

The New Northwest.

A Journal for the People.
Independent in Politics and Religion.
Alive to all Live Issues, and Thoroughly Radical in Op-
posing and Exposing the Wrongs of the Masses.

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PORTLAND, OREGON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1881.

THE COMING CONVENTION.

Before the NEW NORTHWEST again reaches its readers, the tenth annual Convention of the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association will be in full progress, and it is hoped this meeting will prove the most successful of the decade. In order to secure the triumph that Woman Suffragists hope for, it will only be necessary for all to work together in harmony. Every Woman Suffragist should consider this cause a personal one, and everybody should be ready to attend the meetings of the Association, and render this movement every service in his or her power, whether personally sought out and specially invited to do so or not. Broad as the platform is, it consists of a single plank, and that is "Equality of Rights." Every just person can stand on this platform and find plenty of working room. The cause is advancing in every quarter. From every point of the compass comes greeting, and from every post office words of cheer. It is no longer an unacknowledged issue, struggling for recognition, but is, instead, an accepted principle, recognized by the Legislature, and awaiting patiently the further action that shall be necessary to crystallize it into organic law.

Let every one remember that the Convention meets in this city, on Tuesday, October 18th, at 10:30 A. M., in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall, and will hold its sessions at 10:30 A. M. and 2 and 7:30 P. M., through four consecutive days and evenings, omitting Wednesday evening because of a regular engagement of the hall for that evening for another purpose, and closing on Friday night. The programme for the first day will be found in our local columns. Announcements for succeeding days will be published regularly in the morning papers. Eminent speakers, excellent music and wit and wisdom and spirit will alike combine to render the sessions interesting.

The usual half-fare rates of travel will be granted to visitors from outside the city.

IA REMARKABLE "INVESTIGATION."

The Independence half of the Polk County *Hemizer* of last week says that Postal Agent Ben Simpson had visited that place and looked into the charges made by this Journal last Spring against the postmaster at that place. It concluded:

The Agent, after a full investigation, fully exonerated Mr. Hodgkin from all blame in the matter. The *NORTHWEST*, we are sure, will cheerfully acquiesce in this decision and acknowledge its error.

The NEW NORTHWEST does not "acquiesce." It decidedly demurs. It is not in error. There has been no investigation. It seems there will be none, if Postal Agent Simpson can help it. The derelict postmaster does not wish one. Apparently the Agent is attempting to screen the offender. Evidently there is collusion to place the blame of Hodgkin's mean and cur-like act upon this office. Simpson sent no word to us that he intended to make an "investigation," though he personally promised the writer to notify the proprietors of this paper as to the time he would do so. We filed sworn statements of our case with him last Spring. We wished the matter examined immediately. He did not. He strove then to offer excuses for Hodgkin's violation of his sworn duty, and was evidently averse to developing the facts in the case. It was plain then that there was to be unfairness, and time has proved it. There has been sly, dark, underhand work. Our first knowledge of the "investigation" was on Monday evening, when, in glancing through exchanges, the above item met our gaze.

The matter is neither properly nor fully stated in the *Hemizer*. The charge is made in full in our affidavits, which were published in April last. We stand by every utterance in them. We demand a fair and open examination. We can support our statements and bear them out. Hodgkin knows it, and Simpson evidently fears it. They have been very careful not to "investigate." Simpson has broken his pledged word in order to keep us from proving what we have testified to under oath. We shall not let this matter drop here. Henceforth we shall deal with the Special Agent as well as with the postmaster. We do not intend to rest quietly under the imputation of perjury cast upon us by a corrupt official and a conniving and abetting overseer in a star-chamber proceeding miscalled an "investigation." Truly, that is a remarkable "investigation" of which the complainants are not advised and know nothing until accounts are published.

Mr. E. O. Norton's Oregon *Vidette* is now being conducted as an anti-monopoly paper. Its literary features are retained, however.

A TIME-SERVING CONGRESSMAN.

The Vice-President for Michigan of the National Woman Suffrage Association, Mrs. F. H. Fowler, who edits the "Woman's Department" of the *Manistee Times and Standard*, recently addressed letters to the Congressmen of her State, asking their status on Woman Suffrage. Two gentlemen promptly replied.

