

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, NOV. 30, 1906.

SHIP-SUBSIDY LOOT.

All our advocates of ship subsidy are in the position of those who make complaint that our ocean carrying trade is done at too cheap a rate, and that Government therefore ought to step in and pay subsidies out of the Treasury. In addition to the freight money now being given the ocean carriers, this is precisely what all the arguments for ship subsidy come to.

It is complained that American ships can make no money in carrying the products of our country to foreign markets, because foreign ships carry them at so low a rate. Hence our subsidy advocates are actually contending that freight rates on our products to foreign countries ought to be raised, by taking money in large sums directly out of the Treasury, and turning it to American shipowners.

We are in contradiction with our railroad managers to get lower rail rates, and are reducing the rail rates by law, all along the line; yet we are told that ship rates are too low, and must be increased by direct payments out of the public Treasury. The miserable foreigner who makes the ocean service, or much of it, for us too cheap, and we are oppressed thereby.

It is the shallowest argument ever made for loot of the public Treasury. The object is enrichment of new syndicates formed for plunder. Everything on land is being appropriated, attention turns toward the sea, but since the sea is the free highway of nations, monopoly in the carriage of our products over it can be had only through the subsidy method.

It is "protection" gone mad. A proposition of the kind, however, notwithstanding its acknowledgment of the essence of the so-called principle of enrichment of a few among us at the expense of the many. Since foreign ships can do carry our products at rates admittedly low—too low for our own competition—why not permit them to continue it?

Under the character of this trade is very different from that of our trade with Europe. While our sales to Europe consist in large part of our surplus agricultural products, provisions and raw materials, our exports to our neighbors are made up mainly of the products of our mills and factories. Argentina's exports to us are raw wool, and our imports from her are woolen goods. Germany, France and the United Kingdom combined, while we get only a small fraction of their total exports for such goods, we sold more cotton cloth to Cuba, in Chile, in Brazil and in Colombia than we sold to Europe and the United Kingdom. With the exception of Japan, Central America was our best customer for locomotives, and 72 per cent of our exports of steel rails went to Latin America; which took 47 per cent of the boots and shoes we exported. Cuba bought \$2,500,000 worth of lumber, and our neighbors to the southward took 30 per cent of our entire export of builders' hardware and tools.

The Sun's summary shows that the imports of all the countries of the Western Hemisphere into the United States and Canada approximate \$750,000,000 a year. Our share of that is about \$225,000,000, in which our sales to Mexico and Cuba represent about one-half the total.

Checks to tuberculosis. The State Commission appointed by Governor Hays, in Indiana, two years ago to investigate the need of a state institution for the treatment of tuberculosis, will recommend that an appropriation of \$300,000 be made by the Legislature soon to convene at Indianapolis for the construction of a hospital for consumptives. It will be further suggested that the matter be taken up at once. The commission, after careful and thorough investigation of the matter in many sections of the country, reached the conclusion that fully 75 per cent of those afflicted with consumption, in its early stages, can be restored to health. Investigation having proved to the satisfaction of the committee that tuberculosis is a curable disease and in a large measure preventable, it is urged that no time be lost in establishing a sanitarium.

The commission does not, indeed, to restore a limited number of persons suffering from tuberculosis, but to make an educational institution for the medical profession and the people of the state. It is urged that the chief value of such an institution is its educational influence in the direction of health. There are now something like 25,000 persons in the state suffering from tuberculosis in one of its three distinct stages. These will soon pass away unless relief comes promptly; at best, many of them, within a few months, more or less, will fall victims to the great scourge. The object is to save the ranks from falling to pieces, as they are depleted by death. This, it is believed, can be done by measures within the reach of medical and sanitary science, assisted by state aid. The commission summed up its findings in the following paragraph with which it closes its exhaustive report: "We have found ourselves almost unconsciously changing from the old-time view of the disease, for no one can see the great holocaust two years ago, fall in love at first sight, like Romeo and Juliet, and have been going to dance together ever since. Louis has been known to travel from thirty-ninth street and Langley avenue to thirty-ninth street and Kendall street, to get his companion, take her to a dance in Oak Park, bring her back some flowers, and then, when she has returned, to take her to the Side-forty-fourth avenue—once more. He managed to hold down his job at the same time—a noteworthy achievement even if he did work for his father."

But there was objection, in both families to their marriage; so they ended all troubles of traction lines and of family opposition at once; and then the parents, on both sides, surrendered and the car lines lost a pair of their best customers. But we suppose all these things, except the magnificent distances, might be paralleled in Portland.

continued prevalence and spread of tuberculosis is an inevitable plague to which our race must continue to pay its awful tribute of death and blood. An increasing sense of mutual responsibility, an enlightened view of public economy, the light of science and the spirit of philanthropy will stay the progress of the great white plague.

