

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JAN. 16, 1913.

AN ATTACK ON THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

Senator Dimick's project to economize in educational appropriations begins with an attack on the rural schools. These humble schools have no dignified body of professors to speak for their interests. No politically adept President goes about the state making friends for them. No closely organized group of alumni keeps watch to see that they are provided with luxurious maintenance. The rural schools have no friends but the people and even the people are too often misled to forsake them in their day of need. Naturally a legislator who takes up the subject of economy in educational appropriations wishes to cut as brilliant a figure as possible and make as few enemies as he can in doing it.

The blow which Senator Dimick aims at the country schools takes the form of the repeal of the law for County Superintendents. It makes no difference to him that these superintendents have doubled the efficiency of the rural schools so that the taxpayer gets twice as much for his money as he did before they were appointed. The welfare of the schools is not his aim. What is wanted is a little cheap glory for an ambitious legislator. The country schools are not the enemy. The enemy is the taxpayer's money where the results would glitter, but for the infinitely more important cause of rural education funds have been granted stingily and grudgingly. The reason is plain enough. There is nobody to blow the trumpet before the man who stands up for country schools. He is not heralded far and wide as a "friend to the higher education." He is not lauded as a pillar of the classics and a buttress of football. He deserves merely the modest praise of being a friend of the public welfare, and who cares for that?

We wish to emphasize the self-evident fact that education in Oregon has always been topheavy. The Willamette Valley is crowded with colleges. Most of them subsist upon private means, but some are mendicants at the public crib, and, like all mendicants, the more they get the more they want. It is not surprising that the country child gets little enough even with the supervisors whom Senator Dimick so begrudges him. The welfare of the state is wrapped up in the welfare of the country schoolboy and the country schoolgirl. If they grow up in ignorance and neglect the country child will suffer. Immeasurable harm. It does not matter so much about our lawyers and physicians, our ministers and politicians. If the home supply should ever fall we can import them in superabundance and very cheaply.

When they destroyed can never be supplied. We beg pardon for quoting Goldsmith. We ought to be more precise in our article of this sort, but we apprehend that Goldsmith will be better understood in the rural districts where Latin is not a common branch of study. It may be well enough for the state to lavish the taxpayers' money to educate physicians and lawyers. That is a point which admits of no doubt. There is something to say on both sides of it. But upon the question whether the state should give the best education within its means to the boys and girls in the rural schools no debate is possible between sane persons. The duty of the state in this matter is as plain as noonday. It is based upon the law of self-preservation.

In a community like Oregon, where every citizen is a legislator, it would be commensurate folly to neglect the education of the rural voter. It would be folly almost as dire to neglect such higher schools as those which flourish with the welfare of the rural population. But what shall we say of the wisdom displayed by a man who begins his educational reforms by slashing at the very roots of the country schools?

DOGS AND CURS.

Alabama has a dog issue. The Montgomery Advertiser attributes the decrease of over 50 per cent in the number of sheep in that state between 1900 and 1910 to the large canine population, saying: "Sheep and worthless curs cannot be grown in the same territory." After extolling the merits of the sheep, it says: "But what are the dogs good for? They are nothing but trouble. They kill the sheep, even if they never destroyed his sheep, or his other property. In Alabama, the dog is the flip-eared bandit of the early cur. The man who owns dogs can outvote the man who owns sheep—therefore down with the sheep. These sentiments are approved by the Louisville Courier-Journal, which remarks: "The difficulty encountered by legislators who are afraid of the consequences of dog laws is that because the poor man can vote the advice he gets illustrates the fact that the poor, like women and prisoners, are favored for their favor by many who are not their friends. The difficulty seems to be to discriminate between dogs. When a man's own dog leaps and barks with joy at his approach, it is a noble dog, a man's best friend. When the same dog dashes with an angry snarl at his owner's neighbor and tears a piece out of his trousers, or perhaps out of his leg, it is a savage, ill-bred cur. If

the Alabama Legislature should decree that dogs in the state should be destroyed, it would not be able to find a cur in the state in the opinion of the owners, but if it took the opinion of each man about his neighbor's dog, all the dogs would be slain. Alabama will not settle the dog issue this year, or for many a year to come.

