

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1907.

POBEDONOSTEFF.

It was the unenviable lot of the late Mr. Pobedonosteff, as it is of most theologians who acquire great political power, that his severity made him a cruel ruler and inflexible integrity in every of his acts. It was his error to be an error to turn upon Pobedonosteff as a monster of cruelty; so far as can be learned, his disposition was kindly and he was distinguished by his zeal for the welfare of his fellow-men.

Physical science differs from pure mathematics in that it professes to proceed upon assumptions which are contrary to theory. For the mathematician can the sum of the interior angles of every plane triangle is exactly equal to the half of pi; the straight line has length, but no breadth, and the circle has area, but no thickness.

Between the theoretical world of the mathematician and the real world of physical science there exists the same difference as between the condition which the ecclesiastical mind seeks to realize on earth and the incalculable complexities of actual life.

All this happens even when we concede that the scheme of the theologian is abstractly desirable, but when it is essentially wrong, as was that of Pobedonosteff, then if he gains political power he becomes indeed a greivous figure, for he is just as sincere in his mistakes as he would be were his conclusions sound; and he endeavors to institute the rule of tyranny with the same unflinching rigor as he might use in another case to establish liberty.

Then, too, the use of water, both as to time and quantity, must vary with the season and the condition of cultivation. Irrigation once treated from the bottom upward—healed from the bottom—by the abundance of water, it will suffer very seriously if the supply be cut off for a single season, while a tree that has not been irrigated would go through a dry season without harm.

Russia was an insult to God. Knowing what the constitution of Russia is, what misery it has wrought to those who must live under it and how it has destroyed the character of the men who exercise the almost superhuman power it gives to the Czar and his family, we may well wonder how any one could sincerely and usefully believe that it has the approval of a just God. Still, that Pobedonosteff was but a despicable character, that he was a man who exercised the almost superhuman power it gives to the Czar and his family, we may well wonder how any one could sincerely and usefully believe that it has the approval of a just God.

Under the head of "Political Tendencies," the Salem Statesman ventures the prediction "that before ten years the people will sicken of the initiative and of the primary system." If there is any evidence of that tendency, the Oregonian does not now see it. While it is to be hoped that political changes in the next ten years will be such that the people will feel free to repeal the initiative, there is no reason at present to believe that such a transformation will take place.

It has been said in these columns many times and they will be repeated many times that the people do not want the initiative and referendum, but it was forced upon them by men who misrepresented the people in the Legislature. The people did not want the direct primary until political bosses controlling conventions and caucuses had made the adoption of some such law seem the only relief from an unsatisfactory system.

But in this same connection a word must be said relative to a sly misstatement of the Oregonian. It was said to have offered a reward to anyone who had to offer a reward days ago upon the subject of leadership. Says the Statesman: "The Oregonian demands the tearing of some man who will so dominate in either branch of the Legislature that he will be able to force the other branch to pass any measure of legislation." Forcing the Legislature to terms upon "any" question of legislation is vastly different from what the Oregonian proposed when it said that "the people of Oregon are looking for men whose abilities mark them out as leaders of the people."

When Apple-growers Differ. It will be surprising to many to read that at a meeting of Hood River apple-growers there was the widest difference of opinion as to the advantages of irrigation. There were those who asserted most emphatically that irrigation is of no advantage, for, though it may increase the yield a little, it does so at the sacrifice of the quality of the fruit.

Between the theoretical world of the mathematician and the real world of physical science there exists the same difference as between the condition which the ecclesiastical mind seeks to realize on earth and the incalculable complexities of actual life. In practice right and wrong are not deductions from pure theory. Much more frequently they are to be determined in particular cases by the possible and the expedient. What is right in one emergency is wrong in another; what is mercy in one state of circumstances is gross cruelty when the circumstances alter.

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There is no branch of agriculture that requires so high a degree of intelligence, care and skill as fruitgrowing. Pruning, spraying, thinning, picking and packing must be done in the right manner or the best results will not be attained. The grain farmer may plow and sow and the grower of the apple-grower must be alert and active all the time to keep his trees in good condition.

The effort made by our educational workers to take Oregon out of the list of states which are characterized as backward is that they are engaged in maintaining a system of primary education is a commendable one. That it will result in the betterment of our common schools, the more adequate pay of teachers who make teaching a profession instead of a stepping-stone to some other vocation, and the general improvement of the state, is a matter of course.

From Spokane to The Dalles in 26 hours, Mr. Newell said that he believes the Spokane prairie will be better than the winter, while the trees are dormant. There is an old saying, "Prune in the Winter for wood; in the Summer for fruit." Winter pruning causes the trees to grow more rapidly in the summer. Summer pruning, however, must not have this effect, but causes the fruit to reach a larger size.

