

The Oregonian

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Portland, Saturday, Dec. 26, 1914.

OPINION ON RATE INCREASE.

By newspapers of every shade of political opinion and in all the chief cities of the country, the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission granting an increase in freight rates to Eastern railroads is approved as marking the adoption of a new viewpoint by the Commission and as a strong impulse to prosperity.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PUBLICITY.

Down in the corner of the editorial page of the Chicago Tribune appears a daily feature, reprinted from a selected one of its contemporaries and enjoying the complimentary caption "Best Editorial of the Day."

WHO IS BENEFITED?

The great political economists who have pointed to the high price of wool as irrefutable proof that free trade has benefited everybody everywhere may now have a new opportunity to say "wool" or "two" more on the subject.

SHIP SUBSIDY IN A NEW FORM.

Ship subsidies are abhorrent to the Democratic mind, but a Democratic President now proposes to grant ship subsidies in a different form.

MORE STINTING OF THE NAVY.

All that the present Administration does toward the maintenance and enlargement of the Navy partakes of the spectacular at the expense of the merely useful.

Incident of the Big War.

London Opinion. Sentry (after arresting suspicious character) says to an impudent blighter as well, sir: "I told me 'is name was Wurzelheimer' an' said 'e was a Scotchman!"

Peep Into Society Circles.

Boston Times. "This plant belongs to the begonia family." "Ah! And you are taking care of it while they are away."

Relations of War and Weather.

Dallas, (Tex.) News. "Mary," he said excitedly, "the papers say there's a big war going on in Europe?" "Well," she replied, calmly, "they're having fine weather for it."

Preparation Before an Address.

Baltimore American. "What on earth is Eliza fretting so about?" "About the paper she has to read before the Don't Worry Club."

mission and unfortunate for both railroads and the public. The fact is that those whose movement is up in railroad rates have asked more justice, and got partial justice, than they have in the past.

In the opinion of the New York Mail, the decision "comes as a considerable factor in the restoration of National prosperity," "serves to rescue the principle of public control from public repudiation" and establishes "the rule of reason and justice in respect to the railroads."

The prediction is made by the Chicago Herald that future historians, when listing the partial benefits of the war, will put at the head of the list some such statement as this: "The war waked up the interstate Commerce Commission and induced a majority of its members to view the railway problem more as of the future than of the past."

The Herald finds that the Commission has "realized that railway management as it has been in the past, though not yet fully reformed, are less important than efficient railway service in the present and the future."

It says the Commission's thoughts "have been much along the punitive line to the neglect of the constructive."

Beneficial effects from the decision are foreseen by the Indianapolis News on the stock market, and on the part of the Interstate Commerce Commission for a large portion of their orders, and the conclusion is: "The country is justified in anticipating an early substantial increase in business as indicated by the decision."

Saying the decision should receive general approval, the Indianapolis Star pronounces it "false economy to cripple any public service by skipping the point of parsimony" and continues: "The decision of the Commission is evidence of a new attitude toward the railway company, and the public is to be congratulated for its liberal treatment. The public is not unfair. It is willing to pay for what it gets, and it is willing to get what it pays for."

It is predicted by several newspapers that the Commission cannot now reasonably refuse to grant rate increases to roads in other sections of the country, now that it has granted the plea of the East.

It is not so much our purpose to draw the mortality records and expect the painful truth as it is to show why Portland has this extraordinary reputation for blameless chauffeurs and harmless automobiles in Iowa and in Chicago. It is given thus by the Cedar Rapids oracle: "In Portland, the automobile is caught while traveling at a speed in excess of the limit prescribed in the code book, there is no work out his sentence. No fines are levied. Every conviction is a reward for the pick and the rock road."

Now let those critics who complain that Portland does not get the credit it deserves in the East make a trip down to Linton and take a long, earnest look at the large "closed" sign on the outer door of the suburb.

His father's religious views verged perilously on fanaticism of the gloomy sort. He discouraged all books except the Bible and did what he could to crush out John's budding ambitions. But the lad was tougher than his father and chose his own way in spite of everything. And a good way it was. As a naturalist he taught the American people many an invaluable lesson about the beauty of their native scenery and the use of natural resources. He was a great preacher of the gospel of beauty and the vital benefits of the outdoor life.

His years were passed exploring the western part of the Continent from Alaska to California and living among the wonders he discovered. To John Muir the works of nature were sacred. He believed that the great National teachers. His lessons were of inestimable value and the reward of his life work was to see them take root in the hearts of the people.

