The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.
Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class matter.
Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance:
(BY MAIL)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$8.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months	4.25
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	6.00
Daily, without Sunday, six months	3.25
Daily, without Sunday, three months	1.75
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.60
Weekly, one year	1.50
Sunday, one year	2.50
Sunday and weekly, one year	3.50

(BY CARRIER)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$9.00
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75

How to Remit—Send postoffice money order, express order or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at sender's risk. Give postofice address in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—12 to 16 pages, 1 cent; 18 to 32 pages, 2 cents; 34 to 48 pages, 3 cents; 50 to 60 pages, 4 cents; 62 to 76 pages, 5 cents; 78 to 92 pages, 6 cents. Foreign postage, double rates.

Eastern Business Offices—Verree & Conklin, New York, Brunswick building. Chicago, Steger building.

San Francisco Office—R. J. Bidwell Co., 742 Market st.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, OCT. 24, 1913.

THE SURVEY OF THE PORTLAND SCHOOLS.

By this time, we suppose, very few citizens of Portland are unacquainted with the report of the committee appointed to make a survey of the city schools. The investigation seems to have been perfectly unhampered and admirably searching. The report is quite free from bias of any kind. It makes no reflections upon any individual, but at the same time it brings unsparingly to light the defects of the system under which our children are being taught. For a long time Portland has been pervaded by rumors that these defects were both numerous and destructive, but until the report was made and published nobody could say precisely what they were or suggest an adequate remedy. Now we all know exactly what is wrong and if we fail to apply a remedy it is our own fault. No doubt the defects of the Portland public school system have arisen, as the committee suggests, mainly from two causes. The first is the tardy evolution of the schools. While the city has grown from a country village to a metropolis and has taken on itself metropolitan ways as far as the police and fire departments and the great interests of trade are concerned the schools have clung to the narrowness of rural conditions. We have been trying to educate the children of Portland as if it were still a little village hidden under the fir trees on the banks of the Willamette.

An unceasing brake on the development of the schools has been their subjection to the Legislature. Portland lives under the same school code as Champoeg, except where changes have been made by special acts of the Legislature, and these acts, if we may believe the survey committee, have not always been well advised. The results are discouraging in several particulars. For one thing the city is obliged to use the same textbooks as the rural schools. This may be well enough in many cases, but in some it works badly. The committee refers to some textbooks which, it says, "are utterly unfit for use in the city schools." Our authorities ought to be able to get rid of books of that kind without waiting for a special legislative act. Again the taxes are voted by the qualified electors of the district in a public meeting, just as they were in pioneer times when the citizens numbered only a score or two. This entails the most regrettable consequences. Sometimes no more than a dozen or two attend the meeting. Sometimes there is a large attendance called out by spite or ignorance. In all cases the method is unsuited to the needs of a city and it should be changed.

Parallel with this pernicious dependence upon the State Legislature, our school system has suffered, according to the committee, by an unwise assumption of power by the Board of Directors. They seem to have taken upon themselves duties which are more properly left to the superintendent and his corps of assistants. The committee specifies many varieties of petty requests which are formally submitted to the Board and handled by it, as if they were of the first importance, when, under a wiser system, they would go directly either to the City Superintendent or, more properly perhaps, to one of his principals. The employment of teachers, in particular, is a duty with which the Board of Directors should not concern itself. It should be left entirely to the superintendent, as it actually is in every city which has a model school system. The assumption of undue authority over the educational side by the Board has led to an unfortunate desiccation of the school work. Business men naturally think more of form and organization than of that subtle process which is properly called "teaching." When they have made of the public schools a smoothly running machine they are apt to imagine that there is nothing farther to be done. This is what has happened in Portland. Nothing could move more gracefully than the public school system and nothing, if we may believe the survey, could be more cold and lifeless. The committee speaks of the curriculum as "dead." They call attention to the vast array of examinations which consume one-fifth of the time of the school year and which, in their opinion, "are of little value." Again they speak of the excessive formality of the school exercises.

In the lowest grades, they say, the teaching is alive. The teachers exert personal influence on their pupils and one can perceive geniune spiritual and mental growth going on. In the next higher grades the evil effect of the machine becomes perceptible. There is a deadening of the personal factor. The inflexible curriculum and the inexorable rules under which it must be taught chain the teacher's intelligence, destroy her ambition to excel and reduce the class work to a dull routine. As we go higher in the schools this deplorable effect becomes more noticeable still. Throughout the system there is a marked tendency to transform the living teacher into an automaton, while the principals are almost forced to assume the function of petty inspectors and faultfinders instead of being educational leaders, as they should.

