

The Oregonian

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Portland, Tuesday, October 24, 1911.

WHAT THE ONLOOKER SEES.

Oscar Underwood, House leader of the Democratic party and the real power behind the obscure throne of Speaker Glass, made a speech before the Iroquois Club in Chicago yesterday in which he gave utterance to the following surprising sentiments: Some Democrats want to put the initiative and referendum back into the National Constitution. The initiative and referendum would be a great boon to the people. But when you go to the United States you destroy the entire fabric of the Constitution. We are not a true democracy. This is a representative government.

Governor O'Neal, of Alabama, before the recent Governors' conference, sharply attacked the initiative and referendum and the recall. Nearly every Southern Democrat of reputation and influence is against the initiative and referendum and the recall.

Governor Dix, of New York, the other day made a speech in which he distinctly aligned himself with Big Business against the initiative and referendum and appeals to class prejudice. Governor Dix undoubtedly reflected the sentiment and attitude of Tammany and the New York Democracy.

The New England Democracy, represented by the conservative mossbacks and slow-going aristocrats of Governor Baldwin, of Connecticut, is for the most part opposed to the initiative and referendum. No Eastern State has accepted it, nor is there any likelihood that any will, soon. No Middle Western State has yet adopted it in the Oregon form. Wisconsin, Ohio and perhaps one or two others will. No Southern State except Arkansas and Missouri has adopted the Oregon system.

The Southern view is easy to understand. The Democratic party purposes to keep control; and the Democratic oligarchy will never release control of the masses of the party. The Oregon system is the surest way to upset and destroy party domination. The day the Southern States put in motion the initiative and referendum, that day brings the Waterloo of the Southern Democracy.

The National Republican Progressive League, creature of Senator Bourne and instrument of the La Follette movement, hesitated to endorse the initiative and referendum system generally. It was a radical step, far too advanced even for the Bourne-La Follette group. It is a surprise to discover that any measure or proposal is too sweeping for the Bourne-La Follette group, but there is the record. What influence or consideration or policy or suggestion except expediency could have put brakes on the headlong Bourne?

Mr. Bryan is for the Oregon system, unqualified. Mr. Woodrow Wilson is for the Oregon system, with a variety of "ifs" and "buts." Governor Harmon has signed a bill applying the initiative and referendum to the cities and towns of Ohio; but the Democratic Ohio Legislature declined to adopt it for the state at large.

The Oregonian submits this brief statement of the status of the Oregon system before the National Democracy and its allies and sympathizers without prejudice. How will the Oregon system fare before the next National Democratic convention? Not well, if the present judges are to be believed. Colonel Bryan will demand its endorsement and he will be the only outspoken friend it will have. Mr. Wilson will be for an emasculated declaration. Governor Harmon will be willing to declare the initiative and referendum a success just as the convention desires. The South will be vehemently and outspokenly against the entire scheme. So will the East. The next National Democratic Convention, when Colonel Bryan, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Harmon and the rest get into full action over the Oregon system, will be a spectacle worth going far to see.

A PROMISED REVELATION.

There is nothing intrinsically novel in Professor Hyslop's statement that he has been in communication with the soul of the late William James. Professors of that sort have been seen before, many times before. We await with equanimity, therefore, the revelations which Mr. Hyslop promises to make in due time. Why he does not make them at once is a question which we shall not worry over. Communications from the spirit world usually need a good deal of arrangement and interpretation before they are intelligible to the ordinary mind. They are apt to come in the form of a sort of verbal hash which only an adept in occult affairs can reduce to sense.

When Mr. Hyslop gets ready to publish his communication from the late Professor James it will be read with great interest by every intelligent person in the world. If the communication is genuine it will make an epoch in history, for it will prove definitely what has been long suspected, namely, that the souls of the dead still live and that they can converse with their friends. What is the discovery of the art of flying to an achievement like this?

