# The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, SEPT. 18, 1911.


## TAFT HUMORS THE SENATE.

In offering to submit to the Senate for confirmation appointments of high commissioners under the new arbitration treaties, President Taft cuts the props from under the feet of the Senate opponents of the treaties. Their objection was that the treaties placed it in the power of six men to compel the United States to submit to arbitration a question which we might not desire to arbitrate. The reply to this objection was that the treaty itself stipulated that all justiciable questions, such as could be settled on principles of law or equity, should be arbitrated and that the function of the joint commission was only to decide whether a given question came within this definition—a mere point in international law.

The objecting Senators then express alarm lest the President should appoint as the three American commissioners men who would be so false to their duty as to declare justiciable a dispute which was not so and on which the Nation had a fixed policy which it was prepared to maintain regardless of arbitration, by war if necessary. Before this consummation could be reached, it would be necessary that the President should appoint three men, all of whom would be thus blind to the National interests and to the provisions of the treaty, and that at least two of them should be obdurate after hearing all the arguments which would be advanced by the lawyer for this Government. Any two of the six commissioners can veto a reference of a dispute to arbitration, for such reference cannot be made with the assent of less than five of the six votes.

In order to dispose of this shadowy ghost of a danger that two out of any three commissioners some President might appoint would prove to be incompetents or traitors, the President offers to submit such appointments to the Senate for confirmation. The hidden perils conjured up by the champions of those loved prerogatives are thus to be removed. The Senate shows lack of confidence in the judgment and integrity of the President, who is elected by the whole Nation, but the President is ready to show confidence in the Senate, composed of men who are only the elect of the elect of individual states.

But in his earnest desire to promote arbitration, the President is ready to go even farther and wipe out the joint high commission entirely, leaving the board of arbitration to decide whether it has jurisdiction under the treaty. This appears to be the speedier and more direct means of bringing about arbitration and is in line with court procedure, for a court is often called upon to rule whether it has jurisdiction over a dispute. The joint high commission was seemingly devised to meet in advance the objections of those Senators who feared that we might be driven to arbitrate questions of fundamental policy, but with their habit of seeing bogies they have conjured this very measure of precaution into a danger.

With the joint high commissioner eliminated and the decision on questions of jurisdiction entrusted to the board of arbitration which is itself to arbitrate the dispute, the Senate would have all the prerogatives it claims. The terms of reference to arbitration under the treaties and the constitution of the court are to be arranged by special agreement, which must be confirmed by the Senate. If that body decides that a dispute should not be arbitrated, even though it be justiciable and therefore one which we have agreed under the treaties to arbitrate, the Senate may block proceedings by refusing to ratify the agreement.

Herein lies a possible danger. The step which it is now desired to make in the direction of international peace is the adoption of the principle that, when two nations fail to settle a dispute by arbitration, it shall go to arbitration as a matter of course in the orderly progress of international relations. This implies judicial as distinguished from legislative or executive action. But no man can imagine anything judicial in the proceedings of an executive session of the Senate to decide whether it will ratify an arbitration agreement. Every Senator is a seasoned politician. If some influential constituent objected to the arbitration of a dispute, a Senator would vote against ratification, whether he considered the subject justiciable or not.

The Senate is the great stumbling block in the way of arbitration. Its jealousy for its prerogatives, its conjuring up of imaginary dangers, its susceptibility to political and business influences impel it to demand a right of veto at every stage of procedure leading up to an arbitration decree. The purpose of arbitration is to get around just such obstacles, but how are we to get around them if the road is blocked?

## THE SUBSIDY-SEEKER'S LAMENT.

The New York Commercial laments the poor showing made by American ships in the table of ships of various nations passing through the Suez Canal in 1909 and 1910, and makes a gloomy prediction that we shall prove to have built the Panama Canal for other nations unless we grant ship subsidies. France stands fourth on the list of nations sending ships through the Suez Canal and she has a total of less than one-tenth as many ships as Great Britain. Japan sent less than one-thirty-eighth as many ships. These are the two great subsidy-paying nations.

The ship-building and owning industry has been built up on the policy of free trade in ships and materials for building them. The same policy will revive the ship-building industry in this country. It is by force of circumstances conducted on a free trade basis. The nations which can build ships cheapest and best get the carrying trade of the world. They are such nations as Great Britain and Norway. The nations which cannot compete on these conditions are driven out of the business. If they wish to own ships, they must buy from the nations which can build cheapest or they will be handicapped again.