The recommendations which the committee make for the cure of this state of things are clear and sensible. In the first place the Board of Directors should confine itself to the large financial affairs of the schools. They ought also to overlook legislation and see to it that no destructive acts are passed at Salem. Occupied with important matters of this kind, they will leave the educational side entirely to the Superintendent. It will be his business to employ the teachers and make proper contracts with them; to co-ordinate and supervise the work of the principals and to attend to the evolution of the curriculum. The principals themselves are to have much more freedom than now. The control of their respective buildings when used as social centers, for example, is to be left to them without interference from higher authorities. If they abuse their power the remedy is obvious.

As to the curriculum, the committee looks upon it not as a fixture but as a continuously evolving organism. It is not to be constructed once for all and then imposed upon the schools like the laws of the Medes and Persians, which never changed. The curriculum of the schools should be in intimate relations with the trade and industry of the city. This is obvious when we reflect that it is the duty of the public schools to prepare the pupils for their part in the city's life. Inasmuch as that life is forever changing, the curriculum must change with it unless we are resigned to see the schools become a mere museum of dead ideas. In order to escape the ever-threatening blight of uniformity the survey suggests large liberties for the teachers. They are to study the individual pupil and adapt their instruction to his needs. This requires a new principle as a basis for promotion. In no particular is the report more admirable and inspiring than at this point. "The basis for promotion," it says, "should be, not what the pupil has learned, but what he needs to learn." Common sense can go no farther. But think of the changes of ideal method which would follow if the principle were to be adopted. In pursuance of the individual welfare of the pupil the committee recommends extensive development of the "practical" work of the schools. Manual training is to be introduced in the lower grades and made less formal from beginning to end. The trade school is to be made more important. Drawing is to be rescued from arid academism.

In short, the breath of life is to be breathed into the whole system. How is this to be done? There is one way and only one. With a Board at the head of the system which is willing to confine itself to its proper work, a capable and energetic Superintendent should be intrusted unreservedly with the entire responsibility for the education of the city's children. If he is the right man for the place he will do all that is necessary to reform the system, as Mrs. Ella Flagg Young did in Chicago and as others have done elsewhere. This is the sum of the whole matter: "When the right man has been chosen as Superintendent give him unrestricted powers."

ONE-PARTY SUPREME BENCH.

Four candidates for State Supreme Judge are to be nominated at each forthcoming state primary in May. Each political party will make its selections, and the several groups will contest with one another for the election in November. Doubtless we shall have four Republican Judges, or four Democratic Judges, or four Progressive Judges as a result of the election. We assume that the four Republican candidates are likely to be successful, and that the entire bench of seven members will thus have been recruited from a single political party.

It has been many years since Oregon has had on its Supreme Bench a Democrat, except by appointment of the Governor. It is not a wholesome situation that a candidate from that party, or any party, should have no chance of election for reasons of partisan politics. It is not a wholesome situation that the personnel of an entire bench should be determined on the basis of partisan politics. Few states are so rigid or so hidebound in their political methods, or so narrow in their judicial outlook that they deny to a minority party representation in superior or supreme judgeships.

New York has the bipartisan method; Washington has the non-partisan method; Oregon, under its primary system, has the partisan method. It is time for a new method in Oregon.

AFTER FORTY.

It is exhilarating to notice a returning wave of good sense in regard to the dead line of human capability. Ever since Dr. Osler made his unfortunate reference to the man who has passed the forty-year mark we have heard nothing but nonsense on the subject. The gossips made the learned physician say that every man more than forty years old might as well be killed, for his best usefulness was past. In reality he said nothing of the sort, for he knew better.

The best work of the world, with some remarkable exceptions, has always been done by mature persons and without question it always will be. Poetry, no doubt, flows more freely from young genius than from gray. Byron, Keats, Shelley, Burns unite to teach us that sad lesson. We may as well add that great conquerors have usually won their most brilliant victories before the grasshopper became a burden. But the important common work of the world is always done better by men of ripe experience than by youths. This nobody who knows the history of men and their achievements ever questions, but for all that it is a comfort to see the common opinion supported by science.

