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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1914.

WHAT CAN THE MEDIATORS DO?

Now that mediation in Mexico is about actually to begin, it is timely to consider what the mediators have undertaken to do and what are their prospects of success. Their mandate was originally to adjust the dispute about the Tampico flag incident between the United States and Huerta. If they had confined their activities to this incident and if their decision were that Huerta had already made sufficient amends to us, would President Wilson recall our warships and troops from Vera Cruz and resume his attitude of watchful waiting? If the mediators decided that a salute was necessary to salve our wounded dignity and if Huerta gave it, would the President withdraw our forces? What sort of figure should we cut before the world in either event? Should we not resemble the "grand old King of France, who had 10,000 men and who marched them up a great, high hill and marched them down again"?

Perhaps, fortunately for us, the mediators have saved us from presenting this ridiculous spectacle by undertaking to discover a plan for the general pacification of Mexico, but there is risk that even then we shall still be made ridiculous. The parties between whom the A B C powers are mediating are the United States and the Huerta government. But Huerta is losing ground so rapidly that he may soon have no voice in deciding the future of Mexico; he may soon have no guns or ammunition with which to fire a salute should he be called upon to fire one. Carranza and Villa have positively refused to have anything to do with mediation. While Mr. Wilson has been striving to eliminate Huerta by means of diplomacy, Villa has been working to the same end by the more effective force of arms and with brilliant success. There is strong probability, that before the mediators complete their leisurely deliberations, if Huerta has not voluntarily withdrawn, he will have been eliminated by Villa, Mexico City will be in Villa's hands and the mediators will be arranging the future of Mexico with a man whom Mexico has cast out. If their talked-of commission should attempt to establish a government, it may be informed with charming frankness by Carranza and Villa that they rule Mexico and consider themselves quite competent to do so without foreign interference.

We are under certain obligations to Villa which we cannot ignore, although he was already under obligations to us. But for our diplomatic hostility to Huerta, our influence against his obtaining money with which to fight Villa and our lifting of the embargo on arms, Villa could not have won the victories he has. Our expedition to Vera Cruz was hastened in order to prevent a German steamer from landing arms for Huerta and was therefore an aid to Villa. Bandit though he has been and unlettered though he is, Villa saw how much he owed to us and he returned the favor. When Huerta sought to inflame Mexican patriotism against the gringo invaders Villa might have joined him with an army of 50,000 victorious troops and given us a very interesting time at Vera Cruz. Instead, he drowned the flame of patriotism which Carranza lighted by denouncing the invaders and warned the Mexicans not to fall into the trap set by "the drunken little brute, Huerta." He has proclaimed his friendship and admiration for Americans and has proved it by rescuing our consuls and refugees from the federals and by aiding their escape across the border. He has invited Americans to return to the territory he has conquered and to resume their occupations, and has pledged them protection. He has abandoned his bandit methods of warfare except as to execution of federal officers, whom he despairs of reconciling to his party. This practice is barbarous and finds a parallel only in the guillotining of aristocrats by the French during the reign of terror, but it agrees with Mexican customs.

If, as seems probable, Villa should capture Mexico City and should become the mailed hand which executes Carranza's decrees, what standing would any commission of pacificators named by the mediators have? The custom of such bodies is to arrange a coalition government drawn from the two contending parties or composed of men who have been neutral in the struggle. But the triumphant constitutionalists would say they had won control by force and would yield it only when driven out by the same means by which they had driven out Huerta. The mediators would then be compelled to choose between withdrawal from the field and giving a mandate to some outside power to enforce their decrees with an army.

After all his protestations of good will to Mexico, Mr. Wilson could hardly accept a mandate to force upon that country a government which would be considered of foreign origin and to depose a government which had gained power by the only means hitherto efficacious in Mexico. If he did, the government he set up would last about as long after the American troops withdrew as that of Maximilian lasted after the French withdrew.

The best promise of a happy outcome for the United States rests in the disposition of Villa himself. He trusts the United States and distrusts the A B C powers, as the following interview published in the New York World shows:

While I am hoping that these mediations will go through to success, yet I do not wish to see the control of affairs go out of the hands of the United States, which is big enough, broad enough and powerful enough to be patient and tolerant of us in our troubles.

I would hate to see those three powerful South-American countries gain too strong a hold on my country, for that would not be for our good. I know them, and they are like some people in my country who do not always do as they say.

My first wish would be that President Wilson handle this whole affair alone, for I believe he is honest and intelligent enough to know what is right and to do it.

