

The Oregonian.

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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 45; minimum temperature, 35; precipitation, .02 of an inch.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1904.

THEY MAY BE NEEDED.

We have received a letter from a humble citizen of Clatsop, Or., who has taken it upon himself to ascertain the Presidential proclivities of his neighbors.

It would be a mistake to suppose that the average statesman in politics for his health or for his country's good, especially when his country's good militates against his own political preference.

Now that the Federal Government of Theodore Roosevelt militates against the political advantage of the Republican party machine in practically every state.

This integrity has never been taken Roosevelt seriously. His word for him is "The Young Man in the White House" and his attitude toward him has been one of scarcely concealed aversion and contempt.

Under these circumstances the task of nominating Roosevelt for President at Chicago in June and electing him at the polls in November becomes the concern of the masses of all parties all over the country.

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election, to be furnished by the Government, and on which the names of all its candidates for nomination should be printed.

This theory has been carried out in the bill and every possible precaution has been taken to remove every just cause of objection to active politicians.

No fault can be found with the general principle that open primary nominations, conducted under official supervision with sworn judges and clerks, is preferable to star chamber construction of "states" by self-constituted leaders.

There is the added consideration, also, that when men are fairly beaten in an open tryout they have no excuse to contest the result on the ground of unjust discrimination.

It is believed that the measure will readily carry the polls in June if the requisite number of signatures can be had to the preliminary petition.

At the head of our local columns this morning is an announcement of the places where the petition may be signed.

It is not at all likely that the average man takes any personal concern in the doings of the shipyard trust or Colorado Iron & Steel or Northern Securities.

On the contrary, he views the operations of J. J. Hill with a perfunctory condemnation, perhaps, but at best with a forced and superficial interest.

And yet there are few persons, with ordinary capacity to earn and habits of saving, who are not indirectly but actually concerned in the management of the great corporations.

The accumulated power of the American people has formed a vast sum of wealth in the form of money and credit represented by bank deposits, fire and life insurance policies, which has been reinvested by trustees in railway, banking and real estate securities.

To take the railway situation especially, we find from an article by Mr. Stanton Thompson in The World Today that at least 80 per cent of the total holdings in American railways are held in the United States.

This would mean that not more than \$5,000,000, or less than 5 per cent, of the gross annual income of the railways of the United States goes to foreign investors, leaving \$1,854,447,408, or 95 per cent, to be divided among the 40 and 49 among American capitalists and American workmen.

Five-eighths of this goes to the 1,000,000 railway stock and bondholders and the 1,139,315 employees, or 2,000,000 hands. Estimating 5.24 persons to the income, the figures of the census of 1900, it follows that 10,480,000 persons, or 13 per cent of the total population of the United States, share directly in the earnings of American railways.

The figure of 1,000,000 for the stock and bondholders is based primarily on a showing that the registered shareholders in forty-three roads covering more than half the mileage of the country number 233,937. The number is nearly doubled to take in the other roads and to increase to \$2,359 to allow for an increase of investments which has been brought about recently by low prices. There is a further allowance also for stockholders who are not registered, such as those who are represented by trustees' firms and corporations of one kind and another.

While the element of speculation in the railway securities is, of course, inseparable, it is clear enough that the holdings are widely diffused, and that this means a diffusion of profits. It is also clear that the army of employees must come in for a large share of the gross earnings, and that there are incidental benefits for other industries. No one will deny that the prosperity of the railway industry shares directly in the prosperity of the country.

If we were to extend this investigation to the fields of insurance and trust companies, we should be started to see how tremendous a volume of capital is managed for good or ill by a few men who do not own it, on behalf of the millions who do. The solemn thought comes that all the responsibility of these managers and trustees; for upon their probity and discernment depends the happiness of multitudes. The funds of the great financial agencies are so intertwined that a disaster to one would injure others. Life insurance premiums pile up until they are put into some great banking-house, which in turn invests them in railroad securities and immense buildings. None of these great corporations can carry its resources in cash. They must be invested for profit at a hazard. The indirect peril involved to thousands of small investors is what constitutes the true infamy of reckless operations like those of President Schwab.