Our high tariff shuts us out of the ship-building industry as effectually as it shuts most foreign products out of our markets. Our law denying American register to foreign-built ships shuts us out of the ship-owning business, so far as any but coastwise traffic is concerned. Throw down these two barriers and this Nation would soon resume her place among the ship-building and ship-owning nations of the world. But if that time ever comes, the subsidy hunters will build no ships; they will continue to wait for Uncle Sam to give them a subsidy pap bottle to suck.

## COLONEL SELLERS PINCHOT.

In the light of Secretary Fisher's discoveries in Alaska, Gifford Pinchot, Glavis and the enthusiasts who have declared the coal of Alaska to be worth a billion dollars, stand exposed as so many reincarnations of Colonel Sellers. They have believed prospectors' tales and given them Nation-wide circulation. Guggenheim by his extensive operations and his reaching after everything in sight in Alaska has justified belief in these tales, which have thus become the means of keeping the country in a turmoil of debate over Alaska and the attempts to "grab" its coal land.

Now comes Mr. Fisher—himself a shining light among the conservationists, an intimate ally of Pinchot and one whose word cannot be gainsaid—and says Alaska coal is not so much after all. The country has been shaken and the veins twisted by volcanic convulsions. The Bering River coal has been ground to dust in many places and can only be marketed in briquets, cost of mining will be abnormal and Controller Bay is a poor harbor. Guggenheim wasted $1,500,000 there, another company spent $400,000 on a breakwater to no purpose and if any others besides Ryan wish to try their luck there is plenty of room.

From the fact that the Guggenheims are still anxious to invest money in Alaska railroads and coal mines, it is to be inferred that they have satisfied themselves that there is still money to be made, even after duly discounting the prospectors' tales. There are doubtless places on the coal veins where the coal is solid and the vein thick, while in other places convulsions have pinched the vein and pulverized the coal. In mining such a vein there are great risks and while the highest skill may realize a profit, that profit may not prove large and a slight error may change it into a loss.

In view of such conditions, the conservationists will find it necessary to revise their estimates of the profit to be realized and of the royalty the Government should charge under the leasing system. The profit of $1 a ton estimated by a magazine writer in discussing the Cunningham case is declared by Morrell W. Gaines, of Brooklyn, to be fictitious. He says that even the highest-priced coal land, that of Pennsylvania, is not worth more than 10 cents a ton as the coal lies in the ground. Profits on the Pacific Coast will be limited by competition with fuel oil and by competition with other coal deposits.

The royalty must be fixed with due regard to the size and quality of the coal vein, the cost and risks of mining due to the irregularity of the vein, the cost of transportation to market and the competitive conditions in that market. If it should be higher than these conditions justify, capital will not invest and the coal will wait until the terms are changed. The royalty must be based on facts ascertained by skilled mining engineers, not on the statements picked up by Colonel Sellers Pinchot from imaginative prospectors.

## TIME TO END IT.

The arousing of public sentiment against reckless automobile racing has perhaps been awaiting some such accident as that at Syracuse last Saturday. It has been largely indifferent so far to the protests of manufacturers like Harry Ford and Alexander Winton, who place more value upon human life than upon the temporary advertising advantage the success of a winning car gives to manufacturers.

Indeed, the danger to drivers and mechanics in automobile contests has been a financial benefit to race promoters. Its influence has been recognized in the adoption of the circus method of advertising. "Shaking Dice With Death! Twenty Dare-Devil Drivers in Thrilling Speed Duels. The Field vs. Death—Which Will Win?" read a poster issued to announce races held on an Eastern track not long ago. Official race accident bulletins were posted in Los Angeles during a recent meet. "Car No. 4 ran into car No. 7. Two men hurt. Come out and see the spill," read one of them. Such advertising is common, not unusual.

No doubt it has attracted attendance. The circus has used the form for years because it paid. The acrobat has made "death-defying" leaps; the intrepid trainer has entered the den of ferocious beasts, and the bicyclist has looped the loop times without number, that the nerves of the public might be thrilled. Yet the dangers in the spine-chilling feats of circus performers are more apparent than real. The circus protects its performers with nets or means of defense or provides for them appliances that work with mechanical precision.

Not so with the automobile race promoter. His track is often dusty, or rough or imperfectly protected. Since 1904 more than 200 drivers and mechanics have met death in automobile races. Occasionally a spectator or two has been crushed and mangled, but the chief blood-spilling has been among those who have participated in the contests knowing full well the dangers they invited.