Should Huerta withdraw, as now seems probable, his delegates to the mediation conference would still represent the defeated Cientifico element and would be powerless to bind any but that element. Any attempt at compromise between the factions would fail, for between them there is an irreconcilable conflict. The war is a social, class war between the men who carved up Mexico among themselves or sold it to foreigners and the men who would divide the land among the masses. How can such a dispute be compromised?

A DEMAND FOR ECONOMY.

What is uppermost in the minds of the people in the matter of state affairs is clearly indicated by the nominations for the Legislature. The candidate who was pledged to reduce the expenses of state government and plainly expressed his pledge in his ballot slogan had a distinct advantage over his silent opponent. The Legislature in 1915 will convene in Salem with the avowed intent above all things to promote retrenchment.

There is broad room for retrenchment without sacrifice of efficiency. Work is now duplicated in some particulars; in others new heads of departments with large clerical and field forces have been created when the duties could be performed by other departments. Whenever a new office or commission is created more or less of a sinecure is provided for some political ornament. The deputies and the clerks and the field employes do the real work. Combination and centralization will be the watchwords and moderate appropriations the legislative motto.

The Oregonian does not ascribe the election results to a penurious spirit among the electors. There is probably little in state activities that the public would be willing to give up. But it is believed with reason that the public is charged more for the benefits it receives than it ought to be. A businesslike administration is what is needed. That a businesslike administration will be elected is not a guess but a certainty.

FAVORITE SONS.

The fact that Dr. C. J. Smith carried Pendleton, his former home, and Umatilla County, of which Pendleton is the political center and commercial metropolis, by a large vote is held by his friends to be gratifying proof that where he is best known there he is strongest. The Oregonian has no purpose now to take issue with this little bit of personal or sectional argument, for the campaign is young, and the public mind is just now ready for other things. But it is well enough to use the Umatilla situation as a text for some remarks on candidates in their own homes.

Dr. Smith made a fine showing, with a total of 1056, upon the indicated returns up to date, or more than three to one over Mr. Bennett, who had 314, and 101 for the other candidates. Dr. Smith has about 70 per cent of the aggregate Democratic vote in Umatilla.

In Wasco County his chief competitor, Mr. Bennett, reversed more or less completely the Umatilla status by getting 576 votes, against 208 for Dr. Smith, or 294 for the combined opposition. Mr. Bennett thus had about 65 per cent of the total Wasco vote.

Now let us cast our eye on Multnomah County, where dwells an honored son, Mr. Gus Moser, who, it is not forgotten, and will not soon be, was a candidate for the Republican nomination. Early in the late unpleasantness a certain Smith newspaper organ made the blunder of sneering at Mr. Moser. With what result? Although there were three other Multnomah candidates for the Governorship, Mr. Moser swept the county against his seven competitors, receiving 8484 votes, against 5456 for his nearest rival, and 936 for the lowest. In percentages the showing is about 25 per cent of the total, but as evidence of Mr. Moser's running qualities the achievement is remarkable.

Over in Clackamas County, another favorite son, Grant B. Dimick, was decidedly in the running. He got 1485, against 531 for the next highest candidate, which proves that his neighbors think highly of Mr. Dimick.

But the crown must be given to Benton County and its candidate. Corvallis has long been the home of Dr. James Withycombe. Last Friday Benton county rolled up for him a total of 902 votes, against 107 for the nearest candidate (nearly nine to one), and 235 for all others. The proportion for Dr. Withycombe is 80 per cent. And the returns are not all in. They have no doubts about Dr. Withycombe in Benton County.

Meanwhile we have waited in vain for a proclamation from Salem, testifying to the gratification of Governor West that he and his political cabinet had succeeded in making the Residuary Legatee the Democratic candidate. What is the matter?

REJOICE ALWAY.

Dr. Corby's gospel of cheerfulness has both sacred and scientific authority back of it. He mentions 800 places in the Bible where "we are commanded to rejoice and be glad." Perhaps the most comforting of them all is the Savior's mandate to "take no thought for the morrow." Most people lose their cheerfulness fretting over imaginary evils which may possibly happen in the future. Very well. Let them happen. They will not be mitigated by everlasting worry. On the contrary they will be made a great deal worse.

Worry taxes what little strength we have and unfits us to bear actual troubles when they come. On the other hand a cheerful frame of mind increases one's physical energy and imparts the power to bear up under calamity. But it is the scientific authority for cheerfulness, or gladness, as Dr. Corby puts it, that will weigh most heavily with some persons. Of course everybody ought to accept the teachings of the Scriptures as the final word on every subject, but unhappily there are some who do not and in order to persuade them of the advantages of an undaunted smile we must resort to science.

