

The Oregonian

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INCISE SAN, PICKAPOCK?

All the virtuous assumptions by proponents of the Ferris bill that the Federal Government is only solicitous for the proper and honest regulation of water powers are affected by the passage of the report of the House committee on irrigation.

The committee first subscribes feebly to what it contends to be the previous duty of the Government to aid property in the development of the site, although the state owns the water, and at all times to regulate in the public interest. Thereupon it declares for a policy which is not proper regulation, or fair or just. It says:

The committee was firmly of the opinion that the Federal Government should own a reasonable share in the power developed and that the proceeds should be used in the development of irrigation projects. The committee is not of the opinion that the proceeds of the sale of the water should be used for the purpose of paying the Federal Government, but for the purpose of developing irrigation projects in the public interest.

The statement is plain and un-equivocal. The Government has never yet made a direct appropriation for reclamation. The money has been provided from the sales of public lands under a bond issue to be repaid by the Government from the reclamation funds.

Now it is proposed that the states which have arid lands to reclaim should be taxed not only to provide funds for their own reclamation, but to be taxed as well for reclamation in states that have no water power or very little of it.

A tax upon water power, when there is no state or Government regulation, is a tax upon the consumer. That is a tax upon the farmer. The Government fleets rates at a figure which will provide only a reasonable return on the investment, the power project, if taxed by the Government, must necessarily charge the consumer more in order to get that reasonable return.

Thus does the Government propose to come into the Western states upon a footing of competition with water owners for the benefit of those states for other states' benefit.

Now in that all the committee's report intimates that this policy shall be pursued only for the present—only until the water-power states have been milked of money by Oregon citizens until the water power is exhausted. It shall be pursued "for the purpose of enriching the Federal Treasury."

a monument to the greatness of the present day. The cost of \$2,000,000 is not a great sum to be met, although those who have felt the impregnation of this great work will undertake the raising of the necessary sum.

But whether the monument is carried to completion or not the incident is significant as showing modern possibilities. We have the technical intensity and the facilities, lacking only the spur of inspiration in an age when man is chiefly concerned in filling his stomach. Supply the impulse and the pyramid will be reduced to total insignificance by the month in Georgia.

LESS MAJESTY. Senator Chamberlain addressed the Republican Club of New York last Saturday on a non-partisan topic (preparation of a bill which would be introduced in Oregon; but it seems, according to the faithful news chroniclers that what he had to say "came as a surprise to those present.")

Senator Chamberlain advocated compulsory military training for the young manhood of the country—for the good it will do to the Nation. It is true enough that the Nation is not quite ready for a radical step of that kind, and does not think it necessary; but the war experts do, or some of them, and the Oregon Senator, being chairman of the Senate military affairs committee, is in tune with them.

We will not stop to say more than that the Senator's "militarist" views have given pain to many of his old-time supporters in Oregon; and we do not observe any loud plaudits among his Democratic newspaper supporters. But he is evidently not to be deterred by that.

Now do we find in the following comment by the Senator such to make the White House rejoice. "When Havill has a revolution," he says, "and refuses to pay her debts, we send warships and a few marines and take the island, and then we come to dealing with the greater powers of the world, instead of acting like a brave, courageous and noble Nation, we act like cowards. I am ashamed and sorry to say."

That sounds to us like less majesty. THE TEXTILE TRADER'S LESSON. Textile manufacturers are now clamoring for the very policy against which they protested when the Payne-Aldrich tariff was in preparation in 1908.

The free trade theory of buying in the cheapest market has received a stunning blow from the tariff revision. The tariff revision must consider not only the price of a commodity, but the certainty of an uninterrupted supply. That can be assured only by firmly and permanently establishing the production of that commodity in our own country.

OUTSHINING ANCIENT EGYPT. The proposal of the Daughters of the Confederacy to provide a gigantic monument to the lost cause is important in that it has taken on modern significance. If the present plan is carried out the undertaking may be set down as the most stupendous in the history of sculpture.

High school sewing teachers are engaged for five hours daily in sewing schools. The cost of the material is \$1.75 to \$2.25 per month. Elementary teachers work five and one-half hours daily in school instruction. The average number of school days in a

gifts of voice and feature, he effaced himself completely in the character whose soul he was laying bare. Salvini could not be recognized. The man before you on the stage was Othello or Hamlet, or Romeo or Paolo. In all these scenes the control of his resources was absolute and he had no need to resort to those tricks of gesture and speech which so many actors employ because they lack ingenuity or depth or industry, or all three of those attributes.

There are many acres of rough, unthoughtful land between the Missouri River and the Cascade Mountains which are adapted to no other purpose than grazing. They cannot be farmed, or irrigated, or without irrigation, though coarse feed may be grown on an occasional patch.

West in general has been a failure. The record of the West in such results that, after having diminished in preceding years, population increased 50 per cent between 1904 and 1914.

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Men-of-war, large and small; indefinitely colored transports, laden with troops, and a never-ending line of war-requisitioned freighters day by day, slip out of Portsmouth, the first naval harbor of the world's greatest navy, and scatter their reinforcement to all of the troubled zones of Europe, Asia and Africa.

Very little has been written about Portsmouth, the war port; for the labor and planning that have taken place in the great harbor have not been mentioned.

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European War Primer

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MOTHERS WANT SEWING TAUGHT

They Welcome School Training Which They Cannot Give Themselves. PORTLAND, Jan. 10.—(To The Editor.)—In an editorial in The Oregonian December 30, an article headed "Science" the editor seems to be either misinformed, uninformed or disgruntled about the sewing in our public schools.