But the supposed communication from Professor James will be scanned critically when it is published. The world has been deceived so often by reported messages from the dead that it will not be hasty in accepting this one as genuine. Men will ask whether it exhibits an intelligence like his. He was a master of English style, a profound and vigorous thinker, a prince

of dialectics. If the reported message should after all dribble away in mere twaddle, as all such messages have done heretofore, there will be some disappointment over it, but not much. To confess the truth, that is about what most people of restrained impulses will expect. The cry of "woof, woof," or rather, "spirit, spirit," has been repeated so often that the world is disposed to smile skeptically when it hears the sound. Still, whatever Mr. Hyslop has to reveal will be read with deep attention and some hope.

WILSON SHOULD BE DROPPED.

The tenacity with which Secretary of Agriculture Wilson hangs on to office long after he has become a barometer on the public service is deplorable. He is no sooner rebuked for allowing his constituents to be humiliated in his own department to thwart the man who is trying to enforce the pure food law than he moves to unload the whole bureau in charge of that work on some other man. A really energetic and spirited department head would not have allowed such a conspiracy to be formed; or, having discovered it, he would have broken it up himself instead of shielding it; or not having done either of these things, he would, even at so late a date, have proper regard for his duties, and have heartily in efforts to bring about a better state of affairs by removing the gutter and sustaining the faithful.

Wilson has done none of these things. He has stuck to office with the clinging grip of a leech, and has used other public means of survival, but has shirked its responsibilities. It is no excuse to say he is old. Many a man of more years has been an able, energetic public servant in high office. He lacks the qualities necessary to proper performance of his duties. As the functions of his department have been enlarged to cover diverse subjects, his deficiencies have become more glaringly apparent. Being in control of a number of bureaus, he should exercise close general supervision over them all, but Wilson has given close personal attention to a few and totally neglected others. The consequence has been intrigue and meddling which have impaired the efficiency of all.

The President could do nothing better than to interest in the public and himself, than to find a nice, soft place to drop Wilson gently and tenderly and substitute for him a man who would add strength to his Cabinet.

THE USELESSNESS OF A USEFUL LIFE.

The community can ill afford the loss that it suffers when a young man just coming into the fullness of man's estate dies as did Ralph Dimick in this city a few days ago, a victim to the craze into which athletics has developed.

While every argument that deprecates excess under the name of football and counsels the elimination of the features of the game that have so often led to the maiming and death of the players, has been advanced; and while college faculties have graveyards at the bottom of a pile of players' skulls because the more dangerous features of the game have been eliminated, there is no appreciable diminution of fatalities attendant upon this essentially rough and dangerous encounter between twenty-two husky young men for the small fee of \$200. It is still trained to do his utmost to overcome his opponent by means of brute force applied within certain rules that tend to increase rather than diminish the violence of human impact.

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PROFITS IN FRUIT.

An article by J. F. Walden, published in the current number of The Ranch, carries sound advice for the person ambitious to engage in fruit culture. Part of Mr. Walden's excellent article is given in another column. The point therein we wish to emphasize relates to the glittering promises made by numerous companies to investors who plan to continue at their old occupations while the orchard is growing into the bearing period. Too often undeveloped orchard lands are put upon the market by heartless and irresponsible promoters, who make the price of the land as high as possible in one prolific year as taken on the basis of estimating what a large tract will produce every year. The figures seem to justify a high value, but the value is fictitious. It is such procedure that leads to complaints of high fruit prices and of failures to make good.

Even where undeveloped orchard tracts are sold at their true value by companies that promise to deliver them within a given period in developed state, there is one important factor that will tend to upset the success of the plan. It was pointed out by Samuel G. Blythe in the last issue of the Saturday Evening Post. The man who invests in land with the idea of growing apples thereon must abandon other pursuits and become an apple-grower. He cannot delegate the care and cultivation of a young orchard to others and make a success of the venture. He must have some capital to pay living and development expenses. He requires some adaptability to farm work. He must go into the business as a business proposition, not as an easy-money side venture.

Mr. Walden spoke from personal experience. Mr. Blythe related what trained observation and men in the business had told him. Both are right. The city man, to make a success of fruit-growing, must have knowledge growing up with his orchard. His average yearly returns will depend not only on soil and climate, but on how well his orchard and his knowledge are put together. To sit in town and build air castles on what some promoter has promised in return for one's savings and on the occasional profits of the man who devotes his own judgment, experience, time, patience and care to fruit-growing is as idle as counting chickens in the shell. Fruit-growing is profitable, but it is a business. It cannot be learned simply by remitting instalments to the man who has it for sale.