The skeptic will ask of what use it is to smile when the heart is sad. He may even go so far as to declare that smiling in such circumstances is a piece of pure hypocrisy and therefore sinful. But let him pause and reflect before passing such a bitter judgment. William James and other advanced modern philosophers have taught us a lesson in regard to the forced smile. It is not hypocritical in the least because, although when the smile begins it may portend no joy, nevertheless before it vanishes it may flood the soul with radiant bliss.

The scientific fact is that our physical expressions tend to produce a corresponding state of mind. If we allow ourselves to scowl the heart quickly grows angry. If we brush away all signs of dark passions from the countenance the soul presently becomes serene. The smile creates in the mind a reason for smiling. Thus Dr. Corby's philosophy not only has the sanction of Scripture but it is also supported by scientific fact.

MARION AND CLACKAMAS ROADS.

Friday the electors of Marion and Clackamas Counties voted on measures which, if passed, would have allowed the County Commissioners of those counties to issue and sell 5 per cent bonds for the purpose of raising money to "construct permanent highways" in those counties.

In both counties the vote against the bonds was very large and for them very small—in Marion the latest available returns show more than two-thirds of the voters cast their ballots against the measure. Therefore the electors of those counties have registered their verdict against permanent roads under a bonding system. As there seems to be no other way immediately open to secure better roads, the people of those counties will apparently go on with the old system of spending large sums each year in patching roads instead of building roads.

It was shown by facts and figures in both of these counties that a tax of less than a dollar a year on each thousand dollars assessed valuation would pay the interest on the bonds and create a sinking fund sufficient to retire them at the end of twenty years, and that the tax levy of the last few years would not only do this, but provide enough money to build and keep in repair many outlying roads which now receive practically no attention.

It was also shown in Marion County that, under the bonding measure, less than one-third of the tax would fall upon the farmers, whereas they now pay practically all of it—all except what little is taken from the general fund. In other words, had the farmers of Marion stood by the measure with unanimity the business interests would have footed two-thirds of the bills for about a hundred miles of good road.

But the farmers were quite generally against the measure and the Granges were also arrayed against it. Yet the State Grange first started the bonding campaign. At the general election in 1912 there was a measure voted upon, which was submitted by the State Grange. This measure provided for a State Highway Commissioner and also for the issuing of bonds by the various counties in practically the same way as the Legislature a few months later provided. Both of these bills were lost, the former by a vote of 49,699 to 56,713 and the latter 23,872 to 38,846.

In their argument Messrs. Spence, Leedy, Shaw and Mason, of the Grange committee, said: "These bills are carefully drawn by the Grange committee . . . and, we believe, if enacted into laws, will benefit all. . . . Business man and farmer, producer and consumer, vote for these Grange measures, for you, one and all, are interested in the development of the state that can never be accomplished without the construction of good, permanent roads."

It is perhaps too late to do anything in Marion or Clackamas Counties. The voters of those counties have placed themselves on record. But there will be other counties no doubt where like measures will come up and it will do the voters of those counties, particularly the farmers, no harm to consider how the funds are raised under the bonding act; also to consider the arguments advanced by the State Grange in 1912.

JAPAN'S REAL ATTITUDE.

There has been a remarkable subsidence of talk about Japanese enmity to the United States since the Mexican troubles entered their latest phases. We hear no more of Japanese sale of arms and ammunition to Huerta or of possible Japanese aid to him in case open war should break out between the United States and Mexico. The conviction has become fixed in the American mind that Japan would not fight us if she could, and the manufacturers of war scares, finding that their alarms made no impression, have been silenced.

The belief in Japan's peaceful disposition is held not only by stay-at-home Americans, but by those who, through long residence in Japan and through intimate acquaintance with Japan's leading men, are best qualified to express an opinion. Such a man is Rev. Dr. Benninghoff, a professor in the great Wasseda University at Tokio, who is now on a visit to this country. He is an intimate personal friend of the Prime Minister and of other Japanese statesmen and knows personally about 1000 students in the most advanced educational institutions of the empire. He knows the spoken as well as the written language of Japan so well that he is at ease with his students' families and he wields immense influence among the 8000 students of Wasseda.

