

The Oregonian

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Portland, Saturday, Aug. 1, 1908.

PRESIDENT AND COURTS.

With scarcely an exception, the newspapers of the country that have commented upon President Roosevelt's criticism of the Standard Oil decision have condemned the language the President used.

Aside from all considerations of law and fact involved in this particular case, the Chief Executive of the Nation should at any time and in any circumstances declare publicly that there has been a miscarriage of justice, that the guilt of the defendant is certain, and that the result would have been different if the accused had been a small instead of a large offender.

Nor, in reaching such a conclusion, is it necessary to assume that the President speaks only as a citizen and not as Chief Executive. He cannot speak merely as a citizen. While his utterances will have no legal effect whatever, they will have a moral effect.

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and if in general parties litigant get what they merit or deserve, the people will not be so much troubled by the making of their records. No cloak of sanctity will shield them from accountability.

GOMPERS IN A BAD TEMPER.

While Mr. Gompers may rage at his critics, and may deny that he attempted to deliver the labor vote to Bryan, he cannot overcome the belief that that is exactly what he tried and is trying to do. It is true that he did not expressly say that he would deliver the vote. Such a statement would be foolish and would defeat his purpose.

Mr. Gompers cannot ignore his position as head of the American Federation of Labor. When he publicly announced his position in a political campaign, and particularly mentions the class of people for whom he acts, he cannot escape the assumption that he is in reality seeking to act for them, even though he disclaims such intention and professes to speak only as a citizen.

When Mr. Gompers says that he has no politics, or that, if he has, they are the politics of the people, he says what every politician says. "Our George" is not a politician. Mr. Bryan is seeking non-partisan support. Bryan is the sworn enemy of politicians. His politics are the politics of the people.

Mr. Gompers should exercise a little control over his tongue. If he would be a good loser. He thought he held a winning hand and played it, but he lost. He thought he could deliver the labor vote, but the protest and criticism from all over the country show that neither he nor any one else can do any such thing.

EXHIBITS AT VARIOUS FAIRS.

All the states of the Middle West have state and local fairs during the Summer and Fall, and these fairs are largely attended by the people of the localities in which they are held.

The history of Panama Canal construction under French auspices was such a dark tale of disaster and shipwreck that few of the present generation would live to see the completion of the canal. With the progress now made there will be no further misgivings about early completion of the work, and the canal will undoubtedly be in active operation in less than five years.

HOW TO EMPLOY TEACHERS.

During these Summer months the school officers of the various districts all over the state will employ teachers to take charge of their schools next Fall. A word of suggestion to the men placed in charge of local educational affairs may not be inopportune, though advice unasked is likely to be ungratefully received.

It is reported that a Los Angeles man found four gold nuggets worth \$500 while he was digging a cesspool. Instead of going quietly ahead with his work and finding more nuggets, he rushed off to tell the news. Looks as though he is either a fool or has city title to sell in that vicinity.

The burnt district is getting pretty badly burned of late. The elements are evidently trying to help Dr. Brougher in his scattering policy. A few thousand miles of transcontinental railroad is a wonderful help in an international automobile tour.

and better teachers, educational qualifications being equal, than those who come from the cities of Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, or from across the Rockies. The rural districts will do well to send to the cities for their teachers, being careful, of course, to secure young men of proven good character and education.

George Gould has apparently lost control of the vast railroad system which bears the family name. Management and bad judgment, aided by the light business that has followed the panic of last Fall, have apparently dethroned the only one of our prominent railroad kings who inherited his crown and scepter. But even hard times and a few costly mistakes would not have deprived Gould of the management of his roads had it not been for the disgraceful conduct of his sister Anna and the prodigious expenditures of her brothers.

RECORD CANAL BUILDING.

The remarkable progress in construction of the Panama Canal will have a tendency to dispel the general belief that it is impossible for the Government to carry on a great industrial undertaking with the facility and speed noticeable in private work. Under the management of Colonel Goetz, the work of excavation has gone ahead at a rate which, by comparison with former efforts, is little less than marvelous.

Work is being rushed on the Hillsboro line of the Oregon Electric, and grading will soon be started on the extension of the Falls City road from Dallas to Salem. Other lines will follow. The West Side of the Willamette Valley will not know itself two or three years hence. The large grain elevators will be up and running, and there is one now. The small schoolhouses will be displaced by larger ones at shorter distances apart.

FREE WOOL AND THE DEMOCRATS Can the Sheepmen Afford to Invite the New Master?

Ever since the days when Mills of Texas announced himself as the Moses of tariff reform, it is solemnly announced, at intervals of four years, that the Democratic party is after all the best friend of the woolgrower, that the woolgrower is cheated out of his share of protection by the combination of wicked Eastern woolbuyers who keep prices below their natural level and that if only a Democratic President and Congress are elected the woolgrower will enter the promised land of milk and honey.

Mr. Bryan announces his intention not to make a stump-speaking campaign, but to stay at home and write signed articles which he thinks both Republican and Democratic newspapers will print. Quite likely the Republican papers will print as many Bryan articles as the Democratic papers print of tariff articles. They cannot be expected to print any more.

