

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND'S LANE TO THE ORIENT.

The Hamburg-American Steamship Company announces that it will establish a trans-Pacific service with Portland as its terminus in the United States. The Hamburg-American is among the greatest ocean carriers in the world.

The purpose of the Hamburg-American line to put its steamers in the Oriental trade out of Portland is a proposition of large importance to the city and the tributary country. It means that the steamship concern has made a systematic investigation of the local situation and is convinced that there is an opportunity to build up a satisfactory commerce with the Orient.

A direct line from Portland to the Orient, giving adequate cargo accommodation and prompt dispatch, has been the indispensable need of Portland shippers. Any line that meets these reasonable and necessary requirements, and gives besides assurance of permanency, will get the Oriental business of this port and will pay.

The Hamburg-American company inaugurates its trans-Pacific service from Portland. It will make a thorough demonstration, undoubtedly, of the feasibility of the trade route from Portland to the Orient via Vancouver, B. C., and (probably) Puget Sound ports.

The plan for the Hamburg-American steamships to call at Puget Sound and Vancouver does not meet with unqualified approval here. It does not appear to give guaranty either of direct service or unlimited cargo space. Shippers want to know always the nature of the steamer and its dependability.

The public has been given the assurance that the Hamburg-American line will run to Portland. That is a great thing. It is certain that the company, having no interest but ocean transportation, and no port to favor but the best port, will do all it can to develop traffic and to make its project a permanency.

The Austrians advance blocked. The expulsion of the Turks from all except a small corner of their European territory and the expansion of the Balkan states will soon be the death-knell of Austria's hopes of expansion southward.

The decision of the powers that Serbia shall have a free, neutral port on the Adriatic and that Albania shall become independent is but a step towards the Balkan confederation.

Servian King. The two last-named provinces with only 1,500,000 people are held in subjection only by an army as large as that with which England rules India, 300,000,000. For the last century poets and other writers have been reviving the National spirit of the Serbs throughout that region.

Why do public schools cost money? The public schools of the United States are the most valuable institutions in the world; yet we find everywhere a spirit of criticism and dissatisfaction against them.

Here in Portland it is discovered that in 14 years the cost of maintaining the public schools has grown from \$420,879 to \$2,490,447. But the increase is startling only when it is found that the per capita expense (per pupil) has jumped in that period from \$30 to \$60.

It is well enough for any large concern to pause once in a while and take stock. It is well to look into the schools. It is well enough to learn again the things we already know. We know now, for example, why the schools of Portland have doubled in the cost of educating each pupil in the average pupil's school life time.

The investigating committee will have many things of importance, undoubtedly. But it will devise no system of reducing expenses noticeably unless it finds a way to change the scheme of expansion and overloading that has been common in the public schools all over the country.

The ordinary violence, so often characteristic of strikes and lock-outs, never yet won a labor victory. That in the face of this record rioting does not cease may be ascribed largely to angry impulse. In the end sought the dynamite conspiracy, which has lived in the industrial history, could have hoped to achieve anything but disaster to themselves.

The dynamite campaign, conducted over a period of five years, has resulted in one hundred explosions, the loss of thousands of dollars of employers' money, and the taking of the lives of twenty-one men in Los Angeles. This in the main is the score against the employer.

The result was inevitable. If the jurors regarded their oaths, McNamara's connected and unshaken story was supported by a mass of detailed evidence partly in person testimony and partly in written documents.

It would be idle to say that the cause of union labor has not suffered from the crimes of these leaders. Nor is it wholly to be exonerated for their misdeeds. It cannot be gainsaid that in the rank and file union labor is peaceful and law-abiding.

How many Portland citizens, church members or not, who approve of a decent, sane New Year's resolution, would give a few pennies or a few dollars to the fund that is being raised for this purpose?

ful if not a very important figure in our public life. General James B. Weaver, of Populist fame, has also gone with a company of others whom the public does not know quite so familiarly.