Patronage fighting may split the Democratic party. The alone seems worth while in the Democratic fold.

Industry is given stimulus by the war in Germany, says a report. Particularly the grave-digging industry.

London withheld all war news Christmas. So as to be certain of a reasonably merry Christmas.

Von Hindenburg has at last risen to immortal fame. Almost everyone now spells his name correctly.

General Maytorena shows a disposition to celebrate with General Scott. Isn't he the obliging chap?

Never was the true spirit of Christmas more strongly in evidence than in Portland yesterday.

New will the woman who did not spend all her money secure the bargains.

Switzerland disbands part of her army, but the navy remains intact.

This is the weather that brings out the smiles of Western Oregonians.

The poorly balanced person has a grouch of reaction today.

The mercury celebrated by getting back to normal. Many got something just as good, so why grouch? Fifty-six local couples started right yesterday. Sweating-off time draws nigh. Santa Claus is resting easily. Who ate too much? Welcome rain.

with European lines. Were the President's scheme adopted and were these laws to remain unchanged there is no reason to hope that private capital would be any more willing in the future than it has been in the past to engage in a hopeless enterprise.

On the other hand, were the shipping laws changed so as to enable Americans to operate ships under their own flag the same cost as European ships, there is no reason to doubt that capitalists would be found who were willing to engage in the business on any route which promised enough traffic. There has been no lack of Americans venturesome enough to engage in any enterprise which promised profit. There is no need for the Government to engage in the steamship business in order to overcome the various defects of its own laws; let it do away with the laws which form the obstacle to private enterprise.

THE GREAT BRYAN DESERTION.

Secretary Bryan is probably too old to begin anew by weighing his words. Or rather we should distinguish, and say Editor Bryan. For Editor Bryan a month ago, in his Commoner, issued a solemn warning to Democracy that it is "face to face" with the liquor issue, and "might as well prepare for it." When, however, Representative Hobson undertook to prepare the Democratic Congress for an advance upon the liquor trenches, under the banner of his prohibition amendment, the most conspicuous, if not the earliest, deserter was Bryan.

To be sure, Mr. Bryan is not a member of Congress, but he is the Generalissimo of the Moral Squad, and his place is on the firing line.

But a month made a great difference in the Bryan enthusiasm for prohibition. He is for prohibition, but not National prohibition; he wants liquor abolished, but he hopes to preserve the historic principle of state's rights in doing it; he thinks it can be done mercifully and more effectively to cut off the brewery and saloon dogs' tail an inch at a time.

"There is no reason," now says Editor (alias Secretary) Bryan, in the Commoner, to believe that prohibition or its surfrage amendment would at this time be ratified by three-fourths of the states, even if it secured a vote of two-thirds of the two Houses. Believing in both woman's suffrage and the abolition of the liquor traffic, I would like to see the amendment submitted, but the time does not seem opportune for the submission of either of these amendments.

There is no time limit upon the states in ratifying a Constitutional amendment. Doubtless Editor Bryan forgot that. He is for prohibition and woman suffrage, of course; but what's the hurry?

JOHN MUIR. John Muir was carried off by pneumonia, that scourge of later life. We can not call him old at the time of his departure, and he was only 76. With his hearty and manly vigor he should have lived to be ninety at least. His forebears were Scotch who migrated to Wisconsin. It was in that state that John Muir spent the boyhood of which he has written an interesting account.

His father's religious views verged perilously on fanaticism of the gloomy sort. He discouraged all books except the Bible and did what he could to crush out John's budding ambitions. But the lad was tougher than his father and chose his own way in spite of everything. And a good way it was. As a naturalist he taught the American people many an invaluable lesson about the beauty of their native scenery and the use of natural resources. He was a great preacher of the gospel of beauty and the vital benefits of the outdoor life.

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Half a Century Ago

(From The Oregonian, December 26, 1864.) Hood's defeat is becoming more of a rout and completely a disaster than was at first supposed. Half his army is lost and the remainder is completely demoralized and spirit-broken. Seventeen thousand men are among the killed, wounded or prisoners, while the remainder is reported swarming with his deserters. The great achievements of our noble Army under Thomas is not half appreciated by our readers.

Professor Agassiz, of the Atlantic Monthly, comes to the conclusion that the North American was at one time covered with ice a mile thick. The proof is that the slopes of the Allegheny range of mountains are glacial-worn to the very top, and a few peaks which were above the level of the ice points.

