

The Oregonian

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 Washington, D. C.—Ebbitt House, Pennsylvania avenue.

THE "RAKE-OFF."

On November 29, 1905, The Oregonian printed the following editorial paragraph:

The concern of which Bill Ladd is the figurehead is not much himself, but the contract for the casing pipe for the water extension—apparently, but who knows what combination there may be, what take-off, the Bill Ladd concern may get on the contract. The concern is a corporation, who knows the secret? In such a similar way the Ladd estate, biggest concern in Oregon, has been built up. It is a very profitable business. It operates a newspaper organ to exploit its virtues, and it keeps a church and a pastor for the same purpose. But there is a catch. The man who runs the estate and so end of other estates; and later the Marquam estate and the Johnson estate, to tell you the Ladd estate is so rich in the hands of the Ladd family, it is "run" by Portland. A group of little fellows, hardly worthy to be named, though The Oregonian may name them yet, "made in" here now is a question. Is there anything in Portland not under control of this plutocratic gang? We shall see.

Now the United States Cast-Iron & Foundry Company, to which was awarded the contract for the casing pipe, is giving work to the Oregon Portland Cement Works, which is Bill Ladd's concern. It is all, of course, in pursuance of the original agreement, or "whack-up," between the two companies, by which the Ladd concern should get its customary rake-off. The public, which has some interest in such matters—not enough, though, or they would not occur—is entitled to know that this agreement existed. It was made in 1901, and is published on November 29, but no doubt it shall be told "it's nobody's business," only "our private business."

PULPIT AND PEEV AGAIN.

Mr. L. Marshall, the New York lawyer who seems to do most of the talking against Dr. Wise's views of pulpit liberty, feels no more repugnance than one might naturally expect of him against the discussion by his pastor of "insurance thieves and swindlers, McCordism, Hydeism and Mr. Jerome." Mr. Marshall is one of Hyde's attorneys and the genuineness of his opinion is not his responsibility over the exposition of the eighth commandment are therefore tender. Just what a minister might say against stealing without shocking Mr. Marshall's acute sense of propriety it is difficult to guess. There are deacons and elders, of course, who object, on the best of personal grounds, to the bare reading of this commandment. It sounds so much like a direct reference to the members of the church. The reason to believe that Mr. Marshall's dislike to hear his pastor hold forth against thieves, which, with the beautiful directness of a lawyer, he calls "preaching politics," is wholly altruistic. He trembles for his client, not for himself. When it comes to the ninth commandment, his armor seems a little less secure. One might believe that Mr. Marshall would refuse to follow the Northern Democracy further, but take supreme command or direction of the party. This is interesting, but it has no promise. For it would make sectional politics still more conspicuous than now; it would isolate the Democratic party still more.

The Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser is a journal which as fairly and fully represents the spirit of the South as any journal we know. In breadth of judgment and catholicity of spirit it is a representative, usually, of all that one could desire to see. It takes up this idea that "the true-blue Democracy," that exists nowhere but in the South, ought to take party control again. "How all should rejoice," it says, "to see the South come into her own once more." As the Democratic constitution of the section of the Union, for many years furnished the President and dictated the policy of the Government. Then we had a constitutional government in fact as well as in name, and were a happy people. When the dark and damning blight of abolitionism descended on the North it estranged from Democracy many of its best and strongest men, and when a long and bloody civil war had ended, the South, in consequence of abolitionism, the result put the seal of condemnation on Southern Democrats as leaders. Since then the Democrats of our section have been heroes of wood and drawers of water, accepting the candidates selected for us and voting for whomsoever our Northern allies selected. Shall that programme hold good for all time?

It certainly will hold good so long as this view of the past, and projection of this view of the past into the future, shall hold and continue. It was not wrong to abolish slavery and to maintain the integrity of the Union. The results are no "dark and damning blight" on the scutcheon of our nationality and of our civilization. Before the South can lead the country, or be an important factor in its leadership, the South must put all this behind it. Of course the South is not to do this with ostentation or apology. That is neither expected nor desired. But it must let the past bury its past, let history deal with what has been done and finished, and look towards the morning. Till then the South will not furnish the leadership of the country.

