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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JULY 19, 1908.

THE WAKING DREAM.

What is a material thing? A contributor who lives in Los Angeles asks this question of The Oregonian. He adds "if there can be a conclusion that objects and things are not seen by us in the form in which they really exist, then there must be some conclusion as to their real form, and what is it?" His entire letter, which may not prove uninteresting to the reader, will be found elsewhere in The Oregonian.

This inquirer seems to have stated his problem most aptly. Berkeley and we are disposed to answer him seriously, but we cannot help thinking that he has not framed his question exactly as he intended. He asks about the "real form" of material things. One naturally conjectures that what puzzles him is the nature or essence of things, not their form.

He wants to get at the Berkeley something which Kant called "das Ding an sich," the thing in itself, the substratum of objects which would go on existing even if all their attributes like color, weight and size were removed. Descartes and Spinoza called this elusive entity by the name "substantia." Berkeley's opinion is that it was the mind of God and that it is the thinking of the deity which presents itself to us as sensations. Philosophers later than Kant have denied that there is any "Ding an sich" or substratum of objects. There is nothing to them, it is said, except the bunch of sensations which we get from the things.

Herbert Spencer, however, agreed with Kant and Berkeley that there is a causative something behind our sensations. He called it "The Unknowable," but of course the name does not matter. Our Los Angeles friend may have been ignorant of Berkeley's example and call it God if he likes, or he may go back through the centuries to Parmenides and say with him that the reality behind appearances is thought and naive besides. "To auto noein einai to kai to einaï," declared this dim old Greek, who unfortunately was ignorant of English. What he meant was that thought is the only true entity there is.

But let us not get bewildered in wordy wanderings. The question before the house is this: "Is there any reality outside of thought, and if there is what is it?" The word "thought" has a pretty wide meaning here in an everyday sense, which the mind does as feeling, willing, making judgments and so on. Pain is one aspect of thought, pleasure is another. Memory is a third. Now if our Los Angeles friend and the other elixir brethren who may peruse this discourse will use their brains at the moment they will see that the question we have posed at the beginning of the paragraph is nonsense. Is there a reality outside of thought? Perhaps; but if there is we can never know it for the excellent reason that we know our own thoughts and nothing else. Absolutely nothing else. What is outside of consciousness is outside of knowledge. Ponder this statement well, for it is the key to many riddles, but do not make the blunder of supposing that it is novel. It is as old as the hills.

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PROHIBITION IN OREGON?

The East Oregonian, at Pendleton, makes the interesting prediction that the "states of Oregon and Washington will go dry within a few years," and wants to know "what Portland will do when the awful catastrophe comes?" Probably Portland can stand it somehow. But how can prohibition be enforced here, or anywhere, if there is no effective local sentiment for it? It may be and is easy enough, in small communities where conditions of life are simple and everybody knows what everybody else is doing and saying, and where everybody else is quite sure that liquor is a bad thing for his neighbor; and it is certain, too, that if any community wants prohibition and votes for it, it ought to have prohibition. Certainly, for that is the very essence of local option. But how about the town or city that doesn't want it, and votes against it? Will the law be rigidly enforced there? Is it enforced now in such places? It is not, and it cannot be.

Last June there was a prohibition election in East Portland and it was defeated by a considerable vote. No doubt, if the West Side of Portland had been included, the adverse vote would have been proportionally larger. It is fair to assume, then, that if the state of Oregon at large shall, within a few years, declare for prohibition, the City of Portland will give a majority, probably a large one, against it. Does any one fancy that in such circumstances the law could be no liquor sold in Portland or, indeed, that it would not be sold freely?

The campaign of the Anti-Saloon League, which has been largely instrumental in bringing about local prohibition in Oregon, has been wisely conducted, since the league has produced only that there be prohibition in localities where the law could be made operative. Why should the league invite defeat and disaster by endeavoring to force prohibition on a large community that doesn't want it? The league sees this, if some others do not, and it is going slowly. We may get prohibition some day, when the state at large shall declare for it, and there is universal sentiment outside of Portland that the city should and must be included. But is that the situation now, or is it likely to be the situation soon?

MARKETING CHERRIES.