SOLDIER'S RIGHT TO DRINK.

The experience of Mr. Ruggles years ago with the Army canteen at a frontier post qualifies him in his opinion to testify as to its demoralizing influence on the Army, and to contradict the testimony of Secretary of War Stimson, Major-General Wood and the host of Army officers who have protested in vain against the vice dives and whisky hell-holes that have sprung up around nearly every frontier post in the country. Mr. Ruggles says today his curious view of the canteen.

Secretary Stimson says he has visited personally forty-nine of the United States Army posts. In every instance he found a battery of saloons placed near the barracks gates. There the soldier was tempted to spend his meager pay and worse yet, he was too often an actor in disorderly scenes, or he was plied with liquor until he was blind drunk. Secretary Stimson found that certain diseases have spread to an alarming extent in the Army and he attributes it to the habits of dissipation that he found at the post saloons.

The Army canteen provides the soldier only with beer, or other light drinks. It is under strict supervision. The patron of the canteen is under the watchful eye of an officer, and the portion given to him is limited and the amount he may spend in a given day is also limited. It seems strange that anyone should profess to contrast unfavorably the canteen as it is, or recently was, with the post saloon and all its evil surroundings and wretched consequences.

The Army has been made a sacrificial goat for the mistake made that the Government should not dispense liquor. But Government everywhere licenses the sale of liquor. Why should the Army yield the right to control what a soldier may drink, giving to civilian rum-sellers the privilege of loading him with more than anyone should drink?

WOMAN'S INFLUENCE ON GOVERNMENT.

Voting by women is destined to bring moral issues and social reform to the front in politics and government. Two events recorded in a single issue of The Oregonian are examples of education in action. One is the introduction of a woman's suffrage bill in the Oregon Legislature; the other is the movement among the women of San Francisco for recall of a judge who, by reducing bail, aided escape of a man accused of assault on a girl.

We may be sure that the women voters will have no mercy on officials who are lenient to offenders against women. Women's protests will develop a public opinion which will demand stern prosecution of offenders of this class. Gradually we shall establish in law and public opinion the same standard of morality for men as for women.

When wives and mothers exercise their franchise, we may expect wife-droppers to be pursued with more energy. When a man beats his wife there will be less probability that the wife will be restricted to choice of privation while he is paying the penalty in jail or refusing to testify that she may be deprived of the breadwinner. When the husband who wastes his earnings on whisky is punished, provision will be made against still greater vicarious suffering on the part of his family. After the influence of women has become apparent in legislation and administration, we shall be compelled to admit that man, unaided by woman, has been a sad bungler.

In discussions of economic questions we shall hear less of the survival of the fittest, of the iron law of supply and demand as governing wages and charging all the blame of the trade depression upon the man who has more of the minimum wage of workmen's compensation, of sanitation, of pure food, honest weights and measures. The pendulum at first may swing too far in the direction of humanitarianism and too far away from self-help and personal responsibility, but as women become more experienced in politics they will learn to strike the happy mean between the laws of political economy and humanitarianism. In the state, as in the family, we shall approach the ideal where man and woman together can do more perfect work than either man or woman alone.

MUNSEY'S MOVE FOR REINION.

Without consulting Colonel Roosevelt, Frank Munsey, who shares with "angel" of the Progressive party, has made a plea for its reunion with the Republican party. This is one of several pleas made by one side or the other, and we may expect more of them as time passes. It is worth special notice because it starts from one of the honor of being chief fuddler by a mere ruffling of the hair, and it is not to be contented with a severance of the two railroads and the courts as well as the influence of the courts as well as the other departments of the Government. The judiciary may be the slowest and the last thus to respond, but the sober sense of the people would rather have it so than that the courts should be blown about by every wind of doctrine. What the people desire is that the courts shall interpret the law in the light of conditions existing at the present, not as they existed in past times. This involves no change in the structure of the constitution, no more than does reeducation and installation of modern plumbing involve change in the structure of an old, substantially-built house.