Barney Oldfield—not the Oldfield who took his car on a slippery track at Syracuse and ran it 20 miles with tire shoes loose and flopping until it plowed its way through the throng—tells us in the September number of Popular Mechanics that the manufacturers have become weary of the death roll of automobile racing; that the good drivers are abandoning the game. Oldfield, himself, has quit racing, and tells why in language that clearly shows that the main excuse for continuance of racing is the desire of the public for nerve thrills.

"I was never famous," he tells us, "until I went through the fence at St. Louis and killed two spectators." Promoters then fell over each other to sign him up, and his press agent filed two notches in the hood of his racing car. This pastmaster of the game who preferred quiet retirement to spectacular death declares that fast racing has ceased to be a proof of perfect cars; that few of the spectators care about the finer points of the cars. Racing is now a contest of drivers, tires and luck. The thing that sticks in the public mind after a race is not the make of the winning car, but the number of persons killed or injured. But with all the loss of life, the men who place themselves in the greatest danger do not profit much in money. The manufacturer, too, is approaching the conclusion that racing is not profitable. The main revenues have gone to the race promoters, the doctors, hospitals and the cemetery associations.

Probably all that now induces makers to enter cars is a spirit of rivalry. If pecuniary losses will not subdue expression of rivalry in this form, public condemnation of fast racing will. Mr. Oldfield sees a possible future for automobile racing in the construction of board tracks. He may be right. If the board track permits the appearance of death courting, with only a shadow of reality, the lust for thrills may still be satisfied. Dirt tracks and indifferent management we can only hope have seen their day. The Syracuse catastrophe should cause a recoil from present-day methods. The sober-minded people and lawmakers will not consent to a great amount of blood spilling in the name of sport.

## DRAWBACKS OF COUNTRY LIFE.

If the "back to the farm" movement is to gain headway, it must offer better opportunities for making a good living than the city, but it must offer still more. The people who flocked to the city did so not only because a better means of making a living was offered, but because more of the pleasures of life were assured. Country life, in order to draw people from the cities, must not only assure a good living but as much of the pleasures of life as the cities. Of course, these pleasures would be different in kind from those of the city, but they should be as varied.

The greatest obstacle to the enjoyment of country life is bad roads. A man going from a city to inspect a farm with a view to purchase has his enthusiasm lowered at the outset by being jolted in and out of mudholes and over rocks. If he persists, he will find that the same bad roads constitute a bar to social intercourse with his neighbors as well as to marketing his crops. His social instincts, developed by city life, will wither and die. Social gatherings and entertainments are few, for everybody knows that going to and from them means sore bones next day. Well-to-do men, who in their journey through life wish to live by the way, shun the country for this reason.

There is no reason whatever why the country population should not include all grades of wealth, culture and intelligence as well as does the city population. That is the case in Europe and it should be so here. The English country squire, much as he has been abused, forms a center around which a country community can gather. There are other wealthy residents, the clergy, doctors, lawyers, "gentlemen farmers," tenant farmers, storekeepers and laborers—all grades of society going to make a community. While we have no class distinctions which divide a community as in England and none but an Anglomaniac wishes that we had, a small community should have all the elements corresponding to those mentioned just as has a large community. Wealthy men of education making their homes on farms would adopt up-to-date farming methods and serve as an example to neighbors who may have got into a rut. They would prove by experience that good farming pays. They would awaken the social life of the neighborhood. They would enliven public discussion on local affairs. The change begun by them would attract others of their kind and would give impetus to the back-to-the-farm movement.

But such men will not move to the country in any great numbers so long as they must travel on such roads as we now have. Between the paved street of the city and the farm is "a great gulf fixed," which is the string of mudholes on the country road. Before we can induce the city man to go back to the farm, we must provide a good road over which he may travel.

## "ORCHARD HOUSE."

"Orchard House," made famous by the busy pen of Louisa M. Alcott, the house in which "Little Women," her most-famous book was written, the house in which the philosopher of transcendentalism, A. Bronson Alcott, dreamed and read and wrote; the house wherein "Marmee" toiled and planned and economized that the four "little women" of her busy flock might be fed and clothed and made happy; the house wherein patient "Beth" passed to her eternal rest; where gifted "Amy" sketched and painted and from which housewifely "Meg" fared forth with her "John" to found a home of their own—this house for many months until recently has stood tenantless and desolate on a secluded street in Concord, its locked doors and boarded windows mocking its ancient good cheer and open-handed hospitality.