THE ENEMY OF THE SOLDIER.

Rev. George D. Rogers, pastor of a Baptist church contiguous to Fort Sheridan, supports the Army canteen and protests in vigorous language against the interference of sentimentalists and reformers in Army regulations. Dr. Rogers speaks from personal observation of conditions around the big Army post adjacent to Chicago when he deplores the abolition of the canteen and the springing up in its place of low-grade saloons just outside of the military reserve. It is conceded that the latter follows the former with certain certainty and uniform pertinaciousness. As has before been stated by Dr. Rogers, the difficulty lies in finding the soldier as we think he ought to be. Dealing with him as he is, sturdy, stubborn human nature of the individualized type is encountered. He ought not to drink, but the fact remains that he frequently does drink. He ought not to go outside the Army post and cause the saloons there stationed to flourish, but, lacking the accommodations of the post canteen, he does so, and lacking its restraints he drinks more than he otherwise would.

It is a condition, not a theory, that is here disclosed. Sentiment does not

cover the question, and what ought to be cannot be made to stand sponsor for what is. Hence practical people will be constrained to agree with the opinion expressed by Dr. Rogers, that it was due to misguided sentiment that the canteen was abolished, permitting hundreds of the lowest driven on earth to creep up to the very gates of the Army posts and lie in wait for the soldiers.

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From one point of view he is, as Mr. Selling aptly remarked to an Oregonian reporter, a teacher, and as such he must impart, not pleasing truths alone, but harsh and bitter ones. If the church is justified in dismissing its minister for teaching harsh truth, who will dare to undertake this most important duty? Everybody has the courage to impart pleasant doctrine; it is the bitter facts which take courage to utter, and yet it is these facts which are most salutary and wholesome, the very salt of life, which alone keeps it from putrefaction. Hitherto it has been wisely held that those who blamed the teachers of these facts showed cowardly ingratitude. Have we come to admit that those of us who are in the right, who hold the contract for the casing pipe for the water extension—apparently, but who knows what combination there may be, what take-off, the Bill Ladd concern may get on the contract. The concern is a corporation, who knows the secret? In such a similar way the Ladd estate, biggest concern in Oregon, has been built up. It is a very profitable business. It operates a newspaper organ to exploit its virtues, and it keeps a church and a pastor for the same purpose. But there is a catch. The man who runs the estate and so end of other estates; and later the Marquam estate and the Johnson estate, to tell you the Ladd estate is so rich in the hands of the Ladd family, it is "run" by Portland. A group of little fellows, hardly worthy to be named, though The Oregonian may name them yet, "made in" here now is a question. Is there anything in Portland not under control of this plutocratic gang? We shall see.

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The spectacle of Mr. Rogers rioting in the plenitude of his power is instructive. The impotence of the law to rebuke or control him is a salutary warning. It admonishes the American people that a time may come when retribution upon such monsters of defiant iniquity will be the result of the power that slumbers too long in the hands of the irremediable sleep of death. Mr. Rogers and his kind only seem to be our rulers, as yet we can still shake them off if we make the effort; but let the effort be delayed a little longer and the seeming will become an inexorable reality. The more exhibitions we have of the sort he has just demonstrated, the better. They are the denials of the real deal of need and what the position of Standard Oil and its allies is in, our polity. They show exactly what the feeling of these monster corporations is toward democratic government, law and the administration of justice. They hasten the day when the finger will write upon the wall and Mr. Rogers will ask his lawyer what "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharshim" means.

THE SLUMP THAT FAILED.

The long-expected "slump after the Fair" seems to be farther away than ever. Real estate has increased in value more rapidly since the Fair than at any corresponding period before that great event and the demand increases with the price. The leasing of the Dekum and Washington buildings Monday at a 6 per cent remuneration on a valuation of \$1,000,000 is illustrative of the new conditions which have arisen since Portland began its present era of expansion. Property in city or country has no intrinsic value in excess of its actual earning power. The leasing of the Dekum for a long term of years at a figure which guarantees a 6 per cent return easily fixes the value of the property at \$1,000,000. In the congested money centers of the East 3 and 4 per cent is regarded as an excellent return on safe investments, and there is, accordingly, no speculative element in Mr. Sweeney's latest transaction.

