

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional rain, with brisk to high westerly winds.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14.

Mr. M. S. Griswold writes us from Oysterville, Wash.:

Thus far but one side of the question has been heard in the case of the creation of the Oregonian General Blackburn on the Bible and Lord's Prayer in the public schools. Did I give the Oregonian too much credit in giving upon its editorial a side a hearing?

Inasmuch as a good deal has appeared in The Oregonian on both sides of the question referred to, we are in doubt as to which side Mr. Griswold favors. His case is not uncommon, for in excited controversies it is usual for heated disputants to imagine, and to complain, that their side is given unfair representation. At the time of the A. P. A. agitation some years ago, when The Oregonian was crowded with letters on both sides of the question, angry partisans became so enraged at the unfair treatment they imagined they saw in the paper that they stopped their subscriptions in considerable numbers.

Investigation showed that the complaints came in about equal degrees from both sides, and that the A. P. A. showing how baseless was each side's charge of unfairness. As to the Bible in the schools, we have printed all arguments offered on either side, and shall be glad to print one from Mr. Griswold, whichever side he is on, provided he will enlist an amanuensis or typewriter in aid of his vigorous but somewhat unconventional chirography. The prototype is an implacable tyrant in the matter of poor "copy."

Court decisions not seldom reflect public sentiment. Judges themselves do not know it. They think they are governed solely by the merits of the case, and their imbue with the spirit of the hour is all unconscious. The latest illustration of this truth appears in the decision of the Illinois Supreme Court, which has nullified the state's anti-trust law. When passed, this statute was thought to be a glorious triumph of just and salutary legislation; but in operation it soon developed into a mere instrument of prey upon business corporations. One enterprise after another, notably the Associated Press, led the confines of the state for more tolerable habitat. Then the popular cry for reform in corporations was superseded by a desire for more reasonable conditions. The newspapers changed their tone. The Chicago Tribune, for example, one of the potent agents in the legislation and its judicial approval, now says:

If something is not done, and done soon, Chicago will suffer disaster as a financial center and its citizens will be afflicted with unemployment. Illinois is evidently entitled to corporation laws as good as those of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and the subject demands consideration at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

The comment this utterance elicits from the Chicago Inter-Ocean is, in effect judicial in tone, at least instructive:

This is true, but it was as true four years ago and two years ago as it is today. A newspaper quoted unimpaired every effort made in the Legislature of 1897 and 1898 to pass laws which would afford reasonable protection to investors and to the public in their corporations. It attributed evil motives to every member of the Legislature and every private citizen who dared to suggest the corporation of the state should be treated with fairness. We do not care to speculate upon the causes that have led to this change of mind. That part of the bill which would exempt an intelligent, obedient and discerning citizen.

The courts, manifestly, have shared in the transformation of opinion. Yesterday's dispatches state that the Circuit Court at Chicago holds section 1 of the anti-trust law to be unconstitutional. As this is the part of the law defining the nature of trust coming under the act's operations, the serious character of the blow thus delivered is apparent. Convictions under the law will be likely to cease from this on, and Chicago will be able to keep such corporations as it has not already lost.

The light the Illinois statute sheds on the difficult problem of discriminating between nefarious and beneficent corporate acts seems to be very faint.

The evils that result from marriages of the immoral or diseased are not more apparent than is the hopelessness of their amendment through law. A La Crosse attorney is said to have drawn up a bill to be presented in the Wisconsin Legislature requiring all candidates for matrimony to go before a medical examining board before they can secure licenses to marry.

