

The Oregonian

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Portland, Monday, Nov. 25, 1912.

PENSIONS FOR EX-PRESIDENTS.

The decision of the Carnegie Corporation to grant a pension of \$25,000 a year to ex-Presidents of the United States and their widows brings to the front once more the question, "What shall we do with our ex-Presidents?"

However the ex-Presidents themselves may feel, the American people themselves are apt to feel that, if the former heads of the Nation are to be pensioned, it should be by the Nation, not by any private individual or corporation.

Yet we refuse to regard an ex-President as we regard other men. A man who has once been head of the Nation is, in the public estimation, a public character for the rest of his life and is called upon to render gratuitous public service in many capacities.

By paying a pension to an ex-President we can secure the right to this service and can save him from such a fiasco as Grant made of his business career.

The United States should not be content to carry on its living as a private citizen, while still required to perform a public function. The dignity of the Nation forbids that he should become dependent on the bounty of any individual.

Specialization is the order of the day in law as in other occupations. We have advanced from specialization by lawyers to specialization by courts.

Interpretation of patent law has fallen into such confusion that the proposed new court seems to be urgently needed. Appeals in patent cases now go to the Circuit Courts of Appeals, whose decisions in such cases are final unless the Supreme Court directs a case to be sent to it by special order.

It is proposed to end this confusion, which demoralizes both lawyers and clients, by taking from the Circuit Courts of Appeals jurisdiction over patent cases and vesting it in one Court of Patent Appeals for the whole country.

The decisions of the new court are to be composed of a newly appointed Chief Justice and four Associate Justices, who are to be assigned from the circuit or district bench.

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By the creation of this court the ordinary courts would be relieved of a great mass of litigation dealing with technical questions, and their other business would be greatly expedited.

MEANINGLESS NAMES. About 5,000 persons in Multnomah County, Oregon, signed petitions asking Senator Bourne to come out as an independent candidate for the United States Senate.

Senator Bourne has demonstrated that 15,000 names on a candidate's petition mean nothing at all. It might have been signed with any other candidate.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILLS. One of the most important measures which will come before Congress for action at its next session is a bill which is being prepared by the Department of Commerce and Labor.

THE SCANDALMONGER. To get at the real truth of the slander of the Y. M. C. A. it is necessary to go some of the technical details of the newspaper business.

THE TRIPLE ENTENTE IN THE ORIENT. Domination of China by the joint action of Russia and Japan, provided England and France do their part vigilantly to prevent the understanding from becoming an instrument for the destruction of China.

While the population of Germany increased at the rate of over 370,000 a year and that of France at the rate of only a little over 70,000, the latter country cannot expect to hold its own unless it takes measures to counteract the growth of its population.

When the maker of fashions can transform the hair of a girl of last year into the slithery, helpless, wretched creature of this year, he must feel proud of his power over the human race.

With pessimists forecasting extinction of the American turkey, even 30 cents is not too much while the bird lasts.

Pointexter will be the Progressive Casablanca on the Senatorial deck, "where all but he had fled."

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Though this picture of the Chinese kept so busy at home that they will have no desire for either Pacific or armed invasion of the world is plain to Americans, the Chinese are being carried out from the political control of the triple entente and of Japan.

One of the most remarkable features of the movement for better farming is the part which bankers are taking in it. A farmer-borrower who uses money in old-style farming is both diminishing his ability to pay and reducing the value of the security.

There is already division in the Progressive ranks in New York City regarding fusion against Tammany in the coming municipal campaign.

Pointexter may be the proud distinction of being the only bolting Republican Senator to stand his ground.

The life-giving and invigorating qualities of the climate of Pacific Coast are displayed by the publication in The Sunday Oregonian of portraits of five couples who have celebrated their golden wedding.

Maine Progressives may block the election of a Republican to succeed Gardner as Senator from Maine.

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PUBLISHER REPLIES TO CRITICS

Mr. Ocha Denies That Advertisers Control the Country's Press. George W. Ocha, Publisher of New York Times and Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Critics are quick to charge a newspaper with mercenary motives, and the halls of Congress and the hustings of the American press has degenerated, and that it is dominated by "the interests," that it is under the control of "big business" and its policies are dictated by "crooked advertisers."