Lately, however, a change has come over the old home of the Alcotts and, although automobile pilgrims "seeing Concord" at twenty miles an hour still pass it unheeding there is again something doing at "Orchard House." The neglect into which the once busy human hive had been allowed by unsympathetic owners to fall was noted last Spring by the president of the Concord Woman's Club and through her instrumentality and by assistance secured from a multitude of women who in their girlhood enjoyed the adventures of "Little Women," the Alcott home has been purchased and to a great extent renovated.

Upon investigation a committee of this club found that the old house with some of its grounds could be purchased for $5000. To realize this sum and secure an amount sufficient to put the house in repair it was reckoned that if every woman who, in her girlhood had enjoyed the adventures of "Little Women" would contribute 10 cents, the fund necessary for this purpose would speedily be realized. This idea sown broadcast over the Nation bore abundant fruitage. Of the sum required $5000 was speedily forthcoming, the purchase was made and the work of renovation was begun.

No thought has been entertained of modernizing the old house. The plan was simply to restore it to a weather-resisting condition and preserve as far as possible such evidences of its interior as tell of the occupancy of the Alcott family. Built nearly 200 years ago, the house has never been overhauled. Hence it contains many evidences of the Alcott occupancy. Bronson Alcott's study containing bookshelves of his own building; a motto on the mantel in brown old English letters painted by "Amy":

The hills are reared, the seas are scraped in vain
If learning's altar vanish from the plain;

Pencil sketches, very faint, but showing the taste and skill and imagery of the youngest daughter of the recluse; the room in which "Little Women" was written, with mural decorations by the same eager, enthusiastic artist, these and many other tokens are found that represent the long ago spent activity of a highly intellectual family of the Concord group that formed the most remarkable literary community in America in the last century.

Emerson and Thoreau; Hawthorne and Alcott, these are names that made old Concord famous in the world of letters in the middle years of a dead many who were dear to them rest:

In their night-encampment in the hill,

While the roadside from Lexington to Concord is dotted with memorials to the "embattled farmers" who nearly a century earlier

Fired the shot heard round the world.

It is a reproach that the houses of our literary victors of a succeeding era standing along the same road are practically unmarked and it is certainly gratifying to know that "Orchard House" is to be maintained as a shrine sacred to the memory of Louisa M. Alcott.

A woman of remarkable energy, she rose superior to her hard conditions that encompassed her and out of the bare facts of her own life she wove such sturdy, helpful types of endurance and achievement as will make her influence felt as long as the "Little Women" of her charming story find prototypes in American homes.

A fitting feature of the restoration of the Alcott home is found in the fact that after the special family rooms are restored to the similitude of their former condition and dedicated as a shrine to the once busy but now silent worker, the remainder of the capacious old house is to be used as a Summer vacation place for working girls, where from April to October it will stand ready to receive in turn all of this class whom it can accommodate.

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The recent railroad strike in England has revived the always existent but usually dormant movement for Government ownership, but the simultaneous strike of street railway employes in Liverpool and Glasgow has also given a sample of what might be expected under Government ownership. The fact that the street railways were owned by the cities did not deter the employes from striking and the same condition might be expected if the Government owned the railroads. If the Government went into business, politics would get mixed with business and we should find the mixture aggravated by the labor question. We are now afflicted with too much business in politics and are trying to get it out. To put politics into business would be an even greater evil.

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The president of the Mormon Church needs the advice of a press agent. Being asked to buy photographs of the supposed secret interior of the Temple at Salt Lake, he flatly refused and spoiled the secrecy yarn by saying 800 gentiles had seen the secret. Polygamy has become a relic practiced only by some old men who refuse to desert their wives, even though they have several. At this rate the Mormon Church is fast becoming like any other church, so commonplace and respectable that the muck-raking magazines will have to hunt new material.

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At a time when there is so much talk of economic management and factories are run on three shifts of eight hours each that they may earn money on the investment all the time, it looks wasteful to use our investment in school buildings only about six hours a day. They might well be used as civic centers, where branch libraries and reading rooms might be established and local improvement clubs might meet. Tacoma has caught the idea from some Eastern cities and it is likely to spread.

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If the gilded youth of the Nation is being converted into anarchists and iconoclasts at the colleges, the gilded parents may stop the supply of endowments and send their young elsewhere. Their being made rakes and roues may be considered a secondary matter in the eyes of predatory wealth.

