

The Oregonian

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FORELAND, MONDAY, DEC. 19, 1904. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE. Mr. J. G. Elliott, of Coifax, Washington, addresses The Oregonian thus:

Mr. J. G. Elliott, of Coifax, Washington, addresses The Oregonian thus: "I would not like to see the number of votes cast instead of the number of inhabitants as at present."

It would be equitable, doubtless, but the difficulties are insuperable. First, the plan would call for amendment of the Constitution of the United States, which requires that representatives (in the House) "shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons."

Moreover, it is demoralizing in every way to the prisoners, and inhuman besides, to keep them confined in cells and to see them working for nothing at all, while the competition of a comparatively few convicts is a small matter—so inappreciable a proportion does the amount of work they perform bear to the whole labor performed by our people.

GOOD ROADS AND THE MOSKOBAC. At the Good Roads Convention which closed at Salem last Friday there was an apparent unanimity of opinion in favor of placing public road construction under the supervision of trained men. When it was asserted that public highways should be laid out and all grades established by civil engineers, there was not a dissenting voice.

It is next to impossible to amend the Constitution of the United States in any important particular, perhaps utterly impossible, without passing through the cataclysm of Civil War.

CRIMES OF VIOLENCE. Sir A. Conan Doyle recently made this statement in London. We have it through cable to the New York World: "Americans are our own stock; they can have no more and no less tendency to lawlessness than any other people."

Among the homicides in the United States Sir Conan Doyle must include the numbers who perished in railway and other disasters, which ought to have been prevented. Else no list of 21,000 homicides could be made.

It would indeed be a piteous end to high crime if this is not the end. Our country with their energy and adaptability will find some way of stamping out this hideous growth.

of temptation, and have strong laws stringently administered without fear or favor.

NOW TO COME TO A HEAD. It is news here that comes by the way of Washington, that Peter, the Watson woman and others have made a confession implicating Senator Mitchell and Representative Hermann in the land frauds. This report, telegraphed to them, has started them for Oregon, and they will be here on Friday night.

But it is well that Hermann and Mitchell should come. They are acting wisely. The Oregonian, it will be remembered, expressed the opinion a while ago that they ought to come, in response to the official call served upon them. We ought now soon to reach the bottom of this business. The scene here promises to be one of some interest, for the censures and accusations—or at least the insinuations—against Mitchell and Hermann are now to take definite shape, come to an end. Mere clack and chatter about this business can't continue much longer.

AS TO CONVICT LABOR. It would be impossible to employ the labor of convicts in any way in which it would not come in competition with free and honorable wage labor. But are convicts therefore to be kept in idleness?

Most of the convict labor in the penitentiary of Oregon is employed, when employed at all, under a contract with steamfitters. The very low wage-rate which the contractors pay the state enables them to make stoves in Oregon. And the contract brings a considerable revenue to the state.

But it is urged now through our labor unions that this system be discontinued, because it interferes with free trade labor. Possibly stoves may be made in Oregon at union wage rates, but certainly have not been to an important extent. By far the greater part of this class of goods in our markets are from other states. Admit that wage-rates are not excessive, or no higher than the man ought to have, or even less—still it remains a question whether local manufacturers of stoves could pay them against Eastern competition with its superior facilities, and wage-rates on the whole lower than those on the Pacific Coast. Again, on this class of goods, the railroads make a low rate from the East, and thereby in many lines hold down Western manufacturers.

Some say the convicts ought to be set to work making stoves. Here they would be even more directly in competition with free wage labor. For many of our counties, perhaps most or all of them, pay a day wage for working the roads. Even the rockpile vagabonds of Portland are doing work which, to some extent, more or less, would be paid for to wage-workers.

It is not possible, therefore, to employ convicts in local manufacture of stoves, and it is not possible to employ them in competition with the competition of a comparatively few convicts is a small matter—so inappreciable a proportion does the amount of work they perform bear to the whole labor performed by our people.