Grab Back the Franchise, Quick. Grabbed from the city April 6, 1905, by franchise speculators, the street railway franchise of the Oregon Traction Company (Hillsboro line) is about to revert to the city for failure of the grabbers to keep faith with the city.

The question of smoking on streetcars could be settled promptly, without inconvenience to any one and without loss to the company. All that is necessary is the announcement by the city in authority that smoking will not be allowed on the streetcars or on any part of them.

U. S. Government-Built Ships Best. Rear-Admiral Coghlan in Leslie's Weekly. The Government builds the best ships that float. That is certain. Connecticut is the finest vessel of her rate and size in the world, and she was built in a Government Navy Yard.

Free Seeds. Minnesota Tribune. Straight down the aisle he bravely bore a banner they had seen before. A bag that his constituents would not have given him. And on the breaths that rose and fell. Spoke forth the words he loved so well: "Free seeds."

Some Crooks. Catholic Standard and Times. Some crooks are so brazenly bold that they succeed where others fail. Government things are given free. And my Seaman would surely be: If this bill fails to give to me.

They say the Nicaraguan war is ended, but stories of bloody fighting continue to pour in. Another war, doubtless.

cannot be dealt with in a remedial way from the top-downward. Like the fertilizing of a tree, irrigation must be treated from the bottom upward—healed from the bottom—by the abundance of water, it will suffer very seriously if the supply be cut off for a single season, while a tree that has not been irrigated would go through a dry season without harm.

It is well enough for men of wealth to endow great universities to give common education to a few, but it would be better if they gave some of their millions to common education to the many. The donation of large libraries to cities and towns is a commendable thing, but if the millions that libraries cost are used for the education of the masses through the common schools, the public benefit would be increased.

Nothing could be more enjoyable to honest people than the Spring house-cleaning now in progress in San Francisco. One source of vice in city government is that city officials hold certain powers and property in their hands in trust for the good of the people, and they peddle them out for graft to any one who will pay the price.

Place Banns Higher Up. The prosecutor is right in making every effort to bring home the charge of bribery to the heads of the franchise-buying corporations. The capitalists who prey upon the people through the franchise-buying process, corrupted her officials and bought rights and franchises against the city's interests should not be allowed to escape their share of the penalty.

Jail the "Respectable" Crafters. Chicago Record-Herald. Perhaps the corporations had to do business with the politicians to get a start. They are expansionists and promoters, and it is their nature to be more than with honest men. Moreover, they are a permanent while Ruff is a passing phenomenon.

Rear-Admiral Coghlan in Leslie's Weekly. Thousands of visitors at the Bronx Zoological Park one recent afternoon witnessed a thrilling rescue from drowning by one Alaskan brown bear of its playmate.

Where Editor Lyon Got It. Albany Herald. Across the top of the front page of the Salem Journal last Wednesday appeared the following motto: "Look up, not down; look out, not in; forward, not back; move ahead." Thursday morning the Albany Herald placed the same motto at the top of its first page.

Spring Signs. A man in a suit and hat is walking through a field. He is looking at a sign that says "Spring Signs." He is looking at a sign that says "Spring Signs." He is looking at a sign that says "Spring Signs."

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San Francisco and Her Looters. Newspaper Comment on Peculiar Conditions Facing the Bay City. New York American. In San Francisco, as in other cities, the public service corporations had long been accustomed to debauch the local government and secure by arbitrary the illegitimate privileges that enable the corporations to plunder the public.

End of Schmitt Labor Union Party. New York Evening Post. Nowhere else has there been quite such a combination of grafters, corrupt corporations and labor-union rascals working hand and glove to defraud the public.

City's Rights Hawked For Graft. Chicago Chronicle. Nothing could be more enjoyable to honest people than the Spring house-cleaning now in progress in San Francisco. One source of vice in city government is that city officials hold certain powers and property in their hands in trust for the good of the people, and they peddle them out for graft to any one who will pay the price.

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Labor Organizations Clean House. New York Globe. The exposure is the worst kind in America since the days of Tweed. It has been a "combing" among the Aldermen of St. Louis uncovered by Governor Folk was not one-quarter so bad.

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Portland's Capacity For Tears. The Limit by No Means Reached When "Butterfly" Was Here. Chicago Inter-Ocean. It is said by no less an authority than the Portland Oregonian that at a recent performance of "Madam Butterfly" in Portland the audience shed two gallons of tears.

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Mrs. Longworth's Reception. As Viewed by An Ohio Republican Newspaper. Cleveland Leader. "Word comes from Washington that Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, Jr., is rapidly taking her place as a leading hostess and that her Tuesdays at home are brilliant social features.

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