In an address at Valparaiso, Ind., Dr. Benninghoff explained the real attitude of Japan towards the United States. He said the Japanese do not talk or think of war with the United States, and their newspapers never suggest it. Japan has had two costly wars which have put her a billion dollars in debt, and has not enough cash on hand to keep an army in the field twenty days. She could not go to war without borrowing money, and he asked: "What country would lend money to Japan for the purpose of furthering war with America?" Japan knows that Russia does not admit the recent war was a final settlement, but is preparing for another trial of strength by planting settlers, increasing garrisons and establishing supply bases in Eastern Siberia that she may be right on the spot, not 2000 miles away, when the next clash comes. Japan buys 75 per cent of her raw material from the United States and sells us more than twice as much as to all the rest of the world. Said Dr. Benninghoff:

She is keen to establish and to develop industries and is hardly likely to shut herself off from her chief source of supply and from her best customer.

There are also sentimental considerations. Since Commodore Perry opened Japan to the world, she "has been under the particular and friendly guidance of the best Americanism, many Japanese statesmen are graduates of American colleges, and many Americans have taught in Japan." The doctor said: "The good fellowship has been mutual. All Japan feels this and all America should."

Of the Japanese feeling as to exclusion from the United States, he said:

Unfortunately, one state dislikes Asiatics, and on this account the United States Government has discriminated against the Japanese, putting them below the Huns and Poles and Lithuanians, all of whom come in freely. The Japanese are sensitive, and in view of their history and their recent achievements in science, in art and in diplomacy and military affairs, believe they should not rank below the Huns.

To find out why the Government in Washington ranks Japan low, a commission came to this country and spent months studying conditions. The members reported recently, and the result is that the Japanese are "taking their medicine" and are doing much to bring themselves to the highest plane of integrity and of spiritual development.

The Japanese may underestimate the strength of the objection to their immigration, growing out of racial differences which cannot be obliterated, but we cannot but applaud their efforts to remove what they imagine to be the causes of this objection. The idea of regarding with hostility a nation which so studiously seeks our friendship and good opinion in spite of many slights is repugnant to the best instincts of Americans.

There is genuine truth in the argument that the free public market will encourage small farmers to diversify their products. The reason is simple. They can sell what they raise and get cash for it. This applies to all farmers within driving distance of Portland but not to those farther away. For them the great hope is the parcel post, which will do for all sections of the state what the market does for the vicinity of Portland.

The free dental clinic for schoolchildren has now been held on Saturday mornings in the City Hall for four years. Hundreds of children have been treated and countless miseries relieved. The clinic inflicts no loss on the dentists because very few attend it who could afford other treatment. It saves the teeth of the very poor and thereby improves their health. It is a truly sane and scientific public service.

The Federal Government has applied the laboratory principle to road building with happy results. The work is superintended by Dr. Logan Waller Page, who has constructed twelve miles of model road near Washington, using all sorts of materials and illustrating all the approved methods. A visitor who inspects Dr. Page's exhibit can hardly help receiving a quantity of sound and badly needed instruction.

The persons who are showering accusing postal cards in the younger Rockefeller's direction, no doubt, mean to wound his feelings, but the chances are that they will fail. The young man may or may not have feelings which are vulnerable, but the cards will never reach him. They will be fended off by an array of secretaries, who read all his ordinary mail and burn what he ought not to see.

There is joy over the Underwood tariff in Bradford, the wool center of England. Exports from that city to the United States last March showed an increase of 280 per cent over March, 1913. The Bradford Trade Record says: "The new tariff has worked wonders in the Bradford trade." So it has in the Oregon trade, but not precisely the same kind of wonders.

An ordinance will not be needed to regulate the prices at the public market. If they rule too high, the producer will fail to sell; but if, on the other hand, he "cuts" too much he will be "stung."

Same old elephants, same old lions, same old clowns and same old Buffalo Bill (himself) in the parade; and to carry to a logical conclusion, the same old boys of all ages watched it.

An eclipse of the sun is scheduled for August. And one of both the sun and moon will be noted by Oregon Democrats early in November.

While politics has engrossed all attention, the Willamette has been attending to business and will soon be flooding the Front-street cellars.

Professor Taft thinks mediation will fail. That is assured. But the Administration has pinned its faith in a partnership with Villa.

Dr. Withycombe got nearly all the votes in his home district. Which is the most eloquent testimonial that could be paid.

One losing candidate went to the extreme of killing himself. The majority, however, restrained themselves.

Here's an opportunity for John Barrett as mediator. A Boston barkeeper is a claimant to the throne of Siam.