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THE JURY SYSTEM. Attorney-General Crawford has rendered an opinion holding that under the Oregon constitution the Legislature has no power to enact a law providing for verdicts by less than a full jury. In recent years there has been quite a strong demand for a change in the jury system, so that one or two men on a jury of twelve cannot prevent a decision being reached. There are some who advocate a law permitting a majority of the jury to find a verdict, while others would require that the verdict be found by two-thirds or three-fourths of the entire number.

What ever the details of the proposed plan, the purpose is to remove jurisdiction from a small minority the power to prevent the majority from reaching a decision.

The present system is based upon the theory that a verdict is more likely to be just if it requires the concurrence of all twelve men. In practice this requirement often leads to unjust verdicts, for the majority makes a concession to the minority in order to reach any decision at all. An obstinate and unreasoning juror can frequently compel the other eleven men to yield a part of what they believe to be right in order to secure at least partial relief for the litigant who is entitled to a verdict. In other words, a verdict that meets the entire approval of eleven men is more likely to be right than a verdict which has been reached by the compelled agreement of all twelve men in a compromise with the other one.

the economy of good roads. When this much has been accomplished and property-owners understand that an investment in permanent road improvement is a wise one, there still remains the no less difficult task of getting the people together upon a plan of work in which all will join. Upon this all permanent road improvement depends, for the people to be directly benefited must bear the greater portion of the cost in money or labor.

The annual convention of the Good Roads Association was productive of much good in arousing new interest in a subject that is too easily dropped. Each year hereafter the association will hold four conventions, two in Eastern Oregon, one in Southern Oregon, and one in the Willamette Valley. By this means there will be kept up a continuous campaign of agitation and education, until the unanimity of opinion which prevailed in the convention at Salem will extend to every road district in the state.

THE FIGHT THAT FAILED. We have not yet recovered from the shock occasioned by the recent newspaper revelation of the sanguinary possibilities of the famous meeting between Colonel Greene, promoter, who was hard hit in the stock market, and Thomas W. Lawson, who hit the Colonel. It will be recalled that the wires were last week crowded with thrilling accounts of the approaching encounter. We were told that Mr. Lawson had said some awful things about the Colonel, and the Colonel had drawn on all the resources of his pluck and courage in his response. He went, he saw, and he was evidently tamed, for there was nothing doing. But we get ahead of our story. Details have been painfully wanting as to what it was all about. Our Eastern exchanges, just at hand, clear up the mystery with vivid particularity. Colonel Greene, it seems, accused Lawson of dishonestly manipulating the stock market, and incidentally denounced him as a "fakir, liar and charlatan," ominously adding, "Tomorrow in Boeton I shall call on you." The public gasped for breath, but Lawson with great presence of mind took his pen in hand and wrote about Greene for the accommodating newspapers.

He's a great big hearted fellow who would stare before doing a wrong job. He has told me many a time that he killed four men, but they needed killing, I believe it. Two were shot in the back, but, as he explained, it was the only way he could get them.

The bloodthirsty Colonel did not come, and Lawson then addressed a few further trenchant remarks to him in a letter: "My Dear Colonel: I know you for one of the biggest beasts, square as I have ever met him, and he tried them to swindle me. He tried to put me in a hole and get my property for nothing after I had paid him for an article of mine with him. No, I am not going to Boston tonight to see Lawson. My interview with him can wait."

Chicago has long been noted for the bustle and push of her citizens. There is something in the atmosphere of the Windy City that seems to have a tendency to accelerate the pace of all who become incited with the Chicago fever. For that reason, it will not come as a surprise that the two most successful revivalists that have invaded England in the last fifty years are from Chicago. This pair has been so successful in England that in some of the provinces where they have held meetings, the public houses have been abandoned, and miners who formerly turned a deaf ear to religious movements are being converted by hundreds. The fact that the evangelists have made themselves famous in a foreign land need not be taken as evidence that they ran out of material to work on before leaving Chicago. The religious scruples of the dwellers in the lakeside metropolis are not such as to obviate the necessity of a little missionary work at home.

