

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 1906.

THE NEW METHOD.

Of course the Legislature is to elect the Senator of the United States. It is the Legislature to be guided by the expressed will of the people, or to adhere to the old way of traffic, of bargain and sale, employed at the state capital, time out of mind?

This method enabled unscrupulous aspirants, partly by direct purchase, partly by promise of office and favors, not only to control the election of Senators, but to corrupt the life of the state in its domestic policy, and to control the official life of the state in its relations to the National Government at Washington.

He who was responsible, chiefly, for this system in Oregon has passed away. Had he lived, the abuse could not have been carried much further. The new legislation that Oregon has enacted was the effort of a people to rid themselves of the consequences of this corruption.

The primary election law, with the obligations it imposes, was adopted and enacted as a means of raising our political life out of this corruption and degradation. It is not perfect, of course, and it is easy to find fault with it. But honest adherence to it, and enforcement of it, will cut off the old traffic at Salem.

As the Salem Capital Journal expresses it, "There are graft, venality, fraud and corruption on the side of the old way of electing Senators. The office is put up at bargain and sale, raffled off to the highest bidder, the greatest corruptionist. This has been the rule, not the exception. Nine times out of ten money and patronage have carried the day, instead of honesty and principle."

The results of this system—its legitimate consequences—have at last overtaken the system and those who have employed it. The results are collapse of the system, disgrace to those who have pursued it, dishonor, infamy and death.

But a new light appears. We shall not say it is a clear and perfect light. It is easy to find fault with it; easy to say it does not answer every purpose of illumination and reform. But at least it will shut off or put an end to the old system of purchase, bargain and sale.

There is a plutocratic influence in Oregon, that has its headquarters in Portland, whose purpose it is to continue the old corrupt regime. It puts up its money without stint for support of its newspaper organ; its desire is to render the primary law abortive; it believes in the power of money, and thinks every man has his price. It plays a game between the parties, professing attachment to neither. It has no principles, save the principles of self, and therefore professes to be "independent." All it wants is special privileges, from the public. Its ambition is to possess franchises, control officials, manage legislation, municipal, state and National, while it poses for philanthropy and makes its profits.

Under the primary law, this influence can control neither party, certainly cannot both of them. The people of Oregon are awake, and now and henceforth will cast these selfish and corrupt influences out of their politics. The candidates who receive nominations may not be those whom everybody wants, but at least, or at worst, they will not be the candidates of small and corrupt cliques, in alliance with plutocratic combines. The new method, how far soever it may fall short of ideal results, will effect a change; and any change must be for the better, cannot be for the worse.

The unwillingness of middlemen to give testimony against their brutal tormentors at Annapolis shows the hold which the system of having their practice has upon the institution. These students evidently prefer, from their knowledge of the methods employed to hurry and torment, to abide in silence the ill which they have, rather than to incur still greater penalties. It is clearly time that prosecutions were conducted under the statute of 1905, which makes it an offense punishable by dismissal "to participate in, encour-

age or countenance having." It is time the prosecutions under the statute of 1874, under which a large participation in having must be proven, were made secure conviction, was substituted in the trials in progress by the newer statute. It is reasonable to suppose that only the certainty of conviction under the later statute has caused the cases thus far to be tried under the old one.

A PIECE OF IMPUDENCE.

Mr. Malarkey's attempt to pry into the "private business" of the inebriable Oregon Water Power Company was presumptuous, to say the least. Few would protest, perhaps, if it were pronounced sacrilegious. This poking and peering into the sacred mystery of corporation profits is becoming all too common. Mr. Hurlburt, that peerless champion of the higher ethics, did marvelous wisely to remember it when he had the opportunity.

The opportunity came when Mr. Malarkey impudently inquired of Mr. Hurlburt, who had condescended to be a witness in the Anderson case, what share the Water Power Company got of fares it compelled patrons of the Oakes to pay on the favored line of rotation. "I don't know, and I wouldn't tell if I did," replied the sublimely enraged Mr. Hurlburt. This was well. It was exactly the withering rebuke for a sovereign corporation to inflict upon the impudently meddlesome public. What business has the public with the profits of the Oregon Water Power Company?

