

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, DEC. 25, 1908.

A BLACK CHAPTER.

The case of Judge Mlo A. Root, of the State of Washington, is pitiful. For he is both a criminal and a victim. His passing marks the erection of one more sepulchre on the broad road that leads to moral death.

Let it can hardly be said that Judge Root is as much a sinner against as a victim. It was his duty, as a Judge, as a servant of the public, to resist the appearance and the first approach of evil. He permitted himself to deal with a man whom he knew to be the agent of the great railroad power of his state.

That agent, a man named Gordon, had been one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the State of Washington. He had been obviously for corrupt uses. It was to be his business to look after the "interests" of the company that employed him, for influence of courts and of legislation.

Pressure on him for the money increased, and he was being urged to deal with the man who had been written by Judge Root. These letters are obscure, but clearly are of compromising character.

But Gordon, held for the money he had received from the company, rated for it, and pressed for return of such balance money. It might still exist, told his employers to "go to blazes."

Yet Root seems to have got nothing, or little. But he had allowed dishonor to traffic to him as a Judge, and had written compromising letters. These he calls epistolary indiscretions.

The Northern Pacific transfer boat Tacoma, which for a quarter of a century has ferried trains across the Columbia River at Kalama, is today making her final trips in that service.

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could not be eliminated so long as the ferry service. But the demands of traffic in this territory have far outgrown the speed and capacity of the old ferry, and its abandonment will vastly improve transportation facilities between Portland, Puget Sound and the intervening territory.

LIGHT FOR THE CITY.

It is just as well to disregard the personal controversies between the Mayor and members of the Common Council over the public lighting of the city.

The Oregonian cannot believe or suppose that the City of Portland would undertake at this time the installation of a public lighting system. Expenditures unavoidable are already very great, and more are in sight.

There is only one bidder at present, and all the changes are rung on the word monopoly. But in the whole matter lies one single and simple question of fact, which is the only one that is important, namely, whether the offer submitted by this company is reasonable, as compared with the rates paid by other cities.

A number of preachers of Portland, seeking the society of good things, have been enjoying luncheon lately as guests of one Ferdinand E. Reed, who has been beholden to the liquor interests, and who has been beholden. At one luncheon, the biggest brewer was a guest, along with the biggest Methodist preacher of East Portland.

GOOD FOOD AND GOOD SOCIETY.

A number of preachers of Portland, seeking the society of good things, have been enjoying luncheon lately as guests of one Ferdinand E. Reed, who has been beholden to the liquor interests, and who has been beholden.

The best is none too good for the preachers, and it is a matter of general gratification that they have been feeding on the best. Mr. Reed, lover of mankind that he is, is accomplishing his highest ideal when he feeds the good society of the preachers.

SHALLOW OBJECTIONS.

The news from Washington that the bill for postal savings banks seems to interpose delays when a depositor may wish to withdraw his money need not worry anybody.

TRUE AND FALSE FREEDOM.

When Mr. Gompers protests to the world that the sacred right of free speech and free press is violated, in that he and his coadjutors are restrained from uttering matter to injure and destroy a business with which they are at variance because it does not yield to their demands, he is not free.

The right to do a lawful business is a natural right and a personal right and a property right, and it is a proper business of society or government to protect that right which is so protected and not destroyed.

AS LITTLE CHILDREN.

Of course the reader has noticed what a very different thing the Christmas smile is from the smile of other seasons. Men are capable of smiling when they are angry.

The City Council is entitled to the thanks of a grateful public for its refusal to take action against the refusal of the streetcar company which forbids smoking on its cars.

Castro, firm in the belief that a live private citizen has quite an advantage over a dead president, sensibly said: "I shall place no difficulties in the way of the present administration of Venezuela in settling pending controversies with foreign governments, even if this involves my own withdrawal from activity in the affairs of that nation."

The appraiser of customs at Chicago is complaining because foreigners have sent in by mail more than 200 pounds of English plum pudding, necessitating an examination to determine whether it contains diamonds or any other dutiable articles.

DIFFICULT TO LIVE ON \$2,000,000.

Boston Dispatch to the New York Letters in which Mrs. Caroline E. Johnson complained of being obliged to live on such a meager sum as the interest from \$2,000,000 was a feature of the contest of wills in the Suffolk County Court.

Called by Spirit Summons to Twin.

In obedience to a psychic communication, the first she had ever received, Miss Caroline Brewster, in the University of Michigan, came to New York from Ann Arbor, Mich., to find her twin sister, Mrs. Charles J. Rich.

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CHRISTMAS IN THE OLDEN DAYS.

Observed With Feasting and Revelry; Now With Excessive Giving. In the child-like faith of the middle ages all things were in sympathy with the Nativity.

As noted by Charles Dudley Warner, in an article a quarter of a century old, "we have dropped a good many rude and some pretty customs, but we have gained a broadening spirit."

THE MONTH OF GOOD FEELING.

The mail is heavy nowadays; I've heard from Uncle Frank, who says he's written more often, but he's busy at his bank.

She mumbled in her sleep; She mumbled in her sleep; She mumbled in her sleep; She mumbled in her sleep.

WORTHY AFTER ENGINE STRIKES HIM.

Brooklyn (N. Y.) Dispatch. When an express train on the Long Island railroad struck a man, the engineer expected to find only pieces of a man's body.

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LIVING FOUNDERS OF FAMED COLLEGES.

Romantic figure of Mary Gwendolin Caldwell, who founded the Catholic University of America; Stephen A. Douglas' unfinished work.

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VERSE FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS.

A Song. Marie Henstreet in the Outlook. The Christmas Angel sang to me. (And it was Christmas morn.)

Who is it you're thinking, though you're bound to the manger and the stable? Who is the angel and the child?

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SEATTLE MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT.

It Has Never Paid Expenses and Now Asks for \$500,000 More. Seattle Special to Tacoma News. Seattle will on December 29 vote an extra bond issue of \$500,000, \$500,000 of which will be used to finish work now under way on the light plant.

The department's complete report for this year has not been made public. An incomplete statement that is being circulated by the city shows a profit for the ten months of \$12,999.

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