

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, Dec. 26, 1913. MR. LANE'S LAND POLICY.

No document more inspiring to Western people than the annual report of Secretary of the Interior Lane has recently appeared. We are used to regarding Government reports as drab and dull...

The Secretary finds that the Government has reached a deadlock in the land question, and he offers a key to unlock it. A halt was called on methods of spoliation and the Nation has been doing practically nothing...

Beginning with Alaska, he proposes that all its resources be placed in the hands of a commission, each member of which shall employ the revenue derived from the land and streams and sea of that vast territory to the development of this commission...

He would apply the leasing policy also to the coal land of the Western states, also to petroleum, phosphate and potash land. As to coal, he meets the objections of those who fear exhaustion of the supply by saying: "I cannot feel that we should sacrifice any present benefit for a demand for exorbitant prices."

Instead of trying to defeat the homesteader whose only aim is to secure and sell the timber, as did his predecessor, by creating a new class of land not recognized by law, he would change the law to provide for the sale, first, of timber on agricultural land, then of the land itself.

As to arid land, he would apply royalties from coal, oil, phosphate and potash land to its reclamation and would immediately provide \$100,000,000 to be recouped from that source. As with Alaska, he would use the revenue from the land to develop the latent values of the West, saying:

With a little foresight we can transform coal and oil, phosphate and timber, into wealth and electric power. He would meet the legitimate demands of the states by giving them a certain percentage of the royalties from non-precious minerals, but suggests that this percentage for a time "be used in such co-operative irrigation enterprises as the state might desire, and be paid to the state when the fund is exhausted."

There can be no doubt but that Mr. Lane's policy has the approval of President Wilson and we may, therefore, expect that the whole influence of the President will be exerted to embody it in law. We have seen in the case of the tariff and currency laws how potent is that influence in procuring action of the Senate and in having the present legislation of Congress to open a new era of development in Alaska and the West.

Mr. Lane has but enlarged upon and elaborated the policy recommended by Secretary Ballinger, but he is more fortunate in not having become the object of a veto than in having to work with a President who can bend Congress to his will.

denounced, but time has justified the wisdom of most that he did. He supported Breckenridge for the Presidency in 1860, but when party loyalty came finally to mean treason to his country, he chose the better part and dedicated his great abilities to the service of the Union.

Had the retiring Buchanan been wise enough to follow Stevens' advice many a calamity would have been spared to the Government and many a life saved. It was his opinion that the Southerners who were talking treason in Congress and acting it in the Governmental departments ought to be severely dealt with.

It seems hard to believe that the auditorium to locate in the East Side is in earnest, though we will assume that it is. But it is certainly misguided and mistaken, and the fact that it comes mainly from sources that have professionally what may be termed the East Side view of every question gives the movement its proper significance.

The auditorium belongs neither to the North Side, nor the West Side, nor the East Side, nor the South Side. It belongs to Portland, and that means it should be located at or near the city center.

Let us pause long enough in our digestive contemplation of the remains of the Christmas turkey and in our post-prandial discussion of the effects of the currency bill and the troubles of some men who want work, and of other men who say they want work.

The plain facts of the present Portland water policy are presented by The Oregonian in an article elsewhere. The reason for their publication is their interest to every citizen, or at least to the citizens who foot the bills.

The obvious facts are that the overhead charge in the water department has nearly doubled in the past year. The office expense in 1912 was \$55 per cent of the total revenue. For the first seven months of 1913 the office expense was 14.47 per cent. There has been no commensurate increase in income, gross or net. There has been no increase of efficiency, or decrease of delinquencies. The 5.92 per cent increase in outlay is sheer waste, due to the monthly billing system.

Commissioner Daly's water policy contemplates the operation of the city water department as an independent branch of the city government, controlled by the water users, and not by the taxpayers, though the chief burdens are to be borne by the taxpayers.

How is it possible to avoid the conclusion that the true method is the flat rate for the domestic user—a certain rate per faucet—water automatic water distribution and fixed monthly charges?

Perhaps the best known woman writer to die during the year was "Pierre de Coulevain," whose novels possess a quiet rationality delightful to the most cultivated classes of readers.