TURNING A NEW LEAF. Swearing off time has crept around us more. A lot of people already are contemplating the changes they will effect in their lives at that precise moment when outgoing and incoming years converge.

These New Year resolutions, do not come spontaneously. They are the certain product of cumulative remorse. Through the year, many times, the detrimental effects of bad or vicious habits have been all too evident to the slave of them.

Fixed habits are not to be thrown off at will. It takes will power, moral character, and determination, staying qualities, and unlimited powers for assimilating punishment. Habit is relentless in its efforts to reclaim a fleeing slave.

During 1912 the human race has continued to be born and to die about the same as in former years. The rate each way is something like one every second. Perhaps in the twelvemonth just passing Death has chosen an unusual number of shining marks.

There were losses just as serious in other years, and still the course of events moved on. Nobody is indispensable. Scarcely any man is really missed when it comes time for him to fold his tent and vanish from the world.

The gracious purpose of Governor West and Mrs. West to have a New Year's reception at which the former Governors of Oregon and their wives, or their widows, shall be the guests of honor.

It is a coincidence that just a few days ago the widow of a notable Oregon Governor died at Eugene, in the person of Mrs. Whiteaker. The name Whiteaker appears frequently throughout a long chapter of Oregon history.

John Whiteaker was the first Governor of Oregon under the state constitution. He was elected in June, 1858, and was inaugurated on July 8, of the same year.

John Whiteaker was born in Dearborn County, Indiana, May 4, 1820. He passed his early youth on a farm in Indiana, and then came to Michigan accordingly.

Mr. Holman reminds us that not all the mission people favored the movement. Even Jason Lee objected to it. We must believe, however, that his hostility referred rather to some incidental circumstances than to the principle involved.

A most picturesque incident of Whiteaker's later life was "Whiteaker's ride," in 1879, when he was called suddenly to Washington by the dominant Democratic majority in Congress so as to aid in the election of Charles F. Crisp to be Speaker.

Frederick V. Holman's "Brief History of the Oregon Provisional Government and the Causes Which Led to Its Formation," published in the June number of the Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society, presents in a condensed and lucid form the principal facts of that remarkable achievement.

Old maids not to be deserted. The Oregonian's communication page has been speckled with letters from old maids, bachelors, and those who want to be discussing the old, old, old story of love and marriage.

Former governors. The gracious purpose of Governor West and Mrs. West to have a New Year's reception at which the former Governors of Oregon and their wives, or their widows, shall be the guests of honor.

Wilson was received at his birthday place on his birthday with great joy. At least once before the same thing occurred there.

Still once again Portland leads in the week's bank clearings. And it's a habit we are not going to swear off on January 1.

Broadway lamp posts are to be abolished. The man of unsteady gait has no further need of them these days of the taxicab.

Kansas City flaunts the boast that her daughters have the longest feet. Chicago is the sidestep any discussion of the topic.

A Pennsylvania town has a Rauber Hotel. So has most every town, but the proprietors aren't always so open about it.

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Christmas and New Year cards are advertisements of existence sent to enemies and friends alike. Young daniel writes to ask how she can win back the affections of a man who has jilted her.

A man told me of inviting a lot of friends to a game dinner on Christmas and all he got of the bird was the bill. Man asked a girl to wed and she said she was agreeable. Later events proved she wasn't.

That proverb "No man ever got rich fighting other peoples' battles" wasn't written by the lawyer. Headline says "Messenger boy's feelings cut to the quick" H-m-m, I didn't know a messenger boy had any quick.

"Duke and His American Wife Fell Out of Motor," yells a headline. Usually their falling out takes place in the papers. The modern school boy's qualifications to hold down a job in odd hours is an ability to do dead work and clay modeling.

Locksmith named Smith was arrested for vagrancy, so the officers were forced to lock Smith up, as it were. "Ostrich" is merely a nom de plume for most modern feathers. Woman I know whines because her husband writes so illegibly she can't tell whether it is ten thousand or merely one thousand kisses he sent at the end of his letter.