The sunshine which came glinting through the fluffy clouds yesterday, warm enough to cause any one but an Oregonian to wonder if this really was December. The pleasing effects of an ideal Oregon Winter day were heightened by a perusal of the Eastern news dispatches, which reported car lines blocked with snow and the mercury suffering a severe sinking spell, while rays raged on sea and land. Three gentlemen, by the way, are wearing umbrellas and overcoats are not inconvenient, but there are so many beautiful December days that the contrast with the Winter weather east of the Rocky Mountains becomes very pronounced.

There are some people in our country—not many—who are awfully afraid of the word "revival." They are afraid of a few warships, and have fortifications on the coast at exposed places, we shall therefore be not wholly unprepared for resistance, if war should be forced on us. A country in an utterly defenseless state, unprepared for resistance, and therefore compelled to humility and unable to resent insult, is their ideal. All these people supported Parker—which is one reason why he got so few votes.

The new novel which Miss Hallie Ermie Rives says she will write will probably be full of color. Telegraphic advices continue to drift in from the various one-night stands where Hallie is visiting, informing us that she has just been set color for her new novel. If she finds color in proportion to the words she writes, the novel will blaze brighter than the suburban tresses of the heroine in Sister Amelia's "Quick or the Dead."

The member of the Scandinavian royal family who is said to be desirous of marrying Miss Alice Roosevelt is Prince Gustavus Adolphus, aged 22. He is the eldest son of Gustavus, the Prince Royal, and is therefore heir presumptive to the throne of Sweden and Norway.

We observe that the effort to deprive Oregon of a Presidential Elector is confined almost entirely to the Republican press. The Democratic press seems to be equally as concerned, to the natural lands to prove that the natural laws regulating the quality and number of the human race persist and that while individuals pass away the type continues with very slow modifications.

That's Right; Make an Example of the Hog Man. Eugene Register. A. M. Griffin and son, of Coburg, had an unfortunate experience last evening. While driving Eugene they were taken to fright at a dead hog being dragged along the road, ran away, throwing them out and bruising them. The hog was finally killed and finally ended by running into a barbed wire fence cutting itself badly. They feel greatly aggrieved and think they can get some satisfaction from a man who was dragging his hog away.

NOTE AND COMMENT. Tokio reports that the battleship Sevastopol has been successfully torpedoed ten times. The torpedoes must be burn specimens if there is enough of the Sevastopol left to make a paper-weight.

A Seattle preacher has been ordered by the courts to confine his energies to preaching. This seems to be tough luck for the congregation.

Another Definition. "Pa, what's the difference between a drama and a melodrama?" "About six feet."

Alphonse and Gaston have none the better of Nogt and Stoessel.

President Eliot's story, says the Springfield Republican, about the latest Harvard student he ever knew is good enough to become an American classic. President Eliot has doubtless told it many times, but it has now attained real publicity through an address which he delivered recently in New York. In illustrating some point he was making to his audience, Dr. Eliot said:

"There was once a student at Harvard who, I think, was absolutely the latest student I ever knew. His family was devotedly attached to him, but he not only would not answer their letters, but would not open them. Finally his aunt, living in New York, telegraphed me, asking what was the matter with Bob. I replied that he had better come on herself and investigate. She called at the young man's lodging and found him still in bed at 11 o'clock in the morning, with 12 unopened telegrams on the table, and he strenuously objected to getting up even then. I am informed, nevertheless, that that young man is today one of the most successful lawyers in his state."

Who is that man with the furrows in his brow? He is a respectable citizen. Why does he wear that hunted look? He is trying to think of a suitable present for his wife, and he has just escaped from a department store.