Mr. Willets briefly answered that he was a hearty supporter of the proposed amendment to the State Constitution in 1873, and voted for it in 1874; that while a member of the House Judiciary Committee of the Forty-sixth Congress he favored a sixteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the purpose of establishing Woman Suffrage; that he had not changed his views since, and is of the same opinion now.

Mr. Horr, like a true politician, replied at greater length than Mr. W., cautiously and carefully wording his sentences, and evidently trying to hold women responsible for the opposition that he would not manfully avow. With much useless verbiage, he stated as his "opinion" that only a small part of the "good wives and mothers of the country" wished the ballot, and said that when a majority expressed a desire to vote, their wish "would have great weight in determining his action." He also said, "In the great division of labor which I think nature has plainly marked out between the sexes, I have serious doubts as to whether the making and executing of law comes properly among the duties of women."

Every thoughtful woman will instantly ask with Mrs. Fowler, "Where is the line of this 'great division of labor?'" and she will reflect that there is no employment sacred to her except that of "bearing and nursing babies." Men have entered every "sphere" commonly accorded to women in which money could be made, whether as cook, laundress, house-keeper, milliner or dress-maker. It is proper for men to engage in these occupations; but it is not pleasant to have them infract a line they have drawn and then object when women wish to cross it. Men only cant about "the great division nature has marked out" when women seek new fields of learning and industry.

Like the average run of the opponents of the political equality of women, Mr. Horr allows no considerations of right and justice to influence his thoughts on the subject. He does not care if it is wrong to tax women without representation and hold them amenable to laws which they have had no voice in making. With him, principles are nothing; majorities are everything. It is real kind in him to give assurance that a great majority will "have weight in influencing his action." The *Times and Standard* well reminds him that only professional politicians are actuated by such motives as he has avowed, and that when women have a majority of the people they will not need the aid of men like himself, who wait until a question is settled before taking a stand on it.

IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The parliamentary franchise recently granted to the women of the Isle of Man has been almost universally accepted by them. They have evinced greater appreciation of the right than was anticipated by the most hopeful suffragists. In one district where there were over seventy women entitled to vote, only two declined, and they were sisters living together. Other districts show almost equally good results, while none give unsatisfactory returns. The advocates of the innovation are gratified at its success, and its opponents are discomfited. The women have shown eagerness to give expression and force to their ideas and principles, and have proved careful, thoughtful and conscientious voters.

That the precedent established by the Isle of Man has had a good influence throughout Great Britain, which has been enhanced by the success of the measure which it inaugurated, there is no doubt. The *Christian Statesman* says "the leading English suffragists, both men and women, including among the former many members of Parliament, are very sanguine that the present Parliament, before it is prorogued, will give the parliamentary franchise to the women of Great Britain, and all are working together to this end with great heartiness and perfect unanimity." At the least, they are very confident that municipal suffrage for tax-paying women in Ireland, such as was recently established in Scotland, will be granted.

The Port Orford *Post* says: "A whipping-post law for wife-beaters would be the right thing until some sanctified, sentimental Court would declare it void under the ever-convenient plea of its 'cruel and unusual' character. Such was the fate of Roach's wife-beater-whipping-post law in California. Judge Belden thought it just awful, yet he seemed to have no tears to shed over the fate of the bruised, battered and maimed wife of a San Jose brute, who preferred the complaint."

Ex-Mayor Killoch, of San Francisco, after his reception on the lecture platform in this city, will doubtless have a very poor opinion of the people of Portland; but he may console himself with the reflection that the people have a like opinion of him—not of his oratorical powers, but of his general character.

Messrs. Johnson & Herrin, of the Walla Walla *Union*, have bought the *Morning Journal* of that city, and are now issuing it as the *Daily Union*.

"WHAT TO WEAR AND HOW."—No. III.

BY A LADY WHO KNOWS.

No article of a lady's apparel is of more importance than her hat or bonnet, and yet, strange to say, more obvious mistakes are made in the selection of this indispensable accompaniment to a becoming toilet than in any other article that ladies wear. It is not unusual to see a large woman, with prominent features and naturally imposing address, neutralizing the dignity of her appearance by a bonnet so small as to be out of all proportion to the size of her body and the general contour of her features. Symmetry should be the primal aim in dress, as without it there can be no harmony and fitness in anything. Again, a little lady, with fairy dimensions and delicate features, sometimes disfigures herself by a mammoth hat or bonnet, far too large for her head and out of all proportion to her body, not to mention her hands and feet, which are encased in kids so tightly fitting as to appear uncomfortable.

