

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1910.

LAND VALUE AND HIGH PRICES.

Not the least of the causes of high cost of subsistence is increased price of land in the West. Yet strangely in discussing the immediate causes of cost of living rarely counts this contributing force of larger prices.

Always heretofore the American people have had a cheap-land region to the West, whither to go for relief from population pressure and the cost of foodstuffs. Now most of this land that is desirable is owned ahead of settlers who used to buy it from the Government at \$2.50 or \$1.25 an acre.

Extravagance in personal habits and lack of old-time thrifty habits are factors in the higher-price level. Others see in the extortions of middlemen the source of the trouble. High tariff and tariff duties, especially on agricultural products, as at Rochester, N. Y., cheapening of gold, through abundance of that metal, and expanded use of paper credits, is the favorite explanation of coinage enthusiasts.

It is undoubtedly true that farmers could greatly increase their output of food products if they could secure willing, efficient help. Every farmer in Oregon and in the other states is to be true, and it is true the country over. This is one phase of the problem.

OUR UNDESIRABLE CITIZENS. The census enumeration is bringing to light a number of undesirable citizens, and again revealing necessity for more stringent immigration laws.

A TRAGEDY OF THE WILDS. A tragedy of the wilds was enacted in the mountains of Southern Oregon a few weeks ago, when James McGuire, a miner bowed with years and decrepitude, was found dead in his only companion in isolation.

Perhaps the strangest feature of this un-American attitude of the alien, as well as the native-born Haywood, is the tenacity with which they stick to a country which they pretend to believe is such an objectionable and undesirable place of residence.

brute or human, a veritable matter of life and death.

It is exceedingly difficult to secure jurors to try a man who kills his fellow-citizen, prompted thereto by the distilled and refined feelings of a noble and serene self-justification.

PARTISAN STUFF FROM IDAHO.

A friend at Boise, Idaho, sends me The Oregonian a copy of the Capital News, a Democratic newspaper, which has much fault to find with The Oregonian's views on the proposal of the Democrats, Populists and near-Republicans of Washington to support and nominate Polindexter for Senator.

It is not very important, but it may be well enough to say that the Boise newspaper makes an utterly false representation of The Oregonian's statement on the subject.

THE DWINDLING SPRINGS.

The grim reaper this Spring has taken away a large number of pioneer citizens. The season has not seemed unusually severe on persons of advanced age, but the Winter was, perhaps, yet the severity of the chill months served many of them, just as the laborers of the plains did, to "see it through," and thus they persevered until the fresh-flower time.

Wider swaths are appearing in the ranks of the pioneer builders with old-time habits, and the natural course, but none the less saddening on that account. These men and women responded to a call from the West with a spirit that now is faintly understood.

BUSINESS AT TIDEWATER.

Two mammoth steamships are due at Portland tomorrow, after a long voyage from Antwerp. They are bringing from Portland jobs and huge stocks of crockery, iron, steel, firebrick, liquors and other great staples.

Monday another steamship will arrive with New York freight that left the Atlantic coast less than thirty days ago, and will be landed at Portland at a freight rate that is impossible for the railroads to meet.

There was a bitter feud between these two lonely old men. The very essence of hatred is at times distilled by isolation, where it would seem that the spirit of comradeship should prevail.

Another bunch of alleged liars has got back from Mount McKinley, but the North Pole has not been heard from recently.

Every woman is counted in the census, no matter whether she ever passes the age of 40, so that little fibs don't make any difference.

There is yet grave doubt about that, because no milkman has been known to see it.

Indeed, Mark Twain could be unkind, but it was always in the cause of justice. Some of his sentences pass out of the gentle realm of humor altogether and become wit of the keenest sort.

WILL REPUBLICANS IN WASHINGTON BE SAURED AS IN OREGON?

Are the Republicans of Washington going to drift, with their eyes open, into the same political absurdities that the people of Oregon walked into with their eyes shut? It was a nice-sounding statement No. 1 that caused the Democrats to represent them in the United States Senate.

It will be forever remembered of Mark Twain to his glory how he hated deception, how he scorned imposture, how he fought with cruelty. In all his books, and they are many, not one sentence can be found which apologizes for injustice.

There is a scarcity of sailors along the waterfront. Now would be an excellent time for the theoretical reformers who believe that the sailor boarding-house man can be dispensed with.