Yesterday being Christmas, and Sunday, The Morning Oregonian did not issue. The Emperor Maximilian of Mexico has issued a decree in which he declares that in the event of his death or of any other accident which might deprive the empire of his person, the Empress shall be invested with the regency of the empire. The Mexican people, it is expected, will have some thing to say about that.

The fearful rebellion which has raged in China for years seems to have come to an end with the capture of Nankin. The palace of Tied Wang, the leader of the rebellion, was burned to the ground.

"The office" a term that applies to a husband's knowledge of a favor from A. B. Richardson, Powell & Lappus and others, which will serve to pass off the holidays very well.

Sheriff Jacob Stitzel has announced he will be at the Courthouse to receive taxes until January 20. The Sheriff calls attention to the law which demands that he collect and turn over the taxes by February 20 and asks the co-operation of the taxpayers.

NO CURE-ALL FOR SOCIAL EVIL.

It Arises From Inborn Weakness That Only Divine Grace Can Cure.

PORTLAND, Dec. 24.—(To the Editor.)—One is staggered by the immensity of the problem you raise in your recent editorial on "Remedies for the Social Evil." Your succinct, yet comprehensive, survey of the difficulties besetting the path of virtue recalls how uncertain is the outcome of even the best human forethought and how mysterious are the springs of both right and wicked conduct.

When we come to set down the causes of the social evil we get into a complexity of psychological, social and physical conditions. Doubtless, as you say, some unusually able men and women, after prolonged and conscientious study, have confessed themselves quite in the human arsenal for fighting sin no cure-all is to be found, although there are not wanting those who would like to see the form rather than create an evil which has flourished under the most diverse circumstances. They also have expressed the opinion that a percentage of unfortunate women come from the very occupation most surely providing food, clothing and shelter—domestic service. Neither of these theories account for the cases where the economically secure have become prostitutes and the exploited have become virtuous.

Mental deficiency, as you suggest, explains certain cases. But it is undeniable that there are some bright individuals who are born with a social evil which is not just as hard to explain as any other perversion of human conduct. If a poor outcast woman can justify blame for her father, while a rich woman who is not just as hard to explain as any other perversion of human conduct. If a poor outcast woman can justify blame for her father, while a rich woman who is not just as hard to explain as any other perversion of human conduct.

This doctrine of original sin appeals to me as profoundly true. Neither the scientific research nor the philosophical arrogance of free-thinking philosophy has advanced an inch beyond it. The persistence of the social evil, these many centuries, while all the world is lending and rigorous measures which from time to time have been taken to stamp it out, proves the soundness of this Christian doctrine.

The social evil is as subtle and elusive as life itself. Indeed, it is one of the most mysterious and most variable of all phenomena and yet so variable in its phases that we cannot but regard it as arising from some inborn weakness of the flesh, some deep, ineradicable element in human nature.

What can that element be but original sin? You may take this term to mean an inheritance from our sinful first progenitors or, in a more modern biological sense, an imperious impulse, the very center of the individual being, inevitably associated with life, subject spontaneously to wide variations, often perverse and intractable, and that majority of the world's mankind rarely subdued, and frequently overlapping barriers of all kinds, no matter how carefully erected.

Remembering the deep-seated wickedness in the heart of man, it is questionable if prostitution will so soon disappear, no matter what merely hygienic agencies are employed against it. Man would no longer be man if he were to become sinless. A very devout French saint once said: "I have seen the devil, and he is a very good fellow."

"Chastity is a virtue that cannot be preserved without a special intervention of God's good help."

How many of us poor mortals feel the profound truth of these words? We can only keep on striving, praying and hoping for divine grace, for that unaided majority of the world's mankind is not just as hard to explain as any other perversion of human conduct.

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HOW TO IMPROVE RURAL SCHOOLS

Centralization and State-wide Tax Unit Suggested Among Aids.

PORTLAND, Dec. 24.—(To the Editor.)—The rural schools present some very perplexing problems, especially when the installation of the domestic science and manual training departments is to be considered.

It is an evident fact that the rural schools are far in arrears of the systematically graded schools of the cities. Centralization where possible affords the best plan of successfully alleviating many of the worst obstacles in the way of advancement of the rural schools.