It is the willingness of outside capital to come in and be content with a 6 per cent return that is enhancing the value of real estate. With only limited opportunities for safe investment in anything paying more than half this figure in the East, the opportunities in Portland are bound to prove alluring to Eastern capitalists. In the East it requires two dollars to earn 6 per cent in one year. Portland one dollar is sufficient, and there is no investment where the returns will be still larger. Some increase in rents quite naturally follows increase in real estate values, but this increase will not be in keeping with the increase in value of the property, for reason that the capital now coming into Portland for investment will be satisfied with smaller returns than have been considered necessary in the past.

Some of the old guard will, of course, endeavor to exact high rents on both new and old buildings, but this policy, if adhered to, will only drive tenants into other localities now considered less favorable for business. This will leave some landlords with vacant rooms and buildings, and we shall then quite naturally hear talk of a lull in the upward movement. There shall be no lull of consequence, however, so long as the entire Pacific Northwest is the scene of such tremendous industrial activity. For more than a year now

settlors have been pouring into Oregon, Washington and Idaho in steadily increasing numbers.

All lines of industrial effort are represented in this influx of new settlers. The farmers, of course, outnumber all others, and it is well for the future of the country that they do; but there are also many lumbermen, manufacturers, capitalists and other craftsmen who are needed in development of our varied resources. These newcomers will aid those already here in creation of a vast amount of new wealth from our forests, farms, mines and other sources of latent wealth. As the country around us grows, Portland is bound to keep pace with it. The future must be judged by the past. The population of the territory tributary to Portland one year ago, and the wealth created by that population, warranted the real estate prices then ruling in Portland. Increased population and prosperity in the country today warrant the improvement in conditions in the city. The same conditions will be responsible for further gains a year hence.

THE PESSIMIST.

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Development Leagues are in fashion. The last born, that called the Southern Oregon, organized in Grant's Pass, and representing Medford, Ashland and Gold Hill, as well as Grant's Pass itself, came into being day before yesterday. It is a good sign that the stated policy of all these bodies is to co-operate for the development of Oregon. The districts must, infallibly, prosper if all Oregon is developed. The action of the Portland Commercial Club in adding largely to funds for development work is in the same line.

The New York stock and money market seems to have settled back into the groove from which it made a sudden leap a few days ago. Despite the gloomy prediction of Banker Schiff and Lawson's publicly expressed fear that he would be obliged to pay 600 per cent for money to tide him over to affluence, call money closed yesterday at 6 per cent bid. Steel, coal, sugar and many of the railroad stocks showed substantial gains, which even extensive profit-taking failed to wipe out.

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It is not believed that H. H. Rogers, of Standard Oil, notoriously, consciously directed his conduct in the examination before Commissioner Sanborn to the end of hastening the downfall of corporate domination in this country, though such will be its outcome. He doubtless supposed that his impudent defiance of the officers of the law would impress the public with a sense of the power of the tremendous organization he represents and so it does. He probably supposed that his cynical and shameless perjury would tend to prove to the country that the aegis of Standard Oil is a secure protection for crime, no matter how flagrant. It has precisely that effect. He supposed, very likely, that a naked exhibition of his contempt for the law, a demonstration of law utterly beneath a gentleman, would diminish the promotion in this case and discourage similar attacks upon the giant monopoly. Such a result is probable. Mr. Rogers' contempt for the law is fully justified. It has crawled at his bidding like a whining cur. Like a cur it now feels his boot. He has every reason to despise the courts. They have been the complacent tools of his policy. It is but just for them now to receive the treatment of insubordinate servants.