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The President wisely took warning from the free use being made of Champ Clark's annexation speech by the anti-reciprocity party in Canada and said nothing on that subject at Syracuse. If Clark had had that much sense, he would not have injured the cause he wished to help.

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Suing a stenographer for $20,000 for alienating her husband's affections is a change in the usual order made by a Seattle woman. The wonder is why a woman worth that much will take dictation.

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Lower rates on wheat to Puget Sound had no effect on shipments to Portland the past week, except to stimulate movement on the water grade and break all records.

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Considering irregularities at the Union Depot, it may again be stated that it takes a mighty good man to handle other people's money.

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What is a little mist in Oregon, compared with water three feet deep in Kansas towns?

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The white-capped summits of all the mountains around are again in evidence.

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People who attend big automobile races need plenty of accident insurance.

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Interviewers must need all their vacuum cleaners for Pinchot's return.

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Mount Etna is still on the job of turning the earth inside out.

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The Beavers knew what the fans wanted.

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Good old dependable Beavers!

## HOPPICKERS GET POOR SHELTER

### Rainy Experience in Fields Bring Out Protest Against Conditions.

PORTLAND, Sept. 16.—(To the Editor.)—I have just returned to the haven of Portland after three weeks of travel in the hopfields contiguous to the sleepy town of Independence. As it was my first experience with hops (that is prior to their passing through the hands of the brewers) I am jotting down a few impressions. In the first place the gathering of hops is essentially an avocation to which women and children can adapt themselves readily. I was not therefore surprised to see many mothers with their children availing themselves of an opportunity to enjoy an outing where the expense of the same could be defrayed if one was willing to work, and given fine weather an enjoyable time can be spent a little closer to Nature than usual.

Of course, you may expect to meet a few characters among the pickers who are not ultra-refined, but laboring people have been treated like brutes so long that we must not be consumed with anguish and unrighteous indignation if we find that we now have brutes to deal with. It is the inexorable law of cause and effect.

But to get back to hops; this year it rained and rained and rained, and sad-faced women and joyless children suffered correspondingly. The plot of ground where they were camped soon became a quagmire, and unfit for human habitation.

I noticed that the horses and cattle belonging to the proprietor of the hopyards were comfortably housed and provided for, and if a little straw was left over it was reluctantly thrown to the humans.

The nightly grand frog chorus that held forth, rain or shine, was now augmented by a grand churchyard cough chorus, this coupled with the faithful rain made sleep impossible.

To a man up a tree or under a tree in this particular case, it seems that some slight effort should be made by the growers to provide something in the way of substantial shelter for those who are adding to the already overflowing coffers of these same growers; but if the subject is broached to the powers that be they either laugh at you or stare at you in dumb amazement and turn away horror-stricken, considering you dangerous and unfit to be at large.

Cannot something be done to compel growers to improve conditions that would cause a Fiji Islander or a Patagonian to hang their heads in shame?

SERF.

## WEBB COMMUTATION COMMENDED

### Governor Praised for Following His Convictions in Face of Opinion.

PORTLAND, Sept. 17.—(To the Editor.)—In reply to the article written by A. L. Mason, published in the issue of September 12, permit me to say that Governor West is doing the proper and timely thing in authorizing a $25,000 reward for the capture of the outrageous murderers mentioned in the article. If Governor West did not take this step, A. L. Mason would be the first one to censure him for his inaction. The fact that Governor West commuted the death sentence of Webb to life imprisonment, is no reason why he should not bend every effort to catch other murderers.

Perhaps the pleas of the two daughters did influence him in this step, but it is highly probable that Governor West is man enough to commute the Webb sentence without such persuasion. Mr. Mason speaks of it as a "weakness." He does not know what a "weakness" is. It showed a great strength of character to be able to differ from the established laws of men, and, in the face of public criticism, follow unflinchingly the principles of the Lord.

Perhaps the makers of the law providing capital punishment thought themselves wise; but they were not. No man, or body of men, has the right to take one life for another, even if murder has been committed. A murderer is a menace to life and society; as such he should be kept from the rest of the world. But when you take his life you are staining your hands with human blood, a stain that will never wash out. It is true that the killing is done according to man's law, and within the protection of man's law, and that it is not so repulsive and bloody as the original murder, but nevertheless it is murder, pure and simple.