The corporation, it may be said, was created by the public, obtained its right of way from the public and lives by what it can extort from the public; but all this is aside from the question. The Southern slave-owner derived his wealth from the noble creature, the slave. Did he owe them any return. Nothing. The slaves were created to make wealth for their masters. Likewise the public exists to make wealth for the Oregon Water Power Company, and we ought all to be thankful for the glorious privilege of giving our dime and dollar to such a noble corporation, with such a grand and good president as Mr. Hurlburt. What the corporation does with the money is no business of ours. Is it any business of the sheep's who the shepherd does with his wool? What does it matter to the steer who gnaws his nicely-roasted ribs? It is sufficient for him that his ribs were made to be gnawed. So the pockets of the public were made to be emptied, and it is sweet to think that the Lord has sent us a corporation to do the emptying so admirably skillful about it as the Oregon Water Power Company.

A BOLD CONTENTION OF SCIENCE.

Science, wearing the broad cloak of humanity, has frequently in recent years advocated the advisability—not to say the duty—of relieving intense suffering by means of a disease or injury to the human body by bringing painless and speedy death to those thus cruelly afflicted. It has gone further than this, by including in this effort the congenital idiot and the incurably insane, urging, in the name of common humanity, that a sleeping poison be administered in such cases sufficiently powerful to give eternal quietus to the sufferer. Opposed to this view is the theory of the sacredness of human life, which is held to demand that under all circumstances and conditions the vital spark should be kept alive, however feebly, as long as possible.

Some persons of sound and progressive views, based upon the mission of human life, taking into account the generally accepted views upon its whence, wherefore and whither, agree with the statement which declares that it is cruel and in no sense either logical or merciful to prolong hopeless suffering by means of the most powerful stimulants, to prolong those hours to the utmost limit possible. To the surprise of all, the sturdy Englishman rallied, recovered, and in due time went out into the world again, a well man. His case is to this day regarded as a phenomenal one, but it is cited as a triumph for those who proclaim that "while there is life there is hope, and act upon his bare suggestion to keep an apparently hopeless sufferer alive as long as possible.

This contention falls, however, when the patient has received injuries that are necessarily fatal and writes in the opinion of a leading physician, "The only relief that is possible to be had." It also falls utterly in the case of the congenital idiot, and in that of the maniac, beating for years the iron bars that are symbolical of the body that holds him in cruel thrall. Objectors, however, fall back upon the theory of the sacredness of human life, oblivious to the fact that a condition that renders life a burden and a curse to the individual, from which death is the only possible release, nullifies the theory and makes death and not life the sacred thing—the boon to be craved.

Among the latest advocates of the theory that the hopelessly insane, the congenital idiot, the incurably diseased and the victims of mutilating accidents should be given a quietus by science are Dr. Charles Elliot Norton, of Cambridge, Maud Ballington Booth, of the Volunteers of America, and Miss Anna S. Hall, a humanitarian, of Cincinnati. Dr. Norton was formerly professor of literature at Harvard, and his opinions as a thinker and scholar have weight. Maud Ballington Booth's humanity, sympathy and kindness cannot be questioned, and her work and that of Miss Hall have been largely among the lowly and the suffering of earth. The opinions of such persons as these cannot be put aside as unworthy of attention. On the contrary, they are entitled to weight in a discussion that deals on one side with the sacredness of human life, regardless of conditions,

and on the other with the human principle which decrees that it is merciful to put an end to hopeless agony and mental darkness, or to error by helping Nature to cast off an outworn garment that binds the wearer to hopeless suffering or imbecility.

That physicians, in pursuit of their professional duties, reduce this theory to practice, unknown to anyone save themselves, in many instances of intense suffering from necessarily fatal accident or incurable disease, there can be no doubt. They simply follow the dictates of humanity and remain silent until their views upon the subject are asked, when, for the most part, realizing that the time is not ripe for open advocacy of the principle involved, they register a protest—more or less vehement—against it.