There was Christmas cheer for everybody in the reinstatement of Janitor Chamberlain at the City Hall. The case of this humble worker had touched the heart of the public. It was not an instinct toward charity that was aroused, but one in behalf of common justice.

hypothesis for years before it was published, but the author of "The Origin of Species" always assigned to Wallace the credit which he had earned. Death reaped his richest harvest among the travelers during 1913. More than 100 of these adventurous spirits went to their account.

The trust idea expands apace. We are familiar with farmers' trusts and labor unions. Lawyers and ministers have long been united in associations which, under many a fine phrase and plausible pretext, seek to restrict the supply and increase the fee.

The leading role in Frank Sheridan's sketch, "Blackmail," which is to be the bill at Hammett's Victoria Theatre of Varieties in New York next week, will be played by Mary Stockwell, who is a daughter of that famous old-time comedian, Lew R. Stockwell.

The sale of the Duke of Bedford's London property is important not only as opening the way for improvement of a slum in the heart of the world's greatest city but as an evidence that the paralyzing law of entail is losing its grip in England.

The Yakima apple man who thinks he could turn his inferior fruit into cash by selling it at a profit if the law permitted has many fellow-sufferers. The Treasury regulations are so cumbersome and stupid that farmers can do nothing in the de-natured alcohol line.

Dr. Anna Shaw's refusal to pay her income tax is not likely to be sustained in court, but as a protest against unjust taxation it is a profit if the law permitted has many fellow-sufferers.

When the Gridiron Club has its next "jinks" President Wilson may wish he had not molested the Carabass. He has given the Gridirons an opening for some merciless satire, which will bite deeper than anything the Carabass said.

Dayton, Ohio, has at last found a city manager in the person of H. M. Waite, a grandson of Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite. He is to be paid \$112,500 a year and to begin work with the new year.

A noted instance of unsatisfied endeavor was theft of a locked safe from a Lackawanna station which proved to be empty.

Spokane's health officer issued a warning that over-eating on Christmas is criminal. A lot of us feel like criminals today.

A childless couple in San Francisco adopted a baby for Christmas. Christmas will mean something to them hereafter.

Stara and Starmakers BY LEONE CASS BARR. I met the meanest man on earth yesterday. He said that his wife had never missed baking him a Christmas cake in all the fifteen years they had been married.

Cathrine Countess received a lot of Christmas presents yesterday and loads of flowers and telegrams, personal calls and letters. But the most touching tributes of all came from a little girl, a wisp of a child, who sent a bulky little envelope, tied with bright red twine.

He kissed her under the mistletoe; "That's not right," he heard her say; "I'm sorry," humbly replied she; "Will you give me a proper kiss?"

Cabaret singers will not be able to cash their notes after the New Year. An American capital invested in coal and oil lands is not as great as that of England and other foreigners; and the great land holdings of Mexico are the greatest contributing cause of the strife and revolutions now pending.

Merle Madden, who comes to the Helix on January 5 as leading woman with Otis Skinner, is a Californian. To locate her birthplace exactly she is a San Franciscan. Her father, William A. Madden, is a well-known business man in San Francisco, and her mother, who lately passed away, was one of the leaders in the life of California literature and the drama.

Christmas matinees all over town today. The regular ones at the vaudeville houses, "Shore Acres" at the Baker, and the colorful "Pink Lady" beginning this afternoon at the Helix.

Bessie Clifford had been mentioned in a peculiar way in a divorce case instituted by a Mrs. Justine Sutton Gray in New York. She says her husband was "cruel," and one of the allegations of his cruelty she cited is that he played cards with Bessie Clifford.

Two cities have objected officially to Brioux's drama (or clinic) "Damaged Goods." In Cincinnati a board of censors passed the play intact, but in Boston Mayor Fitzgerald expurgated one entire act.

May Yohe, who lived in Portland in addition to a lot of other things she's done—and in whose doings we must take a certain natural curiosity, having been a former citizen in a way—has apparently fixed matters all up in England. The former possessor of the Hope diamond is to wed once more. No one seems to know to whom, however.

The very idea of anyone continuing to protest against the rare and delightful privilege of paying an income tax.

Denmark may take up the Bryan arbitration treaty. Eventually Baluchistan and Anam may also adopt it. But the only man who is apt to stand by a New Year resolution is the one who swears off swearing off.