The Salem cherry fair, which has closed a very successful three days' session, is valuable chiefly as an educational institution for fruitgrowers in the Willamette Valley. As an advertising medium it must have a very limited influence for the reason that the people who visit the annual fair are mostly residents of the Valley already and are not home-seekers. By means of descriptive articles and pictures of the exhibits, published in the newspapers and various magazines, the fair serves as a direct advertising agency and is worth while, even when considered from that point of view alone. But it is through the information and the inspiration which the fair gives to the fruitgrowers of the Willamette Valley that the most good will result. The cherry-growing industry is now in its infancy, if one judge of future production by comparing present acreage of mature trees with the total area of young cherry orchards that have been planted in the last two or three years. As one of the speakers said at the opening of the fair, within ten years the Willamette Valley will be producing more cherries for commercial purposes than all the rest of the United States. This may very easily be true, for this part of Oregon is the best cherry producing section of similar area in the Union. Here have been originated all but one of the varieties of cherries known to commercial packers. Here the cherries grow to the greatest perfection and in the greatest quantity. No pests attack the fruit to render it unmarketable. Though an occasional season may be experienced when a part of a crop may be injured by rain, this occurs so seldom that it is not a serious handicap to the industry. Given open markets and there is scarcely a cherry grower who pays better than growing cherries of the varieties suitable for canning.

The problem of securing and extending markets is one of the most important tasks to which the cherry-growers must give attention. The annual cherry fairs will arouse interest in the production of first-class fruit and the Agricultural College and the horticultural societies will teach the growers how to care for their trees in order to secure the best results. But the marketing problem is one that will require much thought and perhaps concerted action. It is perhaps better that the growing of cherries and the marketing of them be conducted as two separate undertakings, but the experience of Hood River apple-growers seems to demonstrate that by co-operation the producers can market their crop themselves at better prices than they can get through the agency of men who make a business of handling fruit. Granting that the present season cherry-growers in the vicinity of Salem are engaged in a controversy with the managers of their cannery (a controversy of the merits of which it is not necessary to speak) and it seems quite likely that as production increases and the market must be enlarged the growers themselves must work together in devising a means by which the best outlets for their crops can be found.

Today the only market for cherries is the cannery. The price received for fresh canning fruit must always be less than will be received for fresh fruit if a market for the fresh fruit can be found. Because of the size, flavor and texture of Oregon cherries and because of the further important fact that they are free from worms, there should be a good market in Eastern cities for the fruit just as it comes from the tree. The question to be determined is whether the fruit can be loaded into refrigerator cars and placed in Chicago and other Eastern cities in good condition and at prices which will induce the Eastern consumer to buy. This is a question which the growers, through their organization, must investigate and determine.

FEWER TRAINS, FEWER ACCIDENTS.

It is gratifying to note that the number of passengers and employes killed on railroad trains for the quarter ending July 1 is smaller than in any quarter since records have been kept. The total number of employes killed in coupling accidents is also the smallest for any quarter since 1902. Statistics of this kind make more pleasant reading than those which recount an increased number of rail tragedies, but their value for purposes of comparison is questionable. It is impossible to determine by these statistics whether employes have been exercising greater vigilance than formerly, whether there has been improvement in the life-safety appliances, tracks and equipment or, in short, whether these figures reflect any improvement in operation that has tended to reduce the number killed and wounded on the railroads.

It is a fact that needs no explanation or demonstration that there will be fewer accidents when a small number of trains are moving than when the number is increased, and it is not improbable that the greater part, if not all, of the apparently increased safety in the operation of Oregon trains is due to the smaller number of trains, employes and passengers involved in the travel from which the statistics given are compiled. If there has been a gain in proportions, it is undoubtedly traceable to higher average ability on the part of the operatives than was obtainable a year ago when the roads had pressed into service every man who sought a position.

Unskilled and untrained men, perhaps not infrequently placed in charge of over-worked equipment, quite naturally could not be expected to make as good a record as the "pick

of the profession," which is now, to a considerable extent, at the disposal of a good market. But shall have a magnificent advertisement for our unsurpassed fruitgrowing state. When the marketing problem has been solved we shall have on display in front of the stores in the East boxes of cherries as attractive and pleasing as the exhibits seen last week at the cherry fair at Salem. The people who eat the cherries will have a desire to come to Oregon to live.

BYRAN'S VAULTY MEMORY.

Mr. Bryan wishes not to be misunderstood. He has discussed the Brownsville case, certainly, but not as a candidate; only as an editor. Two years ago, when the Brownsville agitation was acute, the Commoner boldly declared that "if the facts were as stated, President Roosevelt was entirely justified."

If we understand Mr. Bryan now, he declines to be held accountable as a Democratic candidate for what he has said as an editor. The Commoner is the mere personal organ of Mr. Bryan, citizen, journalist and traveler, and in no sense authorized to speak for the Democratic party or its Presidential candidate. Is that it? Candidate Bryan will discuss those issues only presented by the Democratic platform, and will ignore all others. But can he?