The time will come when professional skill will not be devoted to the purpose of adding many hours or few—as the case may be—to the misery of conscious life by stimulants or surgical operations in the case of mortal disease or torturing and necessarily fatal accident, but rather to hastening the end, peacefully and painlessly. But it is not yet, and the agitation of the subject now in progress will in due time subside—not, however, until it has sown seed for a later effort and a far-away harvest.

FREEDOM OF THE PULPIT.

Every nation or people known to history has had some sort of religious organization. This organization has, with the lapse of time, invariably hardened into a machine, more or less completely destitute of vitality and progressive impulse. The members of it, naturally satisfied with the arrangement upon which their power and influence depend, have uniformly framed a concept of their duty in harmony with their interest, that duty, as they, perhaps with honesty, conceive it, being to perform strictly the ceremonial offices of their religion and to hand down to their successors without change for worse or better, the traditions, the creed and the literature received from the past. Defending this dubiously precious heritage from attack, as they must constantly, for, though they stand and beat time, the world never does, the guardians of the religious machine, the "priests," as the best defense for it is to declare it sacrosanct. The whole apparatus has been established, they assert, by the decree of the Almighty. The genuflections and ejaculations of the ritual he has prescribed, as an Edward or William prescribes the ceremonial of a court presentation, and it were bagatelle in comparison with the increased profits of the producers and shippers in the immense area of country that had previously found an outlet to sea by the more expensive routes. Now, if the enlarged canal proves as effective as New York hopes it will be, the old trade route, the work horse of the new, will drift back into the old channel. The natural growth of the country will carry Galveston along to greatness, but, even if it were otherwise, the Government appropriation has accomplished all that was expected of it, a betterment of the conditions of thousands and hundreds of thousands of people in the territory made by exactly similar conditions exist on the Columbia River, and the expenditure of a comparatively small sum of money will give the producers of a vast empire an unobstructed highway to the sea. River and harbor appropriations are made, not for the benefit of any particular export, but for the benefit of the entire territory, and the entire territory drained by the waterways or their rail feeders. This is the principal reason why every individual in Eastern Washington, Oregon and Idaho is vitally interested in Columbia River appropriations which are now in jeopardy.

CORRUPT PRACTICES.

Senate document No. 89 for the first session of the Fifty-ninth Congress may be read with more interest and not less instruction than usually pertains to literature from that fertile source. It is an article by Percival Bidwell on "Publicity of Election Expenses." First published in the North American Review, and now reprinted and distributed at public expense. Mr. Bidwell points out that 15 states have already passed laws more or less effectively regulating election expenses. Some of the statutes are manifestly defective, but others are so good that they are enforced. Ohio, at the instance of James A. Garfield, passed a "corrupt practices act" in 1896, which, though with undeniable defects, contained the vital principle which alone can give vigor and effect to such legislation. It was a clause vacating the office of a successful candidate who had violated the provisions of the law.

An effective corrupt practices act is the last thing desired by politicians of a certain class. The Garfield law must have been a hindrance to their methods, for they did all they could to discredit it, and, finally, in 1902 got it repealed. There is a clause vacating the office of a successful candidate who had violated the provisions of the law.

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philosophers, almost every one a cry of revolt against established wrong. have been consecrated by later ages to the cause of both Hebrew and Christian orthodoxy. The Jewish pulpit of the present day is as free as the Christian, but both are in general deplorably subservient. To both the wealthy pew-holder forbids all vital dealing with the sins which have made him rich. Both stand in terror of the ghosts of dead dogmas, both tremble before the fatal accident or incurable disease there can be no doubt. They simply follow the dictates of humanity and remain silent until their views upon the subject are asked, when, for the most part, realizing that the time is not ripe for open advocacy of the principle involved, they register a protest—more or less vehement—against it.

BENEFITS OF WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT.

New York will expend \$100,000,000 in enlarging the Erie Canal so that it will admit 1000-ton carriers. Vast as this sum appears in comparison with any other proposed expenditure for interior waterways, the traffic involved easily warrants the magnitude of the undertaking. Water transportation is not only the cheapest, but it is also immune from the designs of the monopolists. New York will undoubtedly get its money back with interest in the way of increased trade in the territory tributary to the enlarged canal, but the greatest beneficiaries under this enormous expenditure will be the producers themselves. It is announced that the great work has been projected for the purpose of winning back some of the trade that has been diverted to Galveston and other ports while New York was resting in a self-satisfied manner on the laurels it had won in the past.