Dr. Cressey L. Wilbur, chief statistician of the census bureau, asserts roundly that at the age of forty years "a man's industrial and commercial value is not impaired." He is still able to do a full day's work and do it well. There is said to be a rule in force upon some railroads that a man past forty is to be quietly dropped as soon as a decent excuse can be found, and it has given rise to much complaint.

We do not exactly understand the justice of such a rule. It cannot be denied that when he passes the forty mark, or even when he slips beyond thirty years, a man loses a certain alertness. His eye is not quite so quick as it was and his muscles are less flexible. Prizefighters know these facts to their sorrow. It is reasonable, therefore, to believe that the railroads do not wish to retain men of forty years and more in situations requiring special activity and keenness of vision, but why turn them adrift? Are there not other positions where their mature sense and quiet efficiency might be utilized?

The momentary lull in Britain which has followed upon Mrs. Pankhurst's departure seems to be advantageous to her cause. Lloyd-George has taken a long breath and announced, we know not how tremulously, that women will have the vote before a great while. If Mrs. Pankhurst prolongs the relief of her absence other statesmen may follow his example, so that when she goes home it will be to participate in a glorious victory. We may well endure her presence if that is to be the outcome.

COLORFUL NEWS.

From the troubled domain of Mexico comes a thrilling article through the graphic and colorful medium of an alleged news association. It deals with a dramatic incident in the rapidly-changing panorama of Mexico's current events. The particular beauty of the article is its wealth of detail. It describes with pleasing literary touches and flourishes the trip of one General Vidaurazaga, to use the correspondent's own spelling of the name, to the ship which was approaching Mexico with Felix Diaz on board. The General's mission was to endeavor, in the name of Dictator Huerta, to dissuade Felix from landing in troubled Mexico.

With that intimate knowledge of all that happened, the article tells fully of the meeting. Would General Diaz keep away? He would not. It then went into details of an all-night meeting, which concluded when General Diaz announced: "I will land at once."

That's getting the news, isn't it? That's escaping censorship and secret service safeguards. No doubt the press correspondent went out with the General of the elongated name on the mission; that is, provided this same author of the dispatch wasn't otherwise occupied in New York, or Baltimore, or Portland, or wherever the Mexican bureau of that particular news dispensary is located.

It is a cruel prank of fate, what really happened on this memorable occasion. But the General with the transposed alphabet for a name got lost when he sailed out to meet Felix. At least the gunboat which transported him lost its course and hence the meeting didn't occur. Incidentally, the captain of the gunboat was fired for the stupid blunder of losing his course; all of which is set out in the dispatches from Vera Cruz yesterday of the Associated Press, which confines itself to sober facts and leaves fiction for the popular magazines and its rivals.

NOT A LAWGIVER.

It may be said in response to the inquiries of Mr. W. S. U'Ren, printed elsewhere on this page, that The Oregonian is not ambitious to displace him in the job of promiscuous lawgiving. It has no tax exemption law to propose, and if its "friends" have drawn one to encourage reclamation of logged-off lands, they have not consulted The Oregonian. It is noted with some satisfaction, however, that Governor West has appointed a commission to investigate and make recommendations on forestry taxation and that this commission is particularly charged with the duty to propose measures that will encourage the settlement of cut-over lands.

The logged-off land problem is one of the most urgent confronting the people of Oregon. Cut-over tracts, almost without exception, are nonspeculative. The task is not to reduce the sale price of these private holdings so much as it is to devise some aid, be it by tax relief or bonding methods, or what not, that will encourage men to undertake the arduous task of reducing them to a productive state.

Mr. U'Ren's $1500 exemption law offers no help in this particular. It is but an indefinite promise of a partial halting in future of the progressive increase in taxation that would otherwise keep pace with the settler's ability to pay. It proposes a handicap rather than assistance. The exemption, which gives no benefit to cut-over land in the raw state, would increase the taxes on them because they would have to share the burden evaded by other property. The class of men who will reclaim Oregon's cut-over land need encouragement that is immediate. Instead they are offered an obstruction.

