

The Oregonian

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who confronts a bristling line of rifles "the golden evening, bearing aloft an ikon, a banner, by the two clerics carrying religious banners." All the world loves a symbol, and especially the incoherent part of the world called a mob. The cap of liberty was a bloody oriflamme, and Father Gopon's upraised ikon bids fair to be as potent. This clergyman, unknown to the world a day or two ago, is now the most dramatic figure on the stage of events. Like Peter the Hermit, he leads a crusade, although it was unnecessary to arouse his followers. They were already on the verge of action. Gopon is more to be compared with the priest Murphy, who, crucifix in arms, galloped and inspired the uprising Irish of Wexford in '95. As the Irish peasantry followed their leader, so the Russian strikers followed the Russian strikers.

CELLO CANAL TO BE BUILT. The long fight for the Cello Canal has been won. The House committee on rivers and harbors, responding to enormous pressure from various sources, has decided to make an appropriation of \$50,000, and it will authorize the expenditure of \$200,000 additional. There is still on hand for the canal a considerable amount from former appropriations at the entrance of the river toward the work now under way to the close of the fiscal year; and the new appropriation means that no interruption to the great project will be suffered at that time. The main point now is that Congress—rather the rivers and harbors committee—has committed itself definitely and finally to the Cello Canal. It has kept faith with the state. It may be anticipated that the remark that The Oregonian first called public attention to the grave danger that the Government might not carry out its engagement with the state to open the Columbia River. Chairman Burton, of the rivers and harbors committee, issued an ultimatum to the people of the Northwest that they should choose between the canal and the improvement of the entrance of the river. A disposition was manifest in some quarters to accept these terms, and it was reinforced by unwise and ill-considered newspaper suggestion that the canal should be dropped for the jetty. When The Oregonian placed the facts before the public and insisted that the Government was committed to both projects, and one should not, must not, be sacrificed to the other, the Portland commercial community acted with great vigor, and it was very persistently supported by Senator Fulton and Representative Jones. It is fortunate indeed that Representative Jones is a member of the rivers and harbors committee. He has been persistent throughout in his position that the canal should be built. The Pacific Northwest owes him much.

THE NORMAL-SCHOOL GRAFT. Oregon has four so-called normal schools. Their real mission is to maintain local high schools at the state's expense, to afford a livelihood for a large number of instructors whose qualifications may be educational or may be political, and to distribute the public money "where it will do the most good." Four communities are thus benefited, while twenty or more other places in Oregon of equal or greater population and importance are entitled to as much consideration, and do not get it. At least two of these schools were established with the specific pledge that they would ask no state appropriation and would be maintained at no expense to the taxpayer. They have deliberately violated that promise, and have been favored on the state government by continuing and growing expense, and with a hold that it seems quite impossible to shake off. Two years ago the total appropriation for these four schools was something like \$38,000 for the biennial term. At this session the combined normal-school graft comes forward with a demand for the enormous sum of \$221,000, which is to be devoted, in great part, to new buildings. Monmouth wants a new dormitory to cost \$35,000; Weston a dormitory for \$35,000; Ashland a dormitory for \$40,000, and Drain new buildings to cost \$40,000. The State of Oregon has a State University at Eugene which it maintains at an average cost of \$1000 per student for the four years' course. It has an Agricultural College at Corvallis, which two years ago it made a donation of \$35,000. It has a great many small colleges in every part of the state which are sustained somehow by the pride and private energies of the communities within which they are located, and by donations from various religious organizations. It is quite probable that there is not a spot in the Union with more than a half-dozen of these kind of institutions of all kinds requiring so much from the public as Oregon. The result is to dissipate the educational activities of the state and to lower the standard of every one of these institutions to a minimum of efficiency. It is not too much to say that not a single one of them, public or private, has a reputation for scholarship, or for discipline, or for thoroughness, or range of instruction, that extends beyond the state border. So little can scarcely be said of any other state in the Union; and yet it is true. At Salem today legislators from communities in which the four normal schools are located are combining to procure from the state a sum of money the aggregate very great, and entire out of proportion to the benefit to be given either to the public or to the students. Unquestionably, having formed a combination among themselves, they will endeavor to hold a club over the members from Benton, who want a large appropriation for Corvallis; over Lane County, which is interested vitally in the State University; and over Marion County, which draws much money for the support of state institutions. By this species of log-rolling the graft will succeed. The method is vicious in the extreme; it is immoral; it is, indeed, an outrage all around. If each of the normal schools does not get its bonus, every kind of legislation is in danger of defeat. The average legislator, anxious to promote some measure that may benefit his particular constituents, must yield to the importunities of the normal-school trust or he will go home empty-handed. Two years ago the Governor of Oregon, with commendable courage and correct judgment, recommended the number of normal schools in Oregon to be reduced by two. The Legislature refused to do so. It is surprising to find that in his recent message Governor Chamberlain seems to have forgotten entirely his former determination to save money for the state and to

