

The Oregonian

Published at Portland (Oregon) Postoffice as second-class matter. Subscription prices: In advance: Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$10.00; Daily, Sunday included, six months, \$6.00; Daily, Sunday included, three months, \$3.50; Daily, Sunday included, one month, \$1.25; Daily, without Sunday, one year, \$8.00; Daily, without Sunday, six months, \$5.00; Daily, without Sunday, three months, \$3.00; Daily, without Sunday, one month, \$1.00; Weekly, one year, \$3.00; Weekly, six months, \$2.00; Weekly, three months, \$1.25; Weekly, one month, \$0.50; Single copies, 5 cents.

Portland, Tuesday, March 21, 1916.

SLANDERS THAT HURT.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels refused to send the cruiser Pittsburg up the Columbia River is but the latest in a long series of acts by which it is sought to ignore the Columbia River as a navigable channel for ocean-going ships and to determine, united and aggressive fight on the part of the people of the entire Columbia Basin can the Columbia River secure fair treatment from the Government and from the shipping interests.

The action of Mr. Daniels in the Pittsburg affair is a good illustration of the manner in which this discrimination is practiced. The Twenty-first Infantry Regiment was to be transferred from San Francisco to Portland. The natural, easy, direct and therefore economical way to make the transfer was to send a ship to Vancouver or Portland, to embark the men there and to carry them direct to San Diego. Orders to this effect were actually given, but the detractors of the Columbia River, by the occult means at which they are adepts, set about having arrangements changed. They raised doubt in Mr. Daniels' mind as to whether the water was deep enough for the Pittsburg, and he made inquiry.

He learned that the low-water depth in one channel across the bar is twenty-six feet and in the other thirty-five feet and that the low-water depth in the river channel to Portland is not less than twenty-six feet, although Port of Portland authorities insist that the governing depth is thirty feet. The Port of Portland facts he ignored the deeper of the two bar channels and fastened his attention on the shallower. He also ignored the additional depth gained by high tide. As to the river channel he failed to consider the fact that the depth of water available and gave no thought to the fact that the river has not been down to zero in March in thirty-seven years and is now ten feet above that point, plus the additional depth of water. He did not consider the fact that the Maryland, a sister ship of the Pittsburg, and the battleship Oregon have safely come into and gone out of Portland harbor. In fact, he eagerly sought upon the Columbia River the use of the river's disadvantage and sought no further information which might turn in the city's favor.

He ordered the Pittsburg to make the long circuit to San Diego and ordered the troops to be sent by rail to that port, abandoning the direct route at the instigation of the ever-busy knockers. Thus he shows that the North American Review correctly describes him as "a pottering country politician."

It does not appear that in any of the proceedings either Senator Chamberlain or Senator Lane exerted himself to see that Daniels had the correct information for his guidance, though the state which they represent is most vitally interested in all matters concerning the Columbia River. Mr. Chamberlain, as chairman of the committee on military affairs, should have regarding the movement of troops, but he appears to have done nothing. He does well to occupy himself with the reorganization of the Army and the National duty, but he might also find time to protect the interests of his own state in military affairs. Dr. Lane, we know, has taken the Oregon aborigines under his special care, but he need not entirely neglect his own constituents. There are other things in Oregon requiring the attention of a Senator besides Indian reservations.

It is not easy to see how any patriot in the present grave situation of our foreign relations could say or do less; it is amazing to learn that there are preachers who do as these detractors so moderate and correct. Such men resent the charge that they are not patriotic, or that they are for peace at any price. They are not unpatriotic, or are for only a little preparedness.

provoked by causing big ships to come in and by spreading accurate information, obtained from Government engineers, as to the depth and width of the channel. Oregon Senators can see that this information, constantly brought up to date, is supplied to the Navy Department. The Portland Chamber of Commerce can supply it to every port and every shipping firm in the world. The Oregon delegation in Congress can see that a vigilance committee to follow the efforts of the knockers to prevent the Government from learning, acting upon and disseminating the truth. The activity of the knockers is the strongest evidence of the intrinsic merit of the Columbia as a navigable waterway. It is prompted by fear lest the truth should become known and lest the Columbia come into its own.