Perhaps some will scoff at this version. Let them sit by themselves for 10 minutes and think seriously over this. At the end of that time they will feel thankful that they have no direct part in the killing. And why will they be thankful. Because, deep down in their hearts, even in the worst of men, the principle of good will tell their consciences that it is wrong according to the teachings of God. They will realize that at the day of judgment those authorizing the hanging and those who carried it into execution will be held responsible for the taking of that life.

Governor West is a man, a man who did his duty and did it well.

ROBERT L. STERLING.

## "To the Manner Born."

PORTLAND, Sept. 17.—(To the Editor.)—If worth while let me add a little to the answer in The Oregonian to an inquiry of a student in yesterday's issue.

Hamlet or Shakespeare was perpetrating a play on words when he said he "was to the manner born." Originally a manor was an estate granted by the King to one of his Barons. A part of it was sublet to "freeholders" and the remainder, called the domain, was retained for the Baron's use. It was cultivated by serfs or "villeins," who were considered a part of the estate. Each was allowed a hut and a piece of ground for his own support, which he held at the pleasure of his lord. In course of time, however, it became recognized that so long as a villein conformed his conduct to the customs of the estate he had a right to keep his patch of earth. This and other privileges that the serfs gradually acquired, were enforced by the baronial courts. Till a later period each estate was a law unto itself, governed by ancient customs religiously observed. Such customs or laws were, of course, applicable only to those "to the manor born"; that is, to serfs born on the domain and hence belonging to the manor, although later, villeins were permitted to transfer their holdings to strangers, but not without the landlord's consent.

So when Horatio asks Hamlet if the drunken revel of the King and his court is part of a "custom," the word immediately suggests copyhold estates and Hamlet or Shakespeare seizes the opportunity to make a pun and at the same time display an almost uncanny knowledge of law. "Ay, marry, is't. But to my mind, though I am native here and to the manner (manor) born, it is a custom more honored in the breach than the observance."

The expression is often used as equivalent to well-born or aristocratic, although its origin would hardly justify such use.

R. W. NORTH.

## Son Is Thoughtful of Mother.

Philadelphia Times.

Little Albert Marcheesm, of Tioga, is another bright boy. In playing the other day he upset a beautiful imported flower holder, a gift to his mother from a friend who traveled abroad.

"There, see what you've done," his mother said, pointing to the fragments on the floor.

"Yes, mother, but don't take off your slippers. You might cut your feet," warned the lad.

## SCHOOL BUILDING CHEAPER HERE

### Comparison of Cost Made With Boston by Mr. Manson.

PORTLAND, Sept. 17.—(To the Editor.)—The following clipping from the Metal Worker, a prominent engineering journal devoted to the interest of the metal trades, showing cost of school buildings in Boston per pupil and also per cubic foot, may serve as a solace for the economic pains and distresses of some of our citizens who think we are paying too much money for some of our later and better class of stone, brick and fireproof school buildings, a few of which are herein mentioned with costs of same for comparative purposes:

"The table of Boston schools covers the buildings erected since 1902. The cost per cubic foot of building averages 22.8 cents per cubic foot for 30 buildings. Three of the 30 buildings are high school structures and for the 27 common schools the cost of building per pupil figures out $178. One of the high school buildings designed to accommodate 540 pupils cost $548.25 per pupil and the cubic contents are 1,267,682 cubic feet. A normal school building with 1,392,848 cubic feet contents and accommodating 350 pupils cost $940 per pupil. The third high school, having 1,288,807 cubic feet contents and accommodating 600 pupils, cost per pupil $459.19."

While the material of which these buildings are constructed is not given it is probable that, while Boston has not adopted the policy of erecting "fireproof" schools only, the buildings are of brick or stone and for comparative purposes we append cost of similar buildings in our city, as for example: The Rose City Park School, which is the most expensive building yet contracted for, being entirely fireproof construction, cost $65,000, and on a basis of 400 pupils costs $162.59 per pupil as against $178 per pupil for the common schools of Boston. The Washington High School, which accommodates 1800 pupils and which is a stone building of remarkably handsome appearance and complete equipment for high school purposes, cost complete $229,132, or $127.25 per pupil. The Jefferson High School, which is a very complete and handsome building of brick with the latest high school equipment, including a first-class gymnasium and scientific apparatus for high school purposes, cost $156 per pupil.

