

OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE

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PROPER SAFEGUARDS should be thrown around those laws that the people have enacted in order to give them a direct control upon the legislation of the state.

To cite a case in point: The other day Oregon City witnessed the sight of a gang of drunken hoodlums, opposed from the core to the prohibition law, returning from Portland in a high state of intoxication and making themselves generally conspicuous on the streets of the city with none other purpose than to attract attention.

So it goes with those matters that affect the Initiative and the Referendum. There are, in this state, many of those who still oppose those laws that have made this state a model in the country on popular legislation and who would do, by fair means or foul, anything that they could to make the statutes ineffective and throw them into disuse.

But when organizations like the Lane County Pomona Grange come before the people with a proposition to prevent the very thing that these enemies would accomplish, their interest in legislation should be commended and attention given to the suggestions that they have to make.

The grange, in letters that have been sent through the state to various leaders in legislative activities, has taken the stand that the paid petitioner circulator is a nuisance and that he frequently defeats the aim and object of the popular measures. It suggests that a fine and imprisonment measure be passed against this brand of pests and that drastic action be taken to prevent them from circulating petitions that are not wanted by the people.

But, to this, the grange adds other suggestions. It proposes a statute that would require the names of eight per cent of the registered voters of 50 per cent of the counties of the state before any initiative petition can become effective and a recognized factor in the hands of the people.

Such safeguards as the grange suggests are well taken and would do a great deal toward making the popular measures more effective instruments in the hands of the people.

There is something of the hero feat in a few of us in spite of the new woman and all of her declarations to the contrary.

Under the stress of circumstances like those that Hagen faced on that night when he saw the train running down Miss Summerfield, one scarcely stops to think of consequences and sees but the straight path that he must follow to save a human life.

On the night that the three crossed the Canby trestle and heard the whistle of the train as it approached the outer end of the bridge, Hagen probably thought only of the chances that he had to safely pilot his party across the right of way and get all three to land on the other side.

That natural impulse that carried him on the run across that trestle for that girl was that little trace of the hero, the decreasing strain of chivalry that still remains in a few of us, at least, and that comes to the surface only in extremely critical times such as these.

That there are not more heroes in the world is due to the fact that such times as these do not often come in men's lives and the real nature of the man is not fully shown. On that great ship that went down in the mid-Atlantic there were more than 1600 men who stood on the rail and watched the little life boats splutter about like tooth picks on the surface of the ocean.

There were no icebergs standing guard over a sinking ship in Hagen's case. There were no women and children to be saved from the cold waters of a stormy ocean. There were no coveted places in the life boats that had to be given up to the helpless and no chance to stand on the slowly sinking rail and wave a goodbye to friends and relatives.

Hagen met the issues fairly like a man. Rushing down that track right in the path of a train that was travelling at the speed of a fier and straight into the jaws of death, he made a last frantic effort to save the life of a girl.

ROOSEVELT IS LIKE Jim Jeffries; he can't "come back". Though the entire Republican party has spread that spirit of progressiveness that calls out of the rear ranks those who have stood for all of the advanced steps that the organization is now prepared to take and places in their hands the leadership of the party for the new few years.

Hereafter, new blood will dominate the councils of the party and fresh minds, not imbued with that conservative spirit that has held so many leaders under control, will be the head of affairs in the nation.

Today, the Republican party is controlled by new and fresh minds. New blood will circulate through its veins, new hands will be at the helm of state. In the councils of the party, fresh thoughts dominated by the spirit of progress and the realization of the real sentiment of the masses will be prevalent and the old spirit of Barnes, Penrose, Aldrich and others is dead in the organization.

THE EAST is, for the first time in many years, short of available material. Men of the day are men of the West. There is Cummins of Iowa who has been mentioned but his advanced age and the waning strength at home will probably prevent him from taking an active part in the leadership of the party.

Others have been suggested but the main feature of the whole affair is the dominate spirit of progress that has taken a firm hold on the party and that has called out the new blood and given to fresh minds the control of the national machinery and the leading voice in the councils of the organization.

OUR STATE SUPREME COURT has held that goods that are taken under a pre-arranged scheme with the officers are not properly stolen if the owner of the property consents to the thefts that the purchaser may be caught.

