

The Oregonian

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the every-day practice of the courts. They make some parade of limitations and restrictions upon the privilege of dissolving the marriage bond, but as a rule they grant divorces whenever the parties can show that they are not able to live together in peace.

Some devout people are, or pretend to be, shocked by this freedom; but most sensible observers are agreed that it is a wholesome safeguard for the morality of the public, that it promotes the stability of the home and fosters the welfare of children.

Nobody is bettered by compelling a man and woman to live together if they detest each other. Especially is it absurdly wicked to urge such people to become the parents of children. As long as divorces are legal and the good of society demands that they continue to be legal, it is impossible to understand why a stigma should attend them.

Probably Professor Bowden's views concerning divorces would not displease one man in ten, taking the country as a whole; but to talk of regarding maternity is a different matter. Maternity is fully as dangerous as war, and the woman who bears children confers the greatest of all favors upon the state.

Besides that, motherhood unites her for other occupations and leaves her in her old age without a cent to her name. Unless she has a husband living who will take her support upon himself, or unless she can rely upon charity of some sort, at present we reward maternity by permitting the mother of children to starve with her family when misfortune befalls. Without adding Professor Bowden's views upon this point, one must confess that a good deal might be said for them.

As a matter of fact, they have actually been adopted by the Government so far as the wives of pensioned soldiers are concerned, since each child in the family draws a certain sum from the public treasury. Professor Bowden's views carry but a very faint odor of heresy. A college which feels compelled to dismiss him for holding them must have reason to fear that its respectability stands on weak foundations.

The decision of the court is so clearly in accordance with reason and common sense that it is difficult to understand how any one could have argued otherwise. To permit a corporation to accept money upon certain conditions and then later refuse to acknowledge the binding effect of the conditions would be preposterous. All that now remains is for the Legislature to provide that suit shall be brought for the purpose of ascertaining the actual value of the property. The value will be determined by taking into consideration the original cost of permanent work, the net profits of the operation of the canal and locks, and the cost of duplicating the property on the opposite bank of the river.

The state really owns a one-third interest in the locks, for it is entitled to receive one-third of the net profits. The decision of the court is so clearly in accordance with reason and common sense that it is difficult to understand how any one could have argued otherwise.

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quality the Alaska coal is equal to any demands that can be made on it in Portland, and, with this much-needed fuel supplying return cargoes for an Alaskan line from Portland, this port would have a decided advantage over the Puget Sound ports, which offer no market for coal. The Alaskan steamship line is somewhat slow in developing, but when it is finally inaugurated, as it surely will be, we will all wonder why we were so slow in taking it up.

As an example which would stand as a warning to others, it might have been best for society had Mrs. Guinness, the champion brute of her sex, been captured and publicly and properly executed. And yet there is something eminently appropriate in the manner in which she met death. There was undoubtedly time before the first of this world were hurrying her on to those of another in which she could reflect on the crimes she had committed and the misery she had caused.

If there is any means of communication between this world and that over which Satan is supposed to preside, we can well imagine the spike-tailed ruler of the lower regions fleeing in terror at the approach of the murderer from Indiana, for certainly the under world, even pictured in its worst possible light, is too good a place for such a fiend.

The wheat market in Chicago scored another sensational advance yesterday, the May option gaining 3 cents per bushel. It is, of course, impossible at this distance to determine to what extent manipulation figures in the fluctuation of prices. Chicago has offered for several months past. One thing is certain, however, that it would be impossible by any known means of manipulation to keep prices up so near the dollar mark as they have been for several months unless there was a strong feature in the underlying legitimate conditions. If the European market continues to absorb all of the world's offerings at the present high range of prices, a scarcity which may make dollar wheat seem cheap is not improbable before another crop is available for export.

The spirit of progress in Russia does not seem to be unanimous, or at least there is a difference of opinion as to the kind of progress it is advisable to invest in. The budget committee of the Douma has just rejected the ministerial demand that four battalions be laid down during the coming year, and Sir Witta is in violent opposition to the project for a new railroad along the Amur to give Russia a Pacific outlet over her own lands. It has been many years since Russia succeeded in launching any kind of a project that attracted the undivided support of her people.

Under the employers' liability act a railroad employe is entitled to recover damages for an injury, even though caused by the negligence of a fellow employe. Commenting upon this, the Washington Post remarks that the injured person is still compelled to hire an attorney to collect the amount due, generally being compelled to pay the lawyer one-third of the amount recovered and frequently suffering the injustice of being sold out. A sure, prompt and efficient means of collecting the claim is desired. Justice demands as much.

The Woman's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church has collected \$5000 for work among the mountaineers of the South. Barbarism and heathenism have run riot in the region selected for so long a time that a much more arduous task confronts the society than would be found among the poor, benighted Hindu and other far-away heathen who in the past have absorbed such large sums of American missionary funds.

A consignment of babies' cradles, valued at \$400 each, carved and silk canopied, imported by the Marshall Field Company, of Chicago and New York, were held up recently in the latter city for a 50 per cent ad valorem duty by the unscrupulous officials who stand at the receipt of customs. This is a tax that ought to arouse the righteous indignation of the President and call forth an urgent message on tariff reform.

Having had no desire to cause domestic infelicities anywhere in this state, the Oregonian learns with regret that the early delivery of the paper in the Willamette Valley has precipitated many controversies over the question whether it is the duty of a wife to get up and bring in the morning paper so her husband can read it before he gets up in the morning.

Of course Emma Goldman ought to have the right to speak wherever she can; but what right has the Y. M. C. A. to invite her to speak in its auditorium, unless the Y. M. C. A. wants the public to draw the necessary inference that it endorses her peculiar doctrines, or at least that they are deserving the countenance and consideration of decent and God-fearing people?

It is a great relief to learn that there are no religious obstacles to the Sagan-Gould marriage, for Madame Anna is a Protestant and the Prince has no scruples about marrying one. So the church can't interfere and the police won't.

A Cayuse chief, residing on the Umatilla reservation, has bought an automobile. Before he gets through with it he may find that busting bronchos is not such dangerous work after all.

Continuous rains are afflicting California. Tough to live in such a dismal country, where it is likely to rain thirteen months in the year.

These late rains will make a bumper hay crop in Oregon, and, as there is a shortage in California, the price should be unusually good.

"My little bride-to-be," was what Tom Platt called her. But it was a marriage knot to be.

This is the day we get to see the fleet go by. The words "go by" are used advisedly.

The Washington Democrats having indulged prohibition, it's up to the Kentucky Klic.

Now for some sunshine to put the color and flavor in the strawberries.

Mr. Bryan will probably be able to carry Alabama next November, too.

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