On a basis of the cost per cubic foot all the buildings named in this city cost much less than those of Boston, though none of the buildings either here or in Boston seem to have been erected as cheaply as some of our citizens not in the contracting line asserted strictly fireproof schools could be built for, though our only "fireproof schools" lately contracted for were advertised and let in the open market to the lowest bidder.

R. J. MANSON.

## MR. YODER ENTERS A PROTEST.

### Doubt Implied That Farmers and Taxpayers Want Extra Session.

HUBBARD, Or., Sept. 15.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian of September 14, under the heading "Special Session for Roads Urged," the first item I notice in double-leaded type is "$5000 Salary Provided." Next that the bill provides for appropriation out of the State Treasury of $50,000 or any sum found necessary for payment of salaries. Would not $55,000 build several miles of road each year if judiciously expended by the officials we now have to pay?

In today's Oregonian we notice more about this highway commission and that there is a "general demand" for an extra session of the Legislature. We would be pleased to know from whom this general demand comes. Is this general demand from the tillers of the soil, the small farmers and taxpayers? If so, I would be pleased to see a list of the names and the occupations of the signers.

Our County Court saw fit to appoint a county road engineer, and under his supervision several miles of crushed rock roads were built, but the last account we had from that part of the county he had rails laid across the roadbed to keep the public from using it. This reminds me of the simple-minded boy and the sod fences that the early settlers of Central Illinois put around their truck patches, the said fences were all right if they would only herd the cattle away from them.

So with our high-priced roads—they are nice to look upon if only the public would drive alongside.

J. S. YODER.

## A Great Discovery.

PRESCOTT, Or., Sept. 16.—(To the Editor.)—With the memory of your various caustic comments on the actions of Congressman Lafferty still fresh in my mind, your article of yesterday headed "Lafferty Hard at Work," made me wonder at the consistency (?) of your paper. Of course I noted the asterisks at the end of the article, designating, I suppose, an advertisement. Would not the "$" sign have served better?

F. W. GREGORY.

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Here is a smart man. He thinks he has found out something about The Oregonian that is not creditable to it and he hurries to write a sneering letter about it. Yet he is probably the only man in the entire circle of readers of The Oregonian who failed to note that the article was an advertisement captioned plainly with the words "Paid Advertisement" and designated further by the two stars which this writer discovered.

## Trouble and Matrimony.

Philadelphia Times.

Merchantville, N. J., has a new baby—that is, comparatively new. She—it's a girl—is only seven weeks old.

"My wife certainly meets trouble half way," the father of the new baby confided to a friend the other evening.

"How so?" came the inquiry.

"Well, there's the baby, seven weeks old, just been named, not yet christened, and my wife's worrying already because she fears the youngster'll grow up and marry some man my wife will not like. Can you beat it?"

## Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, Sept. 18, 1861.

All the romance that characterized the first days of the great Civil War is at an end. The terrific enthusiasm, the great popular uprisings, the spontaneous and simultaneous rushing to arms of tens of thousands, the showy dress of the gala-day soldiers, and the expectation of victory without the application of means to gain it have all vanished. We now stand facing the dreadful realities of the question. In the light of history it was easy to see that many popular ideas about the duration of the war were only so many popular durations and delusions, the difficulties were not estimated even by the most intelligent journalists—least of all by those of the Eastern States. Every inch of territory which is won back to the Union will be tracked with blood. The Federal troops will have to fight the levy en masse of the traitors on their own soil. Battles and sieges will be the order of the day. A vast sacrifice will ensue—but the Union will be saved.

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About 10 or 12 o'clock at night a band of profane persons congregate on the corner of First and Washington streets and indulge in some very improper talk in a loud tone. The true way to stop this is to fine every one of them until he has no money left to buy whisky w[illegible]

## WHERE PRIMARY BLAME RESTS.

### Undesirable Parenthood Held Responsible For Much Social Evil.

INDEPENDENCE, Or., Sept. 16.—(To the Editor.)—In the reply to the police officer who wrote on the social evil, The Oregonian struck the nail fairly on the head when it said that the girl should be held responsible as well as the man. To blame all on the man and let the girl or woman go free, as is usualy done in all cases of sexual immorality is not justice. It is not fair to the girl.

I do not believe that the morals of our growing girls will ever be bettered if we persist in teaching and preaching that they are in no way to blame for their downfall. It is against sound reason and the laws of sex. Girls and boys will never have sound moral principle or strength of character until this fact is thoroughly drilled into their minds and being—that they are the makers of their own destiny, that they and they alone, in most instances, are responsible for all immoral acts. Inculcate this idea into the minds of the young along with good sensible advice of father and mother during the years of budding man and womanhood, and few of them would turn out bad.