The Oregonian does not joke about taxation. When it states that taxes are charges for value received it states a broad principle. The occasional squandering of tax revenues is an evil generally recognized, but Mr. U'Ren's amendment does not aim at its correction. He would change the collecting, not the disbursing, system. If there is any humor in the situation, it is the anxiety of Mr. U'Ren over the farmer's taxes. As a disciple of Henry George, a believer in "community-made values," an advocate of public expropriation of "economic rent" or virtual confiscation of land by high taxes, his worry over increase in farm taxes brought about in large part by gain in farm values, does not appear sincere.

LAND REFORM IN ENGLAND.

The land question which has convulsed Ireland and, in a less degree, Scotland, has been raised in England by the campaign which Mr. Lloyd-George has begun. It is the inevitable coincidence of a population which already exceeds the food-producing capacity of the country and a body of landowners who show no conception of the moral obligation imposed on them by the proprietorship of the soil.

In Ireland the land controversy was embittered by the fact that the landowners were mostly aliens in race and religion and were regarded by the Irish as the English garrison. They treated their land as purely a source of income to be spent in other countries and their tenants as little better than serfs. In Scotland the landlords deliberately drove out the human population in order to people their estates with deer and grouse, until the uprising of the crofters forced legislation to stop the process, but not until much of Scotland's best blood had been drained to the United States and the colonies. In England and Wales, where the teeming population needs the greatest possible yield from every acre of soil, great areas are given up to noblemen's parks and game preserves.

Laws of primogeniture and entail have prevented alienation of the land from the noble families, have often kept great estates in the hands of bankrupts, and have prevented division of the land among men who would make it productive. Some progress has been made in breaking entail and in putting estates in the hands of men financially able to maintain them, but the social prestige enjoyed by the owner of a landed estate has proved a barrier to division. The cream of England's rural population has flocked to the great manufacturing cities or has wandered across the ocean and the sturdy yeomanry which fought England's battles in former years is vanishing.

This anomalous condition has recruited the growing army of radicals of which Mr. Lloyd-George is the spokesman. It has caused the cry "The land for the people" to go up. The beneficent results of peasant proprietorship in Ireland have caused demand that England share them. As the Irish began with a demand for fair rent, fixity of tenure and free sale of their improvements instead of higher rents based on those improvements, so do the English, but they do not stop there. Mr. Lloyd-George would empower the government to reduce rents and to reclaim waste land, but he aims to make the farmer owner of his farm when estates are divided and wild land is reclaimed.

Before the veto power of the House of Lords was restricted, there was no chance that such radical changes would become law, for that house has been well named "The House of Landlords." But the Lords' power is now limited to delay, and the home rule bill and Welsh church bill will no sooner be out of the way than the land question will become the burning issue. It will be fought with great bitterness, for it is a class issue. It will probably drive the last of the old Whig landed aristocracy out of the Liberal party and divide England on the sharp line of the classes and the masses. Mr. Lloyd-George will exultantly ride the storm he has raised.

The purpose of the Russian Black Hundreds in staging the Beiliss ritual murder trial has partially succeeded. They hoped to stir up the superstitious populace to wholesale massacres of the Jews in all parts of Russia. Thus far only one outbreak has happened and that was in Sasnowitch. There ten Jews were attacked as "ritual murderers" and would have been killed if the police had not interfered. The wonder is that the Russian police in any city should have protected the Jews. There must have been a misunderstanding of orders.

"I break the law from no selfish motives. I have no personal end to serve. I should not break a single law if I had the rights that you possess. There is one way to put a stop to our agitation. It is by doing us justice." These sentences are from Mrs. Pankhurst's salutatory as she landed on Columbia's shores. They sound well and if one may break the law to enforce his rights, they are convincing. But may that be done? If we all resorted to Mrs. Pankhurst's remedy what would become of the social order?

Our joy in the thoroughgoing modesty of Chanute, Kan., is poisoned by a haunting dread. The police of that virtuous city go about with paste and white paper and discreetly drape the female figures on theater posters. They have been doing so ever since the great revival began in the Chanute churches a few weeks ago. But will they keep on with their grand work after the revival is over? That is the question that chills our joy and it reveals the doubt that haunts us.

Secretary Lane's project to establish a demonstration farm on every reclamation tract commends itself to the intelligent mind. Settlers on these tracts commonly lose years of time and a great deal of their capital in fruitless experiments. Often they grow discouraged before they discover what crops are adapted to their land. A demonstration station would save all this expense and worry and give rich returns in the development of the country.