This may be a pretty bit of reasoning by the learned judges of our supreme bench but it does not make much of an appeal to the layman.

OREGON CITY has had just such a case and the circuit court has followed the rulings of the supreme court in the case. S. Hoffman was held for purchasing stolen goods and the evidence all goes to show that Hoffman at the time of the purchase believed the goods to be stolen.

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It would hardly appear to the mind of the layman, not accustomed to the labyrinths of technicalities that hedge in the law that the interpretation of the language of the statute should be so strictly made by the court and that the man's intention in such a case should have a great deal to do with the results that follow.

LEARNED DOCTORS may talk and confer until the trump of Gabriel sound the calling home of the faithful and it will not change one iota the system of mating that has been in vogue ever since man was first placed in the Garden of Eden and the Maker gave unto him Eve.

Every once in awhile reports come from the cities of the east where all of these learned scientists seem to thrive best among the smoking chimneys of large factories that some new scheme has been devised that will involve scientific mating and a resultant improvement of the race.

These doctors have studied many of the problems that arise from the mating of men and women of temperaments violently opposed to each other and they have seen the domestic unhappiness that such a marriage brings in its train.

But when they suggest the proposition of scientifically mating men and women, they are as far off of the track as ever they were, and no nearer the solution of the puzzle than any of the laymen. It simply cannot be done.

Since the first man and woman were placed in the Garden of Edey together and the first home created under the boughs of the overhanging fig trees, there has been that spirit of romance that inspires the mating of the male and female, not only in the human but in every species of animal life.

When the first signs of spring begin to make their appearance on the opening of the buds in the trees, the lengthening of the days, the increasing glow of the sun, the warming of the ground and the general indications of renewed life and activity among all of nature's forces, all of the learned doctors on earth cannot prevent the mating of men and women whom the little god Cupid, rather than the scientists, has brought together.

Science cannot solve the problem. It can simply seek to reduce the amount of unhappiness that comes out of it. There is a factor greater than science and one that, blind in its nature and determined in force, refuses to be conquered by the prohibitions of medical men.

It is well that in this state we have a law that does something toward the reduction of the marital unhappiness. The statute that requires a medical examination for men is one that will have, in time, a wholesome effect upon the marriages that are consummated. It is well that the bride, and that the man himself, should know whether or not there is a possible source of domestic unhappiness in his system before the final step is taken.

But the world of science will never be able to go far enough to say that only men and women of perfectly fit physical condition should be allowed to marry, no matter how much more effective it may make the race or no matter how much healthier children may come of such marriages.

The conference did well in turning down such a proposition for it could never make its plans effective nor carry them through in any way that would contribute to the betterment of racial conditions.

Neither can science make the happy home. The majority of the children who come into the world are healthy and perfectly able to start out ready to cope with the conditions they may meet. The minority of defectives is a large minority but upon that fact cannot be built the contention that science should be allowed the management of the nuptials of the race.

Happy homes are more to this country than all of the scientifically perfect babies in the world for upon the home is the nation built. Cupid is a better match-maker than any scientist and in most cases would have better success.

REAL ESTATE. Real estate transfers filed with the county recorder Thursday, are as follows: Arthur Mather et ux to Oregon California Railroad company, 873 acres in section 9, township 2 south, range 2 east of Willamette Meridian; \$600.

THE ROAD OF RECORD. Day by day, month by month, your check account will give you an accurate record of all business transactions. No need to carry large sums of money, or even small amounts, on your person. Issue checks for just the money you need from time to time. This system gives you a complete record in detail.

OREGON IRON AND STEEL COMPANY'S first addition to the city of Oswego; \$10. Mathias Paeller to Josephine Paeller tract 1 of block "V" also lots 1 and 2, block "A", all being in Milwaukie Park; \$10.

FORUM OF THE PEOPLE. OREGON CITY, Jan. 12.—(To the Editor of the Enterprise)—It seems to me to be right and proper for the board of water commissioners to ask for the resignation of W. H. Howell as superintendent of the water works at Oregon City, in justice to himself and his friends, he ought to tender his resignation for he surely knows that the people are disappointed and discouraged and have lost all faith in him or the filter plant.