

The Oregonian

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Portland, Monday, Dec. 2, 1912.

GETTING EVEN WITH THE PRESS?

The Boston Transcript is credited in a paragraph going the rounds in the newspapers, with the statement that Senator Bourne used his position as chairman of the Senate committee on postoffices to get even with the newspapers by procuring the enactment of the drastic newspaper inquisitorial law.

It is a fact that Mr. Bourne is chairman of the postoffice committee and was a member of the conference committee that in the recently passed bill, with the Senate, the House over the objection of the postoffice appropriation bill, to which the obnoxious and impossible publicity provision was attached as a rider.

The offensive implication of the law is that the newspapers of the United States have been selling their news or editorial pages, or both—an assumption that is groundless and little less than outrageous.

The wide sweep of the inquisitorial statute may be understood when it is said that under its terms, strictly interpreted, a newspaper may be sent to a newspaper for review, without the opinion of the editor, whether favorable or unfavorable, shall be labeled "advertisement."

All this sounds ridiculous, of course; but the Postoffice Department, asked to interpret the law, has given out word that it will follow the strict letter of its provisions.

The suggestion that as Secretary of State Bryan would subordinate his own views when they did not coincide with those of Wilson provokes a smile.

moner. Wilson's attempt to prevent Bryan from playing Roosevelt to his Cabinet office may result in a repetition of Taft's experience, with a difference only in the incidents. No man ever yet put a gag on Bryan, and if Wilson should succeed in doing so, he will have achieved what has seemed impossible.

BLUE-SKYLING. The New York Tribune reports that the Investment Bankers' Association recommends to its members that they support enactment in the various states of the so-called "blue-sky laws," so as to safeguard the organization of corporations and the issuance of securities and thus to protect the investor.

When Big Business begins to appeal to the public for a law that had its origin among the agitators and upstarts of Kansas, we may assume that it has had an awakening as to what the investing public wants and is sure sooner or later to get.

A blue-sky law, designed to control the operations of speculators whose rainbow visions are bounded only by the firmament above, ought to be enacted in every state. The next Oregon Legislature should address itself seriously to a problem that means the weeding out of the wildcatting and irresponsible guarantee of legitimacy to the newspaper industry organized under authority of the state.

The late "blue-sky" law was defeated in Oregon partly because it was thought to be a carefully nursed scheme to give somebody a job and partly because the promoters of the law were themselves "blue-skying" in the name of a sound law, and the Legislature has a plain duty to put it on the statute books.

THE SESSION OF CONGRESS. The session of Congress which begins today is likely to be more important for the indications it gives of the political line-up than for any legislation it may accomplish.

The most interesting question in relation to the session is, What attitude will the Roosevelt Progressives assume? Will they flock by themselves and insist on recognition as a separate party in both Senate and House or will they be a sort of half-bred Republicans?

THE O. A. C. FARMERS' WEEK. December 9 to December 14 will be what is known as Farmers' Week at the Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis.

December 9 to December 14 will be what is known as Farmers' Week at the Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis. The program is one of the most interesting and profitable that has been held at the college.

Every person so asked would tell of knowledge gained, worth not only the week's time and the money expended, but the outlay of four or five dollars would say that they hope to attend these courses year after year; as many would aver

that they have attended every course since the movement was started. One thing of prime importance to remember is that the people who act as teachers and lecturers at these meetings do not teach theories, save as they have demonstrated such theories by actual demonstrations.

The subjects to be expounded cover almost every branch of farming and fruit raising, and touch every phase of farm life. The "students" will have the choosing of the lectures and demonstration wish to attend.

THE RIGHT KIND OF IMMIGRANTS. A most valuable suggestion is contained in the communication of Albert Angermayer, published in The Oregonian last Saturday.

Should the Hamburg-American line finally decide to run a line of steamers to Portland, an admirable opportunity of securing this class of immigrants will be offered. By co-operation with that company, we could induce the kind of immigration we want to induce any kind of immigration which pays passage money.

THE BREAD AND BUTTER SIDE. In his lecture at the Art Museum on the "Alms of Education," President W. T. Foster spoke of a significant fact, which is sometimes overlooked by those concerned with making up courses of study.

Whenever the Turkish question seems to be in a fair way to settlement, some new nationality of whose claims we had never before heard comes forward or is pushed forward and breaks up the programme.

Wilson is willing to take the oath as President without contention, that is, securely sheltered from the mad March wind, such as spoiled Taft's inauguration. He is quite willing to wait for the "fixin's" till the sun shines.

Captain Bartlett's scheme for reaching the North Pole by aeroplane may be perfectly feasible, provided the aviator could carry a hot stove, but now that the pole has been discovered and has become the subject of a nasty scandal, who wants to go there?

It might be wise to defer dividing the \$17,000,000 until Oklahoma has provided for rigid exclusion of fire-water and has passed a blue sky law. Otherwise the money may not benefit the Indians.

HUGHES PRIMARY PLAN INDORSED. Party committees should recommend candidates by the caucus method. PORTLAND, Nov. 30.—(To the Editor.)—The direct primary, as we now have it, will not bring about a better understanding among our people, nor will it drive the reformer from our politics.

Under the direct primary any windmill can present himself for office and the reformer is left to present himself. It is less annoying to sign a petition than law about it.

It was these reasons which led Governor Hughes to develop his plan for a direct primary in the popular mind. He was a writer, a recent contributor on this subject. Briefly his plan was as follows:

VOTERS' WILL AS TO AUDITORIUM. Blocks Owned by City Must Not Be Used for Site, Argues Writer. PORTLAND, Nov. 29.—(To the Editor.)—There is some discussion over the location of the proposed auditorium.

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SOCIAL ETHICS BAR TO MARRIAGE. Trouble Not in Meeting, But in Manner of Conducting. SALEM, Or., Nov. 30.—(To the Editor.)—It would seem that there are a great many people of both sexes who would marry and be happy ever afterward, only that the right ones don't meet, and to the man on the fence, it would seem to be not the fault of the world, but married people through lack of inclination, but in the ethics of matrimony.

Theoretically the man is introduced to the girl and falls in love at sight, from which he is never supposed to recover until the girl either turns him down, or marries him. There is no other escape. A man who is very careful whom he falls in love with, if when he commits himself, there is no backing out, no matter what kind of a lesson he has learned from presenting himself.

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THE OFFENSIVE IMPLICATION OF THE LAW. The offensive implication of the law is that the newspapers of the United States have been selling their news or editorial pages, or both—an assumption that is groundless and little less than outrageous.

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ODE TO MY POCKETBOOK. Old pocketbook, well hast thou stood. O-tragically fortune's hand has snatched. And the well-stocked of the world. That round my humble dwelling sniffs.

Even Thanksgiving, with its call for special eats and other junk. Has not entirely put thee out. Though, with thee to tell, thou sure art strunk.

At Christmas shopping time to go. Plumb bankrupt on the Christmas present.

So, come, let's agree our final spree; Nor worry, though our soul give warning. That, at Christmastide is past. The wolf will get us New Year's morning.

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Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian of December 2, 1862. The election for Chief Engineer and two assistants of the Portland fire department was held on Nov. 27, 1862.

THE GRADING AND PLANKING OF WASHINGTON. The grading and planking of Washington street from Front to Front in the city of Portland is nearly completed and presents a very respectable and neat appearance.

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER HAS PASSED WITH SCARCELY A DROP OF RAIN. A Chicago, Nov. 28.—Late New York and New Orleans papers contain the speech of the rebel General Pemberton on taking command of Van Dorn's army.

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