This trade can be shifted only by offering better terms to the shippers and producers than they now receive. This was the advantage which Galveston offered when it began making inroads on the business which had previously been the monopoly of New York and the Northern ports. It was on the plea that by improving the harbor and increasing shipping facilities Galveston could offer a better route to the sea than that ending at the Northern ports, Congress supplied the money for making the necessary improvements. Something like this was expended by the Government, and it is here that the bagatelle in comparison with the increased profits of the producers and shippers in the immense area of country that had previously found an outlet to sea by the more expensive routes.

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PRIVATE INTEREST VS. DUTY.

In the second book of his voluminous "Confessions," Rousseau tells of his first great lesson in life, a lesson well learned and joyfully remembered. He relates that he had inherited property from his mother, but that during his absence from home his father, who had married again, enjoyed the income from the inheritance. This circumstance made the father willing that his son should remain away, and Jean says down the comprehensive rule that "we should ever carefully avoid putting our interest in competition with our duty, or promise ourselves felicity from the misfortunes of others; certain that in such circumstances, however sincere our love of virtue may be, sooner or later it will give way, and we shall imperceptibly become more and more wicked in fact, however upright in our intentions."

Many a parent has learned by sad experience the truth of this rule, for, having confidence in the filial affection of his children, he transfers to them his property with the agreement that they should provide him a home in the remainder of his life. Perhaps in some cases of that kind the son or daughter fulfills the obligation to the letter, but in the great majority of instances the conflict between personal interest and duty lessens the acts of kindness, and often results in an entire repudiation of what should be a sacred obligation.

Whenever a public official lets his own affairs assume such a character that his personal interest comes into competition with his duty, he has started upon a career that is almost certain to end in unfaithfulness and disgrace. An employe who lets his own interests conflict with those of his employer which he has small intention of resisting. A young man, striving in the world for himself, can adopt no safer

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excessive or wrongful use of money in any election at which a federal official is to be chosen. When state officials are to be elected at a federal election, the law of Congress may apply to the whole ticket, local and national. Mr. Belmont proves this by conclusive citations from Supreme Court decisions. Thus no authority is lacking either to the state legislatures or to Congress. They may enact laws as severe and sweeping as they desire, and their interest permit.

What they have done so far rather encourages Mr. Belmont, who seems of a disposition naturally cheerful. One less buoyant by temperament might not find the case so pregnant with hope. The matter of regulating party elections is not entirely escaped the attention of our lawmakers. We can say so much. More we cannot say. Parties and party elections are, however, an integral and necessary portion of our governmental machinery. They belong to it as much as Congress, the executive or the judiciary. The expenses of the Supreme Court are strictly regulated by law; so are those of the President and Congress. Why then exempt from the regulation of law and deliver over to anarchy and corruption those elections and that party machinery which are the very source whence all the agencies of government are derived?

FARMERS' PROFITS.

In discussing the agricultural abundance of last year, as shown by the report of the Secretary of Agriculture and by the records of every farming community, the Saturday Evening Post says: "The agreeable condition is not altogether due to the farmers themselves. The fact is that American agriculture is the strongest industry in the world by the grace of Providence. It is the only one that has not been subjected to the competitive methods that everybody else has abandoned, only because of the fertility of the soil and the enormous market. There is something in the estimate, no doubt, but the fact, as stated further on, that the farmer simply raises his grain and sells it 'implies industry that is untiring and thrifty that is commendable. Still, it must be conceded that the farmer gets the lowest price when he has the most to sell. In this respect agriculture stands alone among the various industries. It is the only one that produces iron is now the greatest on record, and the prices are very high. Mills working as a unit through their trade agreements increase their capacity only when prices begin to advance. When prices show signs of declining they promptly curtail their output. By this means they get the highest prices when they have the most to sell, thus manipulating the hoary law of supply and demand in their own interest. The purpose of the co-ordinated, unified industries is to let the demand come first—then meet it with supply. They are able to do this. With the farmer the supply comes first and demand follows. The price is made by the farmer, not by the market."

