANTED.—A SOFT SNAP.

After all, the college professor who proposed making Roosevelt king may have been merely suffering from hankering for the job of "king's fool." If being the people's fool will do as well, he's it.—Eugene Guard.

The Guard editor has not been "touched" with the "king itch" yet. But he don't want to forget that it is a pernicious disease when once an individual, community or nation becomes inoculated. When McKinley was the President a county chairman of Ohio, who was holding a postoffice position by the grace of Mark Hanna, gave utterance to the statement that "I believe in a strong government; I believe in a centralized government; and if we (note the change in the pronoun) finally agree that it is the proper thing to do after Mr. McKinley's second term to leave him in the position for life, because it is for the good of the people, we may see fit to do it."

The Auditor of the county, who was a close political friend, was horrified by the conversation, and so expressed himself, when the chairman-postmaster reiterated his statement.

We don't want to forget that more than one republic of the past has gone over to empire. We don't want to forget that there was a subtle inoculation that took some time to do its preparatory work; we don't want to forget that there are today in this country many thousands who would gladly vote to go over to empire if in doing so they could fix themselves in a position of honor and profit for doing so; we don't want to forget that if things continue to drift as they have been doing for some years past this number will continue to increase.

The professor from Michigan and the politician from Ohio are simply voicing the sentiment of many to whom a position of honor and profit is more to be desired than personal honor. This spirit is growing; something must be done to insure a square deal to all if it is not to continue to grow. Allowing such men as Rockefeller, Carnegie, Harriman and Morgan to rise to wealth on the ruin of thousands of others cannot but breed a deadly distemper. Freedom thrives on justice; profit from the over-riding of law that is not punished, but applauded, kills both freedom and love of freedom.

EVIL OF DRASTIC LEGISLATION.

The Christian people often lose sight of one thing—they seem to forget that the pendulum moves from one side to the other alternately, and the further you draw it to the right the further to the left it goes on release. It is not a case of what we wish, it is a case of fact. This is as true in sentiment, as applied to the public or individual, as in the case of mathematics. Drastic legislation, or drastic interpretation of existing legislation, has always had the effect of turning things to the other side later. This is nature's remedy to keep things from stagnating.

The public always pays the penalty of drastic legislation or decisions, and in most cases more liberal laws are enacted or men chosen by the people who more liberally interpret present laws. This is the safety valve provided by nature. But in case the people interested in the saddle the legislation continues to the saddle the evil effect is even more marked. There is at once a degeneracy of the morals of the community and evil dispositions multiply rapidly. Force always breeds contempt, and contempt is a forerunner of lax morals.

The Pilgrim Fathers were a strenuous lot, and they believed as they prayed, for their prayers added to their austerity. And we see them committing the gravest of crimes, and thanking God that they had the will and the nerve. Looking so far backwards we can see the evil which austerity evolved; we may be certain that the same laws of nature are in force today. It seems a wise plan to profit by the mistakes of those who were so determined to suppress evil by "the strong right arm," and take that milder method shown us by the Teacher who walked as he prayed.

"Miss" Van lived with Comedian Mack several years as his wife without the formality of a wedding ceremony, and now she is pained to find that he wants to marry another. Why should any such women ever expect otherwise?—Oregonian.

THAT EXCISE LAW.

Logan, Ore., December 2. Ed. Enterprise: Allow me a few words, please, now that so much is being said in the Enterprise favorable to the saloon and unfavorable to the proposed excise law. It seems to me that it is the duty of every self-respecting person to do all in his or her power to aid in a reform movement of this kind. 'Tis a disgrace to a town the size of Oregon City to have and support so many saloons as it does.

Perhaps the patrons of those places would feel a little uncomfortable to have to go into a room without screens and have "wifey" pass along just in time to see "hubby" lubricate his throat with liquid fire. But "hubbys" are not the only ones, there are the young men and boys.