UNDER WHICH FLAG?

A body of ministers of the gospel of Christ yesterday in Portland made known to the world their loyalty to their country by the following:

To the President: The Portland Methodist preachers meeting heartily sustain you in your efforts to maintain the honor of our land and on sea and in all necessary preparation to maintain the honor of the Nation. It is not easy to see how any patriot in the present grave situation of our foreign relations could say or do less; it is amazing to learn that there are preachers who do as these detractors so moderate and correct. Such men resent the charge that they are not patriotic, or that they are for peace at any price.

The American who is a patriot and the American who says he is a patriot and who takes their stand with the group which would have peace at any sacrifice or the group which would preserve the National existence at any sacrifice. He is but fooling himself and his country when he says he will stand with neither, but between them.

THE ANNUAL ROW.

The Portland schools have again passed, and have again somehow survived, the annual altercation over election of the superintendent. The public, which is interested but little less in school decorum than in school efficiency, ought to be spared the periodical spectacle of a great row over the superintendent. To ensure, it is not necessary to find expressions in ugly taunts and open personalities, but there has nearly always been a sharp controversy over the election of a director because he favored, or was supposed to favor, this or that candidate.

Through many years the previous superintendent continued to hold his job by his expertise in practical politics as well as by his exceptional qualifications as an educator. The ideal superintendent ought not to be a politician, of course; but he cannot otherwise last long under the system of annual elections, provoking and involving always an issue which sensational newspapers and notorious-gossiping busybodies seize with infinite gusto.

We can think of but one method of procuring a superintendent worse than the present. It is to abolish the board of directors and to have the superintendent enter a popular contest for the job. The Oregonian does not at all assert that Mr. Alderman is the best obtainable talent for superintendent. But it is tempting to show. It is decidedly of opinion that the present board of directors is the best obtainable. The essence of the charges of Director Lockwood appears to be that at least two of the directors who were voting for him did not have pure motives in doing so. They were under obligation to the superintendent and their favors rendered. It seems to us that the specifications cited by the complaining director resolved the whole matter into something quite trifling. The large question is Mr. Curran's election worth considering. Is Mr. Alderman's competency.

We will not refrain from saying in passing that Director Munly met the Lockwood case with much firmness and coolness as the situation called for and he certainly made a good defense for the board. But what business had anyone to introduce religious matters?

PERSISTENT "PATIENCE WORTH."

Whatever the explanation of Patience Worth may be, she is a persistent jade. After two years of third-degree cross-examination by experts in psychic research and lay doubting Thomases, Patience patiently persists in her writings and her utterances on the ouija board with the kind assistance of Mrs. John H. Curran, a substantial St. Louis matron, who first discovered Patience. All efforts at so-called scientific or pseudo-scientific investigation have failed. Mrs. Curran proceeded to dictate poems, blank verse and stately prose. Although the messages were in old English, Mrs. Curran persisted that she knew nothing of old English. Although the writings revealed considerable knowledge of rural England, Mrs. Curran proved that she never knew rural England and was not equipped to provide the peculiar atmosphere and literary flavor of the ouija-board writings. Hence it all must emanate from the spirit world, possibly from some suppressed writer who has been waiting for an opportunity for publication had been her during mortal existence. Here is a specimen of her verse:

interpreted as a spirit the same influence, the same subconscious and subconventional processes, that a normal writer would regard as his muse. The ouija board likely corresponds to the yellow ribbons that one writer had to have before him in order to write, or the faded smoking-jacket without which a certain writer was unable to produce. Rather than a case for psychic research societies, one is led to suspect that the mediums and speakers and holders of the nervous system would reach the true solution of Patience Worth's baffling mystery.

PLAINT OF THE POOR RICH MAN.