improve the surviving institutions, for he merely recommends that the four normal schools be maintained under one Board of Trustees. But the Governor should not forget. Here is a plain opportunity to do the public quite as great a service as he seems to have performed by notifying the Legislature that he would veto every bill with an emergency clause where there was no real emergency. If the Governor will inform the co-ordinate branch of the state government that his normal-school business is carried out on the basis now contemplated, he will veto the appropriation, or that he will veto an entire appropriation bill containing these proposed items, he will without question break the combination and reduce these amounts to a basis of reason. Public opinion, except possibly in the communities directly concerned, would sustain the Governor in this position. Under the circumstances, the ordinary legislator appears to be unable to do his whole duty without real danger of doing injury to himself, to his constituency, or to some meritorious bill. With the Executive it is different. With the Legislature he is equally responsible to the public for the character and the amount of his appropriations. Two years ago he did not seek to evade that responsibility, but vetoed a miscellaneous appropriation bill because it contained some items which he deemed objectionable. Let him do it again. It will not hurt him at the polls. There should be one State Normal School, which should be at the State Capital, where the constitution directs that all state institutions shall be located. As it is, the normal schools in the state have been established away from Salem in open defiance of the constitution, and each succeeding Legislature has winked its eye at a plain requirement of law whenever it has made any sort of appropriation for these institutions. It needs no argument whatever to demonstrate that, if the state were to have one normal school, it could be located on a high plane of efficiency at one-half the expense now incurred by the four schools. Better salaries could be paid to instructors, finer talent procured, improved methods introduced, better buildings erected and maintained, and altogether the whole educational establishment made a credit to teachers, to the public generally, and to the state. Until this is done, the normal schools have four weak and expensive institutions where we might have one excellent normal school at greatly reduced expense to the taxpayer.

THE RACE RACKET. In the news reports from Washington to the Oregonian, published yesterday, there was some good plain stuff about the recent uproar in our Southern States on the race question. Since the November election the fear of "negro domination" in the South has disappeared. No longer are heard those hysterical shrieks that Southern civilization is to be overthrown by the negro vote. It appears that the "race racket" was worked chiefly for political effect. The Booker Washington incident gets no further notice. Some very pleasant matter bearing on this subject comes to publicity through the Washington Star. A delegation from the South recently visited Washington, to invite President Roosevelt to make a tour of the South, and to be the guest of Southern cities. The delegation, indeed, it showed a fine spirit. A part of the delegation, starting from Birmingham (Ala.), picked up another part at Knoxville, Tenn. It happened that on the same train were Booker T. Washington and Bishop Barnett (colored). One of the Southern gentlemen, describing the incidents of the journey, said that Booker Washington and Bishop Barnett were "splendid and excellent traveling companions, adding: "We had a good time. There was an entire absence of any feeling, real or imaginary, over the fact that we were dining with Booker T. Washington and his colored associate. They were with us as best friends, and we enjoyed their company. The train was our home for a much longer time than we anticipated, being 20 hours late in arriving here, but we were not at all troubled, and all got to be good friends. "Funny," was his only comment. "What was funny about the man for whose entertainment the President we have just visited to our Southern homes was so severely criticized?" The man who told this story is vouched for as one of the most substantial Democrats of the South. The Washington Star comments incisively on these remarks of the Southern gentleman, thus: "Funny," yes, but only as indicating the difference between before and after election. The hullabaloo about the Booker Washington luncheon at the White House was a political device. Politicians seized it and used it in the hope of gain at the polls. Not one in a thousand of them felt the slightest uneasiness on the subject of the stability of our republic. Their shivers were all affected. But the whole thing fell flat, and now we hear confessions in more than one quarter of just what a humbug in the interest of the negro the whole thing was. As we all know, had Judge Parker been elected, he would have found some good places for colored men, and so would not have been assailed by his party friends. The patriotic managers in New York, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and New Jersey, and even in Maryland and West Virginia, were soliciting colored votes, and were not at all desirous to recommend rewards in the shape of office for colored leaders on their side. Mr. Cleveland rewarded his colored supporters, and what would have been the result if Judge Parker following so illustrious an example? Absolutely nothing. It is possible to name places in this town, with good ground covered with the bones of those who had been whipped it up for Parker and Davis.