Tomorrow the mediators will take up the trifling problem of making humpty-dumpty stand again.

Pacification of all Mexico is the hope of the mediators. What brand do they smoke?

Uneasy lies the head that's been feasting at the Democratic pie-counter in Oregon.

The "kiss-me-quick" curl will be the rage this year. Sort of a female S. O. S.

The general weather office says this will be a stormless week. We shall see.

And this time there are no political soreheads—at least not in the Republican fold.

These candidates for Queen are getting their first lessons in practical politics.

Lean years are in prospect for local Democrats.

It's all over now but the shouting in November.

Nobody any more asks, "What's the score?"

The Rose Festival—then vacation.

They've got Huerta resigning again.

FROM A SOCIALIST - SPECULATOR.

Mr. Barzee Tells About the Land He Is Holding Out of Use.

PORTLAND, May 18.—(To the Editor.)—Betwixt the Heppner Gazette-Times, which must stand for Morrow County resources; The Oregonian, which is looking for a Socialist-single-tax mares nest, and a citizen's demand for a fair rate of assessment, I have been muchly advertised as a kicker in the matter of taxation. This is exactly the opposite from the truth, which this letter will explain.

Instead of single tax applying to this land assessment, exactly the opposite is the case. My holdings are improved. Because I plowed the land and tried to farm it, I am taxed on improved land; while my neighbor, adjoining, leaves his land in the wild state—bunch grass—and gets off with from one-third to one-half of the taxes I have to pay because I, supposedly, improved the land. Had I not plowed and improved I should have the benefit of unimproved land rating. This is exactly the opposite from the single tax "George" theory.

Now the facts in this case are these. Some of my neighbors' land is farmed and enough rye or other hay—sometimes grain—can be raised to feed a bunch of stock that is ranged just north of this land on the irrigation reserve covering 15 miles between my place and the Columbia River. These people make their living from the range and not from the farm. Another man adjoining this land farmed himself so deeply into debt that he may never be able to pay out and was forced to abandon his own land and now rents in another section of the county. Other land, still farther south, lying in a better district, is being farmed by some careful Swedish farmers, and they make a living, in a way. The whole belt in the location of this particular land has been practically abandoned.

With a fair rating I would not object to the taxes assessed against this land. I deny the accusation of being a "deserter" in theory or practice of the Socialist philosophy or that of single or land tax. Moreover, I profess to know how to farm and will take my hat off to no one. Also I will meet any editor on even space on any one of these three questions.

I asked of the Morrow County officers a fair assessment, and if the group in this section of land-owners will stand by me, we might show the officials of that county the justice of our claim.

C. W. BARZEE.

According to Mr. Barzee, his land has been plowed, but as he does not dispute the Times-Gazette, we presume it is now idle and, as the newspaper says, grown up to noxious weeds. Perhaps it is taxed as improvable, instead of improved, land, and therefore given the same rating as improved land adjoining. This is the single tax method. But if this theory be disputed by Mr. Barzee, how about the Socialist idea of land taxation? Mr. Barzee's party stands for "the appropriation by taxation of the annual rental value of all land held for speculation or exploitation" in cases where collective ownership of land is impracticable.

Mr. Barzee is letting the land lie idle. He continues to own it. Is he not a speculator? If measured by his own Socialist ideas of justice, the taxes on his land ought to be higher than the land of others, because he is a speculator.

Socialists and singletaxers are down on the land speculator. Mr. Barzee is all three. He ought to cease being one or the other or quit squealing when hit as a speculator. Moreover, his case shows that the land speculator can be reached with taxation without establishing either socialism or single tax.

MUNICIPAL PAVING PLANT AGAIN

Idea Defeated Recently at Polls Revived by Mr. Gordon.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—The City of Portland has a population of about 250,000 people, and is considered an up-to-date metropolitan city. We have miles of hard-surfaced pavements of all kinds, also over 100 miles of macadam and gravel pavements. These macadam pavements have been solidified by travel, and have been constructed in the best manner by competent road engineers.