It is a sad prospect when women are urged to be loud and yellow in their efforts to get into the new world, they should imitate the worst quality

of male politicians. If they should follow this advice, the men may find an Evesham Eden in some new land.

A GOOD TEST FOR NEW LAWS.

The people of the Isle of Man, before they became sophisticated by contact with tourists and by being herded in Hall Caine's novels, were a simple but practical people. The popular chamber of their Legislature is called the House of Keys, but no law became effective until it had been read before the assembled people of the island. They gathered on the crest and slopes of a grass-covered hill called Tynwald, about 1000 feet high, on the summit of which was cut in the turf a great arm chair for the King, while around him were benches of turf for the House of Keys and below them still others for the people. Here the King read the new laws to the people.

What would have been the effect on this Court of Tynwald, as it was called, if the tariff law of the United States had been read to the people? Imagine the looks of bewilderment which would have spread over the faces of the simple Manxmen on hearing all the words and figures of the law dropped into their ears? They could not have been more perplexed if the laws had been couched in Sanskrit, or in the Assyrian or Egyptian picture alphabet. They would have been unable to grasp the meaning of the law, and some trick upon them and might in their Norse fury have taken the King and the whole House of Keys and hurled them from the summit of one of their precipitous cliffs into the sea.

One-half the sins of the tariff consist in the fact that it is couched in language not "understanded of the people," to use a time-honored phrase. Any law which is so involved in its terms as not to be understood by the average man is justly open to suspicion. The law is true in its principle, but it will not be changed by weight of evidence. Both cannot be satisfied with the verdict. Each has an omnipresent power for evil. It will furthermore, and greatest of all, lay tribute upon an unwinking sense of justice and a fine quality of judgment in weighing evidence. If women are called upon this jury it may be hoped that intelligent, open-minded women will be chosen, not the ignorant and narrow. This opportunity, if it comes, will come much earlier in the history of the State than it has in California, than the most militant advocates of equal rights could have hoped or the more timid dared to contemplate. The opportunity will be a trying one. It remains to be seen whether the newly-enfranchised element in a great and progressive state will measure up to its duties and responsibilities.

PLAYGROUNDS AND PLAY.

At the playgrounds and recreation institute which was held in Seattle the last week some interesting circumstances were brought to light in regard to the comparative park and playground development of the Pacific Coast cities. If the figures given out are correct Seattle is far ahead of the others in this particular. It has 1200 acres of parks, while Portland has but 500. San Francisco has as large an area for parks as Seattle, but it seems to be less desirable because it is not so accessible to the masses of the population. When it comes to playgrounds the condition of Portland is only less deplorable than that of San Francisco. We have here seven playground sites. The metropolis of California has only six. Seattle leads the van in this respect with twenty sites for playgrounds. Los Angeles comes next with nine. The progress of humanity and enlightenment has made it the rule in most growing cities to secure ground for parks and playgrounds without delay, since waiting only makes it more difficult. The difficulty is twofold. Land values increase rapidly in growing cities and at the same time desirable locations are rapidly selected for other purposes so that it becomes almost impossible to vacate them.

It is only of late years that the American public has become to the fundamental importance of playgrounds for adults and children. The older theory was that play was a wicked waste of time for adults and a wanton annoyance of their elders on the part of children. The new theory, and perhaps a little bumping around in the world, has shown that the old theory was as likely as not to break something before they got through with their riotous merriment. Upon the whole it was thought best to suppress the play instinct in both old and young. Now we are learning the truth, and we are learning it rapidly in Portland. The doctrine, an old man who has lost the capacity to play and enjoy it is well on his way to the grave. A child who does not relish play is in some serious way diseased. There is no surer symptom of falling vitality than an aversion to the game that is the joy of the young. A nation which has no inclination to play presents a case of arrested development. Many observers from foreign countries, who have seen the playgrounds of America, upon the business of life and their neglect of diversions came to the conclusion that we were prematurely old and made prophecies of our early decadence. It turns out, however, that our deadly devotion to business was making a passing incident. We have learned in good time that it is not all of life to pile up dollars, though the dollars come in very conveniently when one is ready to go out and play.