Happily, there is room enough for appropriate choice in the present fashionable variety of head gear, in size as well as color, style and quality. For little ladies' bonnets there are close-fitting shapes in felt, plush, satin, silk and velvet, trimmed in folds, pipings, pleatings, tucks, shirrings, loops, fringes, or bows of silk, ribbon, satin or other rich material, tied with strings to match and surmounted by plumes in endless variety, adorned in odd and fanciful ways by occasional clusters of flowers and fruit, so real as to suggest odor and taste. For larger ladies the bonnets are larger and flaring, trimmed, in addition to the above suggestions, in falls of steel or silver lace, depending from the arch above the forehead and relieving the flare around the face by graceful waves, beneath which may be seen many marvels of milliners' skill, in form of folds, knots and ruchings, of rich materials and shaded colors artistically blended. To be a successful milliner in these days of competition is to be an artist. It is always best, in choosing a hat or bonnet, to consult the milliner, who, from active association with the different degrees of her business, is able to state at a glance what is most becoming to her customer's style. An honorable milliner will never impose upon a customer by recommending an unbecoming article to secure a sale. In bonnets, as in dresses, the favorite Autumn colors are copper bronze and steel bronze, in all the different modifications of shade, quality and design that modern art and excessive competition have awakened and stimulated.

Among the imported marvels of feminine ingenuity to be seen at the most fashionable bazars is a bonnet of steel gray *moire antique*, shaded in garnet, with broad ribbon ties of the same rich material, trimmed with faultless regard to hidden stitches in an elaborate combination of shirring, folding and bows of alternate plush and *moire antique*, in shades to match. Three full and fluffy ostrich-tips, shaded in changeable hues to match the colors of the silk and plush, roll away from the brim, which is caught up at the side and ornamented by a cluster of variegated roses, blending in their rich, deep colors with the subdued harmony of the whole. Such a bonnet will accommodate itself to any complexion, but will set off a pronounced brunette to best advantage if she be not too sallow.

Jets in bugles, beads, ornaments, fringes and novelties of every description will enter as largely into the trimmings of millinery this year as formerly, while corresponding novelties in bronze, steel, pearl and amber are to be worn in endless variety. Jetted laces are also in great demand, and feathers were never more fashionable than now. Many hats—especially of turban shape—are made entirely of peacock feathers, one piece forming the crown and another the brim, made upon a buckram frame and finished without other ornament than the feathers. Others are covered entirely with the plumage of different birds, with here and there a natural head and bill, adorned by a life-like eye of glass.

For cheaper hats for those of moderate means, there are cotton plushes with silk finish and fanciful hues, with feathers and flowers to suit, and there is no need of any lack of becoming head gear, since the milliner's art has adapted itself to price and quality, retaining the harmony of colors with fidelity, and placing "something appropriate to wear" within the reach of every tasteful person.

A wife-beater, named Edward Bayliss, was brought before Judge Stearns on Tuesday. His wife testified to his striking and choking her, and that he threatened to kill her if she made a noise. The prisoner was allowed to testify in his own behalf, and materially aided in his own conviction. He said she had "beaten him once with a broom-stick," that she "neglected her duty," and that she "had left him thirteen times." The Judge doubtless thought the abused Mr. Bayliss was not very gentle if it had been necessary for her to flee thirteen times, and accordingly fined him \$20.

General Robert Lowery, the Democratic nominee for Governor of Mississippi, was taught to read by his wife after their marriage, since which time he has risen to be one of the most influential men in the State.

It is officially announced that all prizes, honors, and degrees which the Royal University of Ireland can confer are open to women students.

MARRIAGE INSURANCE.

A NEW PLAN FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THOSE MATRIMONIALY INCLINED.

The growing popularity of marriage insurance as a desirable investment, and the large and increasing volume of business transacted in that respect, may be regarded as among the marvels of modern financial enterprise. As the business is comparatively new, at least in this State, and as we are frequently asked to explain the principles upon which it is conducted, the NEW NORTHWEST, ever ready to lay before its readers the merits of any enterprise calculated to promote human happiness, sent a representative to the office of the Northwestern Marriage Insurance Company, of this city, to interview the Secretary, Mr. Gross, with the intention of obtaining correct information on the subject. After the interchange of the usual courtesies, our reporter commenced his inquiries.