It is just as well to make merry over this race riot. The South is not to be ruled by negroes, nor should it be. Not since the days of reconstruction has there been any danger that it would be. In all the states where the negroes are numerous they have been practically disfranchised. Not one in a hundred of them can vote. "The race racket" was political. You will hear of the Booker Washington luncheon at the White House no more. An ordinance so old that it is new, forbidding the landlords to rent an inn, bar-rooms or vendors of liquor or their employment in bar-room entertainments, has been reported as an important "find." If memory serves correctly, this ordinance was passed soon after the woman's crusade against saloons in this city in 1874. It occasioned considerable comment and met with some opposition at the time, but was very generally observed for some years, finally falling into desuetude through the crafty persistence of liquor-vendors of the lower class, and the carelessness of the city authorities. Later, as one municipal governmental force succeeded another, it was forgotten—lost, so to speak—in the shuffle. If its discovery is followed by its active rehabilitation, it will simplify greatly the control of crime and drive in the city, of which immoral women have long been an auxiliary if not the chief at-

traction. The long-unnoticed existence of this law shows how little interest is taken, even by reformers, to cry out periodically against the vice of the slums, in the enforcement of laws enacted for the sake of public decency. Good Brother Isaac, who with other ardent crusaders and temperance agitators urged the enactment of this ordinance in a far-away period of the city's history, will, wherever he is now, be glad, no doubt, to learn that something at least of the fruit of his labors in Portland still survives.

The theaters of New York, combined in a "trust," have agreed to shut out a dramatic critic who is obnoxious to them. He is H. B. Metcalfe, editor of Life, and his assaults on the theaters have led to an unavailing libel suit and a great uproar. Metcalfe says they cannot legally restrain him from entering any theater, but the managers say a ticket admission is a "license to enter," which may be revoked at pleasure. The New York courts seem to have sustained this view in former cases, holding a theater can refuse entrance to any "objectionable" person. What is an objectionable person—one who is merely personally objectionable to some one in control of a place of public amusement, or one who, by his behavior or appearance, is objectionable to his fellow-auditors? The latter would seem to be the reasonable view.

There is regret not wholly inspired by financial loss at the fate of the good ship Geo. W. Elder. With her sister vessel, City of Chester, that found her grave half a score of years ago in San Francisco harbor, the Elder was an important factor in the coastwise commerce of the middle North Pacific for many strenuous years. That both these vessels should have been wrecked in placid waters after having braved safely the fury of many a Winter's gale on the Pacific is at least somewhat strange. Circumstances favored disaster in the case of the Elder, as her wreck was not attended by loss of life. The City of Chester was not so fortunate in her passing. She was run down in a fog by a huge ocean liner, and sank so quickly that many of those on board was impossible.

