

The Oregonian

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among trained men and remain undisturbed through political changes, as are officers of the Army and Navy. WORKING SMOOTHLY. When Commissioner Daly presented to the City Commission for action on Thursday his plan of appropriating \$7500 of the taxpayers' money to hire an "expert" to appraise the property of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company...

directing that cognizance shall be taken not only of specific cases which may be transmitted to conjugal partner or to offspring, but also of chronic infirmities, deformities and what not which may militate against satisfactory parentage. But will not the expense of examination tend to discourage marriage and encourage cohabitation among the physically unfit, with the result that the number of degenerate children will not be decreased? The difficulty about many well-meant laws is that they produce results opposite to those intended.

LET THE PUBLIC DECIDE. If any J. Rufus Wallingford should conceive a great auditorium project for Portland, and should solicit stock subscriptions from a more or less interested public, the basis that the site would be in the immediate vicinity of East Ninth and Clackamas streets, more than a mile from the city center, across the river, he would not get a dollar, except possibly from interested real estate promoters.

RECLAMATION CAN PAY ITS WAY. Allotment by Secretary Lane of all the money now in the reclamation fund, together with the proposed extension of twenty years of the time of payment of water rights, will steadily decline in proceeds of sale of public land, leaves the cupboard as bare for further reclamation as Mother Hubbard found it. It is not to be tolerated that the progress of reclamation should be restricted to the dribbles which will come in from land sales and water-right payments.

GLIMPS THROUGH THE MIST. Valentine Adorable. The season of the valentine has begun. When I must sing a tender ditty, And offer up this heart of mine, Unto that pair of maidens, Kitty; Oh, fairest maiden of my time, Your voice the warden of my will; I love you—but I lack a rhyme. I guess I'd better sing to Phyllis.

PORTLAND, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1914. BRYAN'S DIPLOMATIC POLICY. Secretary of State Bryan, by his changes in the diplomatic service, has raised an issue which must sooner or later be decided by public opinion. He has opened the question whether our foreign missions are to be headed by trained diplomats or by men chosen without regard to special training, but with regard only to personal fitness and distinction and to political service to the ruling party.

THE FALSEHOOD AND THE JOKER. On the back of a circular issued by the Homes Tax Exemption League, W. S. U'ren, president, this circular carrying on the reverse side the text of the proposed \$1500 exemption, is the statement by the ruling party that automobiles are now exempt from tax.

MUSICAL AMERICA. John C. Freund, the editor of "Musical America," stirred up a peck of trouble for himself last Spring and Summer by a warning to American girls who go to Europe to study music. He told them, to begin with, that the time abroad was unnecessary, because we have just as good teachers in this country as they can find anywhere.

NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS. The Journal des Debats, of Paris, has compiled the awards of Nobel prizes by nations, with the result that the smallest nations appear to have done most for science in proportion to population. During the twelve years from 1901 to 1912, inclusive, the awards by countries have been: Germany, 18; France, 13; England, 6; Sweden, 6; Norway, 4; Italy, 3; Spain, 2; and Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Russian Poland, Russia and the United States, 1 apiece.

OUTLOOK FOR FRUIT INDUSTRIES. On another page of The Oregonian there may be found an article dealing with such work, for co-operation among the growers in establishing plants to take full charge of all of the various fruits and vegetables that the members may produce. Then further co-operation must step in and combine these plants or associations into one large organization.

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THE MERIT SYSTEM. The merit system was introduced by executive order of President Taft, but he was not bound to appoint heads of missions by promotion, and political considerations were not entirely excluded. He sent Jacob Gould Schurman to Greece during that gentleman's vacation year as president of Cornell. He consigned Henry S. Bontell for defeat in a Congressional election with the Ministry, first to Portugal and then to Switzerland, and he sent his personal friend Theodore Marburg to Belgium. None of these men had distinguished records, and all were appointed after the merit system had been introduced into the service.

OUR RECKLESS AGE. Automobiles caused the death of 302 persons in New York City last year, an increase of ninety over the previous year. In the same period there were 123 deaths from trolley cars and 32 by wagon accidents. It appears that in 1913 in New York 67 more persons were killed by automobiles than by all other vehicular traffic.

THE THEOSOPHICAL PATH. In the February number of Catherine Tingley's "Theosophical Path" a curious passage is quoted from Gladstone's writings. It relates to the state of the soul after death. The distinguished British statesman seems to have believed in something like the doctrine of purgatory. He says that "the Christian dead are in a progressive state of purification."

MAKING A COUNTY PROSPEROUS. The County Court of Baker County makes an annual appropriation for the support of the Baker County Commercial Club, of which Mr. Walter E. Meacham is the secretary. There has recently been some opposition to such appropriations, coming largely from the farmers of the county. This opposition came about principally because the farmers as a rule did not understand the workings of the club, claiming it was an organization operated primarily in the interests of the City of Baker.

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