A writer in an evening paper, who signs himself "A Man in the Ditch" and talks feelingly of "his fellows digging in the sewers," has attracted our interested attention. A sewer-digger who, after washing up after a hard day's toll, changes the habiliments of labor for something that will not soil the leather upholstery of his home, takes fountain pen in gnarled hand and writes learnedly of the number of wage earners in the country, per capita tax, cost of Government and standards of living. He is a good dictioneer, certainly deserves attention. Still it would be more interesting to be told how a man of such attainments happened to be working in a sewer trench. We should like to see the editor of the only digging he does is with a neat little trowel in the flower beds that grace the lawn of a comfortable home?

The letter is a protest against retirement on half pay of superannuated postal employees and an editor's endorsement by The Oregonian of a bill to that end. This laborer with lily white hands is aghast at the added burden of taxation that the bill would impose upon the working classes. He is a great actor and in the first year's cost under the retirement bill would be \$362,000, which would impose a tax upon the 10,000,000 wage earners in the country of 3.6 cents a year, or about one cent for every dollar he has earned. He is a good actor, but the wage earner is taxed for the postal expenses chiefly in the postage stamps he buys. His contribution is a small part of the postal revenues. There is no proposal entailed to increase postage rates. But if our friend will leave his imaginary ditch long enough to contemplate a few other conditions in the postal service he may discover where a saving could be made in directions that would be a great benefit to the public. The little worthy consideration carriers and clerks are asking. The postmaster, except in minor offices, is a political job, sought and obtained by men who know nothing of the business of the post office. The republican franchise, which draws the distinction between commissioned officers and enlisted men from the monarchist franchise of Europe, in republican France the democratic ideal of equality is preserved, and it does not seem to weaken discipline. The greatest incentive to efficiency, next to patriotism, is the possibility of attaining the highest rank.

The up-to-date Duke of Westminster charges into a panic-stricken swarm of fuzzy-wuzzles in Egypt with an armored automobile. The Duke of a few centuries ago carried the armor of a knight in his armor and his horses and charged with lance at thrust. It is far easier and more effective to let an engine do the carrying and to let a machine gun do the fighting.

Douglas Court is specializing in brocoli, just as part of Lane does in asparagus and Washington in onions. It takes 405 crates to fill a car. The yield is about 270 crates to the acre, and last year the growers netted a dollar a crate. Broccoli growers here needed to make a profit of \$270 an acre, but some men are doing it and others can.

Young fellows in Germany will be taught to look upon their own corporations that have installed their own in part measures of economy. It is recognized that an employee's value to his employer deteriorates with age. It would, of course, be cheaper to kick him out in the cold when he is disabled than to pay him more than his worth. On the other hand, it is economy to pension him rather than keep him on the payroll.

The Governor of Missouri wants Marshall's job, although the Vice-President has not signified a desire to quit. So far we have heard of no celebration being planned for the annual Spring opening of the Panama Canal. Officially just a fraction of an inch of rain fell yesterday morning, but people going to work think otherwise.

New and stricter regulations on butter and potatoes are in effect in Berlin, but nothing is said about gravy. Cow trails started the streets of Boston, while out here the logging road develops into a railway. A woman who has just escaped says the Mexican respect only the British flag. The campaign is young.

August Paulsen will soon know all the tricks of the blackmailers and be able to catch them himself. The dog who steals the daily paper at Vancouver has a discriminating sense to get the best. Now that Targart is a Senator, "Tom" must be displaced by the more respectable "Thomas." Time is limited for performance of two civic duties by the citizen—pay the tax and register. The foundling who reaches the right doorstep was born a lucky child. Old Sol is having a hard time crossing the line.

It is not good war to torpedo a hospital ship.

be legalized, in order that it may be divided among all ports instead of being forced through one choked passage to New York; and the United States should carry its commerce in its own merchant marine. The car shortage is only one feature in the broad picture of transportation, the solution of which demands the talents of a business statesman.