IN DESPERATE STRAITS. In the deeper sympathy for one class of sufferers by the late Chicago theater fire the sufferings of another class have been almost entirely overlooked.

When men are able and willing their women should lead sheltered lives, women are superficially more refined and of better morals than men; but the moment women and men divide the same callings and mix together so freely in business and politics that the women are despoiled, then women begin to talk and behave like men.

It is so in the world of politics, as it will surely be so in the world of letters. It was only the other day that a female election judge at Denver was arrested, accused of fraud with the rest of the board. Women in despoiled lives will be neither worse nor better than men in business or politics.

They will drink, cheat, intrigue, bribe and be bribed, just like men; they will not drag men up; they will drag down to their level, for the mass of women today behave neither better nor worse than the standard of decent conduct respected by the man or men they care most about. A woman who enters into a man's life in business or politics will not escape the masculine vices in the long run; she will impart no virtue to the atmosphere. A peculiarly successful woman will gradually catch its taint.

The story telegraphed from Colfax of the outrageous abuse to which a young girl was recently subjected by half a dozen or more of the young men of that town, some of whom are sons of reputable citizens, is one of the most revolting and disgraceful recitals that has ever been given in the press of the Northwest. A peculiarly disgraceful feature of the story—if one feature may be said to excel all others in villainousness—is that which shows that the police of the town, including the Chief, refused or neglected to interfere for the protection of the drugged and maltreated girl, on the ground that the boys were just like men; they will not catch its taint.

Extreme meets extreme in the labor world, as elsewhere. Here is David M. Parry boldly declaring, in effect, that workmen have no rights which employers are bound to respect, while from time to time John Mitchell and Sampel Gompers declare, in effect, that workmen are entitled to everything that the employers can give.

There is a wide margin which gives room and prosperity to the multitude who labor, and the lesser multitude whose investments give labor its opportunity.

Women in politics. Annie Nathan Meyer, one of the trustees of Barnard college, the women's adjunct to Columbia University, and editor of "Woman's Work in America," has contributed an article to the current number of the North American Review in which she says that she looks with dread upon the possible general advent of women as voters and office-holders in the political arena.

She does not believe that the exercise by women of the power to vote would in any degree abate any of the evils that now threaten to undermine the moral life of America. She does not believe that the majority of women voting could be counted upon as a force that would make for political righteousness, because a vote to one woman will be a vote for all women, vicious or virtuous, ignorant or educated, lowest and highest. Mrs. Meyer holds that the real lack in American public life today is not brains or intelligence so much as lack of character, and that American women as a whole conspicuously lack the moral courage, the force of character, that is the most dramatic life factor.

Do not tell me that the casting of a bit of paper in a box once a year can offset the daily influence of a mother, or that votes can be better gained from a political platform than from a home.

Mrs. Meyer thinks the public platform is an unfit school for the development of character. The platform habit, the club habit, the president and secretary habit, have entailed upon our women serious losses. Mrs. Meyer discredits the assumption that woman is the morally superior sex. She holds that if they had lived and acted as men, the freedom and under the same temptations as men they would have shown far less self-control and power of resistance, and finds support for this opinion in some of the conditions known to exist in the social life of our own country. The assertion of sex superiority is not proven because there are fewer drunkards among women than among men, because they have not entered into industrial competition, into public life, with its drain on the nervous strength, the use of stimulants among women has increased and is increasing among men rapidly.