The Supreme Court is making such progress in the interpretation of the anti-trust law that soon no man will have excuse for saying that he is uncertain whether a certain act would be in accordance with or in violation of that law. Each successive decision adds definiteness to its meaning, so that, even without supplementary legislation, we may build up a line of decisions which will be a sure guide for the purpose of preventing violation of the anti-trust law and the purpose of the law is to bring about a bringing to justice offending individuals and corporations.

In considering the bill to regulate the sale and carrying of firearms the Legislature should not overlook the workings of a law in New York. Many a law-abiding citizen has been arrested for having a revolver in his possession, though only for protection against criminals, while criminals have shown the same contempt for this law as for other laws. The result has too often been that the good citizens are left unarmed. A law forbidding the carrying of revolvers on the person, except by special permit, might prevent many shootings in the heat of passion, but the citizen should be given greater freedom to keep a revolver in his house for protection against marauders. Severe restrictions should, however, be placed on the sale of firearms.

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A constant reminder of the difference in fortune by the children of the wealthy to the children of the poor or of the moderately well-to-do is a result of the law. Extravagance in dress is such a reminder. The movement among high school girls towards simplicity in dress is for this reason to be highly commended. One of the greatest and most valuable results of the mingling of children of all classes in the public schools is the lesson in democracy which it teaches. If the children of the rich flaunt evidence of their parents' wealth before the eyes of their poorer school mates, the opposite lesson will be taught. The one class will be encouraged in vanity and vulgar ostentation, the other in jealousy and snobbish imitation. The effect of the mingling of rich and poor in the schools will then be to emphasize class distinctions, not to extinguish them. It will be time enough for the daughters of the rich to give free rein to their love for personal adornment when their school days are ended or in other places than the schoolroom.

Brother Watterson views with open pleasure the prospect of a fight between Wilson and Bryan for the Democratic nomination in 1916, which is predicted by the Tampa Times. Recalling Polk's exaction from each member of his cabinet of a pledge to resign if the cabinet officer became a candidate for the nomination, the Courier-Journal says: "Should Mr. Wilson exact such a pledge from Mr. Bryan in making him the offer of Secretary of State?"

HAWTHORNE AND THE NEW ENGLAND CONSCIENCE.

The Oregonian has received an amusing letter from Albert Woodberry Dennis which is printed today in another part of the paper. Mr. Dennis is the New Englander who wrote to the Boston Herald to oppose building a monument to Hawthorne in Salem. The Oregonian ventured some modest comments on his letter and he now pays his respects to us. Our position was that Salem ought to build the monument in order to show the world how much ashamed it was of itself for mistreating the great novelist in his lifetime.

But Mr. Dennis boldly proclaims himself unrepentant. He glories in his shame and that of his fellow New Englanders. "We know the monument cannot fail to imply some repentance," he says. "And I do not want it built. He goes on to protest that "Salem people know what Hawthorne was as a man. He was a morbid, taciturn man, so queer that he would not speak when spoken to, and to all appearances chose the rum shops and wharves as a place for his recreation in preference to better society."

So how we know exactly why Salem declines to build the monument to its greatest literary man. He was queer. Milton was queer. So were Burns and Shelley and Ruskin, to say nothing of Tolstoy. So most literary geniuses have been. The most literary and conscience demonstrates its rigor by refusing to forgive Hawthorne for neglecting to speak to his fellow-townsmen on the street. Ought we not all to long for such a conscience? It has been a good many years since that New Englander held it against him. It never forgets nor forgives.

But there was another crime. Hawthorne preferred the saloons to the very best social circles of Salem. What a sinner he must have been to like a bunch of saloon loafers better than the roomful of New England gentlemen such as Mr. Dennis. "Years ago people memorating Hawthorne's social habits. The project is to build a monument to his literary genius. Cannot Mr. Dennis see the difference?"

INTERPRETING THE ANTI-TRUST LAW.