It is difficult to decide whether the play problem more indelibly demands a solution for the old or the young in this country. A man who has no time, place or inclination to disport himself after his day's work is over is probably only about half as productive as he ought to be. His employer would make a good profit by giving him an opportunity to transform himself from a machine into a man by a little wholesome outdoor sport every day. In order to make the most money for his employer during working hours a man must be in good physical and mental condition. This cannot happen unless he has time and strength for recreation in the open air with his fellows. It is not sufficient to loaf in a saloon, play cards in tobacco-laden air and swallow down beer. He needs pleasant exercise out of doors such as a game of tennis, or a walk in the park. It is for reasons of this sort that modern students of society look upon parks and playgrounds as an excellent industrial investment. They pay for themselves many times over every year in the direct promotion of productivity in working men. But no doubt it is for children that playgrounds do the most good. Nature has ordained that the child must play abundantly in order to reach his full development as a human being. It is a very simple thing that he can build up his muscles by work and his brain by study, but the simple fact is that without play the child pines in mind and body. The normal child learns more by play with his comrades than he does out of books. It is by this means that he acquires language, for example, and that immense fund of knowledge of common things which underlies the business of life. All that he acquires in school and college is a mere trifle, compared with this enormous treasure which comes to him without effort and with genuine enjoyment. The Froebelian theory, which is the correct one, seeks to extend the beneficial play process to the later school years and the reason for playgrounds runs back to the same root. Part of the reason does, but not all of it. Human beings ought to have playgrounds for the sheer reason that they enjoy them. Grown men need them for this reason and children ten times more. Enjoyment is a good and holy thing. There has been far too little of it in this weary old world and it is high time that we all set our wits at work to improve matters in that respect. A world of innocent enjoyment is an orderly and industrious world. Happy people are peaceable. They obey the law. They love God. They work willingly because work brings them returns which they value. It is astounding to think how little common sense temperance reformers and others have exhibited in this particular. They do not seem to have discovered the truth that the way to make men virtuous is to make them happy. They are true to the principle and you will be happy," had the cart before the horse. It ought to read "Be happy and you will be virtuous." Playgrounds are one of the most potent allies which law, religion and temperance can gain. If Portland's supply of prunes has been short this year. This is in part owing to the shortness of the peach crop in the United States. The demand for prunes has been unprecedented and the price has been high. One of our neighbors in the Yakima Valley picked and packed 9000 crates of prunes from his orchard. He sold these prunes at 70 cents per crate, f. o. b., or an aggregate sum of \$6300. One-half of that sum would easily pay all the expenses of his orchard. He sold these prunes at 70 cents per crate, f. o. b., or an aggregate sum of \$6300. One-half of that sum would easily pay all the expenses of his orchard. He sold these prunes at 70 cents per crate, f. o. b., or an aggregate sum of \$6300. One-half of that sum would easily pay all the expenses of his orchard.

PROFITS IN AVERAGE RETURNS.

Single Year's Proceeds Are Not True Basis for Orchard Value. J. F. Walden in The Ranch, Seattle. No one must come to the conclusion that his fruit crops can be uniform or priced. We have a striking illustration of this fact this year in the prune industry. A few years ago the prune crop paid but a very small profit. It kept the grower in the business on a very limited extent, on account of the low prices at which prunes could be sold. A leading prune grower of the Yakima Valley told me some 10 or 12 years ago that prune prices were so low that year that he lost his prune crop and a thousand dollars to boot. He said he had to get out of the business and was overruled with work and could not help him out. The only thing he could do with his crop, on 50 acres of prunes, was to get it out of the ground and sell it for 10 cents a bushel. The market was overruled that year and his prunes did not bring him enough to pay the freight and all the expenses of \$1000. He built a dryer the next year. He was then prepared to shift from fresh prunes to dried ones as the condition of the market demanded. In this way he cleared a good deal of money on his prunes. Some people dug up their prune orchards and very few, if any, set out new ones. The result has been that the supply of prunes has been short this year. This is in part owing to the shortness of the peach crop in the United States. The demand for prunes has been unprecedented and the price has been high. One of our neighbors in the Yakima Valley picked and packed 9000 crates of prunes from his orchard. He sold these prunes at 70 cents per crate, f. o. b., or an aggregate sum of \$6300. One-half of that sum would easily pay all the expenses of his orchard. He sold these prunes at 70 cents per crate, f. o. b., or an aggregate sum of \$6300. One-half of that sum would easily pay all the expenses of his orchard.

