

The Oregonian

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By the pioneer experiment of Galveston, may win the glory of making them. We turn willingly from the spectacle of ghastly avarice overtaken by justice to the achievements of honest industry. The task of restoration hastens to its fulfillment. One-half of the ruined city has been rebuilt within a year. Three hundred thousand people have made homes for themselves. The new Fairmount Hotel, on Nob Hill, a historic building on a famous site, with its rich carvings, its calm corridors and delectable banquet halls, is but one structure out of many already risen from the ashes. The Legislature has devised a method for the rehabilitation of land titles, which were confused for a time by the loss of the records. Fifty thousand workmen are busy with hammer and saw, erecting a new city and dwelling. Their toil is strenuous, but their reward is commensurate. Seldom has the daily laborer reaped such a harvest as in San Francisco today. The commerce of the city during the last twelve months has exceeded all former figures. There is not one broken family and the dead, who can take no share in the new life, one could now scarcely think of the fire and earthquake as a calamity. They seem rather to have been like the call to arms which rouses the soldier at dawn and the farmer at the morning dew. On this the anniversary of the catastrophe which tried her soul and stowed her quality, we do homage to the stately metropolis of the Pacific. We rejoice in her triumph over adversity, and forecasting a future near and distant, we wish her to prosper and flourish, beautiful in street and palace, and stainless in civic life.

Prescriptions: "Esculapion," whose letter to The Oregonian is printed elsewhere today, seems to care more for the reputation of the medical profession than he does for the facts. Had he said that physicians write their prescriptions in dog Latin instead of "plain Latin," he would have come nearer the mark. It is very doubtful whether Chero could have deciphered one of these mysterious documents where every possible device is employed to conceal from the patient what he is to take into his stomach. Not only is the language itself a barbarous jargon, but it is still further obscured by abbreviations known only to the initiated. There is no comparison whatever between the symbols of mathematics and those employed by doctors. The plus and minus signs of algebra are part of a great analytical language. Nothing could be more plain. Without them the scientist loses a notable part of his power to unlock the mysteries of the universe. The doctors' symbols create mysteries instead of unloving them. They are employed, not to reveal truth, but to obscure it. There is no good reason why prescriptions should not be written in English instead of the language which "Esculapion" fondly imagines to be Latin. The drug must, of course, retain their technical names, but why say "recipe" instead of "take," unless to create a false impression of profundity? If a chemist, a respectable one, were writing about his science for a layman's benefit, he would not think of designating water by the chemical symbol. He would call it "water" and make an end of the business. Prescriptions are written for laymen. They tell us what to take into our stomachs to cure our diseases; but they tell it in such a way that we are compelled to go to a druggist to have the mystic incantation deciphered.

Race Suicide and Wealth: The new scare of the scientists is that the human race is fast exhausting the soil supply of nitrogen, one of the chief elements of the animal body, and that unless artificial means shall be found to restore the vast quantity drawn from the earth by successive crops, a large part of the human race is doomed to starvation within two or three generations. Such is the theme of an article in the Independent, a venerable magazine, chemist and sociologist, who, after citing scientific methods by which nitrogen may be restored, declares that happiness will not be secured to the human race simply by fertilization of the soil, nor by large crops, but more by efficient distribution and conservation. Otherwise, says he, science will succeed only in "causing two unhappy human beings to live where only one would have lived before." He cites that "India, with its starving myriads, exports millions of bushels of wheat every year to the United States, and the device means not only for fertilizing the soil and increasing crops, but also for limiting population and securing more equitable distribution of the world's wealth. Commenting on the article editorially, the Independent avers that the problem of restricting the birth rate is an important corollary in the fact that restriction is practiced by the best quality of human life, while fast breeding is kept up by the large inferior quantities. "It is obvious," says the Independent, "that we need a better distribution of race suicide," and quotes authorities in evidence that the older American stock, "and especially the stock of educated, cultivated folk," is fast breeding out. "Clearly, there is a problem here, quite as vital as the distribution of wealth. It is not far to seek, the remedy came slowly, and is as yet far from being generally applied to the farming communities of this state. Constant work and long hours in the Summer and of utter idleness in the Winter, are not likely to beget in boys a spirit of contentment and a love for the farm. The boy wants company, and to escape the loneliness that at times becomes unendurable he will walk miles through the mud to the store at the country crossroads, or to the village railway station, where he is more than likely to meet vice associates and is practically certain to become inured to idle and vagrant habits. Josiah Flint has told of boys who by the score have been induced to take up the tramp life through the representations of wandering minstrels; they have met at village railway stations and country stores, where they have been driven through the loneliness and unattractiveness of farmhouse homes to see something beyond the line of their own fields and talk to somebody about unfamiliar places and chances to make money. These facts have long been understood by intelligent men and women on the farm, but for obvious reasons the social remedy has been difficult to apply. The Good Templars, a former generation applied a tonic in this direction for a time, and lodge night was awaited impatiently in many coun-