It has been demonstrated that with a little repairing to bring them to a proper contour, and then applying a heavy coat of heavy asphaltic oil, heated and then forced into the pavement while hot penetrates the road metal, and when a coating or layer of rock chips or pea-size gravel is placed over the oil and then thoroughly rolled it allays all dust, and the experience of the city officials who have tried this method recommend it highly and state that a second coat of this hot asphaltic oil put over the first one adds several years to the life of the roadway. The cost of this method of treating old macadam roads has been 6 to 8 cents a yard per coat. An extra coating of hot asphaltic oil and chips every two years keeps the pavement in condition indefinitely. The cost to the property owner would be about $6 per 50-foot lot per coat, and a hard-surface pavement has been obtained, which is cheaper than the present cost of watering. When main traveled roads have been badly raveled on account of not being kept in good repair, another method highly recommended by city and county engineers in all parts of the country is to scarify or loosen up the macadam to a depth not exceeding three inches, level up all uneven places, then apply a surface coating of crushed rock or crushed gravel (the run of the crusher, with some finer added), which has been heated and mixed with a heated and specially prepared asphaltic paving mixture. It is then placed on the roadway and thoroughly rolled until a monolithic surface is obtained.

The Union and Standard Oil companies furnish these specially prepared mixtures to suit the conditions and requirements of the city officials. A city paving plant is the only solution to the paving situation, and the city should adopt their own method of taking care of street improvements. Hot paving mixers can be obtained in the market for $2500 that will pave a city block in one day. Boost for city paving plant.

GEORGE W. GORDON.

When Church Notices Appear.

WINLOCH, Wash., May 17.—(To the Editor.)—Coming in on a train from Los Angeles I purchased a copy of The Oregonian, expecting the Saturday edition to give notices of church services. I find no such column and nothing to indicate that Portland has any churches, except a display advertisement of the First Congregational. Why?

J. F. M'CLELLAN.

Church notices are not published Saturday because they are published Sunday.

Second Choice Good Thing.

PORTLAND, May 18.—(To the Editor.)—Permit me to express my appreciation of your editorial for a second-choice expression of the primaries. That would make me more satisfied to register once again as a Republican. A second-choice candidate like Dr. Withycombe can create in me as much enthusiasm as my first choice of either Geer or Brownell, but neither of whom would today be a second choice. Here's hoping Withycombe has been nominated by the Republicans and so strengthened the party.

OSCAR W. WETTERBORG.

CONFESSION OF SIN TO MOTHER

Pastor Replies to Remorseful Girl Who Seeks Advice.

PORTLAND, May 18.—(To the Editor.)—I am in receipt of a letter of 900 words which for sufficient reasons the writer did not sign. The author of the letter has a troubled conscience, and comes to myself for advice, with the request that I reply to her in The Oregonian. She says:

I am a young woman, 22 years of age, who has had a little experience that rests so heavily on my mind that I must tell some one. The reason I have selected you is that I know you are a parent, and having heard one or two of your sermons I feel your sincerity, and that you are a good, true servant of God. I am highly respected. I have parents, and suppose you wonder why I do not go to them instead of yourself. I want the advice first of a student of the word of God. I think no one in the world has a dearer, better, nobler mother and father than I. I love my mother better than tongue can tell, and for this reason I do not want to make her heart heavy-burdened for my mistakes and shortcomings.

This young woman goes on to explain that she was led into sin by a woman who was a mother, and whom she for that reason trusted, being young—only 15 years of age. "She told me of a vicious practice and argued that all people did those things," says this young woman, and goes on to mention other arguments and make other statements which are most astounding.

Further along she says: "Dear mother puts all the faith in the world in me, and always has. She has reason to now, for I stay constantly with her, for I feel the world is full of such people, and there is no safer person in the wide world than mother."

Again she says: "God knows my heart was naturaly a clean one, coming from clean parents." And "God knows my heart is a penitent one. If I do not get comfort some way I shall go insane."

Following this and much more which shows the penitence and sorrow of this young woman, and which is a revelation of how she, in her childish innocence, was sinned against, and which we are giving thus fully as a warning to parents and to the young, particularly young girls, the letter in question continues as follows: "I want you to advise me whether or not to go to mother with my heart. I have spent hours and hours in prayer and prayerful thought. I have tossed on a bed of mental agony night after night. Would mother still love me, if I told her, the same as ever? Dear, beloved mother! For her sake I never would want to do anything wrong, and would never, if some one had not forced their debased ideas upon me. Should I carry this burden through life? Shall I tell mother?"

The answer: You need not and should not carry this burden through life. Of course the sin will leave its scar in your memory, to say the least.