He cannot, of course. It is probable that Mr. Bryan committed himself on the troublesome Brownsville question and was quite willing to take advantage of the supposed negro defection from Taft on that account. But he did not dare openly to support the action of the president in dismissing the negro soldier for fear of offending the solid Democratic sentiment of the South, just as the Denver convention evaded the whole subject, and for the same reason.

The solid South can be led anywhere by Bryan so long as it is left to nurse its pet bull in its own way, but it cannot be led to the slaughter, or bullied or in any way induced to give the negro question any new or different treatment. Denver, therefore, let that matter alone, and so will Bryan, for he must. But he is in a tight box, since, to please the South, he commended Roosevelt two years ago, and to please the negro voters of the North he held Bishop Waters up so the bishop says—that Roosevelt's action was unjust.

WHERE REFORM SHOULD BEGIN.

The death of 13-year-old Gust Slabb, at Tacoma, Friday, from injuries caused by a toy pistol, makes the fourth fatality in the State of Washington as a result of the careless use of toy pistols on the Fourth of July. The death roll from the same causes will not be completed for several days yet, as some of the victims cling tenaciously to life. Four deaths in the comparatively small population of Washington and over one hundred already reported in other parts of the United States, show the futility of making an appeal to parents or guardians of youngsters who are too young to appreciate the dangers of Fourth of July ammunition. Every year the spectacle of romping, healthy youngsters suddenly transformed into maimed and disfigured corpses, or overtaken by the still worse fate of being obliged to go through life blind or hopelessly crippled, makes a strong appeal to the American people, but thus far nothing of consequence has been accomplished.

There is no decrease in the death rate or in the number of maimed through this insane method of celebrating Independence Day. Fathers, mothers and guardians in the belief that their charges are immune from the fate that has stricken other children, continue to permit their own youngsters to shoot toy pistols, bombs and other dangerous weapons of patriots. How can it be otherwise, quite effectually that it is impossible to stop the slaughter by appeals to those who are in the best position to insist on a change, it might be possible to secure a lessening of these tragedies by going to the fountainhead of the trouble.

The toy pistol which is responsible for nearly all these Independence Day deaths is utterly worthless and, in fact, is used for no other purpose than to make a noise. There is, accordingly, no good reason why the manufacture of these deadly weapons should not be prohibited. The parents and guardians of the children will not prevent the use of the pistols, but if the manufacturer were prohibited, a large number of young lives would be saved untold misery and suffering prevented. The experiment is worth a trial.

ACTING UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The decision of the Oregon Supreme Court declaring that the Portland bond issues voted in 1907 are valid is based upon several constitutional provisions and one act of the Legislature. A brief view of these will show the status of our initiative and referendum amendments as applied to municipalities. In 1902 the people of this state adopted the initiative and referendum amendments applying to the state as a whole. With the general provisions of that amendment every one is familiar. In 1904 the people adopted a constitutional amendment commonly known as the "home rule" amendment, which provides that the legal voters of every city and town are granted power to enact as to their city or town any ordinance, resolution or ordinance, which shall be subject to the provisions of the constitution and laws of the state, and that the city or town may apply to the state as a whole. With the general provisions of that amendment every one is familiar. In 1904 the people adopted a constitutional amendment commonly known as the "home rule" amendment, which provides that the legal voters of every city and town are granted power to enact as to their city or town any ordinance, resolution or ordinance, which shall be subject to the provisions of the constitution and laws of the state, and that the city or town may apply to the state as a whole.

Acting under all these provisions of the constitution and general laws of the state, the Portland City Council proposed and submitted to the people of Portland a certain number of amendments authorizing the issuance of bonds for various public improvements. One of the amendments adopted was that authorizing sale of \$3,000,000 bonds for increasing the capacity of the Portland water system. Believing that the amendment had been legally submitted and adopted, Francis I. McKenna brought suit to enjoin proceedings for the issuance of the bonds. After an argument upon demurrer, Judge Cleland held the charter amendment invalid for the reason that the City Council had no authority to submit it to the people. Other objections were presented, but this was the vital issue upon which the case hung. The Supreme Court reversed the lower court, holding that since the City of Portland had made no provision relative to procedure under the initiative and

referendum conflicting with the general state law upon the subject, the amendments were validly applied in Portland, and that the City Council had authority, under that law, to submit charter amendments. The decision of the Supreme Court is therefore based upon the original initiative and referendum amendment, the "home rule" amendment, the amendment authorizing a general law governing the exercise of the initiative and referendum in cities and the act passed in pursuance of that authority. When all these legal provisions are taken into consideration, the power of the City Council to submit charter amendments seems clear.

A FORBIDDEN SUBJECT.