The measure embodies suggestions made by the Health Commissioner of Milwaukee, and its object is to prevent the marriage of moral or physical degenerates and of all persons with the taint of disease. This most excellent and luminous dream has vexed the councils of the cautious and optimistic from time immemorial. To guard it would do is only equalled by the impossibility of its enactment. In this particular

case the only effect of such a law in Wisconsin would be that persons forbidden to marry in that state would simply go to the boundary line into Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois or Michigan, and be married there. In general, its effect would be to introduce a system of more or less open adultery among the criminal and diseased, akin to the customs that grow up under too rigid divorce laws, or, in another field, under prohibitory liquor laws. A state of society in which no children could be born to criminal or diseased parents would be desirable, and would pay the millennium along at hot haste. But it is unattainable under present conditions of public sentiment and private amatefulness. The scientific remedy is a surgical operation from which our most hardened reformers would shrink in dismay.

The Dingley law's countervailing duties on bounty-aided cane growers have provided the last straw to break the already bending camel's back of European government aid to producers. The governments of France, Germany and Austria have finally reached an agreement to discontinue the payment of export bounties on beet sugar, for an indefinite period at least. The bounty is becoming intolerable, compelling the people of those countries to pay more for the sugar consumed by themselves than any other peoples in the world. Even the sugar-beet growers felt the grind of the tax on other resources made necessary by the payment of the bounty. Meanwhile the attempt to overcome by bounty legislation the advantages afforded by nature in other climates, like those of Jamaica and Cuba, had ruined the industries of other lands in a manner unjustifiable by any sound economic, to say nothing of ethical, reasons. It has been predicted that the repeal of the bounties would bring about an industrial crisis in the countries which have paid them; hence the repeal is now attempted more as a test than as a finality. It is seen that general disaster is to follow, the repeal may be abrogated. The United States is not affected by the action of Europe in the matter, since the countervailing duties imposed by the Dingley tariff have offset the bounties. Those duties will cease to be levied coincidentally with the removal of the bounties. Taken together, the export bounties and the countervailing duties form a most impressive exhibit in the iniquitous artificial conditions imposed by devotion to the protective idea without regard to reason. The German hope to force profits upon beet growers has proved vain, and now outside consumers will cease to buy cheap sugar provided at the expense of the Continental taxpayer.

The Treasury Department has been in the habit of estimating the population month by month in order to state the per capita circulation of money, and the annual estimates are used by the Bureau of Statistics as a basis of calculating revenue, and exports, and consumption per capita. The census proved that the estimates were too high, so they have an estimated population October 1 of 78,337,000, and an estimated population November 1, after the results of the census had been made public, of only 76,891,000. The New York Journal of Commerce offers the interesting observation that on the basis of the actual population the beer consumption was last fiscal year greater than ever before with a single exception, though there has been a 30 per cent increase since the year before as the tables overestimating the population would lead one to suppose. The average consumption in 1900 was a trifle over 16 gallons per head. In 1893 it was 16.08 gallons, and as that was only three years after the census, there could have been little error in population. In 1899 the average consumption was calculated on the basis of an estimated population of 78,337,000, but the actual production was over 7 per cent greater last year than in 1899, and the population could not have increased much over 2 per cent, per capita consumption was certainly larger in 1900 than in 1899. This may be regarded as an additional misgiving as to the accuracy of a reduction of \$16,000,000 in the tax on brewers.

THE CAPITAL CENTENNIAL.

The ceremonies and addresses of Washington in celebration of the centennial of the establishment of the National Capital call vividly to mind the progress the country has made in a century. When Congress first met in Washington, November 11, 1800, there were sixteen states in the Union, with 32 Senators and 138 Representatives. The area of the country was about 1,000,000 square miles, and the population was 3,508,482. Today there are forty-five states in the Union, with 90 Senators and 357 Representatives. The area of the country on this continent is 3,621,125 square miles, and the population is 76,620,142; that is, the country has grown in area about three-fold, and in population about fifteen-fold. Allusion is made in the address of Representative Richardson to the historical fact that the final selection of Washington as the site of the National Capital was the outcome of sectional controversy between the Federalists and anti-Federalists. In 1790, Hamilton, as Secretary of the Treasury, had recommended that the foreign debt of \$11,710,378, due France and Holland, be paid in full; that the domestic debt of \$42,414,985 be paid at its par value; that the debts incurred by the states during the Revolution should be assumed and met in full by the Federal Government. The first and second resolutions were adopted, but the third resolution, for the assumption of the state debts, excited violent opposition. While these financial measures were before Congress, the question of establishing a seat of government was also under consideration.