The women of California are likely to be put into the crucible of public duty very early in the season of their newly-acquired privileges. Service on the McNamara jury is a possibility that looms up before them, and one which, if they are true to the principles and to the advice of President Taft, they cannot shirk. Service upon this jury will be a test of physical strength, since the trial is likely to drag along for months; it will also be a test of courage, since there are two strong local elements holding opposing views that will not be changed by weight of evidence. Both cannot be satisfied with the verdict. Each has an omnipresent power for evil. It will furthermore, and greatest of all, lay tribute upon an unwinking sense of justice and a fine quality of judgment in weighing evidence. If women are called upon this jury it may be hoped that intelligent, open-minded women will be chosen, not the ignorant and narrow. This opportunity, if it comes, will come much earlier in the history of the State than it has in California, than the most militant advocates of equal rights could have hoped or the more timid dared to contemplate. The opportunity will be a trying one. It remains to be seen whether the newly-enfranchised element in a great and progressive state will measure up to its duties and responsibilities.

If the ghost of old Senator Morgan walks abroad today he must experience a sense of satisfaction in the report that there is likely to be a rival level route which he for many years so patiently and persistently advocated. If any sepulchral sounds framed into the words "I told you so" are heard about the National Senate Chamber, be sure that the voice is that of the late Senator from Alabama who was perhaps the best informed member of the National Congress upon the subject of an isthmian canal, but whose judgment in the premises was disregarded when the Government really got busy in the matter of canal building.

Sooner or later a canal will be dug from ocean to ocean by way of Lake Nicaragua, which is the natural route. Diplomacy may delay, but it cannot forever prevent this great achievement. No doubt Germany's plan is premature, and perhaps a few bumps around in the world, has shown that the old theory was as likely as not to break something before they got through with their riotous merriment. Upon the whole it was thought best to suppress the play instinct in both old and young. Now we are learning the truth, and we are learning it rapidly in Portland. The doctrine, an old man who has lost the capacity to play and enjoy it is well on his way to the grave. A child who does not relish play is in some serious way diseased. There is no surer symptom of falling vitality than an aversion to the game that is the joy of the young. A nation which has no inclination to play presents a case of arrested development. Many observers from foreign countries, who have seen the playgrounds of America, upon the business of life and their neglect of diversions came to the conclusion that we were prematurely old and made prophecies of our early decadence. It turns out, however, that our deadly devotion to business was making a passing incident. We have learned in good time that it is not all of life to pile up dollars, though the dollars come in very conveniently when one is ready to go out and play.

NO GOOD SEEN IN UREN PLAN.

Townsmen Believe Oregon City Law-giver is Working Toward Socialism. OREGON CITY, Oct. 22.—(To the Editor.)—Mr. Uren cites the fact that three or four parties in Clackamas County hold something like 150,000 acres of forest land, and that for some purpose. In the first place, the most of this land is owned by the railroad and will be forfeited to the Government if the decision of Judge Uren is upheld. In the second place, very little can ever be cultivated. I think I am safe in saying not one acre in a thousand. There is some good timber on the greater part of it, but a great burn. Timber is not worth as much as it was five years ago. Still, timbermen are paying their taxes and should on a fair valuation. But if they are put too high on timber it will be cut off very rapidly and a great source of taxation will be lost to the state. The completion of the Canal will every year increase the value of the Wisconsin practically exempts timber from taxes to induce the owners not to cut it. The removal of the timber will mean great changes in the climate of the state.

Is Land Confiscation Right?

CENTRALIA, Wash., Oct. 22.—(To the Editor.)—There seems to be an understanding among your correspondents that single tax is ultimately to end in no private ownership of land, it seems to me the opponents should go to the gist of the matter and show up the wrong that would result to land owners by such confiscation. If private ownership is right, the single tax is wrong. We in the Evergreen State will be in the same contention in the near future. THOMAS ROGK.