The centralized school system of the Alsea Valley in Benton County, Oregon, is a splendid example of what can be accomplished along this line. In the Alsea Valley the pupils are hauled to school from three different directions, averaging from five to seven miles in wagons operated at the expense of the school district.

The citizens of the community have met the good roads problem by voting special road taxes which have gone as high as 10 mills, the limit of such a tax levy. It is true the owners of the largest tracts of lands have borne their portion of this taxation, but it speaks volumes for the progressiveness of the community.

The opportunity of every child who receives education at the hands of the state or Nation should be equal and uniform. The method of taxing the local districts for school purposes is a measure wrong. There is no question about the pupils of the rural schools having the little end of the educational fact when compared to our city schools. There are thousands of taxpayers in Oregon who have no children in attendance in our public schools. Many of these taxpayers should be required to give their children private tutelage.

Then as a matter of duty or philanthropic consideration these taxpayers should be interested in seeing that the opportunities of all children who are beneficiaries of their contribution to the school funds are equal and uniform. Naturally any citizen who is a democratic voter should not feel otherwise about this proposition.

By all means, the standard length of the school year should be increased. Instead of six months, as is the condition in many cases, we must also increase the efficiency of the rural school teacher.

It certainly will require a personality of the greatest versatility to make a model teacher for these schools. In the rural schools we need specialists, not but one subject, but the demands of the rural school require that the teacher be a specialist in many subjects. He must be able to teach well for there is a minimum of time for the accomplishment of results.

Contrast this idea with a thought of the inexperienced teacher in a great many of our rural schools. This may not appeal to the rural school teacher, but it is now fair to the taxpayer. The rural school teacher is a specialist in the field of education. The only way to secure the efficient teachers for the rural schools is to attract salaries and this should not be saddled upon the local school district but upon the state as a whole.

The rural school is a National problem, but it is only worked out by the states and hence each state should be interested in the rural school. It presents an almost insurmountable lot of unequal units.

The matter of increasing the efficiency of the rural school teacher can be founded upon the basic idea of keeping the boys and girls upon the farm as long as possible. The rural school should be a part of the general trend of opportunity for the rural school.

Equality of opportunity for all, or the Napoleonic idea of a career open to talent regardless of birth or family, is a dream. The rural school should be a part of the general trend of opportunity for the rural school.

Let us then give every coming citizen a fair chance for an education. Let us advance for much needed improvement in the advancement of our rural schools. ROBERT H. GELLATLY.

SERIOUS INJUNCTION DISOBEYED

War Speakers From Abroad Violate Spirit of President's Proclamation.

PORTLAND, Dec. 23.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian has published 23 there appears a commendation of President Wilson's message to the people in this country. It is a commendation in regard to the great war now in progress. No exception can be made to that, but when your correspondent reads the message of the belligerent countries should be welcomed to give their views on the causes of the struggle, I think on the part of the Oregonian, it is a wonder where no good can be accomplished and where much harm might be done if a similar policy should be followed by an audience already equipped with taut nerves.

If a untutored foreigner, may be permitted a word of protest in opposition to the product of foreign universities, it is creditable to their culture. It is a matter which should be of the serious injunction of the chief magistrate of the country in which they are temporary sojourners. It is not enough of the arguments and statements on all sides of the issue as they appear in the press from time to time, as instanced by the speech of Premier Viviani published in the Oregonian also on December 23; the mainly statements of Editor Haidler of Germany and those of Clemenceau, Lloyd-George, Dernburg and others which have appeared since the war began, to satisfy the curiosity of an audience already equipped with taut nerves.

ROBERT GIBSON, 25 East Fifth Street.

Blunders of Would-Be Writers.

PORTLAND, Dec. 25.—(To the Editor.)—In your editorial December 24, "How to Write," occurs the following: "And above all things, do not say, 'John has gone to town yesterday,' a wretched blunder that is becoming distressingly common."

It is my most earnest belief that only if this wise can the social evil be cured. A PENITENT.

Incident of the Big War.

London Opinion. Sentry (after arresting suspicious character) says to an impudent blighter as well, sir: "I told me 'is name was Wurzelheimer' an' said 'e was a Scotchman!"

Peep Into Society Circles.

Boston Times. "This plant belongs to the begonia family." "Ah! And you are taking care of it while they are away."

Twenty-Five Years Ago

(From The Oregonian, December 26, 1889.) Geneva, N. Y.—Professor Brooks, director of the Smithsonian Observatory, discovered a new star here tonight and it has been called "The Star of Bethlehem" in the newspapers because of its discovery on Christmas.