The spectacle of Mr. Rogers rioting in the plenitude of his power is instructive. The impotence of the law to rebuke or control him is a salutary warning. It admonishes the American people that a time may come when retribution upon such monsters of defiant iniquity will be the result of the power that slumbers too long in the hands of the irremediable sleep of death. Mr. Rogers and his kind only seem to be our rulers, as yet we can still shake them off if we make the effort; but let the effort be delayed a little longer and the seeming will become an inexorable reality. The more exhibitions we have of the sort he has just demonstrated, the better. They are the denials of the real deal of need and what the position of Standard Oil and its allies is in, our polity. They show exactly what the feeling of these monster corporations is toward democratic government, law and the administration of justice. They hasten the day when the finger will write upon the wall and Mr. Rogers will ask his lawyer what "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharshim" means.

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THE PESSIMIST.

Herr Gottlieb mistook Captain Bruin for a footpad. Then he got arrested for disorderly conduct. That is what Gottlieb got.

Mr. Robert Fitzsimmons, according to dispatches from Sioux City, will start a physical culture school in New York City. It is said that it will be the most aristocratic institution of the kind in the world. He intends to secure the patronage of the wealthy classes, both men and women. Professor Fitzsimmons is now engaged in calculating how much each of the "good things" of New York will contribute.

Colonel Mann, of "Town Topics," denies newspaper reports that he had said that he had matter in his safe which if published would blow New York society wide open. It would not take much to blow New York society wide open. It is pretty well cracked already.

A New York householder's experiment with the English custom of leasing private rathskellers to individuals. Each of the private rathskellers which will accommodate eight persons will open a general rathskeller where the lessee is present. When he is not there the leased rathskeller will be closed by an iron door.

When the show is ready to begin, they will substitute iron bars for the iron doors, and put up a sign: "Do not feed peanuts to the monkeys." It is expected that they will furnish great amusement for the guests outside.

There is something ominous about Thomas W. Lawson's willingness to testify in the Standard Oil hearing. He says: "I feel like helping in every way that I can."

"What and Where is Hell?"—Rev. John Benham is conducting a series of religious meetings in the University Park Baptist Church every night this week. His subject each night is "Hell." The first night was "Hell and Moody." Tuesday evening, "A Lost Name." Wednesday, "A Runaway Couple." Thursday, "What and Where is Satan?" Friday evening, "Hell and Moody." Saturday evening, "What and Where is Hell?" The climax of these meetings will be Sunday, and there are many anxious to hear the last question answered in a satisfactory manner.

The people in University Park know already.

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The deficit in the National Treasury for the present fiscal year was officially estimated at \$3,000,000. Receipts, however, have been steadily increasing ever since the year's accounts were opened, July 1, and the result is that the end of December the deficit, which started at about \$2,000,000, is now down to \$7,573,340. As there is no reason to suppose that the expenses of the Government will materially increase and there is every probability that receipts will continue to grow, it is likely that the actual deficit at the close of the year will fall below the estimate if it is not wiped out entirely.

Development Leagues are in fashion. The last born, that called the Southern Oregon, organized in Grant's Pass, and representing Medford, Ashland and Gold Hill, as well as Grant's Pass itself, came into being day before yesterday. It is a good sign that the stated policy of all these bodies is to co-operate for the development of Oregon. The districts must, infallibly, prosper if all Oregon is developed. The action of the Portland Commercial Club in adding largely to funds for development work is in the same line.

The New York stock and money market seems to have settled back into the groove from which it made a sudden leap a few days ago. Despite the gloomy prediction of Banker Schiff and Lawson's publicly expressed fear that he would be obliged to pay 600 per cent for money to tide him over to affluence, call money closed yesterday at 6 per cent bid. Steel, coal, sugar and many of the railroad stocks showed substantial gains, which even extensive profit-taking failed to wipe out.

"It is absurd," says Standard Oil Attorney Hagerman, "to think of a man of the type of Mr. Rogers refusing to operate for the development of Oregon. It might tend to subject him to criminal prosecution." So it is absurd. But Rogers can have no other motive in refusing to answer—no other motive except to conceal, if he can, the criminal operations of the Standard Oil Company and its officers.

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