MARK TWAIN.

It is a singular instance of the irony of fate that Mark Twain, the man who most of all in his generation has lightened the burden of human life, should have died in the same way, should have died of angina pectoris, a disease among the most painful of those to which flesh is subject.

NEW ORLEANS HAS ORGANIZED THE WORLD'S PANAMA EXPOSITION COMPANY.

The man who isn't capable of giving advice always has the habit of a farmer's wife says that boys are almost as hard to raise as turkeys.

Called of the Wild.

Just as soon as the Colonel lands in New York, a Macedonian cry will reach him from Indiana—and he will be asked to woman with a man's beverage in his canvas for re-election.

Spring Suggestion.

Don't take anything you may wish you had left unsaid, and in Spring don't take off anything you may have to put back on again.

Better Pay.

The Seattle papers say that the census will doubtless show 300,000 people there. Pretty good for a city with 200,000 people.

Too Busy.

Chicago Record-Herald. There is yet grave doubt about that, because no milkman has been known to see it.

COLD-STORAGE FOOD CHEAPER?

The effect of cold storage is to equalize prices by making perishable foods to be transported anywhere and kept indefinitely. How long food can be kept is a matter of opinion.

PAID DEBTS HE DIDN'T OWE.

Mark Twain's Fine Sense of Honor When His Publisher Failed. In the Summer of 1839, the adjustment of the accounts of the bankrupt publishing house of C. L. Webster & Co. reached a point at which it was desirable to have the testimony of the printer.

MARY MACLANE HATES NEW YORK.

Mary MacLane in Butte Evening News. I know New York as I know Butte, Montana, for exactly what it is. I have no reason to like it.

Motor Cars Are Using Up Hickory.

"Automobile manufacturers will soon have to look about them for a substitute for hickory wood for the axles of automobiles increasing at it is the manufacturers of both automobiles and horse-drawn vehicles are becoming scarce.

No One But Providence and T. R.

The pessimist's child, a living proof of heredity, was weeping bitterly as he sat upon the curbstone and commingled his tears with the suds in the gutter.

But That's Why He Worries.

A Democratic exchange wonders why the Republican newspapers are not doing as much space to the assembly plan as they were a few weeks ago.

Exclusive Society.

Why don't they organize a reunion of all the old men who remember seeing Halle's comet the last time it was here?

Remembrance.

Come, sweetheart, let us sign the pledge To meanness go our way, We'll not eat any breakfast rare.

Conscientious.

I went and took a mattress meal; Much indignation did I feel; I had no sleep and my stomach was full; Which prices heavenward did thrust.

For a Losing Candidate.

St. Louis Globe Democrat. In the opinion of gold Democrats, Mr. Bryan will win the nomination for one in which the party claims that victory is certain.

Reminder to Young Mr. Garfield.

Just as a passing reminder to young Mr. Garfield, of Ohio: "The Government at Washington still lives."

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LIFE'S SUNNY SIDE

She weighed 234 if she weighed an ounce, and she did weigh an ounce. The whole rink shook and rumbled as she struck round in her efforts to master the whirling art.

The young couple were out with their new baby when they met the man who had formerly been the husband's rival.

"So this is the new baby," said the former rival enthusiastically. "What a beautiful child! Suddenly a terrible thud—a groan—and there, plied up upon the boarding, lay a heap of overbalanced femininity.

"Hey!" he blurted out; "the kid hasn't grown his teeth yet; do you think I've got a chance there?"—New York Sun.

There were introductions all around.

The big man stared in a puzzled way at the girl who had just been introduced.

"You look like a man I've seen somewhere, Mr. Blinker," he said. "Your face seems very familiar. I fancy you have a doublet and a sword, and I think that I remember I formed a strong prejudice against the man who looks like you—although I'm quite sure we never met."

The Bible as a Substitute for Bridge.

When women in the whirl of New York society come together for a week-day study of the Bible it is of more than ordinary interest.

Spring Immigration.

Coincident with the wave of American tourist travel to Europe comes the wave of European emigrant travel toward America.

Waiting Policy.

"When are you coming out to spend Sunday with us?" "Just as soon as you have gotten so used to your new house that you don't feel impelled to show it to anybody."

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