try homes. The associations at these lodge meetings were not always what they should have been, but the ritual of the order inculcated lessons of morality and temperance, while the social feature, always prominent, supplied a pressing need in human nature. It is not too much to say that many of the precepts of Solon, in which true ritual abounded, were at these lodge meetings impressed upon the memories of hundreds of youth, both young men and maidens, while the ambitious but somewhat crude attempts made to entertain the members under the head of "good of the order" gave the participants their first lessons in declamation, in dialogue and in singing. Simple as these entertainments were, and informal as were the social features, they served to break the monotony of many a long Winter evening in country and village life, and gave the rural members something besides the humdrum of farm life to think about. The institution of the Grange served a purpose along the same line of social life, with the additional advantage that followed the more general membership of older persons. This has been supplemented in some communities by farmers' clubs, the circulating library and other devices for the entertainment of the young, so that the utter loneliness of farm life has been to a considerable degree broken up. To the extent that these efforts embodying instruction, entertainment and social enjoyment for the young people in rural communities have been successful, the farm will become less distasteful to boys. The Grange Club, the debating society, with the occasional supper, make necessary a good suit of clothes, kept for "best," a little money of his own in the boy's pocket, care in his personal appearance and in the choice of his language, and some drill in table manners, all of which are elements that enter into and build up self-respect and conduce to contentment. The boy is a gregarious animal. He needs and will have company. Recognition of this fact and action in accordance therewith will go far to solve the problem of keeping the farmer's boy on the farm and giving him a boyhood to which he can look back in after years with pleasure rather than repugnance.

Building a Line to Hillsboro: The announcement made by C. G. H. MacBride, who has succeeded to the interests of C. E. MacBride, of the United Railways Company, that he is ready to give a reasonable bond for the fulfillment of the conditions of the franchise for the Hillsboro line, puts a new phase upon the question of granting an extension of time to the applicants for the good faith. He certainly must act in good faith if the city shall require him to execute a good bond in a sum sufficient to insure construction of the line. There is no reason why the city should assume that he or any other person seeking a franchise would extend of a franchise is acting in good faith. To ask security is nothing more than common practice among men engaged in private business, and it is entirely proper for the city to adopt the same precautions in making concessions to corporations desiring to use the public streets. Loss in the United States as a bonus for a railroad to California. This land is now held by the Oregon & California Railroad and its lessee, the Southern Pacific. The Oregon Central applied for the franchise in 1899, on the 10th of that same year, nearly three months after the passage of the act allowing it so to apply. So much of the act of Congress the railroad availed itself of, to obtain some 6,000,000 acres of the public domain. But another part of the act, which limited the price at which the railroad should sell the lands to \$2.50 an acre, the purchasers to actual settlers, and the tracts purchased limited to 160 acres for each person, in taking the lands, the railroad assumed a trust, which bound it to redeem pledges to the people. Should the railroad use part of an act of Congress to obtain land from the people and then repudiate another part of the same act, which stipulates how the lands shall be disposed of?

Latin and Doctors: PORTLAND, April 17.—(Special.)—Physicians do not write their prescriptions in an unintelligible jargon. The language they use is plain Latin, a language taught in every college, academy and high school in civilization. Neither is there any occult symbol in a prescription. The sign in mathematics for plus minus is equally occult; so is H2O in chemistry or HP in dynamics (or mechanics); so is pi in the lingo of the printers' devil. There used to be a sign (O) at the head of the prescription—an invocation to Jupiter to make potent the drugs following. This has long ago given place to a capital R, which is an abbreviation of recipe—take. The weights are expressed by symbols found in every arithmetic and are no more occult than the sign for dollar (\$). The quantity is expressed in Roman numerals no more occult than the numbers on the face of the clock or the pages of the preface of most books. The other words are no more occult than "sic semper tyrannis." ESCULAPIOS.