The Department of Agriculture has been slow to recognize the merits of that much-abused hoodoo sign of the Democratic party—the crow. This may have been due to politics at the National Capital, and since the bird can no longer figure on the post-election menu of the party he is coming into his rights. In time it may be shown that even the skunk has his uses.

British dignity provokes the New York Tribune to gibes. It accuses the Tory Pall Mall Gazette of running a tailor's advertisement at the head of its editorial columns and the London Times of advertising stock in a "notorious Paris night resort." Yes, their advertising columns are yellow, but their news columns are still dull and respectable.

After having promised in the Baltimore platform that tariff revision would reduce the cost of living, Secretary Bryan is already preparing the people for disappointment. In the course of a year or two he may be explaining a rise in the cost of living and may be telling us that tariff reduction prevented it from rising faster.

"I am in favor," says Governor Blease, of South Carolina, "of plenty of good horseracing, plenty of honest poker playing and plenty of game chicken fighting." He should move to the future Philippine republic and run for President on his cockpit record.

That was a cosmopolitan fleet that went to the rescue of the Volturno. English, French, Germans and Russians were the component parts of its crew. When we come to relieving distress, the federation of mankind already exists.

In a school near Walla Walla there is not a single pupil in attendance. What a nice time the school board must have with no indignant parents to cope with.

Relations are now becoming strained between the United States and England over Mexico. That peace-loving chap Bryan is going to get us into trouble yet.

Defeat of the Moose in Illinois is laid to the absence of the big chief. Perhaps he saw it coming before heading toward South American wilds.

Barnard college has adopted a rule that all women students must pass an aquarian test. Wants them to be in the swim, as it were.

Japan is buying heavy shipments of wheat. What interpretation do Messrs. Hobson and Hearst place on this?

But then the Bible has survived quite a number of critics.

The Sulzer case makes child's play of fiction.

Dr. Shaw opposes Mrs. Pankhurst. Time!

Give something to the Festival fund.

STATE PRESS AND UNIVERSITY

What Oregon Newspapers Are Saying About Referendum of Appropriations.

Stop the Tinkering.
Pendleton East Oregonian.

It is to be hoped the university appropriation will be sustained by the people at the special election November 4. The appropriation was held up by a few men who assert the university and the Oregon Agricultural College should be combined, preferably at Corvallis and therefore no more money should be expended on buildings at Eugene.

Against this proposition the greater portion of the people having information on the subject stand arrayed. There is grave doubt if any economy whatever would be gained by such a move. On the other hand consolidation might men a considerable loss in efficiency. The experience of other states leads to this belief. Generally where the schools are combined the technical courses are neglected and seldom are they given the attention their importance deserves. If the present move in this state should carry and the consolidated schools be located at Corvallis the university would be the one to suffer. But that would be unfortunate because the university does valuable work, particularly among cultural lines, and this state can well afford to maintain that work.

Oregon can afford both an agricultural college and a state university but it cannot afford to injure either school. Vote for the university appropriation and stop the tinkering.

Women Should be Interested.
Condon Times.

We are getting nearer and nearer to that referendum election on November 4 and people do not seem to take much interest in the measures. We all know there was little need of any such election, but now that it has been forced on the people at a cost of $100,000 it is right that the people should come out and vote, especially the women, as there are two measures that affect their children. We mean those for the appropriations for the new buildings and the repairs of buildings at the University of Oregon. The number of students has doubled in the past six years, which shows that the University is popular and doing good work. The college should have the recognition of the people and an affirmative vote should be given for these appropriations.

Vote Ought to Be Unanimous.
Cottage Grove Sentinel.

If for no other reason than to rebuke those who brought the referendum into disrepute, the university appropriations should receive a unanimous vote in their favor.

The Sentinel is no particular friend of the initiative and referendum in their present form, but they represent the wish of a majority and should therefore have every possible safeguard thrown around them. Those who abuse them should be administered a lesson that will forever deter them from further manipulations such as those which have made necessary the approaching special election, and its attending great expense. An amount of money equal to the appropriations will be spent because of this malicious attempt to defeat them.

Stand by Our College.
Salem Capital-Journal.

It is our university, yours and mine, and we refuse to let any disgruntled politician or gang of them dictate to us what we shall do with it. It gives our children a chance, it is sustained by our money, and we propose maintaining it at the highest state of efficiency possible. It needs buildings and needs them badly, to care for our boys and girls—are we going to cut off its supplies and put it out of business? Well, hardly. There should be a full vote out to carry this measure through by such an overwhelming majority that the Parkisons and that class shall be made forever ashamed of themselves. Make your X election day between the number 300 and yes, make another cross between 302 and yes.