The refusal of the Supreme Court to countenance distribution of the Southern Pacific stock owned by the Union Pacific stockholders displays a growing disposition of the courts to look behind the outward form to the inward meaning and practical effect of acts. By holding that the retention of stock by the Union Pacific stockholders as individuals instead of in their corporate capacity would make no actual change in a situation which it has held to be illegal, the court shows a purpose not to be fuddled by a mere ruffling of the hair, and it is not to be contented with a severance of the two railroads and the courts as well as the influence of the courts as well as the other departments of the Government. The judiciary may be the slowest and the last thus to respond, but the sober sense of the people would rather have it so than that the courts should be blown about by every wind of doctrine. What the people desire is that the courts shall interpret the law in the light of conditions existing at the present, not as they existed in past times. This involves no change in the structure of the constitution, no more than does reeducation and installation of modern plumbing involve change in the structure of an old, substantially-built house.

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Stars and Starmakers

By Leone Cass Baer.

"Parents of Men," a play of Oriental life—in a prologue and three acts—by Walter Clarke Bellows, was produced last week in New York at the Lyric Theatre. "Parents of Men," "Particularly," was for only one week, writes the critic in the Dramatic Review, and says further: "Brenda Fowler was the one bright spot of the piece. She worked hard and made much out of a small part."

Brenda Fowler—remember her!—was stock company as second woman. Also in the company presenting "Parents of Men" was Priscilla Knowles, one time leading woman with Lyric stock in Portland.

Robert McKim, leading man with Mrs. Langtry (Lady de Bath), at the Orpheum in "The Test," is known by thousands of patrons of the "movies" as the picture hero in many thrillers and film dramas. McKim has served as leading man for big moving picture concerns in the East, and moving pictures of him were exhibited in Portland long before he appeared here in the flesh. He played a prominent part at the Orpheum two years ago in "The Feud," in which Laura Hudson was starred, and more recently he was leading man for the Lyric Theatre, a former Portland resident, who presented "The Hypocrite" along the Orpheum circuit. McKim has a long Pacific Coast record. He was a member of the Alcazar Stock Company in San Francisco for several years, and before departing for the East to act before moving picture cameras he filled a long engagement with a stock company in Vancouver, B.C.

Ida Glynn, who has the role of aunt in Mrs. Langtry's vaudeville sketch, was with Henry B. Harris for six years, and appeared here at the old Heilig under his auspices three years ago in "The Lion and the Mouse," in which she played the part of the millionaire's wife. Later she appeared here with Elsie Ferguson in "The Country Boy." Miss Glynn is one of the numerous actresses recommended to George L. Baker for place with his stock company. Contracts prevented her from seeking a Portland engagement this season.

Ethel Clifton, who two years ago was leading woman with the George L. Baker stock in Seattle, is now playing leads in Bridgeport, Conn. A. H. Van Allen is leading man. He is the husband of Dorothy Bernard, better known as "Dot," and the daughter of William Bernard, who is stage director at the Baker this season. Dot has been playing leads in motion-picture dramas for the past two years, but has now joined her husband's company, appearing in the ingenue roles.

Rhea Mitchell is having page interviews, three-column pictures and a faithful record of all her excellent work in the San Francisco papers. She is ingenue with the "Cass" stock.

Rose Stahl, John Drew, Donald Brian, Maude Adams, Henry Miller and Chauncey Oloort are a few of the stars coming to the Heilig Theater this Winter and Spring.

William H. Crane, in his new comedy, "The Senator Keeps House," is coming to the Heilig Theater for a limited engagement in April.

David Warfield comes next week in "The Return of Peter Grimm," and John Simpson is now with him. Mr. Simpson is the manager of Chicago to engage in other work, and contemplates retiring altogether from the stage.

The Pacific Coast Grand Opera Company, under the direction of Mario Lambardi, will return to San Francisco for a four weeks' engagement, beginning January 28. The company will be presented at the Valencia Theater under the direction of Will Greenbaum.

After the performance at the Lyric Theater last night, Mr. and Mrs. Ed S. Allen held a housewarming at their new home, Main and Forty-fourth streets, to which were bidden Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Flood, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Keating, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Neuberger and Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Balzimer. The winners of the evening's game—"500"—were Mrs. Keating and Mr. Balzimer, with Mrs. Balzimer and Mr. Keating carrying away the inevitable booby prizes.