To Learn Business From Ground Up: Kansas City Star. Heir to millions and son of the president of the Rock Island Railroad system, H. L. Winchell, Jr., is going to become a railroad clerk by learning the art of transportation from the very bottom up, and has entered the employ of the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia as an ordinary apprentice.

Snakes Like His Whistling: Philadelphia Press. A mail-carrier in Morrilton, N. J., upon blowing his whistle near some underground, was rushed by dozens of snakes of which he killed nine garter snakes and one adder.

A Spring Twp. Bay You Who Have About As Much To With The Occur Than The Pages Of The Preface Of Most Books. The Other Words Are No More Occult Than "sic semper tyrannis." ESCULAPIOS.

Spokane is discovering that Portland is soaping up if it did not know that before, and that its own jobbers are favored by discriminations. Under such circumstances, it would be better for Spokane to saw wood and keep on building up a large city.

It must gall our thrifty Binger to think that all the money he scraped together from hold-back salaries of stenographers and from saving of postage stamps must go into the pockets of his attorneys.

With Senator Bourne unearthing rich men's plots in Washington against the people's laws, and Prosecutor Heney unearthing them in San Francisco, the continent is balanced on both sides evenly.

Evidently the friendship between President Roosevelt and Senator Bourne is not jeopardized by the Senator's boosting the third-team idea.

When is a Democrat not a Democrat? When he must have Republican votes. Thomas Jefferson's birthday was not remembered in Portland.

Fairbanks and the North Pole are candidates for discovery next year. But as yet no expedition is in quest of Fairbanks.

It is to be remembered, however, that Evelyn is in pretty good fix, after all, and that Thaw is in the worst trouble. Here's hoping the new backers of the United Railways in Portland have cut loose from the hoodoo. After all, Herrmann was never known to remember anything that would cost him a vote. We might not have had those clear days if the baseball team had been here.

Mr. McArthur Shows Errors Against Oregon Appropriation Opponents: PORTLAND, April 17.—(To the Editor.)—Permit me through The Oregonian to call attention to some of the misrepresentations that are being made by those who are opposing the referendum movement against the State University appropriation. A responsible citizen of Harrisburg, Pa., in a recent statement that those who are circulating the referendum petitions in that vicinity are willing that the university \$125,000 per year in addition to the present standing appropriation of \$47,500 per year. The 125,000 people who are engineering this movement have no business misleading the public with such statements. Everybody who knows anything about the affairs of this state or that of the legislature, knows full well that the Eaton bill, when it becomes a law, will repeal all acts and parts of acts in conflict therewith. If these State University gentlemen don't know this, they have no business in the field on this referendum issue. If they do know it, they are willfully misrepresenting the facts for the purpose of creating a prejudice against the bill.

In a circular letter which the committee of the Lincoln County Grange is sending out, the statement is made that the State of Oregon will be called upon to pay \$125,000 per year for each student at the university, and only \$7 per year for students in the public schools. This argument is weak and altogether inaccurate. In the estimate, the committee has not taken into account the increased enrollment which is sure to come during the next year or two, and has charged the cost of the \$125,000 up as a maintenance fund, when, as a matter of fact, about \$50,000 per year will be spent for grounds, buildings and equipment, which will become the permanent property of the state. Granting that \$75,000 per year will be used as a maintenance fund for 400 students, the average enrollment for the years 1908 and 1909—the cost of instruction per student will be less than \$150 per year. If two hundred men were animated by a spirit of fairness, they would figure the cost of improvements, etc., in their public school estimate. But instead of that they juggle the figures in such a way that the readers of their circulars are led to believe that Oregon is neglecting her public school system in order to build up institutions of higher learning. As a matter of fact, the system of common schools and high schools in Oregon receives more generous support than the State University receives. According to a news item in this morning's Oregonian, E. F. Palmer, one of the leaders in the referendum movement, in a lecture before the Nolta Progressive Club, last Monday evening, made the statement that the university will have \$50,000 per year, even if the referendum is invoked. As a matter of fact, the university will have but a scant \$40,000 per year if the referendum is invoked. Perhaps Mr. Palmer was misquoted. If he was, why doesn't he take some steps to correct the mistake, instead of allowing the public to form an erroneous idea as to the exact amount? It seems to me that the elements of honesty and fair play that should enter into this referendum movement are conspicuously by their absence. This is an important matter, and there should be no misrepresentation of facts. C. N. McARTHUR.