What Is Their Motive?
Corvallis Gazette-Times.

Malicious parties, for political or other reasons, have succeeded in attaching a referendum to the bill which calls for appropriations for the State University. What their motives are for trying to kill the institution no one seems to know. There are many different prevailing ideas. Is it a matter of taxes? If so then why don't these people who are back of the referendum start the same thing with the Agricultural College appropriations? Why don't they make a howl about every new state office that is created? Why don't they attach a referendum on every appropriation, for it is apparent that if ever an appropriation was needed, it is needed by the State University.

Rebuke the Agitator.
Medford Mail-Tribune.

The pretense is put forth by Parkison that he is acting in behalf of the future consolidation of the Oregon Agricultural College and the state university. Consolidation would mean a single institution located at Portland and create a fortune for the land speculators alleged to be backing the scheme and a great loss to the state in the abandoned institutions.

It is time the people rebuked the persistent effort of unscrupulous agitators to cripple higher education. Every good citizen should go to the polls and vote yes on these two measures.

Abusing Our Privileges.
Hood River News.

In the case of the referendum measures H. J. Parkison, formerly a Portland labor agitator, is responsible for the abuse of the referendum for spite purposes—an effort to cripple the State University and hamper its useful work in order to "get even" with the City of Eugene.

It is high time that the people rebuked the efforts of unscrupulous agitators to cripple higher education in Oregon. What is more, the use of the recall and referendum from motives of petty spite should be emphatically discouraged.

Backed by Personal Spite.
Lebanon Criterion.

The people of Oregon have done queer things in the past, but we hardly think they are in a mood to follow the lead of the men who have no other motive in invoking the referendum on a law than that of personal spite, or personal desire to profit by the defeat of the law. It is not reasonable to suppose that the thinking, reasoning mass of voters will do so. The greatest danger lies in the probability that voters of this class will fail to go to the polls and vote their conviction.

Combining Would Save Money.
Oregon City Courier.

University of Oregon new building appropriations—This one bill would vote $100,000 on the state for new buildings, and its companion would vote $65,000 more for repairs, additions, etc. Combined with the Agricultural College great sums would be saved to the state. As it is now conducted the people do not get value received for the immense sums it pays. Vote 303 No, 301 No.

Poor Economy Proposed.
Albany Daily Democrat.

Oregon has the best agricultural college on the Pacific Coast. It should have the best state university, but it can't expect to build up a great institution of learning at Eugene without giving the board of regents proper financial support. It is poor economy to deny the university funds which are necessary to its proper development.

STAND IS AT DIVIDING OF WAYS.

We Must Support University or Pronounce Against Higher Education.

PORTLAND, Oct. 22.—(To the Editor): The calling of the referendum on the State University appropriations provokes the thought that we should do either the one thing or the other regarding this question—we should as a people decide to support our university in a manner sufficiently liberal to enable it to accomplish its purpose and to do it willingly, or altogether abandon the pretense that we favor supplying the opportunity to our young men and women for preparing themselves to enter the various avenues of a business life. It is a matter concerning which there is no room for a middle course to be taken. We should either decide that we consider it money well invested to provide for a more general extension of technical preparation for the needs of the rising generation, on the ground that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, and that, therefore, everybody is helped by the movement, or abandon the crippled and crippling policy of half doing the work that results in largely throwing away the money that we are now grudgingly giving.

For years the State University has been compelled to appear before each session of the Legislature as a mendicant, and through the force of surrounding circumstances secure what it may through the pursuance of methods savoring very strongly of the lobbying system itself. As a result of the opposition which it always encounters it begs for what should be freely offered as a state institution and the semi- victory thus gained is usually followed by a subsequent attack through the referendum, which not only delays the performance of its great work, but necessarily dampens the enthusiasm of its supporters and to a certain degree the efficiency of its results.

Even under the discouraging circumstances attending its career in recent years, thus outlined, we have a very fine institution at Eugene, but our policy as a whole has been one which with one hand appropriates a dollar for its support and with the other indirectly diminishes its value largely by inaugurating a fight against the use of it!