Frances White, ingenue at the Lyric, is celebrating her seventeenth natal anniversary today. I predict that ten years from today she won't be so joyous about telling the exact number of years.

Nance O'Neill and company are back on Broadway. Miss O'Neill had planned a long tour, reviving "Magna," "Fires of St. John" and "The Jewess." The tour lasted two and a half weeks. Now that her road season has ended unexpectedly, Miss O'Neill will get ready for vaudeville dates, it is said.

Mrs. Leslie Carter—she of the titanic locks—is coming to this Coast in a repertoire of her successes. "Zaza" and "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" will be the two old standbys, with "Camille" and "Magna" held in reserve for matinee and extra performances. Maude Hanford, a Los Angeles girl who appeared last Spring in Baker stock, is in Mrs. Carter's company. Miss Hanford is a failure earlier this season, and moved then to this later engagement. Brandon Hurst is Mrs. Carter's leading man. She will appear in Portland in the early summer.

An interesting engagement just made by the Lyric Company for the cast of "Joseph and His Brethren" is that of James O'Neill, a Pacific Coast veteran actor. Mr. O'Neill has been cast for the role of Jacob in the first and last parts, and for Pharaoh in the third part.

Charles Grapewin, supported by Mike Donlin and Anna Chance, is now appearing in a comedy called "Between Showers," by F. E. Dumm. It was launched at Long Branch on New Year's day. Next week it will be given at the Majestic Theater, Jersey City. The fact that Donlin has opened in "Between Showers" at this time is causing the Philadelphia fans to wonder if they are going to have him in the line-up of the Quakers this season. The farce is a rapidly moving one, involving the accidental exchange of suitcases by two drummers.

Adele Blood, who is headed Pacific Coast ways in "Every Woman," playing the title role, was divorced last week from her first husband, a man named Edward Davies. They were married while Mr. Davies was an evangelist on this part of the Coast, and later they went on to the stage. Next they appeared in stock at Louisville, Ky., and established their residence here, for which reason Miss Blood had to go to that city to obtain her divorce. She is now in vaudeville. Her husband and Miss Blood appeared in Portland two seasons ago in "The Picture of Dorian Gray."

Five daily papers for each Senator should keep him in touch with his needs.

ARMY CANTEENS ON FRONTIER

Observations of Early Day Are Reported by Operator.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 14.—(To the Editor.)—Referring to your editorial article in The Oregonian Sunday relative to the Army canteen, in which the objection is based exclusively on observations and experiences and conditions as I found them years ago, when I was a Government operator at a frontier military post, where the canteen had full swing and power.

The canteen, as I knew it, was nothing more or less than an Army saloon, with an Army officer as manager and enlisted soldiers as bar-keepers. The officer did all the purchasing, handled all the money and passed the goods over to the bar-keepers.

The officers had their clubrooms near the canteen and there was always a ready supply of champagne, cigars and lemons, fruits and nuts free to those who were recognized members of their club. It is safe to presume that these luxuries were purchased out of "canteen funds" and never cost the officers a red cent. There were always officers there playing cards, drinking, smoking, reading and chatting from 10 o'clock in the morning until late at night.

The enlisted men always had a credit canteen manager had his desk near the paymaster and the soldier on getting his money from the paymaster would pass to him the change in liquor and other bills, which usually was more than half of his two months' pay. Again, I have known officers who have gotten into serious trouble over canteen funds, one being discharged from the service in consequence of delinquency.

There is more drinking and more "canteen funds" provided with a canteen, but the intoxicated are better shielded and cared for. Usually a soldier who drinks too much liquor has a superior officer in his barracks and sober him up. They cannot regulate a canteen as well as a city does its saloons.

"Canteen funds" we have a large military force and it is seldom, indeed, that a drunken soldier is seen on the streets.

The canteen has proven as great a detriment to the officers as to the enlisted men. With a canteen so handy it is easy for an officer or enlisted man to fall into the habits of drinking and have seen the young officer from West Point, also the young enlisted man from a good home in the East, go down under the influence of the canteen.