W. L. Jones needs 4000 votes in Yakima County at the primaries, says the Yakima Republic. A little alarmed, eh? This is the same newspaper that ten days ago said that there is "nothing that looks like a chance" between Jones and Mr. Ankeny. Then why does Mr. Jones need votes?

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So the "non-partisans" are going to notify Bryan of his nomination by the Democrats? But through some strange oversight the name of our own non-partisan George is omitted from the programme.

Oh, of course, anarchy doesn't mean anarchy. Every anarchist in the world with a bomb concealed on his person will deny that he intends violence.

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The anarchist creed of freedom is that every man has a right to regulate his own affairs in every way, so long as he does so peacefully, and recognizes a like right in others, but he who uses force to invade the rights of others may be restrained by force.

Possibly some misguided individual, instead of over his head as the influence of government, may be guilty of assassination and call himself an anarchist. But more likely this will be newspaper designation. I know of no genuine anarchists who have advocated or attempted assassination.

Very great in the eye of heaven are the dreamers of dreams. One of these is Emma Goldman, a Russian Jewess, who has seen the wretched of the earth, trampled under hoof and bleeding, kiss the hands of their masters, begging the right to work to earn a crust.

Emma Goldman has never advocated an act of violence. How Bernard Shaw would laugh that the Y. M. C. A. of Portland and the Arion Society refused her their halls under the belief that she is a murderer.

I heard lawyers say, "She is a damned anarchist, and a bad one," with out trial, I suppose. Nice lawyers. They only exposed their ignorance—this detestable, bourgeois ignorance of anything but money.

I have called it comedy, but the colossal American ignorance and gullibility is too tiresome to be comic. From the Century Dictionary's definition of anarchist: 1. Properly, one who advocates anarchy or the absence of government as a political ideal.

2. In popular use, one who seeks to overturn by violence all constituted forms and institutions of society and government, and to establish order and all rights of property, with no purpose of establishing any other system of order in the place of that destroyed; especially, such a person who is actuated by mere lust of plunder.

3. Any person who promotes disorder or excites revolt against established rule, law or custom. SANE SAVINGS BANK INSURANCE In Massachusetts, Depositor Gets at 65 Years, \$100 Annuity Till Death.

The realists of insurance in state socialism and old-age pensions now in process of adoption in England give special interest to another and much sner experiment under trial in Massachusetts, largely as the result of the advocacy of Louis D. Brandeis, who describes it in a recent number of the Independent. In substance it consists in authorizing the savings banks to issue policies of insurance and to act as guaranties, under the inspection and authority of the state insurance department.

The investment of the funds is, of course, confined to a list fixed by law. No profit accrues to the managers, and all returns beyond necessary expenses go to the insured. The annuities are limited to \$20, the limit of any one bank, in the case of any one bank, though the same individual can insure in different banks. No solicitors or collectors are employed. All expense of work is done by the state attorney. The state medical director regulates and supervises the physical examinations. Plans and books are furnished by the state. The rate of premium is fixed there. The direct influence of the system must be to encourage and reward thrift and reasonable prudence, and to preserve and strengthen manly self-reliance, the very root of energy and character in a community.

RECOMMENDS HARRING ANIMALS; THINK THEY ARE GOING TO WORK. PORTLAND, July 31.—(To the Editor.)—Referring to the late fire in horses, and the lamentable loss of the horses, I have a suggestion to make. I have had a horse who had never heard of this before, but this youngster says he had had to do it, and he is used to horses. In one or two instances people have got into the backs of horses (not necessarily buckling) and the man's idea is that the horse thinks he is going out to work, and his quibbles, whereas in case of a fire nearby, the horse will not come out, or if he does, will run back.

I asked the young man referred to why he succeeded him, and he replied that he was not known. I might not make any difference, but I am taking it up. I believe this suggestion is important enough for people to know, so that the horses may be saved if there is any chance to do it. In case of fire, horses seem to be so absolutely stupid and to lose so much faith in their man, that it is very hard to get them to help them in any way. It is worth trying, and should be made known. GEORGE TAYLOR.

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Blackbirds Object to the Gay Hat. Altoona (Pa.) Correspondent Philadelphia Record. While walking in the suburban districts with a friend Miss Nettie Williams, of Pittsburg, was the object of an unusual attack. She wore a hat with a bird of brilliant plumage as an ornament. Suddenly her head became encircled by half a dozen blackbirds, which pecked at the bird in her hat, tearing out the brilliant colored feathers with their beaks. The blackbirds even flew in her face and lacerated the skin with their bills. Tearing the hat from her head, Miss Williams threw it on the ground. Her escort was obliged to use his coat to beat the birds off.

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STATISTICS SHOW THAT 1030 PEOPLE ARE KILLED THERE EVERY YEAR.