We should either keep abreast of the times in matters of education, present an opportunity to our young people equal to that afforded by other states, or openly take our place in the rear and notify the public that we are opposed to higher education and that those who desire to prepare themselves to meet modern conditions in business and professional life must go elsewhere for their training.

It is not believed that our people are ready for this kind of a notice to be sent abroad, but the enemies of the university are busy in their field and it behooves all its friends to remain active until the November vote is taken.

It calls for a yes vote from every thoughtful citizen in the state.

T. T. GEER.

TWO PHASES OF SOCIAL PROBLEM

Difficulty of Correcting Evil Pointed Out by Writer.

PORTLAND, Oct. 22.—(To the Editor.)—I see quite often in The Oregonian arguments in regard to the great evil—"the social sin"—which has beset all civilized races at all times in all parts of the world. The thought has often occurred to me, Why is only civilized man afflicted with this curse? Why are savages (so called) or the children of nature free from this and a great many other evils? I have undertaken to reason it out along lines hitherto ignored by other writers on the subject.

Civilized man to exist as such must enact certain laws which are brought into conflict with the laws of nature. Nature herself cares not a fig for the marriage ceremony. But society does, and seeks to punish those weaker mortals who break the one to obey the other. I say "weaker mortals," but I do not mean intellectually weak; only weak where nature's voice called. For we all know that a host of splendid mortals have snapped their fingers in disdain at man-made laws and yielded to love. May I mention Caesar, Napoleon, Shakespeare, Byron, and we all are familiar with Burns. Can we ever speak disdainfully of Shelley, of Abelard and Heloise? No, we cannot. Why? Because at heart the world loves a lover.

And society is learning to be merciful. We are all helping to maintain homes for those poor little young mothers and their offspring who sinned, not in the eyes of nature; only in those of society. So much for the laws of love, which in fact are nature's very own.

Now, let us investigate prostitution in all fairness and in the light of reason. What causes it? What keeps it alive? What keeps our land almost soaked in alcohol? Why have we opium? All are known to be dreadful curses. We have seen whole races of so-called savages melt away on coming into contact with some of these evils of civilization.

I shall here answer my own question: The reason we have these things is simply because there is a demand for them sufficiently strong to keep them in existence. Where there is no great desire for a thing, that thing eventually fades away—ceases to be.

But it seems there is a demand for prostitutes. Where does this demand come from? From the same society that seeks to punish. We see (unless we are blind) or densely ignorant) a host of social units who cannot marry. Thousands of men are unfit to marry; many are homeless and therefore go wifeless; many others find themselves so ill favored by nature that they cannot win the love of a woman. How about another vast army of men, those who run foul of father time, who have passed the period of winning love? Time robs us of our charm and yet leaves us in the full vigor of life.

Is it possible to banish this evil in the face of such odds, or may we hope to so change our social structure that they will die out and cease to exist only as a hideous dream?

GEORGE H. SANDS.

HE WOULD CONSIDER SUBSTITUTE

Mr. U'Ren Makes Generous Offer Concerning His Tax Exemption Bill.

OREGON CITY, Oct. 22.—(To the Editor.)—In an editorial Tuesday last, you said taxes "are charges for value received." Who receives the value? But I suspect you were joking when you wrote that and did not suppose anyone would take it seriously. I do not think anyone will, especially among the farmers who are paying four times as much tax this year as they paid in 1907 on the same property.

But seriously, if I understand your editorials, you think there should be some further exemption laws that would encourage men to turn the land of Oregon into farms, and especially the "logged-off" lands. What is your plan? Have you or your friends drawn a bill for that purpose? If so, will you publish it?

My object in politics is to help make such laws as will render it easier for a workingman to get a better living by his labor, whether he be farmer or wageworker. This object cannot be fully accomplished without also making it absolutely certain that his chance to make such better living for himself and his family will grow more sure from year to year. The $1500 homes tax exemption amendment was prepared by my friends and myself as one step in that direction. But I should be very glad to help The Oregonian in any good plan to accomplish that purpose. I cannot do much, of course, but such service as I can give is at The Oregonian's command. If your plan is really better than ours I think all the members of the Homes Tax Exemption League would be willing to abandon their plan and help on yours.