Reporter—Inasmuch as the subject of marriage insurance is one of considerable public interest, I have called to obtain from you for publication a brief outline of the manner in which such insurance is effected.

Secretary—I am glad of an opportunity of giving your many readers the information you desire, especially as some adverse criticisms of our institution have appeared in a recent communication published in your paper. I will briefly state that policies of from \$1000 to \$10,000 are issued to unmarried persons of good moral character upon payment of an annual premium of \$5 for males under 18 and females under 16, and \$6 per year on each \$1000 for all above those ages, for the first four years, and \$1 per \$1000 annually thereafter during unmarried life. In addition to these annual premiums, and commencing next February, monthly rates, graded according to age and ranging from 25 cents to \$2, will also be levied upon each \$1000 of insurance, the average monthly dues being about \$1.50 per \$1000.

Rep.—How and when are policies payable?

Sec.—They are each payable at the end of the year in which the respective holders marry, provided all dues have been paid as required by the contract, such final settlement being at the rate of 25 per cent for every year from the date and amount of policy. For example: James Brown, at the age of 24, takes out a policy for \$1000, pays \$6 down and \$1.50 monthly for 12 months, in all \$24. If he married during the last half of the year, he will, at the close of that year, be entitled to and receive \$228, which is 25 per cent of the amount of his policy, less four annual payments deducted. Had he deferred marriage until the second year, he would have received 50 per cent, the third year 75 per cent, or the fourth year the full amount, \$1000, and so on for any other ages or amounts.

Rep.—Do you not think that so large a profit from so small an investment will have a tendency to cause increased frequency of marriage, and even speculation in large policies?

Sec.—If at all, only to a limited extent, as we accept risks only on those well known to be of good moral character; and those insuring for a greater amount than \$5000 are not allowed to marry within the first year. Besides, persons of such character would not be likely to jeopardize their future happiness simply to gain a few hundred dollars.

Rep.—Granting the correctness of your reasoning, we now come to the most important question of all, viz., its feasibility. Is the financial basis of your plan of insurance a solid one, and if so, what have you to offer in proof or illustration of the fact?

Sec.—All insurance worthy of the name is based on what may be termed the "doctrine of average," a system founded on statistical data, carefully collated from a wide field, and thus very nearly approaching mathematical exactness. In that connection this company has industriously gathered and carefully considered a large amount of statistical and kindred information on the subject of marriages and marriage insurance upon which was based its present plan of doing business. The whole thing is simple enough, although it requires considerable labor in preparation. First ascertain the number out of each thousand who marry in 12 months; then it is easy to adopt a scale of monthly dues to be paid by each, which will aggregate a sum sufficient to pay to those who may have married the amounts agreed upon in their respective policies.

Rep.—As each county clerk keeps a record of marriages, a correct estimate of the number that would annually occur among the uninsured might be easily made, but I apprehend that the percentage would be very materially increased under the stimulus of insurance.

Sec.—Very true. The annual rate among the uninsured is about 30 per thousand, but in order to ascertain the percentage of marriage among those insured, the experience of the other marriage insurance companies, as set forth in their reports, furnishes the only reliable data upon which to base our estimates. The last report which has come to hand, that of the original Harrisburg Company, shows that, of a total membership of 1800, there were 65 marriages in eight months, which is a little less than 50 per 1000 annually. Now for a few figures. Take 1000 policies of \$1000 each, multiply this amount by \$1.50, the average monthly dues, and then by 12, the number of months in a year, and we obtain \$18,000; divide this last sum by \$228, the amount to which any one marrying during the first year would be entitled, and the quotient, which is a small fraction less than 80, will represent the number of marriages in each 1000 which we would be able to pay annually. This, you will observe, is 30 in excess of the actual number which may reasonably be expected to marry. But if at any future time it shall become apparent that the monthly dues will be insufficient to pay all claims in full, they will, on all policies issued thereafter, be immediately increased to an amount adequate to meet all requirements in that respect, thus rendering a financial collapse impossible, and thereby placing the business on a basis as enduring and solid as that of Mount Hood.

Rep.—You make an excellent showing for your company. The success of your enterprise will help many young people to make a good start in life, encourage habits of industry and economy among them, causing them to avoid extravagance and dissipation, and thus pave the way to a prosperous and happy future. But I did not come here to moralize, so thanking you for your courtesy and wishing you and your company success, I will withdraw.