You believe in God, and as you say, you have tried to "make it right with him." You are deeply penitent. You believe that Christ is the son of God and your savior. Now it was Christ who said, "Whosoever confesseth me before man, him will I confess before the father in heaven." What you need most of all and what you must have, if you would cast your burden upon the Lord, is to have Christ own you and confess you unto the father. But this he will not do until you have confessed him before man. Give your heart to God. Trust him. Talk it over with him, not as if you felt him angry with you, but as a "dear loving savior," one who is every ready to forgive a sinner, no matter how deep into sin he has fallen, provided he will come to him with a broken and contrite heart, and with a fully surrendered life.

Having prayed it out with God in this manner, and conquered by his help, all opposition, go to some minister of the gospel in whom you have confidence and tell him you wish to confess Christ before man, and obey his precious gospel. For Paul tells us that "the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth." And Paul evidently meant that the faith must be strong enough to impel obedience. Conversion, complete conversion, and nothing short of conversion will enable you to roll this burden off your heart and keep it off, enabling the love and light of heaven to enter your heart and life.

Having given God first place by first squaring my life with him, I would then consider the matter of talking it over with mother. If your mother is the good and noble mother you say she is, then I advise you to tell her by all means, unless it chances that she is in delicate health for any reason, and more especially a nervous strain, or on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

In this latter case it will not be necessary nor even best to add the slightest extra burden to her already overloaded condition. It will be the part of wisdom and graciousness on your part to save her from anything that might worry her all the more because of her delicate condition.

But, barring ill-health on the part of your mother, tell her all about it. If you tell her the story you tell in this letter to me, she will not, I assure you, think the less of you. She will love you just as dearly, more, dearly, no doubt, than ever before in her life.

The Lord bless you and lead you in the way everlasting is my prayer.

REV. SAMUEL HAWKINS,
Pastor Central Christian Church.

We wonder if Mr. Hawkins, on further reflection, will not admit that in tone, if not in intent, he has magnified as has this young woman, the enormity of a sin committed by a child of 15, in ignorance and under undue influence.

Still, we have no fault to find with his advice. If the mother is as sensible as she ought to be she will realize that part of the responsibility for the sin rests upon her for not having given her daughter plain information, instruction and warning. It would be a strange mother indeed whose affection for a daughter would be altered by confession of a mistake of childhood or who could not find practical words to comfort an exaggerated remorse.

OIL ON ROADS IS BADLY NEEDED

Rural Highways Deteriorated Rapidly, Says Contributor.

PORTLAND, May 18.—(To the Editor.)—I have had it in my mind for some weeks to call attention to the fact that by neglecting to apply heavy crude oil to many miles of what are still excellent county roads between this city and Troutdale, Gresham and other points in that direction, great damage is daily resulting.

During the past month or two I have made several trips over these roads, and unless it has been done in the past few days no oil has been applied this Spring. I am sure that I am safe in stating that damage to the extent of hundreds of dollars is daily resulting from this neglect. Without doubt this oil will be applied in time, but the damage is daily becoming more serious. I cannot understand the delay. If this oil is much longer withheld, roads that were very fine last Fall and this Spring will, in a short time, be practically ruined. Anyone can readily see that the surface is rapidly being thrown into the air and onto the adjoining fields by the heavy auto traffic, exposing the heavier and sharper stones and ruining the surface of the highway.

We all know, or at least we think we do, the remedy; but why delay the oiling when the money we put into the roads is rapidly being wasted? Can it be that the throes of political battle have interfered in this matter? Why this delay, gentlemen? Why allow this great waste to go on for weeks and months?

"GOOD ROADS."

Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of May 19, 1889.

Eugene, Or., May 18.—Mr. Taylor, the mail carrier between Eugene and Florence, brings news of the safe arrival of 11 of the crew of the wrecked steamer Alaskan.

Seattle, May 18.—The game today between Seattle and the Standards of Portland resulted in a victory for the former by a score of 16 to 15.

New York, May 18.—Villard says he has 201,700 shares out of 400,000 of Oregon & Transcontinental stock. The other party says he cannot possibly vote that number of shares unless he has issued some of the remainder of the $10,000,000 of preferred stock in spite of the injunction.

Oregon City, May 18.—This afternoon District Attorney McBride was stabbed by Henry Smathers, a ranchman living near Springwater.

The First Regiment, O. N. G., will go into camp at Fort Canby about the middle of July.

The Scandinavian citizens of Portland last night celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of their national independence. Those on the programme were: Kay's Orchestra, Endre Cederberg, Mr. Borquist, A. E. Johnson, Arthur Wilson, Dr. Elsen.