Choosing a Gift. Little Willie was homeless. His father was a millionaire and owned nothing but a palace. Christmas brought no joy for Willie. He had already owned and smashed all the toys that had been invented.

PROPORTION OF THE SEXES. From a bulletin recently issued by the Census Bureau we get information as to the proportion of the sexes in the United States, which affords matter for curious and interesting study. It appears that in the year 1900 there were 1,638,000 more males than females, of about two in each 100 persons. It is believed that in the population of the world there are several millions more males than females, although the relative excess in this country is greater than the average. In Europe the females are in excess. The rule is that in sparsely settled regions there is an excess of males and in densely settled territories an excess of females.

For the cities, however, the condition is reversed. In the cities of this country there are about 292,000 more females than males. This is attributed largely to the greater opportunity for women to find employment in large cities.

An interesting deduction from the census statistics is that women live longer than men. As the Scriptures promise long life as a reward of wisdom, the fact is somewhat complimentary to the female sex.

Educators will be prepared to believe the statement that since 1890 there has been an increase in the proportion of females among persons attending school. The advance of civilization is distinctly shown in the concessions which society has made to the right of the girl to education equal in extent to that of the boy.

While America is working out new problems in social distribution, it is interesting to note that the conditions in this new and great country are similar enough, so far as the proportion of sexes is concerned, to those in other lands to prove that the natural laws regulating the quality and number of the human race persist and that while individuals pass away the type continues with very slow modifications.

NOTE AND COMMENT. Antipodean News and Views. From Sydney (N. S. W.) Bulletin, Nov. 10. The law badly wants to arrest a Taihape (M.L.) dog for aiding and abetting his owner to quench an unlawful thirst. The owner had a violent desire for beer, and he also had a prohibition order out against him. So, not being able to get beer personally, he handed the dog a bit with a shilling in it. In a few minutes the dog came back minus the shilling, but with a bottle of beer. The local policeman has been lying awake all night wondering whom he is to arrest for infringement of the prohibitory order. For one thing, it can't be proved that the man told the dog to get the liquor. The dog can't be accused of wilfully supplying a prohibited person, partly because the dog had received no legal notice that its master was prohibited; partly because the dog wasn't a vendor of liquor; partly, also, because he didn't take the cork out to see what was in the bottle. So it can't be proved that it knew what it was supplying. And there is no law against supplying liquor to dogs, so it is hard to see how the policeman can be dealt with.

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BITS OF OREGON LIFE. They've Heard About It at Last. Pine Cor. to Baker City Herald. A Christmas tree is being talked of at this place.

Acknowledgement to a Friend in Need. Free Water Times. Mr. L. B. North was helping the printer this week and last.

To Weigh Hay While Sun Shines Not. Shull Corr. Sheridan Sun. The shed covering the hay scales of this vicinity is completed.

Poor Unrpie Mr. Forcier. Correspondent Gervais Star. L. Forcier has not dug his spuds on account of not being ripe yet.

Ah, There, Cecil! We're Watching You. Wallowa Chieftain. Mr. Cecil Gormley is over from Pawwawhat again. What is the attraction, Cecil?

Oh, Listen to the Band. Grant County News. The band instruments have arrived in town, and already Director Tyler is busy with the details of organization and practice.

Why Idaho Democrats Lost. Lewiston Tribune. Senator Dubois practically admits that by driving the Mormon vote out of the Democratic camp the Liberty of Idaho and Democratic government were made impossible.

Real Sport in Benton County. Corvallis Times. The hunting club which controls the lakes and ponds in Sulburt neighborhood went out Tuesday for another "big day's sport," as the members term a day's shooting. The result of the shoot was between 300 and 400 ducks.

Sure, We Won't Give It Away. Springfield News. It is rumored quietly and secretly—that the Springfield ladies are soon to enter in the "good, old-fashioned" contest. The News reports as confidentially informed and requested to keep it "under the hat" that the swiftest event of the year was yet to take place.