It will not be forgotten that efforts have been made time and again to place the agricultural industry upon the basis here suggested. Such efforts have almost uniformly failed and brought disaster to all except their promoters. The painstaking, earnest, aggressive attempt in this line made by farmers in Yamhill, Marion, Polk and perhaps some other counties of this state, to control the output of their fields and orchards, some years ago, is well remembered. Their plans were well laid, but heavy losses resulted, including that of a steamboat built for the independent movement of grain on the Yamhill River. There are reasons for this and similar failures that will readily suggest themselves. In the first place, it is impossible to tell a year ahead what the crop output will be—and a year is the shortest time in which the agricultural supply can be worked. The industry is not an exact one as to yield. With the best of weather, and indeed with the best of management, it is difficult to predict the output. The output is merely a matter of banking the furnaces or running them full blast. Supply can be depended upon to follow demand promptly, and with an exactness that insures a profitable market. With agriculture the supply is in the power of wind and weather, and a lesson well learned and joyfully remembered. He relates that he had inherited property from his mother, but that during his absence from home his father, who had married again, enjoyed the income from the inheritance. This circumstance made the father willing that his son should remain away, and Jean says down the comprehensive rule that "we should ever carefully avoid putting our interest in competition with our duty, or promise ourselves felicity from the misfortunes of others; certain that in such circumstances, however sincere our love of virtue may be, sooner or later it will give way, and we shall imperceptibly become more and more wicked in fact, however upright in our intentions."

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THE PESSIMIST.

A relief party has been organized on the East Side in search for a mule, which, it is feared, has been lost in one of the Water-street bores. Until recently the mule was in the employ of the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company, and when last seen was engaged in a bitter altercation with the president of the company. No one was close enough to hear what the trouble was about. It was noticed that the mule turned away in a discouraged manner, and walked along the ridge toward East Morrison street.

It is not at all unlikely that he threw himself into the quicksands and was lost. Although Mrs. Fitzsimmons' heart is still cold, that of the Oregon boy-poet beats strong and true. "Two souls with but a single thought; four flutes that beat as one." The Boy-poet's letter which is printed below shows that his position toward Henneway was slightly misunderstood. His apology of heavy duty, and I will do the best I can to make Henneway see the matter in the proper light.

"To the Editor:—I sent you a day or two since a poem, in which I was glad to see you recognize sufficient worth to induce you to publish it in your remarks on the nomination of the Post Henneway and seem to think I am trying to antagonize him. God forbid! I am, my dear friend, in sympathy with the mule and reproaches him for being so cowardly ever to be guilty of interfering any obstacle in the way of struggling genius. I have never felt so free to give him the freedom of the press, then let the world's verdict decide whose verses are near the great heart of humanity. I am now contemplating a great epic entitled "Glover Cleveland," which I will write when sufficiently inspired. Truly yours, The following lyric was enclosed with the letter: I formerly sung Fitzsimmons' was. His worry o'er an erring wife. All the attendant life which flows From the low of honors struck through life. I sang in language fit and meet. That it matters not how high a man's Rise may be proud Fame's steep. He may perchance lose diamonds. They yet remains a nobler task: To sing the hero in the ring. To voice the prayer which men may feign. Which crowned Fitzsimmons king. There needs should be a holder pen. Than what I yield, to well portray Fitzsimmons battling in the ring.— The victor in the ring. Who master in the mule's array. To sing the song, so fittingly. The task I shall essay. Jim Corbett undisturbed stood Superior in every man. When he came through a carriage fence The victor o'er John Sullivan. It seemed the heights had been attained. The perfect man of all was found. And thousands with a mad delight This victor clamored round. But then, just rising into view. Came one—He had no statesman's head. His legs attenuated were; Spots on his back; hair red. "Twas Fitz, unknown, unused to Fame. Unknown to all save might. He was a bold defender dared The blustering Jim to fight. They fought. On history's teeming page I write, where all may read our run. How Fitz's solar plexus blow Made him at once a champion. The champion? Yes, of all mankind. The world was at his feet. Swift had been his mount, but yet He was not orkay with the heat. Not then, as in the world's young days, When wrathful Nero reigned in state, Was humbled ever his seat. Some venal lust to satiate. Fitz practiced but the art of peace. To cruelty was a foe. Was hapless when he could some gift On suffering man bestow. Endowed by God with giant strength, He reached in suffering men, In philanthropic deeds rejoiced. And delighted to do good. Ne'er stepped his senses in fumes of wine; On ponies soared to bet. Was temperate in his taste; abhorred The vicious cigarette. Who would not raise to honor Fitz? Breathes there a man so mean. Not what he is or hopes to be. But for what he is, a man's hero."

