

The Oregonian

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SPOILSMEN RAID AGAIN.

Embodied by success, Democratic Congressmen are attempting another raid on the civil service. Having withdrawn deputy marshals and deputy collectors of internal revenue from the operation of the merit system, they next excluded income tax and Federal reserve employees.

The people have been sparing of their criticism of Mr. Wilson for his yielding to the spoilsman raiders. They have recognized that he must make some concessions to the accumulated appetite of sixteen years in order to carry through the great measures for which his country is waiting and on which he has staked his Administration.

The New York World indorses the Civil Service Reform League's description of the postoffice riders as "a plain attempt to get 2400 valuable jobs to pay political debts." It describes the Postoffice Department as an "incompetent and stupid monopoly" which has suffered further demoralization under the hands of the parcel post and which is likely to collapse.

The spoils no longer belong to the victors, and if the Democrats majority seeks to impose a reversal of the spoils system on the country, the Democratic party will soon cease to govern. The New York Times is equally emphatic in its condemnation. Detecting in Congress "a determined tendency gradually to break down the merit system and to open the way to restore the old, bad spoils system," the Times denounces the rider as "a more determined and more vicious attack upon the merit system than any that have preceded it."

The rider is termed by the Indianapolis News "the worst thing that has been introduced into the merit system. It says the spoilsman hope to force the President to approve the bill and thus to turn over these 2400 offices to them. The News maintains that the President should have power to separate items and Congress should be prevented from attaching riders to bills, and that, in the absence of that power, he should veto the postoffice bill, "should it come to him with the objectionable provision included."

A statement from the Brooklyn Eagle's Washington correspondent of the number of postmasters appointed by Mr. Wilson in the ten months he has been President gives little hope that he will stop the raids of the spoilsman. He has appointed 2982 postmasters, nearly all of them in the South, where Republican postmasters who formed a part of President Taft's stealer roll have been displaced. Nearly a third of the removals in Texas alone are in Oklahoma. Referring to the large number of removals in normally Republican states, the Eagle correspondent says:

It needs no special effort to see at a glance that the removals are not strategic from a political standpoint. Referring to the frequent complaint of Congressmen and political leaders that they do not receive enough patronage, the correspondent says: "That such a complaint is justified concerns the President. He is not to be regarded here as being born out by an examination of the figures."

The President seems to have adopted a species of reciprocity with Congress, whereby the members get jobs for their favorites in exchange for their votes for his constructive legislation; in other words, the legislative skirts are greased with spoils. If this be so and unless the President heeds the admonitions of the leading Democratic newspapers we have quoted and of others like the New York Evening

Post, there is small chance that much will remain of the merit system when Mr. Wilson's term expires.

A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF.

The Oregonian reprints today from the San Francisco Argonaut a summary of the California voters' registration in various cities of that state, compiled ten days after the books were opened. The Argonaut warns the public that no safe conclusions can be drawn from the early showings; yet a deduction or two is obvious and may be indicated.

There was last year in California a pseudo-Republican party controlled by men who had really deserted the party and who had an avowed purpose to destroy it. These men and their followers have abandoned the traditional and having secured their true colors. The residue are registering now as Republicans, and it is safe to assume that they intend to stand indefinitely by the old organization, sink or swim, survive or perish.

The early returns disclose that more citizens have so far registered as Republicans than as Progressives. Whatever the final figures it is probable that the two parties will have strength somewhere nearly equal. The President of the new party are recruited almost wholly from the Republicans and there have been few gains by the Republicans from the Democrats; so that two parties have risen in California on the ruins of one.

What will be the result? The Democratic party in California is virile and numerous. It lost the state in the recent Presidential election by a hair, though it is doubtless true that large numbers of Republicans then voted for the new party as Republicans, if they find the outlook less, will doubtless continue to affiliate with the Democrats as the easiest way to escape a Progressive triumph.

One of the indictments against Copperfield enumerated by Governor West in an address before the Ad Club was the number of firearms found in the village. Sixty-three were taken from the homes of the party, and a search around town increased the collection to more than 300.

We would not for a moment defend the act of carrying a weapon into a meeting but in what way does ownership of 149 old firearms not carried into the meeting justify a proclamation of martial law? The right to bear arms is guaranteed by the constitution and elaborated by statute. Governor West proposes to act in accordance with statute in enforcing civil authority. But ownership of firearms in a community is not statutory cause for calling out the militia. On the contrary, it not only is lawful, but both civil and military officers are forbidden from taking possession of the owner unless also the services of the owner are required to keep the peace or defend the state. Private citizens were not impressed into military duty at Copperfield.