The State of Oregon, through its Legislature, will be asked, in due time, to take action in this matter. It has already been demonstrated, through the work of the Open-Air Sanitarium near this city, that consumption, when taken in time and dealt with in accordance with the simplest laws of sanitation, nutrition and rest, is a curable malady. The work is hampered through lack of means. The local sanitarium is one of the latest of our many benevolent institutions, and one of the most important. Its scope could be enlarged to the end that its usefulness may be increased. It must come to this sooner or later, and the verdict of humanity is, "the sooner the better."

Are we indebted to antiquity? Yes, immensely. It is the labor, the experience, even the failures, of ancestors, that have placed us where we are. We still reap many of the fruits of their labors, which they thought wise. It was tentative effort with them, though mistaken, and they did the best they knew. But, on the whole, the world is doing well. Its chief debt to antiquity is in the lessons it has learned, through which it is wiser, or may avoid, repetition of old errors and absurdities.

It is time to look back to old times. And wise to do so. Our ancestors, from the beginning till now, had a lot of experience which they passed on to us. Most of our own difficulties spring from our forgetting that. They are our ignorance, or our neglect, of their experience, we try to do the whole thing over again—under the impression or notion that it will be different now. Doubtless this is necessary to new education of one generation after another. But it's mighty troublesome at times. It often compels us to fight for our life. Foolish wealth makes common cause with other foolish ignorance. The slave power in our country was backed by immense money. Bryan had much wealthy support. The first families of the South and back a head. Their skins will make good drumheads when the people are beat to arms.

To antiquity we owe an immense debt. The experience ought to teach us to avoid errors. But it doesn't. Or only in part. Old times, when we are not very good times. But there are lessons in them. The difficulty is to observe and maintain the balance; to give the past its credit, yet to look to wise progression. For all we have we are indebted to antiquity; and yet, as Hobbes said, it is not good to be indebted to the present age is the oldest.

Libel suits for damages, or criminal prosecutions for libel, seldom or never amount to anything. The reason is, as Hobbes said, it is not good to be indebted to the present age is the oldest. Any libel suit is inadmissible for the defendant to show up all the weakness and meanness of the plaintiff's whole life in mitigation of damages. Come to think of it, that does make a difference, does it not? And that's what makes a libel suit like those of Colonel Wood vain labor.

The locker in which the cigars are kept moist, and also where other moisture or humidity is sometimes kept under lock and key; they call the humidity now. Such terms are among the triumphs of modern culture. This one is brought into prominence just now through Nick Longworth's telling the butler to open the humidior, and the butler's answer that Mrs. Longworth now carries the key.

Wellman's proposed "dash" to the pole in two days does not seem possible to Peary, after the latter's many months of toil to reach that goal. But occasionally some fellow does with ease a job which others labor long and vainly to accomplish. There are a number of get-rich-quick men in Portland of the one sort and thousands of poor plodders of the other sort.

It is interesting to note, though not so very wonderful, that politicians in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming, who are not so regular in their own social relations, and themselves keep a lot of combiners, are worrying about the distressing polygamous conditions that prevail among the Mormons. But they want a political issue.

"Perhaps," says the Catholic Sentinel (Portland), "a heresy trial in the Protestant Episcopal Church is essentially illogical." There is no "perhaps." It is illogical, indeed. Protestantism, in any of its forms, and in all its forms is heresy. That is, from the standpoint of historical Christianity.

Senator Dubois, of Idaho, who is to go into retirement, thinks the President ought to have ordered matters so as to help him to re-election. But does Dubois think the President wanted him re-elected? A political adventurer, who would not go from one folly to another, like Dubois?

After preliminary studies in football, lasting some two months, the colleges will now take up books. Thanksgiving has true meaning for the colleges; also for the students, who are to be made to save the dollars to pay for the college learning of their sons and daughters.

Mayor Schmitz makes denial, with appearance of earnestness, feeling and truth. Every one hopes he may make good. There have been denials aforesaid and voters are waiting for either one wishes Mayor Schmitz may make good.

Progress is making in election of Senators of the United States by mandate of the people. No less than twelve Senators will be elected under the primary system, will have seats on 4th March next.

Bond may go on the stage. If he shall drive a hard bargain, he may make as much out of dramatic art as Jim Jeffrey, who has recently put up a reputation for being a gentleman.

"Yes," said Mr. Puier, "I have things to be thankful for, but they are not for publication." A lot of gentlemen would be thankful if they should never be published.

Thanksgiving started as thanksgiving. But it isn't thanksgiving now. It is a mere holiday, with feasting, social amusements and games and theaters.

Thanksgiving marked the finish of many problems and the finish of a would-be gobbler of Portland's waterfront below Burnside bridge.

Any part of Oregon that produced apples this year "just as good" as Hood River had an additional cause for thankfulness yesterday.

The sunny days will be forgotten after they are gone and the rainy ones come again.

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