Most writers and speakers blame the downfall of girls and women to poverty and the wiles of wicked men and married men at that. While it may be true that some grown up men make it a business to prey on young girls, and for such a man no punishment is too severe, yet in my opinion the vast majority of girls are ruined by young boys of nearly their own age.

As to poverty being a cause, I do not believe that if the exact truth could be arrived at, there would be found two in 100. It is so much easier to blame it onto something or someone than to say: "I am the guilty one." Self condemning is a hard thing for the best of us and it is the last thing the young will do.

I am confident after many years of observation and much travel, that the real cause of girls going wrong and boys, too, is undesirable parenthood, fathers and mothers who haven't the first rudiments of sound morals and sexual laws; parents who never had any proper training themselves and perhaps were loose in their sexual relations before marriage, bring children into this world and let them grow up unrestrained. It has been said that, to reform a child, you will have to start with their grandparents. One "cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," and before we do much reforming we had better start at the fountain head and stop the begetting of undesirable children, and hold every father and mother responsible for the acts of their children under age.

Any old thing of either sex can get married and generally do, then go to raising hell and children. It is the children of such parents that fill our houses of prostitution, our jails and penitentiaries—and will continue to do so until we look the facts squarely in the face and act accordingly.

R. S. C.

## DRAMATIC OPPORTUNITY IGNORED.

### Webb Commutation Too Commonplace Thinks Eugene Correspondent.

EUGENE, Or., Sept. 16.—(To the Editor.)—I have read with alternate approbation and nausea the public comment on the commutation of Murderer Webb's sentence. Ignoring the ethical question, it seems to me that Governor West has sadly bungled one of the most magnificent opportunities for gallery play in his career.

Observe the facts. He stopped the execution in a very commonplace manner, a full 20 minutes before it was scheduled to take place. Not a soul in the crowd had fainted yet. Few were in tears. A $20-a-month press agent for a nickelodeon could have managed it better.

Think what he might have done. Just as the executioner was reaching forth to spring the trap amid the sobs of women and the agonized groans of strong men, he could have dashed up on a foam-flecked horse, flung himself from the saddle, held up one gauntleted hand, and in a ringing voice, shouted:

"Hold! This dastardly deed shall not be done! My little daughter says so!"

The story would have burnt up the wires. The din of managing editors howling for more would alone have been deafening.

I fear that the Governor is losing his appreciation of the dramatic. This miserable handling of the Webb commutation comes as a poor climax to the single-handed capture of a desperate and fleeing criminal, the rescue from death of a beautiful maiden and the freehanded paying for the honeymoon of a loving and worthy couple because a bountiful Providence had sent an abundant crop of hops.

Altogether, it was disappointing. The decay of genius is ever a sad spectacle.

FRANK JENKINS.

## Public to Blame for Acquittals?

BAY CENTER, Wash., Sept. 16.—(To the Editor.)—As a timid suggestion, how would it do to have courts, lawyers and juries that would convict some of these murderers when caught?

Judges are either elected by us or appointed by executives whom we elect. The lawyers who remain in the profession are the ones we choose to employ. The average juryman is an average citizen and, in the long run, average juries reflect average public sentiment.

After all, who is to blame?

L. L. BUSH.

## Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

(Copyright, 1911, by George Matthew Adams)

"Give the devil his due," is an old saying. I don't know about that; give the devil his due, and he would soon have too much.

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People do not seem to understand the importance of honesty. To be sure, good conduct is taught, in a way, but too many mistakenly think such teaching a perfunctory duty, and that there are many pleasures in a reckless careless life.

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A man may look around a month before ordering a suit but when he finally orders it he wants it next day.

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Public opinion is the great means of accomplishing good in a community. If a man does not behave himself, public opinion can soon whip him into line. That man does not live who is not afraid of public opinion.

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I can stand an ordinary school teacher pretty well; but a real professor scares me.

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Tell a man what he should do, and he won't do it, to show that he is independent.

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When I deserve it I don't mind abuse. It makes me careful. But I seldom agree with my critics as to when I deserve abuse.

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You may be busy, but if you have time to tell your troubles, you are not busy enough.

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Some days a man is so worthless that he is in his own way.

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The only way to accumulate money is to be honest and trustworthy. The man who doesn't know this is dangerous; he is a fool, and liable to become a thief.