

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 1911.

OREGON'S PROGRESS IN TEN YEARS.

A most noteworthy feature of the detailed census report on the population of Oregon is the showing of rapid growth by Portland and the urban population in general in comparison with the rural population.

Though the drift of population to the cities is a just cause of concern, there are some circumstances connected with the situation of Portland which should not be overlooked.

The gain in rural population follows the general gain with some exceptions. As might be expected, one of these is Multnomah, where rural population increases only between 5 and 15 per cent.

What abundant room Oregon has for more people is shown by the record of density of population. In this respect the density is greatest in Multnomah, the smallest county—561.7 persons per square mile.

The early settlers of Oregon looked for many years over their heads at the stunted factories for travel throughout their own domain.

The prevalence of lawlessness and the inefficiency of our machinery for detecting, trying and punishing criminals is now so generally recognized that the time has come for the next step—discovery and adoption of the best remedy.

prejudice or bogus pleas of insanity. Even when a criminal is brought before the court there are endless delays in expanding a jury and completing the trial.

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SCHOOL BOARD HELPS ITSELF.

The purpose of an annual school meeting under the law is to give the taxpayers the function of the annual school meeting under present custom is to fix things in the way the School Board wants them fixed.

Now we hear renewed talk of abolishing the annual school meeting and, perhaps, recalling the several cases on the School Board, or doing something else heretic and drastic.

The chief lies in the arbitrary power of the School Board to levy any tax. It has to all intents the same ultimate privilege as taxation as any other taxing body.

WHO KNOWS THE LAW?

Carl Snyder, an interesting and accurate writer, has written a current periodical article on "The Scandals of the Law." Former articles by the same writer treated successively of "The Encouragement to Kill" and "The Breakdown of the Criminal Law."

Mr. Snyder adopts an effective form or method of presenting his case against the courts and lawyers. He offers the counts of his indictment in the form of a list of charges.

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Taking the two other parts of the great "abridgment" which a man must have to go with his "Pleading and Practice" there are altogether \$1,000 pages in this handy little pocket guide to the labyrinths of the law.

Without such supplemental energies these great enterprises would not be able to realize to the full the benefits that can only accrue from the development of natural resources.

THE FARMER'S PROBLEM.

"Those who sit in high places, far removed from the sweat and toil of the fields," says the Philadelphia Farm Journal, have suddenly had a forewarning of what may happen "should the hand of the husbandman be stayed."

A WONDERFUL GROWTH.

In another part of the Oregonian today will be found Mr. Bennett's second article on the stockyards and packing industries of this city.

Three years ago the place was a barren waste of sand and water. Only two years ago on September 15 the yards were opened for business.

MONOPOLY AND PRICES.

It is probably worth while to make some comment upon the letter from A. B. R. Smith which is printed in the Oregonian today.

BY CONTRAST.

Rural development due to, or contingent upon, the building of electric railroads in the Willamette Valley, with Portland as the terminal point, will be extensively and intensively during the next few years.

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MUDDLED.

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The Oregonian has had much to say about two Mexicans whom it classed as "honor men" and who were resurrected at San Diego, not long ago.

ment became some people and some newspapers have not realized how ex-wicked the paroled convicts, or some of them, are.

The problem of the unemployed has, in the main, so far as this city is concerned been a question of hearsay.

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WHERE AMERICAN TYPE IS FOUND. Writer Believes Gravitation Point is West of Alleghenies.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 30.—(To the Editor)—Arent recent comment regarding the part of the country which represents more nearly the American type, it may be pertinent to inquire what are the elements which constitute the said American type.

As to the South, there are elements which are not to be confused with the Anti-American type, the spirit of feudalism or aristocracy fostered by the slavery system.

The Past is becoming more a type than the present, and the elements of the past are being largely eliminated to coin the phrase, in sentiment or trend, though retaining much good Americanism of the bold, utilitarian type.

As to Mid-West, that region between the Mississippi and the Alleghenies, is getting largely "American" to coin the phrase, in sentiment or trend, though retaining much good Americanism of the bold, utilitarian type.

Washington (D. C.) Post. "Those who did not see 'Plain Bill' Hanley when he was here with the Western Governors," remarks to W. Williams, a lawyer and former legislator, of Williams, Ariz., at the New Ebbitt, "missed meeting one of the wonderful characters of the West."

"Hanley operates one of the biggest ranches in that country. He owns hundreds of thousands of cattle, and has the distinction of being able to drive for 80 miles over his own ranch. Hanley is the counterpart of William J. Bryan, and, seen separately, he is thus far the only one of the West who has broken them, which is a pity, for the best time to make a new start in life is at the beginning of the year when the whole world is getting ready to spring into new birth."

"The plaint of the dying year," that was voiced in a lesson in a school room at the long ago, is a fine quote from memory) this passage from the address of the Old Year to his "twelve fair children": "You my poor December, dark in your complexion and cold in your temper, greatly resemble my first born, January, with this difference, you are not a laughing and a laughing—you to reflection. As the shadows of December darken and go out in the night just at hand may all who have been oppressed by the gloom that is reflected from the cold temper of the last of the twelve fair children of old 1911 take new courage in supplanting reflection with anticipation greet the first born of 1912 with new hope and courage."

A Big city seems inevitably to outgrow its water supply and its fire alarm system. Portland has met and temporarily, at least, surmounted the first. With the second it has not yet been called upon to grapple. Let us hope that it may be wise enough to forestall the seemingly inevitable in this case and thus escape the peril that is now menacing Brooklyn—that of a fire of which the department will not be notified until it becomes a conflagration that practically defies control.

ONE WAY TO GET TRADE.

Baltimore American. A physician of France lived a physician who was in the habit of employing an ingenious artifice. When he came to a neighboring town, where he had never before been, he pretended to have lost his dog, and ordered the public crier to offer, with heat of drum, a reward of 25 louis to whoever should bring in the dog. The crier took occasion to mention all the titles and academic honors of the doctor as well as his place of residence. He soon became the talk of the town.

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES.

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor)—Will you kindly inform me whether the State Board of Education will serve for two or four years? I have been urged to become a candidate for the office, but we do not understand just what the term of office will be. I intend that at the next election a Secretary of State will be elected for the unexpired term of four years.

A CASE OF MARKSMANSHIP.

London Telegraph. An Englishman was recently invited by a New Yorker to accompany him on a hunting trip to Long Island. "Large or small game," ironically asked the Briton, who had hunted in every quarter of the globe. "You do not expect to see lions and tigers, do you?" "No," replied the New Yorker. "Hardly," responded the other, with a laugh. "I like a spice of danger, in my hunting."

THE ONE CHARM OF VENICE.

Kansas City Star. A young woman who had returned from Italy with her father informed a friend that he liked all the Italian cities, but most of all he loved Venice. "Ah, Venice," he agreed, "I have heard of it. I readily understand that your father would like Venice, with the gondolas and St. Mark's and Michelangelo." "Oh, no," she interrupted, "I don't want that. He liked it because he could sit in the hotel and fish from the window."

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Smith and Jones were speaking about the fine points of their respective sons. "That boy of mine," remarked Smith extravagantly, "is the genuine article. He's all wool, you can bet on it. I should wonder," commented Jones, "if notice that he shrinks from washing."

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