The Pennsylvania judge who has ruled that the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg are immoral has ignorantly allied himself with vice. It is safe to say he has done it ignorantly because in all likelihood he knows nothing about that great religious genius or his teachings. Swedenborg is one of the immortal lights of the moral and philosophical world. Emerson has included him work from the very few men whose names shine out like stars in the darkness of receding time, and whose teachings illuminate the whole universe of thought. Everybody who is capable of forming a rational opinion upon the subject agrees with Emerson. It is not to be expected that a petty rural judge, sitting in the bright State of Pennsylvania should understand Swedenborg, but it is amazing that such a person should have the impudence to proclaim his assinity to a wondering world.

The writing paragraph of Swedenborg's specific attacks on the egotism of the North has been condemned lately as a subject that has of late excited a growing interest among thoughtful people who wish well to mankind. The Ladies' Home Journal, for example, which appeals to an audience exceedingly select, one might almost say timorous, has discussed it not without fervent editorial approval and has urged parents and teachers especially to do exactly what the misguided Swedenborg school to which our sapient cadi denied a legacy has been doing in its classrooms. The only difference is that the Swedenborgians give the instructions with profound reverence under the sanction of religion, which is somewhat in their favor, one would think.

The ignorance which this judge displays and which he would impose upon the whole world, is the cause of miseries innumerable. It is said that the false views upon the subject of unmerited diseases which prevail in this country are the result of the charge of a certain German physician whose lectures were mistranslated. He was supposed to teach that it was necessary for men to expose themselves to these contagions in order to keep their health. Of course no German physician ever made such a statement, but the result of the misunderstanding is that some ninety per cent of the adult males of the United States today suffer from ineradicable consequences. This figure is set by physicians and clergymen who are quite likely to know what they are talking about. The almost universal ill-health of America, which is a certain and is ascribed largely to the same cause acting indirectly.

These facts are indisputable. Keeping them in mind one would say that if there is any subject under heaven upon which instruction is imperatively demanded it is the one which the worthy Pennsylvania judge would penalize. Concerning this theme of National false modesty, our provincial squeamishness, has cost us terribly dear. We pride ourselves upon a prudery which has infected the blood of the population with ineradicable poison. Here as elsewhere darkness and evil are allied. There should be a call for light.

SUBMITTING CHARTER AMENDMENTS.

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proper to cut them down and leave us with nothing to take their places until the new trees grow. The foliage which attracts nine out of ten Eastern visitors in Portland is that of the grand old firs that began reaching heavenward in that long departed age when our beautiful river "heard no sound save his own dashings." A perusal of Miss Mateel Howe's aptly-titled book "The Trees of Oregon," which she has written in her prize-winning essay ought to make anyone think twice before laying an axe to any fine tree that could possibly be left standing in the city limits. The cement sidewalks, paved streets and carlines have leveled toll against these attractive monarchs of the forest, but those in the park are immune from this kind of vandalism, and should not be subjected to other attacks.

EXPERIENCE.

That inexperience is the most common cause of business failure is a fact well known, and yet so frequently disregarded that it will bear occasional comment without fear of wasted effort. Not young men alone, but men of mature years as well, need to be cautioned against ventures into enterprises entirely unknown. It is an old saying, the truth of which is universally acknowledged, that experience is the best teacher, and yet it is not so generally understood that experience prescribes a course of study that must be followed with fidelity if the coveted diploma of success is to be secured. As there are some who would obtain college degrees without doing the work required, so there are others in the great school of experience who attempt to grasp the laurels and rewards of achievement without learning the lessons experience teaches. In the olden times, when wealth was counted by thousands, all young men went to college to begin with, but in these latter days, when millions are units in the measure of riches, there is too frequent evidence of a desire to spring to the summit at a single bound. Sons wish to begin in business where their fathers left off; daughters expect homes of their own as good as those their mothers enjoyed only after a life of toil and self-sacrifice.

The sudden leap from the first round of the ladder to the top-most is a feat sometimes successfully accomplished, but much more frequently the effort ends in failure and discouragement. To fall heir to a business which he is ignorant of has been a misfortune to many a young man who might otherwise have built up an enterprise as large as that which he brought to ruin. By investing his savings in an enterprise of which he had no practical knowledge, many a well-to-do man has brought his hand to poverty in his old age. Acts which look easy when performed by an expert prove disastrous to the amateur who attempts them.

Appreciating the value of experience in making a young man self-reliant, Emerson deplored the ease with which the college-bred city man becomes discouraged and fails in the pursuit of a career. He said that a sturdy lad from New Hampshire or Vermont, who in turn tries all the professions, who farms