

The Oregonian

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with the prison walls. A good novel will read well to much more to raise the ideals of the prisoners than any number of unopened dissertations upon crime or religion. More than that, it would be a very poor novel indeed that would not lead a convict into better lines of thought than he would find if left entirely to his own reflections. After giving the prisoners plenty of work to keep them busy, a sufficient amount of plain food to nourish their bodies and a collection of good books from which to select reading matter, the state can reasonably feel that it has done what it could to make the way easy for the criminal to change from the error of his way. In almost every instance the man who goes behind prison bars has gone there after the exercise of his own power to choose between right and wrong. The choice of course for the future lies also with the individual prisoner, and upon him rests the responsibility. The state can do little more than make the surroundings as favorable as possible for reform.

There seems to be good reason back of an agitation that has been started in favor of the use of tinted paper with a dull finish for schoolroom purposes. It is claimed that this paper is easier on the eyes of children than a perfectly white paper with a glossy finish, and nearly every county has tried both kinds of paper with the result that the claim is well founded. A paper with a glossy surface reflects the light to such an extent that the printed page must be held at the proper angle in order to be read easily. Constant reading or study of books printed upon such paper soon tires and weakens the eyes, especially when the readers are children.

What Roosevelt stands for. William Allen White in Chicago Tribune. All Americans believe this is the best government on earth; but only those who have society's license to steal by making something out of nothing in the upper circles of big business believe it the best possible world, and desire to shut the door of progress and throw the keys out of the window. But they are more flexible on the wheel of the power of "Standard Oil" with all the control on American affairs than the railroad syndicate has through its influence on legislative and court with all the force of a diabolically organized capital in this country. It cannot stand a day against the clearly defined limitation of the American people to the principles of Jeffersonian Democracy applied to modern conditions. For eight years they had had champions who dared to go up against the Republican party and fight the principles of that party (Applause).

NOTE AND COMMENT. Some vocations are provocations. New York potters are on strike. The Bishop is not among them. We notice that the price of shingles advanced yesterday. Halloween was detrimental to Young America must have been dealt out liberally. An advertiser in last night's Telegram wants "board and lodging" for a dog. This is better than having the dog room in a house and get his meals at restaurants. Co-eds at Lawrence University attend football matches wearing the college colors, blue and white. They wear one blue stocking and one white. The Lawrence co-ed is evidently loyal from the ground up.

ROMANCE FROM THE NORTH. The Spokane Spokesman-Review publishes the ridiculous story that The Oregonian has been "bludgeoned" into support of Mead for Governor of Washington by a threat that the influence of the Republican state organization would be used in the Legislature at Olympia against an appropriation for the Lewis and Clark Fair. If The Oregonian didn't stand in Alaska, that "John L. Wilson is credited the scheme whereby The Oregonian was subdued and brought into line for Mead."

HAS THE PARTY CHARACTER? The Democratic party is noted for bringing into National contests men who have no pronounced individuality, but are merely party men. Men used to say "Poor Polk," "Poor Pierce," "Poor Buchanan." The reason was the complete subservience of these men to the policy of their party. Cleveland stood for something; Bryan stood for something; but Parker stands for nothing that anybody can define. Parker is and always has been merely a party man. He has stood with his party or has followed it. Had he lived a little earlier he would have been known as a pro-slavery, anti-Republican. As it was and is, he has followed all the vagaries of his party. He has had no mind of his own. He has the "party mind." Whatever the party has declared for—free silver or whatever else—he has accepted.

RECEPTION AT LAST BARE. Why was the local option law enacted at the polls last June so popular? At the many polls, prohibitions at all, and many saloons ejected from their precincts. They thought they could just as well get liquor down town or in the other fellow's precinct. They desired to banish saloons from the route followed by their children to school and to make peace with their wives, who were eternally ding-donging into their ears in behalf of the rising generation.

THE JAPANESE EXHIBIT AT ST. LOUIS. Walter Weiman in Success. There can be no question that the most spectacular and most significant exhibit at St. Louis is that of the Japanese. It is the handiwork of a new nation, a marvelous one at that, which the people here are beginning to appreciate. At Chicago, the Japanese were regarded as inferior and grotesque makers of toys and knickknacks and articles of limited range—a sort of half-breed between the old and the new. They were not far removed from actual savagery and with an uncertain future. At St. Louis they appear as one of the first nations of the world. It is the most brilliant event of the last ten years is the rise of Japan, and the Japanese have taken good care that their attainment of manhood should be duly and gloriously recognized in this exposition.

LET US MAKE THINGS PLAIN. In his speech at Carnegie Hall, New York, Secretary Hay said: None of us will make the mistake of thinking that the contest between me and Mr. Mead is the contest between the gold and silver nationalities. It goes to the very foundation of our national welfare. It is not a campaign of mere politics; it is a struggle to decide the policy to which we are indebted for the prosperity of the last few years. The country cannot afford to give up the gold standard and to drift into the current of financial experiment and quackery. It cannot afford to give up the principle and practice of protection to American industries.

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