Atlanta, Ga.—The funeral of Henry W. Grady, late editor of the Constitution, was held yesterday. Every civic society of Atlanta and many from outside attended the obsequies. Five clergymen performed at the funeral, which was the largest ever held here. The entire Constitution staff walked in the funeral as an honorary escort.

Seattle—Colonel Robert Z. Stevens, United States Consul at Victoria, died yesterday at the home of his son-in-law, Captain J. A. Hatfield. Colonel Stevens had come to Seattle to pass the Christmas holidays and at the time of his death from apoplexy was assisting in the Christmas tree for the family.

The funeral of James A. Kraemer, who for some time had been identified with the name of "The Star of Bethlehem," was held yesterday at 10 o'clock.

John Gilman, the originator of the exhibit on wheels of water at products and resources, is in the city. Mr. Gilman conceived the idea of having a trainload of products and samples of resources tour the country, stopping several days at all the large cities and shows in progress.

The residence of J. C. Smith, 254 Salmon street, was slightly damaged yesterday by fire, which was confined to the roof.

The new steamer Iona made her maiden trip today. She has a top speed of 18 miles an hour. Engineers William T. Everson and William Coats were in charge of her engines.

CARVER NEVER WEST OF ROCKIES

Story He Gave Name of Member of Party to Oregon Is Disproved.

PORTLAND, Dec. 24.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian contains a letter from Captain George Pope under the title of "Derivation of Name of Oregon." In it he quotes "the late Captain William Bratten, of Ridgefield, Wash.," as saying, among other things: "It was an Irishman who gave the name to this state and the great river flows to near our door. It came about when Jonathan Carver's party, in descending the Snake River, struck that splendid body of water. We now call the Columbia River. In Carver's journal he says that the name of the river was 'The Oregon,' in honor of one of the chiefs of a clan of Indians of that name. As far as I know, the name of the river was never named 'The Oregon,' which in the opinion of evolution has been the name of Oregon of Bryant and hence the name of our state."

And Captain Pope adds, that version was considered "a very reasonable explanation." The foregoing is sheer romance. Captain Jonathan Carver, who was the first person known to use the word "Oregon," was never west of the Rocky Mountains. Carver's party, in descending the country now called Minnesota in 1766-1768. He returned to New England in the Fall of the latter year. He intended to publish a book of his travels in the Boston Chronicle, September 12, 1768. Not receiving sufficient encouragement to justify its publication, Carver sailed for London on February 22, 1769, and the first edition of his book was published in 1778. It is known that all together 30 editions were published.

The Oregon Historical Society has an edition of Carver's book published in 1796 in Philadelphia, and also a complete bibliography of all his works so far as known up to 1910 prepared by the Oregon Historical Society. The Oregon Historical Society of Wisconsin. GEORGE H. HIMES.

Some Features of The Oregonian Tomorrow

Smithereens

Is all that is left of the ambitious plan for a universal New Year's hour, this year. War wrecked the plan. An illustrated page in striking color effect.

Memoranda of War.

Xavier Sager, author, artist and French staff officer, writes from the trenches and incloses a wonderful pen-and-ink drawing of a hand-to-hand struggle over a huge German cannon.

Majestic Highway Scenes.

A page presenting glimpses of Winter scenes on the wonderful Columbia Highway. Incomparably beautiful are the frozen water falls.

Oregon's Part at Fair.

Just what the Oregon exhibit at the San Francisco Fair will consist of is outlined in a special article prepared from reports from the various counties of Oregon.

Fierce Fighters.

Such are the unbridled hordes from the deserts, who have been thrown on the firing lines of Europe. A full page with many illustrations.

The X-2.

How a daring little submarine went against the enemy is told to R. Darenhower by the junior Lieutenant. Illustrations by G. A. Coffin, the widely known magazine artist.

A Woman and a Farm.

She took 1000 acres and made of it a wonderfully productive farm, displaying a rare skill as an agriculturist and organizer. Illustrated with photographs.

The Red Flower of Courage.

Romance and truth are wonderfully combined in the story of the Poinsets.

The Twelfth Lesson.

Last in the course of free music lessons given by The Sunday Oregonian. It is in the keys of D and B flat.

Dolly Dip.

The tango maid gives a New Year party. Full page in colors, with verse, and score of a lively tango air.

For the Children.

A full page of illustrated features.

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