Representatives of the banks of Portland met at the First National Bank yesterday and took steps towards the organization of a clearing-house. There were present: G. E. Withington, William Mackintosh, T. B. Wilcox, L. L. Hawkins, J. T. Hartman, H. C. Stratton, D. F. Sherman, I. A. Macrum, George Good, J. P. Marshall and William M. Ladd. Messrs. Mackintosh, Durham, Macrum, Withington, Good, Sherman and Wilcox were made a committee to formulate a plan.

Rev. Father Leo Lebas died yesterday at St. Vincent's Hospital, aged 82 years. He was one of the very earliest Catholic missionaries on the Pacific Coast.

The line of the Willamette Bridge Railway Company has been completed to the top of Mount Tabor and cars will be running in a few days.

The City Council yesterday provided for the election of a police commissioner at the city election on June 17.

The select committee of the Senate on "Our Relations with Canada" arrived last evening. The committee consists of Senator and Mrs. Hoar, Senator and Mrs. Hale and friend, Miss Stoughton, and Senators Allison, Dolph and Pugh. Senator and Mrs. Hoar and Senator Dolph will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Dolph; Senator and Mrs. Hale and Miss Stoughton of W. S. Ladd, and Senators Allison and Pugh of Henry Failing.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of May 19, 1864.

According to the Golden Age, the interests of the infant territory (Idaho) are not much regarded by those who have been elected or appointed. That paper, though it worked earnestly to secure the election of Colonel Wallace, is now exceedingly bitter against him, and says: "Not a Federal official within the confines of this extended territory (except a secretary who has lately returned a Commissioner, and three or four little postmasters); not a copy of the laws in the hands of an individual, except the above secretary, nor any certainty when they will be provided. Why is all this?"

The following are the Union nominations in Josephine County: For State Senator, J. V. R. Witt; for State Assembly, S. R. Scott; Sheriff, F. Floyd; Clerk, Silas Draper; Treasurer, William Sawyer; Assessor, Willis Alden; Commissioners, Isaac Thompson and Samuel Harkness; Superintendent of Common Schools, R. J. Forbes; Surveyor, R. R. Middleworth; Coroner, L. D. Hart.

San Francisco, May 18.—About 11,100 votes were polled in this city yesterday, and the People's party elected all their officers except three Supervisors. In the Tenth district last night after the election a disturbance occurred. The mob overpowered the police, and the provost guard came to the rescue with drawn sabers and scattered the crowd.

The sanitary meeting on Tuesday evening at the Congregational Church was a great success. There was some excellent singing and the address of Rev. Mr. Atkinson was eloquent and patriotic. A collection in aid of the work of the Sanitary Commission amounted to over $700. Yesterday the amount was increased by the donations of citizens to $1100 and Ladd & Tilton by a telegraphic order directed their correspondent in New York to pay that sum forthwith to the Commission.

Colonel John McCraken placed on our table yesterday some luscious and magnificent strawberries of the Hovey seedling variety, and cherries of the early purple Gigne variety.

R. R. Haines, superintendent of the State Telegraph, has returned from Puget Sound and will commence immediately a line from this city to Olympia via Vancouver.

Captain Van Bergen has been presented with two pairs of beautiful birds by the proprietors of the town at Pumphrey's Landing on the Cowlitz River. They are of the jay and pigeon species.

The repairs to the planking of Front street are only for temporary use and before two seasons roll around we expect to see an established grade, finely paved, with all the proper foot crossings, take the place of the present dilapidated thoroughfare.

As Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Corbett were riding on the macadamized road yesterday, the bridle bit broke in the mouth of one of their horses, which started to run, throwing them violently from their carriage, but fortunately inflicting no injury.

The Democracy of Portland yesterday appointed the following delegates to the county convention: North Portland—H. C. Leonard, J. W. Jordan, T. J. Holmes, William Cree, A. L. Davis, Ben L. Norden, Joseph Tucker, Lewis Gill, William Sherlock, James Burke, William P. Burke, Thomas G. Robinson, J. G. Castle, E. Gallagher, Arthur Fahie, J. G. Lisle, H. A. Gehr, D. Wright, L. F. Mosher; South Portland J. B. Stephens, A. D. Shelby, W. Beck, Lansing Stout, M. O'Connor, L. F. Protzman, F. G. Protzman, J. W. Sutton, P. Sinnott, A. M. Snyder, F. Gatens, J. Blanchard, Levi Knott, M. Durkheimer, M. Muscovitz, M. Schwartz, D. W. Dwyer, J. McNamee, Curtis Palmer, Joseph Bergman.

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