Mrs. Meyer believes that the work now done by men would not be improved by being done by women. Her own hope is that the trained women, who should be the leaders of their sex, will some day take their covetous eyes away from the careers of men and say, "Let us see what training and science can do to make our own work more helpful and more intelligent." She does not expect that this appeal will be heeded by the women "who are supposed to represent the sex; they do not assure the Legislature that they do; the platform women, by the presidents of clubs, by the "mothers congresses"; she is content to appeal to the many strong women who are seeking quietly, not to appropriate a man's work, but to increase the value of woman's work in the only lasting way, through the weight of personal character, the effort of personal example, through the direct influence, the impulse of the personal touch.

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When men are able and willing their women should lead sheltered lives, women are superficially more refined and of better morals than men; but the moment women and men divide the same callings and mix together so freely in business and politics that the women are despoiled, then women begin to talk and behave like men. It is so in the world of politics, as it will surely be so in the world of letters. It was only the other day that a female election judge at Denver was arrested, accused of fraud with the rest of the board. Women in despoiled lives will be neither worse nor better than men in business or politics. They will drink, cheat, intrigue, bribe and be bribed, just like men; they will not drag men up; they will drag down to their level, for the mass of women today behave neither better nor worse than the standard of decent conduct respected by the man or men they care most about. A woman who enters into a man's life in business or politics will not escape the masculine vices in the long run; she will impart no virtue to the atmosphere. A peculiarly successful woman will gradually catch its taint.

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of employment by that calamity now claims and will require public attention. Appeal in their behalf will be made through entertainments that have been arranged for their benefit, and without doubt these will be well patronized.

Public sympathy will meet professional comradeship in this effort, and together will provide for the necessities of these deserving and unfortunate people. Do not believe that the exercise by women of the power to vote would in any degree abate any of the evils that now threaten to undermine the moral life of America.

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Mrs. Meyer has hope, because many of "the excesses of women will be righted after women have grasped a little longer the baubles they have yearned for, after they have seen how valueless are these baubles in their hands." Mrs. Meyer is right in her view that women cannot have their cake and eat it, too; with the gift of suffrage and its exercise would come within fifty years a steady increase in the demoralization of women through the increase of the area of despoiled life among women. Wherever women through necessity or choice lead the despoiled lives of men, the average morality of women declines. The average morality of men in both the world of business and politics. The advent of women into the masculine world of business and politics has not lifted the man to a higher moral atmosphere; it has only dragged the woman down to the level of the man's moral atmosphere. It will always be so because man sets the pace for women, not women for men.

police officers should be arraigned with its actual perpetrators for criminal assault, and no glossing over of facts should interfere to save each and every one of them from a term in the penitentiary. If the girl were a common wanton instead of the ignorant, stupid or self-willed creature that she seems to be, this crime would still be, without the shadow of extenuation, still less without excuse. Well indeed may the decent, reputable citizens of Colfax urge the removal of officers so flagrantly negligent of their duty; and well may a storm of indignation burst simultaneously from the pulpits and homes of the town. The citizens of Colfax have taken matters of violation of law far less responsible than this into their own hands in times past. Mayor Van Schoick, if he is a prudent man, will do what he can, officially, to purge the town of the opprobrium that has fallen upon it, by discharging these men from the service that they have dishonored by collusion in their official capacity with crime and criminals of the lowest, most repugnant, most abhorrent type.

Mr. Armour is credited with disposing of from 1,500,000 bushels to 5,000,000 bushels of wheat yesterday, and, as freely predicted, his first attempt to realize was the signal for a violent slump in the market. Before the day's trading was over it became necessary for him to buy back a large proportion of the offerings in order to prevent the price sagging to a dangerous point. This experience is not unlike that of every other speculator who has ever attempted to corner the wheat market. The foreign market must continue to be the market for the wheat, and the woman will be a vote for all women, vicious or virtuous, ignorant or educated, lowest and highest. Mrs. Meyer holds that the real lack in American public life today is not brains or intelligence so much as lack of character, and that American women as a whole conspicuously lack the moral courage, the force of character, that is the most dramatic life factor.

Do not tell me that the casting of a bit of paper in a box once a year can offset the daily influence of a mother, or that votes can be better gained from a political platform than from a home.

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