The South desired to place the capital on the Potomac, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Delaware and the New England States favored the banks of the Susquehanna or the Delaware. The South outgeneraled the North by making a bargain—the South promising to support the measure for the assumption of state debts. It was arranged that White and Lee, of Virginia, should change their votes upon the resolution of assumption, and that Hamilton and Robert Morris should use their influence among the Northern and Eastern members to bring votes enough to secure the choice of a site upon the Potomac for the permanent seat of the National Government. In accordance with the terms of the bargain, the financial measures of the new Administration passed, and the bill temporarily establishing the capital for ten years at Philadelphia and permanently on the Potomac.

The establishment of a permanent capital had provoked much controversy and many angry protests in Congress between the North and the South. In 1783 Congress announced that it would fix the capital in the state making the best offer. The New Jersey Legislature voted to cede a reservation twenty miles square to the National Government, and put up a subsidy of \$30,000 in specie. In November, 1784, Congress met at Trenton, N. J., and \$100,000 was voted for the erection of suitable Federal buildings, but Washington threw his influence against Trenton in an open letter to Richard Henry Lee, and when the bill came up for the appropriation of the \$100,000 the motion was lost, and Trenton was not to be the capital of the United States.

At the next session the controversy was resumed, the South favoring the banks of the Potomac and the North desiring Philadelphia. It was not until 1791 that the present location was settled upon. On April 15, 1791, the corner-stone of "the Federal City," as it was designated by Washington, was laid: Major L'Enfant, a French engineer, prepared the topographical plan under the direction of President Washington and Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State. He took Versailles, the seat of government of France, for his plan, and introduced the broad transverse avenues which now exist in Washington, and which make it the grandest city in the world. The site of the original Capitol was about the same as that of the present building.

In 1800, when the seat of government was removed from Philadelphia to Washington, the city was but one of the taverns about forty rods from the Capitol. Pennsylvania avenue was a deep morass covered with alder bushes, the streets were knee deep with mud. There were no sidewalks, no plank walks. The place was simply a backwoods town in a wilderness, and Congressmen for years were in the habit of finding such comforts as they could in lodgings in Georgetown, two miles distant.

This was the condition of the City of Washington when President Adams and the Government reached the place in June, 1800. George Combe, an English traveler, who visited Washington in 1838, described it as "looking like a large, straggling village, reared in a drear swamp." In this condition it remained until 1873, when the system of public improvements began which has made Washington a clean, well-paved, well-lighted city, surpassed by no capital in the world for its broad avenues, picturesque squares and handsome dwellings. In 1800 there were no cabs, hacks, coaches or livery stables in Washington, no street railways, no omnibuses, and but few private carriages.

The census of our Government in 1800 may be gathered from the fact that when the Government offices were moved from Philadelphia upon the adjournment of Congress, in May, 1800, the whole archives, etc., of the Government were loaded on a few large wagons and placed on board a little packet sloop, which sailed away with the capital of the United States upon its deck. When Congress met in Washington, November 1800, the country was a face to face with a tidal river, a harbor, a First Consul had won the great battle of Marengo in June, and was dictator of peace or war to Europe. Between England and France we were threatened with disastrous foreign entanglements. Washington, the leader of the Federalist party, was dead, and Jefferson, a radical Democrat, and in full sympathy with France, had just been elected President.

NOT SURE OF HIS FACTS.