Author of "Evolution."

PORTLAND, Oct. 23.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me the name of the poem that contains these lines: "When you were a tadpole and I was a fish. But that was a million years ago." Also the author's name. A SUBSCRIBER.

Coins Values.

PORTLAND, Oct. 23.—(To the Editor.)—Is a 50-cent piece made in 1857 worth any more than its face value? A READER.

Fleas in Chicken House.

ASTORIA, Or., Oct. 22.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly tell me how to exterminate "fleas" from a chicken-house. It seems as if the chicken house is alive with them, and to go near it one gets covered with fleas; they don't stay on for long, as an ordinary flea, but look exactly like one. My chickens are full of them. OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Hold the Chickens by the Legs.

Hold the chickens by the legs, and dust them well with ordinary sulphur; whitewash the chicken-house inside and outside. C. HOWARD FRENCH.

TRUST METHODS NOT CONDONED.

The Dailies Writer Again Explains His Views on Regulation and Competition. THE DAILIES, Oct. 22.—(To the Editor.)—In my letter to The Oregonian of October 15, I did not understand to defend trusts, as such, or excuse their methods, or advocate the principle of consolidation and co-operation on which the trusts are founded, as against the competitive system which is devoid of principle. The Nation beholds the "spectacle of one group of men controlling the price of beef, another of oil, another of steel." These men do so because they have proved themselves the "fittest" under the competitive system. Why should we "dissolve" them and go over the whole process again? Competition is a natural law. It is the germ of its own destruction. It has had its day. Would we put back the hands of time? We must go forward to something higher and better than the present. It is difficult to see how the price can be reduced to the consumer by forcing the trusts to give up an economical method of production and adopt an extravagant, cumbersome, competitive system. We are face to face with comprehensive Government regulation. To oppose it is simply to "kick against the pricks." The question is how long will it take the public to make up its mind to swallow its medicine? All this grumbling, squirming is simply prolonging the agony. Were it not serious it would be amusing to see the President, Congress and the Supreme Court going gunging and hawking the whole process of production and distribution. We must welcome the operation of natural law. We must welcome the principle and regulate the methods. The Oregonian is a Socialist because he advocates Government supervision? Is Mr. Walden a Socialist? Capitalism and we have been telling the trusts what they must do; now we must tell them what they may and must do. Then Mr. Walden will no longer feel "advised" to "legislate." Capitalism will be safe and sure of adequate return, and the public will be amply protected. Fundamentally the question is a different one from that of the trusts. The object of protection? Primarily it is to supply human needs. Under our drying competitive system our energies have been expended in making profit; human needs receive secondary consideration. We are now in the throes of an economic re-birth. In the new co-operative system which is now dawned upon us, the primary consideration will be the welfare of the people; profits will be incidental. HENRY L. WALLER.

MARKET SITE BEST AVAILABLE

Correspondent Opposed to Voting More Bonds for Auditorium Site. PORTLAND, Oct. 22.—(To the Editor.)—Since reading the account in The Oregonian of the meeting of the commission's report in regard to the site for an auditorium, I have been watching day after day for a discussion on the subject of the site. I am a native Oregonian; but no one yet has seemed to give the matter any attention. It is a matter that concerns every man and woman in Portland. If he or she who is interested in the subject, just as much so, because all additional expense laid upon property must be met by increased rents or increased prices of manufactured goods. One of the commissioners objects to the "setting" of the market block, and then offers as a substitute the Armory block. This suggestion is absurd. Think of the "setting" of the market block, especially on the west! And as time goes on it will be much less desirable than it is now, with large buildings for manufacturing purposes springing up on all sides. The buildings around the market block are small and inferior, so much the better. The "setting" will be the sooner and with less expense, provided with modern and handsome structures. We have been told heretofore that "the market block" was a "good place" and so it is. The ground, with its gentle slope, is especially suitable; it is convenient to the East Side and south, and the population is growing. It is a very large population, and the location is especially convenient for the Upper Valley people. Then last, but not least, the question of the "setting" of the market block. The public has been more than generous in voting \$600,000 to provide an auditorium, a place where the most of our daily necessities are sold or three evenings a month. If we have any more money to spare, had we better not keep it to pay the burdens of street cleaning, or any other ever-increasing taxes? Shall we vote more bonds to satisfy the whims or something else of over-fastidious commissioners? I say no, and hope that every intelligent citizen will vote no. The city of Portland will answer this question in no uncertain terms; if not now, surely later at the polls, if this question is again to be voted up by a few dollars. M. M. G.