Mr. Editor seems to doubt the fact that boys under age get liquor in Oregon City saloons. There have been cases of mere boys getting drunk, and when they take a trip to

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Oregon City the day previous to a dance, then go to said place and get beastly drunk, don't it look suspicious? One case of recent occurrence, too. Why is it a certain party being denied a county license to sell by the drink, or to sell intoxicating liquors, does so? While not located in Oregon City he is in Clackamas county and under its official jurisdiction. Is our laws a farce? or is justice only a mockery. What encouragement is there for parents to try to rear and educate children as they ought to be, when men of education and culture set bad examples for young men to follow? Perhaps men do not truly realize the depth of the wrong they do by this one thing of setting an example for young ones to follow. Why cannot there be a few more names added to the list headed by George Washington who never told a lie, for us mothers to hold up as models to sons, men whose character is worthy of emulation?

I presume Teddy and his little club will be one name that will become time-worn in history as G. W. Teddy's big stick is what is needed in this country. I do not see how anyone who has the welfare of a place at heart can see any good in a saloon, or what benefit they are to a place. Young men never learn anything good there, nor old ones either. If men and boys must play cards, do it at home; likewise taking a "drink." What is there in or about a saloon that is morally uplifting? The whole atmosphere of those places is contaminated with bad influences. The music is not always of a high grade and the musicians, men and women, what are they? Are the pictures that adorn saloon walls of a type one can gaze at and be any better for having seen them? I say no! Influences which tend to lower, and not build up, pervade 99 per cent of the saloons. It is the men and boys' money the saloonist wants and he who does not spend freely or treat people is not wanted there. Men who haven't sons of their own, cannot excuse themselves of a plain duty of good example to their friends or neighbor's sons; perhaps some do not think of this or its significance. "Am I my brother's keeper?" If I am in error as to its meaning please inform me correctly. I have given this matter of saloon influence as much thought as any one has, and I think if we mothers are expected to do our part by rearing large families, we ought to have something encouraging to look ahead to in the future.

"A MOTHER." The above communication is the attempt of an intelligent woman to discuss a local question with which she is all too unfamiliar, and the information which has been furnished her, and which she would not know of her own knowledge, has been inaccurate. She assumes that the fight over the excise ordinance was one directed against the saloons. This may have been the idea of the rank and file but the scheme in its inception was merely a fight against saloon keepers. When this ordinance was first presented one of the prominent gentlemen behind it stated to us that he was not in favor of prohibition but if this measure failed of passage he would do his best to see that local option was applied and incidentally stated that the liquor element in the State had made possible Governor Chamberlain's re-election. The fact that the Governor has made an exceedingly good official was no vindication of its judgment and possibly made it all the more criminal. If this was a fight for ultimate prohibition in which everything was fair, if the saloon keeper is not a human being and entitled to no more consideration than a destructive animal and if he has no legal or moral rights which need be respected, we can see the justification for the fight. Unfortunately we can not take this point of view.

If this ordinance was intended merely to regulate the traffic it must first be shown that the existing regulations were inadequate. We have heard of young boys becoming intoxicated but in every case we have also found that men have made the purchases for them. We have heard of a few women in local saloons but in every case that we have investigated it was proven that they were women of no character from Portland. We have seen no drinks sold to minors, but have seen them refused an order out. We know of no violations of the midnight ordinance or of the Sunday closing laws in Oregon City, and we have tried to find such cases. These facts do not argue a necessity for the drastic features of an excise law. The real question is one of "saloons" or "no saloons" and there is ample opportunity under our laws to determine this question on its merits without the injection of politics and unfair methods. We consider that the results Monday's election shows that the majority of our citizens agree with us in this position, even if it can not be construed as a satisfaction with present conditions. To stop that pain in the neck, that stiffness of the joints and muscles, take Pinules. They are guaranteed. Don't suffer from rheumatism, backache, kidney trouble, when you get 30 days' treatment for \$1.00. A single dose at bed time proves their merit. Get them today. Sold by Huntley Bros.