The Pittsburg incident serves to impress on us once more a fact which has been borne in upon us often enough that the Columbia River can get its deserts only by fighting. It is one of the three great natural harbors on the Pacific Coast, the others being Puget Sound and San Francisco Bay. Its people have no desire to take away from the other ports anything which rightfully belongs to them, but it should fight without respite for all that which rightfully belongs to it. Much has been taken from the Columbia and given to other ports, and much has been denied to it which it should have. The Columbia River Basin, and Oregon in particular, as the state most interested, at least partially, in its interest the same weapons which have been used against them. We must galvanize into action our Senators and Representatives and our Chambers of Commerce, and must keep them at it. We should enlist the aid of the Congressional delegations and commercial bodies of the entire intermountain country. Since others seek to "down" us by resort to political pull and secret lobbying, we should combat them by like means.

The story is told that at a conference of Methodist ministers in Iowa, presided over by Bishop Ames, some years ago, a member who posed as a conservative and a standard-bearer of the old guard, or something equally reprehensible in his past, began to give testimony as to his many misdeeds. He was interrupted by the bishop, who silenced him by saying: "Enough, I will say as you have been and as good as you evidently think you now are, I would say precious little about my wickedness and let others testify to my goodness. There are others besides the bishop who know nothing of the place for converted gamblers is not in the pulpit, if they are to pose merely as converted gamblers.

Appointments of West Point cadets from the ranks of the Army, as proposed by Senators Reed, Gallinger and Smith, of Michigan, would help to democratize the Army, which draws the distinction between commissioned officers and enlisted men from the monarchist franchise of Europe, in republican France the democratic ideal of equality is preserved, and it does not seem to weaken discipline. The greatest incentive to efficiency, next to patriotism, is the possibility of attaining the highest rank.

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PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITY

Republican Has Something to Say of Party Fealty and "New Freedom"

By ALBERT FALLS, Jr., March 18.—(To the Editor, The Oregonian, 510 Gilman street, in The Oregonian, March 13, claiming to speak for the younger generation of voters, professes to find considerable amusement in the fact that some "elderly rock-ribbed" brethren are prating that they have no quarrel with the younger generation of a century or longer. And proud to state that the "younger generation are in-herently and congenitally political, but in political principle, claiming that his state of mind (common, as he says, to the younger generation) is both practical and synthetic. Isn't it just possible that this young man voter is of that class of politicians who hasten too much and often from the analytic to the synthetic method? That is, draw general conclusions from too small a number of particular facts, observations and experiments?

Under his own statement "that the younger generation of voters are interested in party politics, but in political principles espoused by political parties," the elderly rock-ribbed generation of voters, if not glorified, in their record of a quarter of a century of "voting her straight." They, at least, should stand accredited with fidelity to the political principles finding expression in the policies advocated by the Republican party.

It is possible, of course, that the young man, if he succeeds in finding that "big broad and strong man" (and I trust he will find many any day) whether he stands on a platform of his own or that of the Free Silver party) he will be found supporting him as a standard-bearer of a quarter of a century, that individualism, even though personified by the big, strong man, is not the friend's idea of a political substitute.

Mr. Watson announces "that when the time comes to pick a leader in the ranks of the younger voters, he is going to do it regardless of party lines. Well, may be so. But it is just barely possible that there will be thousands of the younger generation entertaining advanced but same ideas of government who will prefer the G. O. P. without giving up the "old guard" to submit to a sanitary treatment in advance? The "new-freedom" idea has its roots in the "old-freedom" idea. Because a member of the Republican party has seen fit to cast his ballot for its different standard-bearers in the past, in preference to the Democratic, Prohibition, or Populist, or Progressive advocates, in no wise stamps him irrevocably or otherwise as a reactionary. It is the fact of his refusal to follow Roosevelt in his bolt and attempt to form a new party with himself as standard-bearer that stamps him as a reactionary.

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FIRST MILITARY FORCE IN 1849

Fort Vancouver Lost Many First Soldiers to Gold Fields.