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

The manager of an "Uncle Tom's Cabin" show which is touring the Kerosene circuit, has a lithograph showing himself and Abraham Lincoln as the two greatest men of the age. Ever remark how timidly and hesitatingly a bald man take off his hat. Lots of good men don't understand grammar; I don't myself. A widower shouldn't say, too soon after the funeral, "She is better off." We Americans have a lot of old traditions we accept long after we know better. It is as much as a man's life is worth to marry a second time, if he has daughters, but sons, particularly married sons, usually realize that if there is any punishment coming to the old man because of the folly of a second marriage, the second wife will provide it. How many foolish things there are to begeth from the really important work of our lives! Every circus day a farmer drives a team of young colts to town. The colts are sure to go crazy at sight of an elephant, but the farmer will tie them in front of a store on the main street, and when the elephant comes will hold on to the colts and allow him to enjoy the parade in peace. After a man has used tobacco a long time, quitting is almost equal to delirium tremens. They say a certain man and woman were married last Sunday. The woman was at work as usual down town this morning. She looked at the clock and said, "I don't trust when a woman gets married, you bet she quits work."

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, October 24, 1861. The Washington County agricultural fair pleased everybody present. There was a good exhibition of stock and other articles. The Astoria men will hold on to the colts and allow him to enjoy the parade in peace. Artemus Ward's show has gone under. It was composed of stuffed lions, tigers, bears, and various animals. Artemus Ward's show was a failure. The show was in a boat on the Mississippi, was captured, taken to Memphis and confiscated by the immortal General Pillow. FARM LAND IS NOT TOO HIGH. Linn County Farmer Insists That Willamette Valley Lands Pay. HALSBY, Or., Oct. 23.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian, written by E. U. W., stating that farm land is held too high in the Willamette Valley, I beg leave to say that it is not too high. It is a time when that brings an income of 10 to 15 per cent on the money invested that is too high. The people who pay this income are the farmers. It is a time when the men who own farms have not only their living the year round, but most of them have money on hand. It is a time when farmers do not pay more than \$5 per acre rent. Perhaps not, but it is no fault of the farmer. It has sustained the renter and his family, who usually lay by a few dollars. E. U. W. says he knows of a "case" of a man from Missouri who figures on engaging a man to live on his farm. He would like for the man from Missouri to "show me" why he is willing to remain here. Let him go back to his Missouri property and let him pay the price of the "sublime scenery, good schools, fertile land, good climate, no poisonous reptiles, etc." I meet men most every day who travel more than 50 miles in Linn County, and they tell me the Willamette Valley is far ahead of any place in the world. One man who owns a mansion in England, and who has been in every state in the Union, says this valley is best of all. A man from Los Angeles who heard the remark said, "People who can't pay land here and don't, will want to kick themselves in less than five years, for land will never be so cheap again. Land here sells from \$5 to \$50 per acre. I've lived in Linn County for the past 30 years, and know there are but few farms but what have been divided. The large ones spoken of by E. U. W., he will find are still in possession of the original owners, who make them pay, and he won't want to divide them. He seemed disappointed about the immigration. We are certainly well repaid for money spent by cities for boosting. There are 25 farms with a two-mile tract, which have been purchased by people from the Eastern states who have come here during the past two years. They seem to be well satisfied, and there isn't a vacant house in Halsby or Harrisburg. I don't know where the writer made his 10-mile drive in Linn that he saw no new buildings, probably three times around one of the grand old farms. W. A. CUMMINGS.

American Flag Association.

PORTLAND, Or., Oct. 21.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly give the name and address of the society for the protection of our flag from disrespectful usage. SUBSCRIBER.

The Secretary of the American Flag Association is Theodore Fitch, 130 Broadway, New York.