

The Oregonian

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Portland, Sunday, Nov. 27, 1904.

THE SOCIALISTS ROUND ABOUT US.

Several hundred thousand votes were thrown for the socialist candidate for President in the recent election. It is but a small percentage of the whole, and the proportion is not likely to grow very much in this country, where ownership of property is so universally diffused.

Mr. Wood is very unconventional in his views and statements; often, indeed, as his best friends remark, eccentric and even erratic. By his originality and force he has carried into statements of the kind which would be as far as any one from approving in practice or action.

For the condition of society which would allow any man the freedom to help himself to and to make the best use of that which no one else is using, or which another is not using properly.

Mr. Wood's temperamental utterances are corrected habitually, in action, by reason and judgment, of which he has large stock. He therefore is a very excellent citizen; not at all the man whom the stranger, on reading the excerpt from his speech at the Woman's Club, would imagine to be.

THE ROOT OF THE DEMAND. Senator Mitchell, The Oregonian thinks, mistakes when he says that the people of the Pacific States would not favor or approve tariff changes, but would have the schedules remain as they are at present—preferring to "let well enough alone."

But they say Socialism would not go so far as this; that it would, however, give the masses of the people the right of everything. Then we should all fare sumptuously, ride in carriages, array ourselves in purple and fine linen and drink champagne when we wanted it.

How far, then, would Socialism go? As far as it is allowed to go, for it is the destructive force, the negation of general progress, yet essential no doubt as a force of resistance. It will go as far as it may be allowed to go; for there is a theory of it, and even a principle in it. But the theory cannot go far and must be checked; even the principle cannot be allowed much latitude, for there is an altruistic force in it that runs to extremes.

where alone their resources are to be found. The agitators of Socialism therefore are its parasites; and very often they get rich. In each man there is a natural desire to improve his circumstances; to reap the full reward of his superior talent if he have it; to make the most of his own energy and thrift and to possess and enjoy the fruit. This is the very mainspring of the production of the world.

Because there are few of these who are the thought and the movement will not go very far. Any way, in our country, the notion is exotic; where opportunity is so great each and every energetic human being feels that he or she can "go it alone."

A CONCEPTION OF "SOCIETY." Speaking before the Woman's Club on Friday, Mr. C. E. S. Wood said: Socialism may or may not be the best possible condition for the state, yet many people are tending toward the common ownership of all wealth by the state.

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trade, on the one hand, it will not much longer be satisfied with present protective schedules, on the other. The country was willing to tax itself and for long has been taxing itself, for the sake of testing and developing the latent aptitudes of its land and its people. Good has come of it, in our case; because we have learned to make many things more economically than we could make them formerly. Thus also we have carried development of machinery and motive power to a high degree, have been working up our materials at home, have paid wages, and have had the profits of distribution. Yet it is incontestable that the system results in enormous benefits to the comparatively few who are in position to take fullest advantage of it. It is believed not to be right to allow the law to stand as it is, or to be manipulated further, so that these may continue to make excessive profits.

THE COTTAGE SYSTEM. This plan is regarded by the directors of the institution to be as much in advance of the old regime which necessarily comprised the sending of the children to the almshouse as the plan in advance of the street home for the neglected waif.

NEW STUDY IN ECONOMICS. If the announced plans of Mr. T. Furushima, Japanese purchaser of a shingle mill at Sumas, are carried out, the shingle business on Puget Sound is in due season bound to present a new study in economics. The capitalist from the land of the Mikado will not close his shingle mill when times are hard and the demand is poor.

INDIANS AND EDUCATION. Rev. Dr. Madison, who has been visiting Indian girls of the Fort Shaw Indian School in Montana at work in the Government school in St. Louis, has been making a false alarm at New York City and has them finish their education in a high-class school there.

HAS HOMICIDE INCREASED? Under the caption of "Lawlessness in the United States," S. S. McClure devotes an entire column in his issue of McClure's Magazine to the increase of crime in this country, the particular crime for which statistics are given being manslaughter.