In the subsidized single-tax campaign of 1912 Oregon heard a great deal about "single tax" in Vancouver. Felt Fund press agents asserted time and again that the Vancouver tax system was responsible for the tremendous building and industrial activity then in progress in the British Columbia city. Now and then one was forced to admit that Vancouver did not have single tax—only near-single tax. Nevertheless it was free from the evils that induced manufacturers and building investors to flock to Vancouver, we were told.

Today Vancouver is experiencing a business depression and upon invitation from a Portland evening newspaper with single tax feelings one of the single tax propagandists is now venting for Oregon in the 1500 exemption on improvements and personal property. If near-single tax will produce a boom and an ultimate relapse in Vancouver, it will not have the same effect in Oregon? Are the single taxers deliberately steering us toward a hard fall? Is it their purpose to teach with the adversity of near-single tax the glory of full-single tax?

In the United States a great many good people take it for granted that the theater is a sink of iniquity which is past redemption. At its best it is hopelessly evil. At its worst it is not much blacker. This mistaken feeling leads some ministers to preach against all play-going as if it were one of the deadly sins. What we need in this matter, as in so many other distinct between the good and the bad. Of course, it is temptingly easy to say that "all dancing and theater-going are immoral" and there end the matter, but unfortunately judgments of that kind are so hopelessly wrong that they satisfy nobody of more than infantile intelligence. There is more promise in the feeblest effort to educate the public taste and morals than in whole volumes of restrictive ordinances. Our good people have been saying "don't" for so many centuries that the human race is weary of their iteration. What we want now is a code of "do's." Dr. Foster's position as chairman of the censorship committee is singularly happy, inasmuch as he is fully understood as the author of constructive thought. We shall expect the committee under his inform-

ing leadership to frame some sensible measures for educating the public and little or nothing in the way of penalizing the theaters. Penalties abound far too much already. It is time to try something more effective.

A writer on the Boston Transcript has converted the name of John Lind into a noun and a verb of definite meanings, which, he suggests, should be incorporated in the dictionary, as follows: LIND, n. A project, secretly conceived and carried forward in mystery, from which great results are expected, but of which nothing is known.

President Wilson's Mexican policy can be said at least to have enriched the language. Is there any good reason why the German and Swiss societies should not be permitted to amuse themselves as they like? Their members are good citizens of trustworthy judgment, who need very little police supervision. There is some danger lest our zeal for other people's morals may degenerate into puritanical fanaticism. If it does so, a reaction is sure to follow which will leave us worse than when they were before reform began.

The Christian Science Monitor, referring to "The Oregonian's" recent desire for a supply of good citizens in its columns in co-operative management, says that this "should open a new vocation for intelligent and active young men." In the same connection we may mention that our progressive Agricultural College will soon open a new course of instruction in co-operative management in harmony with modern needs.

A strike of the employees of the municipal street railways, gas and electric works of Leeds, England, has been broken by the action of the citizens in taking their places. Would the people of an American city which owned its utilities show equal public spirit by enduring the obloquy of becoming "scabs"? That is one point to consider in discussing public ownership.

Following the recent storm, beach combers at Atlantic City have been finding in the drifts and sands of diamonds, pearls, necklaces, gold watches, tiaras and other bathing accessories of Jersey mermaids.—Boston Transcript.

There should be a placer mining stampede to the Jersey beach, equal to those to the Klondike and Nome.

Appeals for betterment of conditions of the farmer's wife can be made by Government commissions and livestock associations until the cows come home of their own accord, but the results desired will not be attained until the old man installs a bathtub and buys an automobile.

Before he had been in office two weeks, Mayor Mitchell, of New York, quarreled with W. K. Hearst. That fact gives ground for expectation that he will be a good Mayor. At least he will be Mayor, not Mr. Hearst's dummy.

The modern Democratic platform in Oregon: To hedges with the civil power. Down with the constitution. Let the military power rule. All other political principles but the Governor are crooks, and he is the only honest man.

Japan is very impatient at failure of the United States to answer its diplomatic correspondence. But the Japanese should bear in mind that Secretary Bryan is too busy to attend to such trifles.

Editor McManus, indicted for helping himself to the goods of a delinquent debtor, simply followed the time-honored precept of "grain taken on subscription."

An odd commentary on the speed of justice is found in the St. Louis litigation over a baby. With the suit now at an end the baby has grown to maturity.

The difference between Noah and an Oregonian is that the historic Admiral never went ashore during the wet spell and had little need of a raincoat.