Bishop Potter's view that the greed of gain is peculiarly the vice of American society as compared with that of England finds no support from able Englishmen, whether pure thinkers and profound scholars like Frederic Harrison, or practical men of the world, like the brilliant English naval commander, Lord Charles Beresford. Frederic Harrison, in his article in the current number of the North American Review, "Christianity at the Grave of the Nineteenth Century," writes:

Fashion, as it is now at the mercy of any millionaire gambler, or any enterprising Monte Carlo man across the seas. During the reign of the Queen wanted extravagance in dress, and the means for it have been so easy as now, with such solid devices to scrape together the means for such extravagance, such open sales of rank and patron by those who claim to lead society and dictate its taste.

This is the testimony of an Oxford graduate, a man of the highest standing as a thinker, a scholar and a brilliant writer. At nearly 70 years of age Frederic Harrison thinks that English society was corrupted by the materialistic and plutocratic spirit of the day. Mr. Harrison does not speak in the spirit of that kind of pessimism that is not seldom found associated with Christian piety, for he is a rationalist. He speaks simply as a political philosopher who describes English society as he sees it, and stigmatizes it as "a world of smart harts and titled debauchees." By this testimony of this distinguished Englishman on the lack of contentment and pliancy of Bishop Potter in America would plague him far worse in England, where it is vastly more pervasive from the aristocratic top to the cockney bottom of London social life.

Now let us turn to Lord Charles Beresford's article, "The Future of the Anglo-Saxon Race," and take his testimony. Lord Charles warns us that "in the mother land the corruption of money has wrought a fearful havoc in the ranks of society." He confesses that—

British society has been eaten into by the cancer of money. From the top downwards the tree is rotten. Beauty is the slave of gold, and the will is the slave of the pocket.

What shall we say of the new order of wealth, of the greed for gold, which is its master, of the way in which those who by birth and education should be the sternest protectors of the race, abandon all and fling themselves on the shores of the Golden Rule?

This exceedingly strong language concerning the greed for gain as saturating English social life is used by an energetic man of the world, a gallant naval commander, a member of an illustrious aristocratic family, whose political experience and social life have been full of the best opportunity to know the truth whereof he speaks. The testimony of Lord Beresford corroborates that of Frederic Harrison and convicts Bishop Potter of ignorance in his charge that American society compares disadvantageously with that of England in the matter of being blood-poisoned through the virus of the "gold bug."

Bishop Potter is a good man, but he is like too many of our Washington "reformers"; he is seldom sure of his

facts. Your modern prophet, with all his zeal and good intentions, is, alas, generally reckless in assertion, and poorly fortified with evidence. It is a habit of the cloth, inherited from ancient models. But it is not as safe today as it was when parishioners took every pulpit utterance at its face value, knowing themselves no better.

It is inconceivable that a thief so industrious in his calling as W. W. Scott has been could have piled his vocation so profitably with evidence. It is a habit of the cloth, inherited from ancient models. But it is not as safe today as it was when parishioners took every pulpit utterance at its face value, knowing themselves no better.

WAS THERE A BARGAIN?

Those politicians and lobbyists at Washington who are manipulating the reduction of the war tax on beer, and means committee are not employing their usual cautious methods to obtain the results they desire. The natural procedure would be to carry the measure through its usual channels, and to place it against the house, and, with only such slight protection as a convenient vine afforded, climbed up and into the second-story window, ransacked the premises and escaped with his loot, apparently without the least haste. This job was done on a long, light burner, fastened, he deliberately took a ladder from the barn near by, placed it against the house, and, with only such slight protection as a convenient vine afforded, climbed up and into the second-story window, ransacked the premises and escaped with his loot, apparently without the least haste. This job was done on a long, light burner, fastened, he deliberately took a ladder from the barn near by, placed it against the house, and, with only such slight protection as a convenient vine afforded, climbed up and into the second-story window, ransacked the premises and escaped with his loot, apparently without the least haste.

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Reduction of Beer Tax Said to Be to Pay Campaign Debt.

Chicago Record.

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