CONTRIVERSY PURELY MEXICAN Civil War in Southern Republic Not Due to Rival Foreign Interests. PORTLAND, Dec. 25.—(To the Editor.)—I would like to add a little to the interminable discussion of Mexican affairs. It is often said that American capitalists went into Mexico to exploit the country, knowing the hazards of doing so, and therefore the United States Government should not be called upon to protect them and their acquired properties.

As a general proposition the American operator paid natives higher wages than did the Mexican operator. This policy, which extended to 10 or 12 states, also made employment for freighters, packers, graders and timbermen, and stimulated railroad building and development of the products of the vast army of employees who were of those who were not farm workers, and who were no either idle or have joined some army or navy.

Four years ago there were 15 smelting plants operating in Mexico, about 10 of which were owned by Americans. The only strictly American one was at Torreon; one at Mapimi was owned by a French and German company. The mills for ore concentrating, crushing and smelting, and the plants were numbered by the score, and metallurgical methods in Mexico were on as high a standard as any in the world.

As to the railroads, they were operated under strict government regulations, and passenger fares were just half what they are in the United States. I can explain the railroads have disclosed resources and have done more for Mexico than that country has done for them.

Christmas always is merry for Prince Floro, the man-monkey that is filling extra-attraction place at the Empress. This is the third Christmas Prince Floro has spent in show and today will mark the second Christmas the pet ape has passed in Portland. Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Hilliard, owners of the ape, always have a Christmas tree for the unique pet. Prince Floro's Christmas celebration will be held in the dressing room at the Empress, where the tree is all ready for the festivities.

They're—they meaning the management—serving real turkey at every performance at the Baker theater this week. Dorothy Shoemaker says she thinks it would be an economical little trick to gather up all the remains after each show, save them, and on the last afternoon hold a reception on the stage and serve turkey sandwiches. If I get a bid I won't go.

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Twenty-five Years Ago From The Oregonian of December 25, 1888. NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 25.—The steamburn John H. Hanna was burned last night at Plaquemine, La. Of 100 persons on board, only 14 are known to have been saved.

Mr. Moody will return from Astoria today and re-open the meetings at the Tabernacle this evening. Last night quite an excitement was caused by a small blaze on the roof of Fritz Kraus' saloon in East Portland.

Christmas was more generally observed in the churches and families than ever before. Misses Emma and Mable Arrington and Mrs. Fannie Wells leave for Hubbard today.

Rev. Ross C. Houghton, pastor of Grace M. E. Church, has been elected a member of the Society of Biblical Archaeology, of London. Yesterday Thomas Guinean, proprietor of the Esmond Hotel, fell from a stepladder, dislocated his ankle and broke the small bone of his right leg.

PANIC WARNING FOR AUDIENCES. Suggestion Offered That Formal Cautions Precede All Entertainments. PORTLAND, Dec. 25.—(To the Editor.)—The terrible panic at the Calumet, Mich., entertainment only proves the rules which govern psychological causes and effects with a mob. A mob is a company of persons whose normal reasoning capacities have been temporarily suspended, and all move with a common impulse toward a common goal.

Buffalo in Oregon. SEATTLE, Dec. 23.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian of December 22 I was fortunate enough to receive here in Seattle—and it was the only one I had received regularly for three days—J. D. Lee's letter on buffalo killings attracted my attention.

Calves' Disease Thought Blackleg. TYGH VALLEY, Or., Dec. 24.—(To the Editor.)—I have noticed several times of late mention made in The Oregonian of a mysterious disease among calves in different parts of the Willamette Valley. It is my belief that the disease mentioned is blackleg. Blackleg is more prevalent in Eastern Oregon this season than for many years.

Home Rule Home rule has been a much-discussed political question. Home rule for women is the generally accepted domestic situation. Every wife has her own little kingdom and her own responsibilities.

WHAT I WANTED AND GOT. I wanted some opera glasses. And a ring of opera glasses. I got a pair of opera glasses. Also a few silk hose.

Legal Tender. PORTLAND, Dec. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Are small denominations legal tender to any amount? I. A. In coins, silver dollars are legal tender unless otherwise contracted; smaller silver coins are legal tender up to \$10, and nickel and copper pieces up to 25 cents.

My wants were oh—so—little. They wouldn't cost a lot. And this is what I got: A calendar, hand-painted. A bunch of feather flowers. A needle book of pink. Which says, "Improve the hour."