A Methodist minister at North Yakima disputes the story of Jonah and the whale, but, as he fails to offer anything better, the biblical tale will stand.

When the idle begin to burn Vancouver they will run against a bit of British law that will make them wish they were in the easy-going States.

Two Vancouver couples came to Portland to get their marriage licenses. Must have wanted records they could be proud of.

Governor West is busy trying to explain he was not slurring a man for his misfortune, and, as usual, explanations are "odorless."

Between starting things and explaining them afterwards Governor West has the publicity pot boiling right merrily.

The Kaiser forbids German officers taking hold of the female arm, but neglects to mention the waist.

Your true Prohibitionist laughs at these continued rains as he contemplates a possible long "dry" period.

The carload of smelt sent from Kelso to Kansas City will spoil the appetite for mudcat along the river.

One woman mauled two policemen. What chance has mere man got in the world any more?

Dealers at the Chicago stockyards are paying record prices for beef. Pity the poor consumer.

Idaho University has raised the ban on the tango. Too late. The tango is passe now.

A party of four has about as much to fear from a cougar as from a field mouse.

The crop of political plums this season is a rich and tempting one.

Washington society is going in for the study of ethics. High time.

The annual revival of the yellow peril appears to be about due.

Are we to have a snowless Winter? What's become of Mexico?

Stars and Starmakers

"A CTRESS is Peruvian beauty," shrieks a headline. If she looks like the picture printed of her she's hardly worth Peruvian barking about.

As high as I can figure it out, every actress who gets mixed up in taxi cab races by means of a burlesque hostleria suffers a compound fracture of her jewelry department.

In a little town out from Los Angeles licenses are required for chickens. The musical comedy profession well may shudder.

Emma Goldman is described as wearing "an anarchy veil." Made of bombazine, I suppose.

See where a business man has married four actresses in succession. Greater admiration for a profession has never been known.

Report says "guanine will be cornered." In which event its pronunciation will probably be established.

Louis Leon Hall is playing a role he likes—that of the hero traveling salesman, drummer, and like things. He learned from others, I learned from my friend a lot about habits, reputed and otherwise, of the brotherhood of salesmen. Students who are closely observed the animal in his haunts will know that 14 times out of nine he is bending over a musty old hotel desk making out his day's sales list, forwarding cards to the next stopping place, writing letters to the "house" and to the wife and the kiddies, or maybe he has his hand in the little world he has his hand in the eye, and twirls its fingers and rolls its eyes, calls him a devil and whispers that he probably is luring Lizzie, the beautiful gum-chewing head waitress, to leave the little one-house village and tempt him to wicked Salem, Indiana.

The "Honeymoon Express," the Winter Garden show, is coming to this Coast in about five weeks.

May Irwin, who opens tonight in "A Widow by Proxy" at the Heilig, sent me a cook book which she wrote all by herself. It arrived yesterday. Its title is "Home Cooking." As my home consists of a hotel apartment, and the nearest approach to a stove that I possess is the steam radiator and a wash-hol teapot, I am not in a position to say that I have "followed" any of the recipes and "found them delicious." One chapter on puddings is a stirring article and one on onions reduced me to tears.

See where a bevy of chorus maids have banded together to carry canes to protect themselves from mashers. Well, unless the chorus ones are better looking than some that have been sent up by taking the hindlers off the mashers.

Lillian Tingie is preparing menu for breakfast, luncheon and dinner for the marching I. W. W's.

Ida St. Leon, who came out to this Coast with "Polly" of the Circus plays the role of Amy in "Little Women," coming to the Heilig next week. Marta Oatman, who plays Mrs. March, is a California girl, whose home is in Riverside. She played in stock in Los Angeles and San Francisco and then went to New York, where she appeared for three years with Henry Miller's companies.

To stimulate interest among the photo-playwrights, the Balboa Amusement Producing Company, of Los Angeles, is offering a prize of \$200 for the best theatrical drama to be submitted before May 1.

In making the offer the Balboa company reserves the right to reject any scenario submitted, and to buy any others at reasonable rates. Scenario writers are requested not to write drama of military or Western life, as those subjects are not deemed available by this firm of producers.

Read where Trenton, N. J., had a banquet for its Commercial Club, where they ate three-year-old eggs. Huh, that's nothing. I eat one every day or so—older than that, and never rush into print about it.

Ann Swinburne's picture in colors decorates the front cover of this week's Dramatic Mirror.