It perhaps is not generally known, but nevertheless it is the truth, that the advertising revenue of the Philadelphia and Chicago and other cities refuse to insert advertisements to the value of hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

The charge that advertisers control the policy of the newspaper is another slander on the American press. The press is controlled by the "interests," the "colossal trusts," "big business," "the interests" and "Wall Street."

There may be some newspapers owned by trusts—certainly no important American newspaper that I know of comes within this category—but even should this be true, it is not the trusts that control the newspaper.

Any individual partnership or corporation has as much right to publish a newspaper as the companies or persons now engaged in the newspaper business.

The gibberish, so often heard, that advertisers dominate the newspaper, has in it, in its last analysis, neither logic nor common sense.

While the population of Germany increased at the rate of over 370,000 a year and that of France at the rate of only a little over 70,000, the latter country cannot expect to hold its own unless it takes measures to counteract the growth of its population.

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WOMAN'S CHASTISEMENT PRAISED

Portland Writer Hopes Mrs. Lemasters Really Used Garden Hose. PORTLAND, Nov. 23.—(To the Editor.)—Quite the most refreshing thing to my mind appearing in the press of Oregon City, with the exception of the method of Mrs. Lemasters, of Medford, in dealing with a husband devoid of moral sense.

It is a freedom to pursue their villainy further—and if men would be punished severely if they robbed another man of a few paltry dollars, but may rob a woman of honor and expose her to untold humiliation and escape the enemy at a moment's notice.

It will have to be conceded that this is unusual and perhaps too strenuous on the part of a deceived and outraged woman to follow the common or poetic code in vogue several generations ago.

Again reverting to the pleasing domestic environment in the home, or rather one should say in one of the homes of Mr. Lemasters I beg of his right-minded wife not to extenuate the alleged dimensions of the weapon in question, but to let us fondly believe it to be of the usual common garden variety and of size and weight of quality.

SYMPATHY FOR THE POOR SMOKER. Correspondent Would Let Him Puff on Early Morning Cigs. PORTLAND, Nov. 22.—(To the Editor.)—I read in The Oregonian what nonsmoker has to say about smoking and change is intelligently analyzed, it proves utterly fallacious.

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Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of November 25, 1862. We learn that the new iron works on the Tualatin River, four miles above Oregon City, will commence operation in 10 or 15 days.

A \$1000 gold bar for the Sanitary Commission will be forwarded by the citizens of Lewiston to the president of the fund.

New York, Nov. 18.—A special dispatch from Warrenton says Barnabas has submitted his plan to the campaign to the authorities at Washington.

San Francisco, Nov. 20.—Brigadier-General Wright received an order by telegram from the Secretary of War yesterday to muster into service forthwith Captain Richard House upon pay of \$1000 per month for active service in the United States Army.

Several Ladies Laid Down by One Who Has Had Experience. PORTLAND, Nov. 24.—(To the Editor.)—Being read a number of your matrimonial articles with interest, I, a bachelor, would like to contribute a few remarks.

Some of the essentials of happy married life are the following: 1. A man should be able to support a family. 2. A woman should be able to manage a household.

STANFORD PRESIDENT ASKS AID FOR WIDOW OF WILLIAMETTE ENGINEER. STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Cal., Nov. 21.—(To the Editor.)—Permit me to call attention to a sad case of the widow and children of a man eminent in science—a case that has recently been referred to me by those who are able or disposed to give.

UNMARRIED, BUT NOT REPINING. Bachelor Maid Finds This a Pretty Good World, Even for the Single. PORTLAND, Nov. 23.—(To the Editor.)—I am greatly interested in the many different opinions on "why we are bachelors."

Primary Commission Is Reactionary. BUENA VISTA, Or., Nov. 20.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian a gentleman from Ontario undertakes to tell us responsible for our present troubles.

Teaching English to Foreigners. Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I have just published a book, "The New Immigration," tells of his method of teaching English to foreigners.

Revenge on Mother-in-Law. Paris, Feb. 10. "And don't forget to make the doors of my new house only 60 centimeters wide."