There never was a normal child that didn't delight in a good story about animals. With healthy youngsters, nothing so good as to hear the tale. And when the story is told in rhyme, with a rollicking jingle and has "go" to it all the time, you have something rare even in an age when literary amusement for children engages the best effort of creative talent. Such a production The Sunday Oregonian offers today in "The Roosevelt Bears," the first installment of which appears on page 46. Of course, this is only the start. What happens to the bears when they get into touch with the effete East is more interesting and entertaining. These stories will run for many weeks in the Sunday issue.

Dr. Washington Gladden thinks America is in the midst of a great revival of religion. If by "religion" he means acceptance of creeds and ceremonial functions, he is mistaken. If he means a quickened perception of the difference between right and wrong and a growing preference for right, all the evidence of recent events in church and state goes to sustain him. To call a revival of common honesty a revival of religion may warp language somewhat, but it is fine to hear a theologian like Dr. Gladden approve of "mere morality" under any name.

A Salem Justice of the Peace confessed himself guilty of forgery and subornation of perjury, and knowing that he cannot be forced out of office, refuses to resign, but passes judgment upon smaller criminals than himself. Here is not only another demonstration of the laxity of Oregon's criminal laws, but presentation of an excellent opportunity for the people of Salem to show what power public opinion has in the absence of law.

They say the man Hogan, or Orchard, charged with the murder of Governor Steunenberg, is believed also to have been the chief of the dynamiters in Colorado. He is said to be mentally irresponsible, or a monomaniac. Better hang all such monomaniacs.

The arrest of Kelley and Rosman, the two alleged murderers of Thomas Fleming, and the honest confession of the detectives can do when they try; and an excellent incentive toward trying appears to be the liability of otherwise losing their jobs.

Oculists and opticians find no fault with the Portland Gas Company. The quality of its product creates demand for the specialists' services and the dealers' wares. No one can read by poor gaslight and retain normal eyesight.

Governor Vardaman, of Mississippi, says in his annual message to the Legislature that "the negro is deteriorating morally every day." What else could be expected with such an example as Vardaman always before him?

If the New York Times is correct in the programme it announces for the Empire State Legislature in the matter of life insurance reform, Albany for the next few months will hold place second only to the National capital.

The curious thing about the free exits at Oakes is that the only persons who have ever been able to find them are the employes of the company. But of course, they were never intended for use—except in courts of law.

It is hardly worth while to conjecture what the British would have done to Rojstevsky's fleet. We know what Todd did.

We never knew precisely what a free pulpit was until Dr. Wise defined it. It's whatever pulpit Dr. Wise occupies.

Difficulties of a midshipman's life are appreciated when one tries to stand on his head and eat under a table.

The Temple Emanuel doesn't want a rabbi in its pulpit. What it wants is a phonograph.

Motto of the Portland Gas Company: Quality no object. We want the price.

Oregonian Is Her Prophet. The American Chameleon. St. Nicholas. The American Chameleon, a small lizard, inhabits various parts of the Southern United States. The little animal has the remarkable habit of quickly and completely changing its color, varying from brown to yellow and pale green. Its food consists of insects. The little animal is perfectly harmless to higher forms of life, is often kept as a pet, and has been worn attached to a chain as an ornament. The toes are provided with adhesive pads, which enable the lizard to run upon smooth, vertical surfaces.

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