It used to be the custom when anyone was about to start on a railroad journey for prayers to be offered for his safe return. In the prayer-book now is a prayer for those who go to sea in ships. What the New Yorker needs is prayers for his safety when he goes from his home to his office.

Statistics—cold, hard—Coroner's office figures—show that the most dangerous place in New York is the street; that nearly half the people who meet violent deaths are killed in the street and that it is the pedestrian who is in the most danger.

President S. C. Dunham, of the Travelers' Insurance Company, has presented figures, compiled by actuaries from the official records of deaths by violence, to show that a man in New York City is in far greater danger of being killed when he is quietly walking along the street than he would be anywhere else.

The following table shows the percentage of fatalities to persons, irrespective of their employment:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Percentage. Categories include On the streets to pedestrians, Railroad travel, Recreation, Bicycle and motorcycle accidents, Streetcar travel, Animal bites, Assaults, Miscellaneous.

An investigation bears out these figures. In the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, in the year ending July 15, 1907, 259 persons met violent deaths, and of this number 652 met their deaths in traffic accidents. Six hundred and sixty-three are attributed to accidental falls, which means anything from tripping on a curb and dying from a fractured skull.

A thousand and more persons are killed in the streets of New York every year—more than in any other city. In the case of Bull Run, the killed in that famous conflict being: Union side, killed 470; Confederates, 367.

Automobiles alone kill two and one-half times as many people as the entire American Navy lost in the Spanish war, the score being: Automobiles, 44; killed in Navy, 17.

There are 1030 New Yorkers killed in the streets every year. London, with a population of 7,000,000, had fewer deaths from violence during the year than New York, with a population of 4,500,000. London's streets are not so dangerous. Only five persons were killed by electric cars, by street cars, six automobiles, 27 wagons, 112 and carts and cabs, a total of 151.

In New York City the surface lines, which include electric cars, horsecars and omnibuses, killed 131. Other vehicles, including wagons, carts, cabs and automobiles, killed 160. This list must also be credited with 22 subway fatalities, 14 on the elevated road and 8 on the tracks of the New York Central Railroad within the city limits, swelling the grand total of deaths due to vehicles and street traffic to 345.

The high rate of street fatalities in New York has two basic causes. The shape of our streets and the carelessness between the two rivers and also congested foot travel and means of transportation. Coupled with this is the great American habit of driving there, which constantly demands and constantly is creating much faster and still faster means of travel.

Every day a surface, subway and elevated, go faster than those of London and Paris. New York people walk faster and hurry across streets where the Londoner would wait and look about him.

The "400" to Leave West in the Cold. Kansas City Star. The "400 of New York" is about to give way to the "400 of America," with a population of this country no longer to be known as "New York society," "Philadelphia society," "Boston society" and the like.

Tentatively, the distribution of membership in the "National assembly" will be about as follows: New York, 60; Philadelphia, 100; Boston, 75; other cities, 200.

While rank and birth are to be placed above wealth in the new assembly, according to its promoters, money must play some part. So it is said the financial qualifications will be a yearly income of \$30,000, not derived from trade.

The West is to be left entirely out of the distribution of membership. Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, New Orleans and other Southern cities are to be included, and Kentucky and its adjoining states will be permitted to contribute small numbers of their elite.

Fittsburg, however, is to be hand in glove of its many millions, and as for Chicago and places farther west—they are to be as though they were unpopulated.

"Next to America's Largest City." Kansas City Journal. Yonkers delegates to the recent Elks' grand lodge meeting took with them to Dallas, Tex., a number of badges made after a design by ex-Assemblyman George N. Rigby, past exalted ruler of Yonkers lodge and a delegate to the National gathering. The badges have the traditional clock face with the hands pointing to 11—the hour for the toast to the "absent brothers." The novelty of the emblems lies in the engraved line, "Next to the Largest City in America." Yonkers really has only 75,000 population, but its boast is well founded, for geographically it is next to the largest city in the country.

Rats Turn White and Die. Greenburg (Pa.) Dispatch. Rates in Cook Township are being killed off by a strange disease, commonly termed the white plague. A few days ago Joseph Harvin, a farmer of near Weavers Mills, found several rodents dead in his barn. Their hair had turned white and had fallen off. C. E. Cortis, another farmer of the same vicinity, today said that rats on his farm had been killed probably by the same disease.

The Wood Call. Isabel S. Mason, in Lippincott's. Oh, I've been away in the woods for a day, With the birds and the grape-bloom, be-riding, sweet; And the sun through the trees draped its gay, Lacking over the mass for my weird-wearly feet.

The high-hole's sweet note from his golden-strut throat Splashed and rippled the jewels at liquid along; He answered the tone of my heart from his eye, A silver baptism of beauteous song.

There beauty unfurled the delights of her world; Like a banner soft flailing it gleamed on my eyes; From Clayton's that lay like pink stars o'er my path, To the azure that blossomed the ambient skies.

Oh, I've been away in the woods all the day; I have eaten the lotus of dreams, and I know; That the wild note that blew where the grape-blossom grew Was a hymn to the pipe from which Pan used to blow.