W. S. U'REN.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of October 24, 1863.

Aubery Harpending, Alfred Rubery and Ridgely Greathouse, the pirates of the ship Chapman, were each sentenced at San Francisco to 10 years' imprisonment and $10,000 fine, for engaging and giving aid and comfort to the rebellion.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The rebels under Lee occupy most of the old Bull Run battleground and the road leading into London Valley. Last night, under cover of the coming darkness, he attempted to turn Meade's flank. The second corps resisted most vigorously and drove him from the field. The third corps, moving on Monday night to get possession of the turnpike to Warrenton, fell in with an overwhelming force of the enemy. It immediately deployed, gave battle and routed the enemy.

Chattanooga, Oct. 15.—The mutiny in Bragg's army was occasioned by the refusal of the Georgia militia to remain longer in active service. Bragg refused permission to return home and they stacked arms. Longstreet's men were ordered into line and discharged several volleys at the men, 60 of whom were killed and 200 badly wounded.

Shortly after the entertainment to be given by the Concordia of the Portland Academy and Female Seminary had commenced in the academy building and while the room was crowded, the center stanchion beneath the floor gave way with a startling crash and the flooring settled seven or eight inches. No one was hurt.

Yreka, Oct. 19.—To Oregonian: Line has been down between here and Marysville since Saturday morning, and up to this evening we have been unable to find break. Operator, Yreka.

During the past few days of clear, dry weather the overland stage line has been constantly gaining time. The stage arrived last evening 11 hours in advance of schedule time.

A handsome gold watch, valued at $200, will be presented by the ladies of the church to Father Macken this evening.

Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of October 24, 1888.

Major Jones, who receives daily reports of the work done by the city dredge at Swan Island bar, says she is doing first rate.

The floor beams of the suspension bridge at Oregon City have been laid and people can now cross the river on it.

A large piece of petrified wood taken from the Oswego iron mines at a depth of some 900 feet has been presented to the Oregon Alpine Club by Dr. J. H. Kessler.

Professor Charles E. Carr died suddenly last night. Mr. Carr had only a short time ago resigned as professor in the High School to go into business at Ritzville.

Justice Phelan's courtroom has been fitted up with a stove so small that it will be a wonder if some one does not run into it without seeing it.

The members of the insurance fraternity, having learned that Mr. H. E. Pankhurst, surgeon of the Pacific Insurance Union, was to be married today to Miss W. H Johnson, presented him with a handsome mantel clock of black marble.

An important addition to Portland's industries is the Pacific Coast Furniture Manufacturing Company.

Colonel Will L. Visscher, the poet, lecturer and humorous writer, now employed on the editorial staff of The Oregonian, will make his first appearance before a public audience in this city tonight.

Her Daughter's Failure.
Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Mother—"If you are polite, my dear, and have good taste in dress, and marry discreetly, I shall be perfectly satisfied." The Daughter (aged 12)—"Then I don't need an education! Isn't that lovely!"

The Rich Old Mr. Bilkins.
Yonkers (N. Y.) Statesman.

"How's old Bilkins doing?" "He's quite wealthy now." "His young wife still living with him?" "Yes, but he'll soon be rich enough for her to sue for a divorce."

A Dream of a Marriage.
Exchange.

Henn—Do you believe in dreams? Peck—No; I married one.

SUNDAY FEATURES

World's Greatest Naval Unit—It will be the United States fleet that sails through the Panama Canal led by the proud old Oregon. A full page analysis, illustrated, of our Navy as it will apply to fighting needs after the canal is opened.

Fighting Special Privilege—Theodore Roosevelt discusses the street franchise and insurance fights in New York.

Problems of Married Life—Another discussion by the delightful writer, Rita Reese. She points out a frequent cause of domestic infelicity and suggests a course for avoiding troubled waters.

The Farmer's Future—An illuminating half page on the part invention will play in increasing the tiller's capacity.

Guesswork in Cooking—It is compared with scientific methods in an illustrated article no housewife should miss.

Which Mind Have You?—Eleven different kinds of minds are compared and contrasted.

Mexico's Fighting Men—They are a motley lot, reports a correspondent who has looked into the subject on the ground.

Should Women Smoke?—One well-known woman insists that they should indulge that habit publicly if they wish.

Two Short Stories—"Cluig's Last Appearance," a circus tragedy by J. S. Ellis, and "By Help of Wireless," by Crittenden Marriott.

NUMEROUS OTHER FEATURES. Order early of your newsdealer.