Millions of dollars for the Army, but not a drop of booze. Make the Army an efficient fighting force, and let the soldiers through and through, fit and allowing for our best young men, the center of manhood and patriotism.

W. N. RUGGLES.

SALEM VIEW OF GREAT NOVELIST

New England Town Unrepentant of Treatment Given Hawthorne.

SALEM, Mass., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—I have seen your editorial on my letter in the Boston Transcript, and thank the Hawthorne Memorial.

My letter brought down upon me the editorial disapproval of many papers, which I find in the Transcript, and I am surprised, because we know very well the enthusiasm for Hawthorne outside of Salem.

The one reason you give why Salem should give \$10,000 toward the monument for Hawthorne, viz., to "show a becoming remorse for having misunderstood and neglected him,"—to "bring forth fruits meet for repentance," etc.—is just the reason why we do not want to do it. We know the monument cannot fail to imply some such admission. Must we admit a lie to satisfy the egotism of a few people who are not our people, except that they possess a lot of spirit and independence of mind?

I know what Hawthorne was as a man, and they have enough self-respect to determine that they'd be hanged before they would raise up and bare their heads in acknowledgment of the failure of the town of Salem to make more of Hawthorne. For he was a morbid, taciturn man, so queer that he would not speak when spoken to, and to all appearances chose the rum shops and wharves as a place for his recreation in preference to better society.

I am not a Salem-born or Salem-bred man. So I can speak a trifle more freely than the natives. I do not like doing. And I do not hesitate to say that I glorify them for their spirit. I thoroughly believe the fundamental truth of Shakespeare's "First of all, man must follow as night to day that thou shalt not be false to man."

You have the queer slant that most westerners have toward the English. You think there isn't anything new in New England but its "ancestry," and that we are a bunch of "sterile" has-beens. You write with the offhand assurance of a college graduate, but you know. But you have got a lot to unlearn, I assure you.

ALBERT WOODBURY DENNIS.

LABOR IS THOUGHT MISINFORMED

Safeguards of Liability Law Retained by Compensation Bill.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—I notice in The Oregonian that one of the labor organizations has unanimously objected to the proposed workmen's compensation law on the ground that it is freedom from accident and not payment for same that they desire. They refer to the present law as providing safeguards by compensation bill.

By reference to the proposed law under paragraphs 25 and 33 they will find that inasmuch as the present law is not repeated, they have no real safeguard of that law and the advantage of selecting whether they will collect by direct suit against an employer negotiating with the law. They simply had been misinformed as to what the new law is.

As an employer I have some objections to the new law, which I think can easily be remedied without in any way destroying the efficiency of the law and rather adding to the workableness of same.

The present law is unsatisfactory to employers and employed and seems only in the interest of the "ambulance chaser" and such "walking delegates" as rustle for the doctor. I hope a good law may be passed. E. T. JOHNSON.

Snow on the Roof.

HAINES, Or., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—A foot of light snow fell on an old roof. For several days no more rain or snow fell. After a day of thawing and a night of freezing the snow on the roof fell the house to break the roof in. Did the snow and ice weigh any more than the first loose snow? EASTERN OREGONIAN.

Song of Inconsistency

By Denn Collins.

Biennially I grin with joy, At our small troubles that do annoy, And settle down to the glad delights, For forty days and for forty nights, Of watching the legislators' doze, New strife for the best hardware, And I snicker and bubble with pleasant laughter To think of the haps that will happen after.

Voice do call from the North and South, From East and West, by word of mouth Come the "ambulance" and "doctor" men, For many and many appropriations; For every county or city or town, Hope it can shake the old state down For coin sufficient to get aligned. Some special plan it has got in mind, From every side their voices call; And on legislators' ears shall fall, And on legislators' open money bags, And go on a glorious spending jag.

Yet soon, when the lawmakers' task is o'er, And cobwebs grow o'er the Senate door, And the veto ax, with lusty whoops, Comes rattling down its iron tracks; The popular voice again will come Althwart the land, and the air will hum As all who formerly made demands For appropriations in every hand, Hop along in the seething ring, And land on the legislators' "Bing" And savage voices in fury pant, "Taxpayers' money" — "Extravagant!"