According to the twentieth annual report of the United States Geological Survey, recently published, the total value of our mineral products in 1903 was \$1,418,721,569—an increase of \$158,211,831 over the value of the previous year. In this grand aggregate iron and coal lead, the value of the latter being \$593,909,000 and that of the former \$334,000,000. The bulk represented by these two commodities is a statement of value is so correct, however, that it would confuse rather than enlighten the average mind. Together with other figures representing in detail the output of the mines of the country, these figures are urged in support of the organization of a department of mines and mining, the head of which will become a member of the President's official family.

Senator Smoot seems to be coming out of the inquisition at Washington without discredit. All that can be said against him is that some of the members of the church with which he is associated are still living in polygamous relations. It may be argued that he ought to quit the church for this reason; but it can hardly be accounted fair to hold a church member accountable for the acts of some of his fellow-members. Smoot himself seems to be a very decent kind of man. Of course his views as to "revelation," "prophecy," "apostleship," and so on, are not more questionable than those of other people.

The so-called—really misnamed—local option law ought to be moderately amended, so as to make in fact a local option law. At present the prohibition element is paramount in it. It should be amended so that prohibition and non-prohibition should not be yoked together. It was carried last June only through misrepresentation and deception. No man can be held responsible if submitted again—beaten by many thousands. What ought to be done is to amend it so as to make it truly a local option law. This would be approved, by an immense majority of the people.

It will be observed that telegrams from the American Embassy at St. Petersburg are delayed a full day, or more, while the Associated Press dispatches come with remarkable promptness. It is evident that the Russian government gave the news the right of way on its wires over either commercial or diplomatic messages—a proceeding quite unprecedented. It is a fact also that the only adequate news service to the United States is via the Associated Press.

Chicago has a "Shepherd" who is said to have had 11 wives. Thirteen is an unlucky number, but no more so than one, where wives are concerned. Kill the trusts, and what will the magazine editors fill their pages with? WEX. J.

RUSSIA'S DANGER SPOTS. The danger spots of Russia are the towns. Yet—and here is another argument against a general revolution—the population of the towns forms only one-twelfth of the whole nation. Contrast this with the urban population of England—90 per cent of the whole. And of this one-twelfth a full third is composed of foreigners resident in those towns, who take and will take no part in national politics. Thus it is obvious that these danger spots are, after all, mere specks in the great expanse of the Russian race. Nevertheless, it is in these towns that the danger lies, and at present the "students," male and female, are the disturbing element. Nor are the causes which arouse their activity merely a national ambition for the betterment of their country or a Slav sentimentality to its low position in European civilization. I believe that in addition to these the grinding poverty of thousands of these students is the dominant factor which makes for the new Socialism—not Nihilism, be it noted—the revolting force of Russia.

The great majority of the students hold small government scholarships—mere pittance, which are just large enough to allure them to the towns, but totally insufficient to support them when they get there. Thousands of these Russian students cannot buy winter clothing or even the necessary boots, and, ill-fed, they throng together in wretched lodgings, there to declaim their hapless fate and to decry the government. This, then, is the one chief element of danger in Russia. It is neither widespread nor national. Local in its origin, confined in its character and peculiar to a single class, it is capable of much mischief and many explosions, but it is totally incapable of infecting the masses of the people and the provincial population generally.

Four St. Petersburg newspapers, suspended by government during the strike, had decided to defy the censorship and resume publication. The world do move. How He Achieved It. Chicago Tribune. The statement from Buncombe was an acute one. He leaped into fame at a single bound. Instead of striving for it patiently and laboriously, year after year, as ordinary mortals do, he achieved it in a single day. He was the first to do this, and he introduced what has since become a world-renowned freak bill to the Legislature.