PORTLAND, March 20.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian, March 15, is the picture of John Dowd, said to be the "oldest man in Oregon—104 years old." It is also said that "Mr. Dowd came to Oregon in 1846, was a regular soldier and was stationed at Vancouver Barracks." Historically, this cannot be correct. In 1849 and for nearly a decade thereafter, Fort Vancouver was held by the Hudson's Bay Company as one of its posts. It was not until 1859 that it had been built by the company a score of years before, and its possession had never been questioned by anybody, although our Government, as well as that of Great Britain, had claimed the right of possession ever since any had begun to think the country would ever be worth claiming by any nation.

At the time of which I write, Fort Vancouver was being built by the treaty of joint occupancy between such times as this treaty should be abrogated the company had undisputed right of possession. It also had such defenses and armament as made it appear strong enough to cope with any force as was likely to appear before it.

Again, at the date of "1846," there had never been a United States military force in sight of Fort Vancouver. The first United States military expedition that came across the continent was that of the war with Mexico. It arrived at Vancouver in the Fall of 1849. I think this was the Fourth Infantry, commanded by Colonel Leitch.

In the meantime, the ownership of the country had been settled by the treaty of 1846, and the military company had possession of the place. But they did not find any "barracks," only a stockade fort and a lot of Indian huts. The company had paid for a good round price. In the next year, 1850, Vancouver Barracks was built. So that up to that time the company could not have been stationed there.

Upon examination on their arrival at Vancouver was being built by the company, was not sufficient shelter, as an abiding place was found for a part of them at Oregon City for the remainder of the winter. The company had spent a year or two in Mexico and many months in tramping from there to Oregon. The company had become "exhausted," the "wanderlust" was upon them. The California gold mines had just been discovered and were not an uncommon occurrence for the "boys" to straggle away from camp and fail to find their way back. Had the Secretary of War, General Sherman, had received more hearty response had he stood on the banks of the Sacramento river, he would have received in Vancouver Barracks.

"MOTHER, TUCK ME UP IN BED." When the nights were wide with woe, And the moon shone faint and new, Then your years were few in numbers, And your heart few troubles knew; You were young and your eyes were blue, And the last good-night was said; Slumber came not 'til you'd dozed— "Mother, tuck me up in bed."

Little hurts and paltry bruises Left their scars at close of day; Griefs and sorrows grew and aches Came to fill you with dismay; When stars peeped through the window At a croaky pillow head, All was well when you had whispered: "Mother, tuck me up in bed."

Older grown, life's burdens pressing, Vexed a soul yet immature; Nameless fears the heart compressing, Ever and anon a goblin lure; But because a hardy youngster, Should outgrow his childish dread, You were checked by pride from crying: "Mother, tuck me up in bed!"

Then sometimes while others slumbered, Mother uptook to your bed; Seemed to know your heart was aching For the olden days to be dead; Then, ah, then your fears all vanished; Babe again, you sobbing said: "Mother, tuck me up in bed!"

Manhood comes, and time has severed Earlier ties; new loves are born; Strife for bread and fight for power; Bring new hurts, and crown of thorns; Life mistakes being blame upon you, And the way looks black and drear; On your knees—your spirit whimpers: "Mother, tuck me up in bed!"

In Other Days

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of March 21, 1866. There are constantly recurring reports of Indian depredations on the Canyon City road. The Mountaineer of the 18th, referring to the fact, says there has been no Indian raid for four years in which the road could be traveled in perfect safety. There is too much truth in that statement.

General Joel Palmer arrived in this city yesterday from Dayton, having in charge several well-preserved parts of the mammoth animal known as the mastodon, now extinct, and only represented by fossil remains. The discovery was made one day last week while excavating on the west bank of Palmer's Creek, about 300 yards from the Yamhill River.

Yesterday afternoon a man having more whisky than brains in his head was seen endeavoring to swim across the foot of Salmon street with a little girl. After maneuvering badly and upsetting the boat, the child was taken from her father and he was sent away to sober up.

The steamer Alert, of the Willamette Steam Navigation Company, in connection with her wharf in this city today at 1 o'clock and remain at Oregon City over Saturday night. It is a new arrangement between the company and the People's Transportation Company.