Mr. White's Surgical Operation. McMinnville Telephone Register. T. A. White one day last week picked a briar out of his finger with a hat pin, and in a few days blood poisoning set in, from which he suffered for several days. He was feared for a while that it would be necessary to amputate his hand, but he has improved somewhat, and it is now believed he will recover without that loss.

Mr. Wagner Makes an Explanation. Aurora Borealis. We have received the following communication, which speaks for itself: "Notice to the reading public—The undersigned takes the Liberty of informing all who care to know that he is not traveling around the country or towns to teach any body, but simply for work and pleasure combined."

Gathers Grapes in December. Jacksonville Sentinel. On the first day of December, C. H. Sampson picked from a 15-year-old vine on his place north of town ten crates of grapes, holding 25 pounds. Two of these he kept for his own use and sold the other eight crates at 10 cents. Up to this time there had been no crop of grapes on his place, and he had been told that the vines had about 50 vines of this planting.

When Father Makes So a Visit. Sheridan Sun. A. B. Thomas, of Forest Grove, is again in Sheridan, and when he is around there is something doing. He has been busy assisting his son, A. H. Thomas, in repairing his building. The Thomas family looks like the same building. He has repaired it and arranged things in such a manner that it is pleasing to look upon. Let the work of improvement go on.

The Drama Under Difficulties. Eugene Guard. Last evening, just before the performance of "For Mother's Sake," at the theater, five of the seven workers employed in the house informed Manager Gilbert that they would work any longer if their wages were not raised. Head Usher Pointdexter was given authority to act once several other ushers to fill the strikers' places, and before the show was over he had twice as many applications as there were places to fill.

Launching the Dramatic Lifeboat. Rainier Gazette. The Rainier Dramatic Club has been resurrected from the shadows of the dead past and night, sunny sounds of shrieking heroines, baffled villains and dying lovers give evidence that the noble band are in a stage of preparation to go for honors before the glittering footlights. Their first effect will be "Through the Breakers." We now breathe a prayer that they may get "through" all right. The glorious "first night" will be some time in January.

As to Vardaman. New York Sun. A Washington dispatch to The Tribune says that the committee is "sorely perplexed" as to whether it should send an invitation to the Hon. James K. Vardaman, Governor of Mississippi. The committee fears that the Governor would make a reply in Vardamane. We can't believe that the committee is entangled in such a perplexity. The State of Mississippi is entitled to the same courtesy as the State of New York. Governor should be treated courteously, whether he chooses to pay in kind or not. Dr. Johnson's phrase, "the triumph of hope over experience," may be applied to the committee in its treatment of the Mississippi Chesterfield. Consult also Proverbs, xxxv:4.

His Wonderful Flow of Language. Chicago Inter Ocean. It is easy to understand where "Tom" Lawson got all his information, but it is still a mystery where he got his tremendous flow of language, unless he picked it up on the East Boston ferry-boat.

REJOINERS. "Now, then," said Mrs. Polk, after dinner, "how shall I dress for the theater this evening?" "In time to see part of the first act," replied her husband, mildly.—Philadelphia Press.

She—It must be terrible to find out after one is married that one isn't in love. He—Oh! I don't know. There are lots of married people who seem to be both cheerful and hopeful.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Young Professor (who has taken her down to dinner)—By the way, Miss Galloway, have you ever seen the nebula of Andromeda? Miss Galloway—No; I was abroad with papa and mamma when that was played, but I've heard that it drew crowded houses.—Chicago Tribune.

"This servant-girl problem will make me old before my time." "Bothers you, too, does it?" "Indeed it does. If I have an ugly maid, my husband is away; if at home all the time, I haven't a day to myself; so there it is."—Houston Post.

District Visitor—I've just had a letter from my son Reggie saying he has won a scholarship. I can't tell you how delighted I am. I—Rustle Party—I can understand your feelings, mum. I felt just the same when our little son won the prize at the agricultural show.—London Punch.

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