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A SENATE TRADITION. A Senator under indictment for accepting bribes cannot be elected to the Senate chamber because he has been indicted. Whatever may be thought of the governmental system that prevails in Russia, there can be no question that the Grand Dukes are a curse. Their number is enormous, and they form a private council of the Czar. Many of them are given the rank of military and civil posts, when they either look to their own personal interests or meddle and muddle, to the great injury of the country. The Grand Duke commanding the Russian army during the last Russo-Turkish war was nicknamed in many dirty money scandals connected with that army. Some of the Grand Dukes seem to have done their best to provoke the present war with Japan because they were connected with Czarist concessions. The Grand Duke, Alexei, High Admiral of Russia, is, according to all accounts, an ignorant, conceited person, and to him the losses inflicted on the Russian navy have been largely due. The Grand Duke, Serge, the Governor of Moscow, is accused of having pocketed money collected to afford some comforts to Russian soldiers who would have been the sick and wounded. There seem to have been a large number of Grand Dukes who were connected with the Russo-Turkish war, and to them the losses of the Russian army have been largely due. The Grand Duke, Alexei, High Admiral of Russia, is, according to all accounts, an ignorant, conceited person, and to him the losses inflicted on the Russian navy have been largely due. The Grand Duke, Serge, the Governor of Moscow, is accused of having pocketed money collected to afford some comforts to Russian soldiers who would have been the sick and wounded. There seem to have been a large number of Grand Dukes who were connected with the Russo-Turkish war, and to them the losses of the Russian army have been largely due.

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A SENATE TRADITION. A Senator under indictment for accepting bribes cannot be elected to the Senate chamber because he has been indicted. Whatever may be thought of the governmental system that prevails in Russia, there can be no question that the Grand Dukes are a curse. Their number is enormous, and they form a private council of the Czar. Many of them are given the rank of military and civil posts, when they either look to their own personal interests or meddle and muddle, to the great injury of the country. The Grand Duke commanding the Russian army during the last Russo-Turkish war was nicknamed in many dirty money scandals connected with that army. Some of the Grand Dukes seem to have done their best to provoke the present war with Japan because they were connected with Czarist concessions. The Grand Duke, Alexei, High Admiral of Russia, is, according to all accounts, an ignorant, conceited person, and to him the losses inflicted on the Russian navy have been largely due. The Grand Duke, Serge, the Governor of Moscow, is accused of having pocketed money collected to afford some comforts to Russian soldiers who would have been the sick and wounded. There seem to have been a large number of Grand Dukes who were connected with the Russo-Turkish war, and to them the losses of the Russian army have been largely due.

John D. Rockefeller's Pile. Boston Herald. A "Wall Street banker, the head of one of the largest financial institutions," is the authority quoted for the latest guess at the wealth of the American millionaire. The fortune of the Rockefeller family is estimated to be over \$100,000,000, that he has an income of \$5,000,000 a month, and in no long time will be worth a round \$1,000,000. This is rather more modest than the report that has been current for some time past that his accumulations already amounted to \$1,000,000,000. The public, thanks to the late Henry D. Lloyd, author of "Wealth and Common Sense," and to Miss Tarbell, who has industriously compiled the history of the Standard Oil Company, has a pretty clear idea of how he got his fortune, and what will be the result of his wealth. He is an old man very soon and have to go naked out of the world he has used so profitably. Unless he begins to be contented with his lot, he will never be able to incur the disgrace of dying rich. An annual million or two to Chicago University goes but a little way toward defraying his board. There are some things he might do. He might, he might endow the United States Navy or the Panama Canal, and save the people of the country much heavy taxation. The fact that he has a mercantile marine, said to be in much need of an endowment.

Snowstorms in Mexico. Recent Letter. For ten minutes from 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon, (December 31), the people of the City of Mexico saw snow fall. It was the third happening of the kind in half a century, and caused a great sensation. To the lower order of native folk the strange sight of swirling white flakes, that melted as soon as the pavements were reached, was a terrifying one. They ran to hide in the doors of houses, and under arcades. A northerly gale on the Gulf Coast brought this unwelcome snow flurry, and it whitened the mountains to the north of Mexico. The City of Mexico is set, but not for long. The greatest snow which the capital of Mexico ever saw came in December, 1853, when a fall of six inches was recorded.

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