The Corvallis Gazette announces that a plowing machine is in operation in Benton County some time this Spring to be open to the competition of all parts of the state.

Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of March 21, 1891. Millard O. Lowndale, who has just returned from an extended trip to the wildest parts of Mexico, disgusted with tortillas, frijoles, carnicia and Mexico and Mexicans in general, started for the island yesterday with the avowed intent of slaughtering a million canvas-back ducks.

The Portland and Oregon Railway Company, incorporated in Oregon, this company, has organized by the election of Dr. L. M. Davis, president; H. M. Wason, secretary; J. C. Foster, treasurer; A. D. Rockefellow, superintendent; and J. M. Put surveys in the field next Monday to locate the line to Oswego.

The stone work at the Armory is about completed and Contractor George Langford says he will begin to lay brick next week.

The rock for the jetty at the mouth of the Columbia is being furnished as fast as it can be used at present on Joseph E. Smith's quarry above Oswego.

With the close of the Lenten season, the sturgeon fishery on the Columbia will come to a close for the Summer. It is estimated that the fish caught this season is enormous. Williams Bros., at Kalama, have landed more than anyone else on the river, having taken as high as 18 tons a day.

The connection of Charles N. Stewart with the Metropolitan Street Railway Company is being investigated by the board and the duties of the office will be attended to by George A. Steel.

An equinoctial gale may be expected any day now, as this is the vernal equinox and the sun has entered Aries.

CONDITION CHARGED TO WILSON

If Villa Escapes It Will Be Due to "Silly, Spineless Tactics."

MARSHFIELD, Or., March 18.—(To the Editor.)—I read with interest your editorial of March 17, "Getting Ready in a Hurry." Quite a number of us are waiting for the "Hurry" to get started. Everything is left in Funston's hands and Funston says, "be patient, we cannot do this thing in a hurry." Certainly not, thorough preparation must be made, for it is no small task to go into this country with hostility on every hand and capture the murderer Villa—the same Villa that "Watchful Waiting Woodrow" gave arms to only a few months ago, that he might clean up that other "Hurry" business.

But about this preparing business. What has Funston been doing ever since he took office? He has done nothing. This Administration been doing in the last three years on the border? Now they are saying, "be patient"; wait until the "Hurry" comes; wait until his hand of cut-throats are securely hidden where they can do serious damage in leading army.

All these things are the result of one man's silly, spineless tactics, supported by a bunch of good-fellow politicians. I do not know how long it will take to continue this programme if they cannot have just the particular nominee they desire, but I believe the Republicans. They are fellows who, with one hand behind their back in "George's hand," the other jammed a knife in Funston's back and stab at the throat of G. W. WADSWORTH.

Wrong Idea Entertained. PORTLAND, March 19.—(To the Editor.)—The letters of the Rev. W. S. Crowder and the would-be mother of 44 seem based on a misunderstanding of the true nature of the bill. I do not advocate birth control do not wish to dictate to anyone the size of their families. It is not a matter of four, ten, 14, or 30 children and do not burden the rest of society by so doing, these parents have a perfect right to do as they please.

On the other hand, those who have this large family wish or ideal have no right to expect that the government should provide for large families, or who really do not wish large families. A child has the right to be born of willing parents. Even those who desire large families might have healthier families by use of birth control so that children might be spaced out and mother stricken with grief.

Positions on New Bridge. PORTLAND, March 19.—(To the Editor.)—Can you show how the positions on the new Columbia River bridge are to be filled? READER.

Already 100 applications have been made for the dozen positions available. The positions will be filled by the Interstate Bridge Commission, Courthouse, Portland.

The Why of It. National manufacturers find newspaper advertising the easiest and most efficient road to the market. It increases sales and lessens cost. Certain local dealers are going to profit greatly by this market-making work of the manufacturers. They are the ones who will be alert to their opportunities and who will have the roads ready when the public begins manifesting an interest in them.

They are going to reap their share of the dollar crop which the manufacturers are sowing through newspaper advertising.