A telegram sent to this department from A. Kaufmann, of the Dramatic Mirror, says that "Miss Lawton has contended honors with Mary Anderson, the route, and the public and critics have showered her with such praise that this may be the reason for her sudden separation from the company." A note from Miss Lawton says that she is to open in "The Family Cupboard" in New York.

SANDSTONE IS OF GREAT UTILITY

Northwest Product Admirable in Color and Stability. PORTLAND, Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Fearing that the public may get the wrong impression regarding the qualities and usefulness of sandstone for buildings from the statement published in The Oregonian a short time ago, made by Mr. Mason, condemning the stone taken from the old library building, I beg to submit the following:

Fifty years' test ought to prove the worth of any sandstone, at least one of the better known sandstones in the Northwest which has been used for building purposes and has been subject to this test and in no way found wanting. Others have, although not so long in service, indicated their usefulness and ability to stand for ages.

The stone used in the old library building was what is called surface stone, taken from the surface of the quarry which carries all over about 10 feet in depth. It has a rich buff color, and when properly selected possesses great stability and while it is used mostly for interior work, it is also used regularly for the exterior.

Many blue-gray sandstones are, however, more admirably adapted for general building uses, interior and exterior, than stones of other color. The best examples of this variety of stone may be observed in various prominent structures throughout the Northwest, not a few of them standing for scores of years. These stones may be described as bluish-gray in color, live and sound, soft and full of grain when quarried and dressed, and carve. This makes its cost very reasonable. When exposed to the air a very short time it becomes very hard; in fact, so hard that expert stone cutters won't use it if you would give it to them for nothing. When it becomes weathered it has a better color, and there is no better building material to be had.

I beg to submit herewith report of Henry Landen, geologist of the Washington Geological Survey: Permit me to say that I have visited your stone quarry at Tenino a number of times, and am quite satisfied with the quality of your sandstone and of its general appearance when placed in buildings.

When quarried and dressed with character, and in the quarry no evidence of any kind of physical character, the stone hardens after quarrying and reaches a condition of hardness such that it may be assumed to be sound and strong without any likelihood of chipping or suffering breakage.

Our state geological survey made some tests upon this stone about ten years ago, and found that it has a crushing strength of 7700 pounds to the square foot. The building at the Watertown Arsenal on July 5, 1902, was built of this stone, and its ultimate strength of 176,000 pounds. The stone has a specific gravity of 2.61 and weighs 130 pounds per cubic foot. Since this quarry was opened the stone has been widely used along the Coast in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The buildings that were made of it a good many years ago are still standing and in good condition and that no deterioration has suffered in time. To my mind, it is a very desirable material for building purposes, and of very general use. I may say that the fineness of the grain of the stone and the ease with which it may be carved makes it a very superior stone for different kinds of carving work where sandstone is used.

Gold Production and Prices. INDIANAPOLIS, Or., Jan. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Please advise me of the following question: "Why does an increase in gold production make prices higher?"

Because it makes gold worth less in proportion to other commodities, and the only way to give effect to the reduced value of gold is to raise the price of other commodities. The result is in gold. The situation can be easily understood if we first dismiss from our minds the idea that gold is money and regard it as a commodity, like potatoes or apples. If one farmer trades his potatoes for another farmer's apples and the potatoes are abundant and apples are scarce, the one farmer must give more potatoes and accept less apples than he would if conditions were reversed. The buying of a commodity with money in a gold standard country is in the end simply bartering of that commodity for gold. If gold is abundant, a man gets more gold for a bushel of potatoes than he would if gold were scarce. If, as was the custom in primitive times, a certain quantity of uncoined gold were weighed out in payment for other commodities, when gold increased in abundance, it would be correct to say that gold was cheaper as it would be to say that other commodities were dearer. Having for convenience adopted gold as a measure of value with stipulated quantities named dollars, cents, etc., our only means of putting in effect the law of supply and demand value of gold is to reduce or raise the price of the commodities we exchange for it.

As to Patents. THE DAILIES, Or., Jan. 17.—(To the Editor.)—Are patents granted upon useful devices made of ordinary paper? Or must they be of specially prepared paper? In other words, which gets the patent—the inventor of the paper or the inventor of the device or the paper?

Patents for paper cups might be granted under devices, but more probably would be patented under that class of patents which covers composition of matter. Paper towels would be patented under the composition class. If the composition of the paper of which cups or towels are made is patented no one other than the owner of the patent would be permitted to make drinking cups of the same paper. If ordinary paper, not protected by any patent, is used, then the article, whether it be towels or cups, must be patented as a device.