CHILD-SAVING. If the decrease in the American birth rate, of which we hear so much and see so little, may fitly be denominated "race suicide," it is equally appropriate to denominate the neglect of children—whether leading to their moral or physical death—"race murder."

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ally by fairly regular gradations to 1883, the year of financial depression, when it jumped suddenly from 6813 to 8909 in 1884 and to 10,552 in 1885. In 1897 there were 9327 murders and homicides, a greater number than in any year since recorded, and the annual number has not greatly varied since.

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THOMAS W. LAWSON ON THE "GRAFT." Thomas W. Lawson's chapter of "Frenzied Finance" in the December issue of Everybody's Magazine, relates mainly to the manipulation of stock in the Boston Gas Company, the effort being made by agents of the Standard Oil Company to gain control of the combined interests in the hands of Addicks, Lawson and others.

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Magazine Stories a la Mode. Sniffer's heart beat like a steam hammer. Yarnard was two points behind Peniston and there remained but two minutes in which to score. Suddenly, he knew not how, he found the ball in his hands. A shrill voice from the grandstand—how well he knew that voice—rose above the din. "Slick 'em, Sniffer," it cried. Sniffer's pet name—and from her! He greeted his remaining teeth, and steering by the eye that still remained open, he went madly to the field. Five yards and his last rib was stove in. Ten yards and his other leg was broken. Twenty yards and his neck was broken. He fell across the line and fainted. From the grandstand a shriek rang out. "De-sure it!" cried a lovely voice. "If they've hurted his Sniffer I'll—!" Then Sniffer knew he had won.

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NOTE AND COMMENT. The Game Strenuous. Two had about General's tackle losing the game for his team. "How did it happen?" "He went all to pieces in the first scrimmage."

FATHER TIME ON THE STAFF. J. R. O'Brien is hauling lumber from Astoria for some kind of a building; time will wait for—Liberty Bells in Iowa Proclamation.

Even the Czar knows better than to press the lid down on a boiling kettle. Negotiations for the peace congress progress almost as uneventfully as the war.

Some of Oregon's National Guard officers are just awaiting their cues to serve China. And the critics should remember that Kuropatkin made his records without the aid of windfalls.

More pens are made than pins, says a Philadelphia manufacturer. And all the editors will back him up. It's all very well to boost for an ally, think Englishmen; but when Russia is offering such big prices for coal—

It is not so bad to have anarchistic leanings if one has common sense and business to prevent a toppling over. President Roosevelt is said to have given up using the word "see-lighted." No wonder; it must have seemed so inadequate of late.

San Francisco art students hated a companion so successfully that he is now paralyzed. But then, Art is long, while Life is fleeting. Why do none of the Generals ever get back at the correspondents by writing a book called "With Richard Harding Davis in Korea" or "With Frederick Palmer to Mukden?"

The Turkish government allowed the destitute in the Mush district a cent a day, each, for food. With such a sum one might buy a postal card and try eating that. Some of the papers are giving advice on "How to Make Home Cheerful for the Winter." The most practical way is for the husband to make a million dollars in a business deal.

A Chicago man wants to have laws passed against football. He should reflect that laws against football were enacted hundreds of years ago, and ask where are they today? A headline in the Whigham Revelle lead to the belief that Jeffries had given up Davy Crockett for another role. The line read, "Jeffries as Rip Van Winkle." However, it was Jefferson all through the rest of the story.

With apologies to the original, we must remark that some of the published sketches of C. E. S. Wood's hair appear to have been drawn from "Imp' Barber's description of those 'improved' homesteads near Mount Jefferson. One of the persons brought over by the Korea was a former policeman at Shanghai, sentenced to a term in San Quentin for kicking a Chinaman to death. And prison is a man's reward for upholding Anglo-Saxon supremacy in the Orient!