Under an act of April 10, 1899, the Oregon Central Railway (East Side) secured a land grant from the United States as a bonus for a railroad to California. This land is now held by the Oregon & California Railroad and its lessee, the Southern Pacific. The Oregon Central applied for the franchise in 1899, on the 10th of that same year, nearly three months after the passage of the act allowing it so to apply. So much of the act of Congress the railroad availed itself of, to obtain some 6,000,000 acres of the public domain. But another part of the act, which limited the price at which the railroad should sell the lands to \$2.50 an acre, the purchasers to actual settlers, and the tracts purchased limited to 160 acres for each person, in taking the lands, the railroad assumed a trust, which bound it to redeem pledges to the people. Should the railroad use part of an act of Congress to obtain land from the people and then repudiate another part of the same act, which stipulates how the lands shall be disposed of?

Portland wants inter-urban electric lines reaching out from this city into the productive agricultural regions that lie in every direction. Loss in the United States as a bonus for a railroad to California. This land is now held by the Oregon & California Railroad and its lessee, the Southern Pacific. The Oregon Central applied for the franchise in 1899, on the 10th of that same year, nearly three months after the passage of the act allowing it so to apply. So much of the act of Congress the railroad availed itself of, to obtain some 6,000,000 acres of the public domain. But another part of the act, which limited the price at which the railroad should sell the lands to \$2.50 an acre, the purchasers to actual settlers, and the tracts purchased limited to 160 acres for each person, in taking the lands, the railroad assumed a trust, which bound it to redeem pledges to the people. Should the railroad use part of an act of Congress to obtain land from the people and then repudiate another part of the same act, which stipulates how the lands shall be disposed of?

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Shocks Still Continue: Number of Earthquake Victims in Mexico Grows Daily. CITY OF MEXICO, April 17.—Owing to the great difficulty in establishing communication with the cities situated in the region of the earthquake details are coming to this city slowly. From the latest reports it is learned that shocks occurred as late as upon today. In the list of known dead, which now totals 26, and of the injured, which approximates 300, are many names of Mexicans prominent in the official and social life of the nation. So far the same no American has appeared in the meager list of dead and injured as sent to this city. One of the most remarkable stories of miraculous escapes from death in this earthquake or perhaps in any other one, came from Santa Julia today, where Salasman, College for children is located. When the big shock came Sunday over 100 children were asleep in the dormitories. Thirty of them with the teachers succeeded in leaving the building before the second story and the roof fell in. By a seeming miracle none of those left in the ruins was seriously hurt and all were rescued.

At Techan and Tlapa nearly all the houses fell in, but nobody was hurt. In Mexico City the damage was heavier than at any other place. Numerous buildings were badly shaken up. News of the death of one American woman, who was killed in the recent earthquake, reached the office of the Associated Press today. She was Senora Inocencia Bonilla de Chilandino, wife of the ex-secretary to the Governor of the State of Queretaro. Her maiden name or birthplace could not be ascertained. It was discovered today that the cathedral of Mexico City, one of the largest and most famous churches in the world, was cracked from top to bottom. The cathedral is four centuries old. It is built on the old site of the Aztec temple, one of the most historic spots in all Mexico.

Violent Outbreak Spreads Panic in Province of Valdivia. VALPARAISO, Chile, April 17.—News has reached here that the Renhué volcano, in the Province of Valdivia, is in violent eruption. The eruptions are accompanied by awful subterranean rumblings, earthquakes, intense darkness, electrical displays, ashes and boiling water. The flowing lava has been seen in the surrounding forests, and the inhabitants are fleeing in terror. Severe Shock at Askabad. ASKABAD, Russian Trans-Caspia, April 17.—A severe undulating earthquake here at 12:30 P. M. today, and lasted five seconds. Askabad is the capital of Russian Trans-Caspian territory. It is situated on the flowing lava here from the southeast of Mikhailovsk, the seaward terminus. Since the construction of the railroad, Askabad has become an active commercial center. It has a population of about 20,000, composed of Persians, Russians, Armenians, Kurds and Jews. American Company Suffers. LOS ANGELES, April 17.—George Mitchell, president of the Laddola Mining Company, whose property is in Mexico, 20 miles from Chilandino, today received news from Acapulco dated April 16, that a number of manufacturers of the earthquake. The message said: "This city and vicinity visited by an earthquake. No damage or loss at Marqués. No news from Laddola yet. Chilandino practically destroyed. Our residence and office also demolished. Expect to save all our records."