Variations of Compass. PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly let me know how many of our compasses are made in Oregon's compass varies from north and south, say on Willamette meridian.

In regard to the amount by which the pointing of the needle of the surveyor's compass differs from the true north and south meridian, this varies in different localities, which are near the same north and south line. The average variation is between 21 degrees and 23 degrees, and the needle points that much to the east of the true north. The variation is sometimes greatly affected by the presence of iron in the underlying rock formations, but the above are good averages for this vicinity.

Guilty. PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 21.—(To the Editor.)—In the course of my customary attentive perusal of the Oregonian today, I discover this gross lapse: "Business lays neglected." How do you justify it? READER.

It cannot be justified. The writer, the editor, the compositor and the proof-reader are jointly guilty of a gross and gross misdemeanor against good usage and sound English.

Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of January 22, 1889. Salem, Jan. 21.—A lot of innocent-looking envelopes were distributed in the Senate this afternoon. Steel opened one and withdrew a printed circular letter, charging that the railroad company had spent thousands of dollars to secure the re-election of Senator Dolph.

Washington, Jan. 21.—At the State Department and in the German legation there is considerable anxiety and apprehension concerning the state of affairs in Samoa.

New York, Jan. 21.—Admiral Gerhardt says in a dispatch today from Samoa over Samoan affairs the scene of operations would probably be confined to the island, and although our Navy is weaker than Germany's, we would have a decided advantage in being able to throw a large body of troops on the ground much quicker than Germany.

Albany, Or., Jan. 21.—Considerable excitement was created in this city today by about 100 Italian laborers who had received full pay from the contractors, Searle & Deschutes, for work on the Oregon Pacific Railroad. They collected in front of the First National Bank. Mr. Searle tried to reason with them, but they would not enter the bank and as he turned to enter the bank they seized him and one or two drew knives and threatened to kill him. Mayor Cowan and several citizens interfered and the mob was dispersed.

Sergeant B. S. Fague, of the United States signal office, is in today in Salem in the interest of the bill for a state weather service.

East Portland City Council.—Mr. Crozier introduced an ordinance amending the franchise so that steam motors can be used only on N street and horse and electric power on other streets.

A. J. Brownlie, of Major Handbury's office, returned yesterday from Cape Horn, where he was in charge of the lighthouse, and Mr. Rogers.

D. D. Oliphant returned yesterday from an extended trip East.

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian of January 22, 1864. Mr. Henderson, of Wells-Fargo & Co., informs me that the navigation is fast closed above The Dalles and is likely to be so for some time. He learned from a man who came on foot from Omahalla that the river was frozen from Grande Ronde Landing to the mouth of the Deschutes.

The subject of divorce has received a quietus in the Washington Territorial Legislature. The committee to whom the first divorce bill was referred returned it with the recommendation that it do not pass and memorial to Congress was passed under the auspices of the Historical society and are making every preparation for a grand festival.

Mr. O'Conner, of the What Cheer House, has become proprietor of three buildings on the levee opposite Northrup & Co.'s and is erecting a third story on them.

The Senator made his first trip to Oregon City yesterday.

Gubernatorial Hop

By Dean Collins. Old Political Ambition Has been roaming through the land: Old Political Ambition Has a column in his hand; And it's jab, jab, jab, jab, With a sly and subtle stab, Till the veins are full of dope And the brains are full of hope. And men look with eyes of love On the office of the Gov. Things are humming, Honorable, yesterday gave us a bumper. Bigger yet the list is summing Of the men who got the wish From the prodding of "Ambition," And who are waiting for the day. How the people's voice is hissing. When they felt the gentle jabbing Of Political Ambition, with the needle in his hand.

A Friendly Word. (Louisville Courier-Journal.) "I have no bad habits, and I'm the young man. I don't smoke or drink." "Then I hardly think you will be happy with my daughter," said the old man. "She does both."

Investments in Under-vestments

This is the "between season" for a great many women in buying outer clothing, consequently it is a good time to turn the attention to replenishing the stores of underclothing. Such a double guarantee is made by advertisements in The Oregonian to see what an infinite variety there is to suit each person's individual requirements. Study the pictures and descriptions furnished by the retailers in the above and you can easily decide what styles suit you best. There are a great many trademarked brands of underwear that are backed both by the reputation of the manufacturer and of the merchant who sells them in this city. Such a double guarantee makes you doubly sure of the quality and correctness of the garments. There is so much valuable information furnished in the Oregonian's advertisements on this subject that if you read them carefully, you cannot go far wrong on quality, fit and style.—ADV.