So far as the public is concerned, and mothers in particular, I think he has struck the wrong key, for every mother who has ever talked with her child about the sewing in the highest terms. There is no work that is so necessary for every girl to know something about as sewing. Domestic science is a good thing for many, but there are many that will never cook a dinner, and if they do, it is easier to eat than to learn to sew.

As to "supervisors" he speaks of, he should have said "special teachers," who have from 500 to 600 scholars to look after. He says they have had no special training; he is mistaken. They have all served apprenticeship in some shop and served up pieces of information from the great supervisor in the grammar schools, have had to take a special course before going into the schools.

I think that so many of our mothers have a hard time in doing that and that several more teachers have been added, with not much greater increase in scholars.

Now, the question comes to me why a second supervisor of the sewing? Manual training, domestic science, and sewing, has each only one supervisor. If The Oregonian is so interested in the taxpayers, why not dig out the expensive swimming instructors, their teachers, all very nice to have, but is it to fit our girls and boys for anything that will help them in any vocation in after years?

Now, sewing in our schools cannot be taught at home, for how many mothers have the time or knowledge to teach their children to sew? This was demonstrated by the fact that a recent sewing class taught in this city had children of all ages, from six to sixteen. Now, sewing in all its branches cannot be taught at home, for how many mothers have the time or knowledge to teach their children to sew? This was demonstrated by the fact that a recent sewing class taught in this city had children of all ages, from six to sixteen.

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In Other Days

Twenty-Five Years Ago. From The Oregonian, January 11, 1901. The Madison street bridge will be thrown open to traffic today. Everything is complete, except the gates for stopping the way when the draw is open and, in lieu of these, ropes will be used for several days.

The key table for the patrol electric call system has arrived. It was temporarily set up in the general offices of the police captain, last evening, as no permanent stand has yet been selected.

J. M. Siglin, president of the State Military Board, is at St. Charles. He has charge of the militia of Oregon. It is his opinion that no troops of this state will be called out to confront the Indians in Dakota.

The Alpine Club has incorporated under the name of the Oregon Alpine Club association over the signatures of George B. Markie, M. C. George, G. G. Ames, E. D. White, W. G. Steel, John Gill, D. Sells, Cohen, W. Pittchell, William M. Smith, Herbert Bradley, C. H. Woodard, T. F. Osborn and G. A. Mooney.

The marriage of Miss Edith Brown and W. H. Hosen Wood, which recently took place in this city, was a most interesting occasion. The ceremony took place in the parlors of the bride's parents, 485 West Park street, Rev. David N. McInture officiating.

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian, January 11, 1861. It is stated that David J. Hildreth has ideas for his novel of Oliver Twist from the drawings of Cruikshank, intended to illustrate, without letter press, the life of a London thief, and the chance of Nancy, Ragin' Sykes, the Dodger and Charley Bates, were suggested by the sketches of the artist.

The Shenandoah Valley is rapidly regaining the appearance of thrift and prosperity. The farmers in that fertile region are rebuilding fences and barns.

The Columbia was so blocked with ice yesterday that the steamer Frank was unable to get out of its accustomed round to Vancouver.

The bark Samuel Merritt, which arrived yesterday, brings for the use of the first-class fire engine.

A fire occurred at Virginia City, Nev., on Sunday, and destroyed property to the extent of \$20,000.

How Oregon in 1900 Tried to Overrule United States Constitution. PORTLAND, Jan. 10.—(To The Editor.)—Your editorial this morning on the Masses of the Leg suggests the idea of the people at the time of 1900 when they refused to repeal the section of our state constitution, which prohibits free negroes or mulattoes living in the state.

This section was, of course, annulled by the adoption of the fourteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution. I am sure that you are thinking the state constitution would at least look better if this section were stricken out.

I don't for a moment suppose that anybody would find that much of a drawback. I feel sure that if it became absolutely necessary there are thousands of our countrymen who would draw their desks and enlist in this reserve army, if the Government would guarantee them the plan to resist.

But why the expense of training these convicts in times of peace? Most of them, if not all, are uneducated. It would not be necessary even to equip them with up-to-date arms and ammunition. A fair and equal distribution of gas would make this army a formidable looking bunch.

At the regular election in 1900 the proposition was passed on by the people and they decided that they preferred to remain a free people, the people being 19,074 for repeal and 18,938 for its retention.

The people will have an opportunity next Fall to vote on this question. It is my hope that the Governor will submit it to the 1916 Legislature.

Block Signal Not at Fault. PORTLAND, Jan. 10.—(To The Editor.)—In recent newspaper "howlers" the reason for the head-on collision of two freight trains on the Southern Pacific Railroad near Beaverton, Ore., was given as the block signal system.

It is not difficult for a rich man to be convicted by a jury as it is for him to enter the land of heavenly rest.

Medical science is looking for a grippe serum. There's millions in it for the lucky discoverer.

Do your leap-year proposing early to avoid the crush of feminine competition.

REPORTS OF THE LATEST BATTLE IN MONTANIA. The kind of man who gives a woman the alternative between his lifelong society and death is the kind of man to make the woman prefer death.

Germany says she is prepared to fight for a century. And there are evidences that Germany will be called upon to fight fully that long.

War inventions are said to aid military work greatly. Particularly the "sheer inventions" of the official war news agencies.

Merely the click in the alliteration it may be stated that a Eugene concern is to can a car of cabbage.

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