The man who made the wild suggestion that every time a married man makes a little extra money he should give his wife a new hat turns out to be a male milliner. Most women would rather dye than let a single grey hair show. Great dish for the Greeks and Bulgarians this year. Turkey stuffed with promises.

Under a book sale advertisement line reading "Just Out" is "Blanks Electric Light." (Apologies to Ma Goose.) Ride on the steam cars to Salem with us. And see little Oswald who's making a name for himself. With bills on his fingers and bills on his toes. He's a regular nuisance wherever he goes.

Height of gentility—living in the hall bedroom of the top floor in an "exclusive" hotel. "Among other things" I got a cumbersome volume called "Guide to Knowledge" and the inscription on the fly leaf says the donor hopes I will "find it useful in raising my position." It do. I stand on it to see if my skirts sag in the back. Miss Calamity Step-and-fetch-it the cultured and charming near-post of the Willamette Valley has come out of her retirement and dashed off this merry mess about culinary art. She calls it "Owed to Cook" (not tourist).

Every paper I pick up I read Where some lady or gent is using. To be let out of a house, but not a room. Repenting of a hurried wooing—And most of these horrors wouldn't a been. If girls would only learn cuisine. I've noticed wives who know the art And manufacture classy dishes. Get their hubby's coat against his heart. And bend their knees to the latest wishes. So sister we can't overrate A gold-framed cook's certificate.

An ever changing bill of fare is like a household antiseptic. And sooths the temper of your Bear. When he growls and feels dejected, Cook wed it. If every meal you serve corn beef.

These passioned lines of mine should be read by all. Unmarried sisters from repining; All of the sweetest things about love. Fall dead beside the art of dining. For of wedded bliss, I have had a taste. A maxims odd—just "feed the brute."

SURGICAL ACTIVITY TOO GREAT Dallas Man Thinks Operating Is Being Greatly Overdone. DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 24.—(To the Editor.)—The article December 19, signed A. C. Pantan, I read with much interest. The doctor seemed to be much peeved the way the publication "Life" criticized his medical and surgical practitioners. I do not think that "Life" criticizes surgery as a science or the good men who are practicing it conscientiously. From its appearance this is a surgical age and you must be operated on for every little ache and pain the human body is heir to. In a small town of about 2500 inhabitants, where the hospital seems to be always well filled with "cut-up" patients. Not only is it true of this town, but other places have had it as well, and when one sees these young practitioners riding around in their fine autos, keeping up fine homes, appearances and offices, it is not hard to think something is being badly overworked.

I for one am glad to see the stand "Life" takes in these matters. Another point I wish to bring out in A. C. Pantan's article is about Jenner's famous discovery of vaccine, which we have to use just about as often as the doctor dictates. He writes also that in 1847 150,000 Mandan Indians died of small pox and that the canal zone, by the use of different serums, has been made habitable. Rot! Our doctor seems to give no credit whatsoever to the engineers who made the canal zone and the country in which we live possible. Rot! Our doctor writes a filthy set, as are most the tribes. Why shouldn't they die like rotten sheep when small pox got among them, as the bite of the mosquito caused cholera and yellow fever among the French in the canal zone? Was it your serums that made this country and Panama such fine places in which to live? Never! Our sanitary experts must get that credit. A. Y. SMITH.

"Rural" Notions of Cooking. Pittsburg Gazette. Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, apropos of pure foods, said the other day in Chicago: "I know a woman fresh from the country, who complained to her cook during the holidays, 'I never ever get any good out of my turkey.' "Our cider is watery, the turkey has no flavor, I can't find any meat in the mince-meat, and back home they had turkey with a yellow fever mess of adulteration as that tinned plum pudding we had for yesterday's dinner." "The cook smiled tolerantly. 'You'll never get any such a turkey after a while,' she said."