Constantinople Feels Shock. CONSTANTINOPLE, April 17.—An earthquake shock was felt here and in the suburbs at 4:30 this morning. It was especially sharp in the upper part of the Bosphorus. No Government Guarantee. WILSON WILL PROSECUTE FOOD MANUFACTURERS WHO MISSTATE FACTS. WASHINGTON, April 17.—"If this outrageous misrepresentation does not cease, the department will publish a list bearing the names of manufacturers indulging in this campaign of deception." Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, makes this remark in an authorized statement regarding the fact that there had come to his knowledge information that a number of manufacturers of foods and drugs were freely advertising that the United States Government was guaranteeing their products. The Secretary said the serial number and the guaranty number required by the pure food and drug act to be placed on food and drug products were being used by these manufacturers for the purpose of "The serial number," said Secretary Wilson, "is assigned to fix the responsibility where it belongs—upon the manufacturer—and to protect innocent consumers, who have a right under the law to rely upon his guarantee. It is the guaranty of the manufacturer, not of the Government."

Relief of Chinese Famine Sufferers Continues to June. SHANGHAI, April 17.—The famine relief committee is feeding 600,000 persons and will continue to feed about that number until June. Grain is arriving daily. The estimated purchases for April are 350 tons of millet, 140,000 bags of flour, 250 tons of potatoes and 8000 bushels of wheat for planting. The Chinese official relief has ceased. Official obstruction is being placed in the way of the most suitable and most-needed relief work on the plea that China herself proposed to undertake these measures. No fulfillment of these promises, however, is probable.

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BUSTER BROWN NEXT SUNDAY

By special arrangement with the New York Herald, The Sunday Oregonian with the next issue will begin publication of "Buster Brown." It will be continued indefinitely. That Buster Brown is the most humorous of all the illustrated pages published in the United States is not debatable. He and his faithful companion, Tige, have made more Americans laugh than all other comic personages combined. Buster Brown is the one mischief-maker who causes neither anger nor indignation. Next Sunday's pictures tell how he deceived and scared Maggie, the maid. Buster Brown's versatility in the matter of boyish plots is wonderful and in surprises he is a positive genius. He is popular alike with youngsters of every age, and especially with mature folk who were boys and girls 50 or 60 years ago. He will be welcomed by the rising generation of the entire Pacific Northwest. Lest children of those who are not regular subscribers to The Sunday Oregonian may not be disappointed, it will be well to order the paper from the news-dealer today or tomorrow. Frequently the entire edition is sold out before 10 A. M.

interfered, and that no honest manufacturer need fear the department will "take snap judgment on him or harass him in any way."

McLaren Pension Examiner. WASHINGTON, D. C., April 17.—On the recommendation of Congressman Ellis, Dr. A. P. McLaren has been appointed by the Pension Bureau as examining surgeon at St. Helena, Or., vice Dr. J. E. Hall, who recently resigned.

REPEAL JURY COMPLETE, BUT—Preemptory Challenges May Wipe Away Work of Weeks. SAN FRANCISCO, April 17.—After preliminary examinations, adjournments and other delays occupying in all 22 days, a trial jury panel subject to the exercise of 15 preemptory challenges—ten by the defense and five by the prosecution—was today completed in the Ruff case. When the trial was resumed this morning 25 talesmen out of a drawn venire of 50, answered their names in court. Twenty-six of the 55 escaped serving by satisfying Judge Dunne that their excuses were valid. Out of the nine remaining four tentative jurors were chosen in the course of the day, thus filling the box. The time has now arrived for the preemptory challenging of the jurors and much speculation is indulged in as to whether the entire panel will be set aside in the exercise of this provision or whether as many as half of the 12 will survive the final and silent scrutiny of Ruff's prosecutors and defenders. It is thought likely at least another week will be required for the permanent filling of the panel after the preemptories have been exercised tomorrow.

STILL FEED 400,000 CHINESE

SEE-SAW

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.