

COOS BAY TIMES

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APPROVED AND NOT ON TRIAL.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT is not certain as to the working effect of the Oregon system. According to his utterance in Chicago he seems to think that no conclusive results have been reached in the operation of that system; it appears to be his opinion that the initiative, the referendum and the recall are all unjustified as yet, and shall be judged by what they may bring forth rather than by that which they have already achieved.

The Oregon system has its enemies; every one knows that. Some of its bitterest opponents live in Oregon, do politics in Oregon, and have hoped for fame and favor by reason of their old-school political activity. These men hate the Oregon system as the devil is said to hate holy water. The cause of their hatred is "hearted," as Iago says, and the manifestation of their enmity has been vigorous and at the same time insidious. Their opposition has roared considerably in the index, and has managed, too, to disseminate the impression that this anger of the politicians is really the doubtful or opposing sentiment of the people. Politicians holding the fort in the Legislature seek to discredit the Oregon system in that body, and the impression goes out that these tenets of broader democracy for which Oregon is justly famed cannot be strongly approved by the people so long as their representatives seek to belittle and condemn them.

But the people of Oregon tell quite another story. They know that the power they have taken into their hands has already been exercised for the good of the state, and they are not disposed to surrender one iota of the advantage gained. They have demonstrated that they know how to vote on questions of public policy and vote intelligently. They have made it clear that they can enact better laws and with less friction and less expense than is shown in the average run of legislative enactment. They know, too, that in many instances the reason for failure of popularly enacted law is the lack of co-operation on the part of the legislature to give that law best effect. The people of Oregon are satisfied with the system that bears the name of their state, sachred politicians and their backers and sympathizers to the contrary notwithstanding—Portland Telegram.

A DIVIDEND PAYING CITY.

SINCE the question of public ownership of water is now claiming the absorbing attention of the people of Coos Bay, here is an editorial from the Boston Monitor that is of interest to all who are giving thought and attention to problems of municipal government:

"Here is the proposition in a nutshell. A number of people get together and found a settlement. Their energy and enterprise attracts others, and the settlement soon becomes a village. Because the people are alive and alert, the village soon be-

comes a town, then a city, then a great city. The older and larger it becomes, the heavier the taxes its original founders must bear. They have opened up a thousand opportunities for the later comers. Why should not these pay, and pay well, for the privileges they enjoy? Instead of a city being a constant burden upon its inhabitants, why could it not be made a profit-sharing concern?"

"In the establishment and growth of private business institutions, growth means progress and profit. In the establishment and growth of a community of people, growth means increased obligations for those who have done the building. William Dudley Foulke, touching on the matter, said recently: 'If I own a cheap lot in a remote suburb, and do nothing with it; but the city expands in that direction, and folks build all around me, this adds to its value many times. I have done nothing myself to make it worth any more, but the folks who have built around me have done it. Yet I get the increased value which I have not earned, and the city whose growth gave the value, gets nothing, except a trifling tax from year to year.'

"This is only one illustration. Scores might be added. The community has privileges to offer; at present it gives them away, and taxes itself enormously that it may do so. Business principles applied to the granting of privileges of various kinds would soon turn the city deficit into a city surplus. No injustice would result from a system that would compel each and every person enjoying communal advantages to share in the cost of supplying them, because this system would work for the reduction of the general tax.

"A dividend-paying city is not an idle dream. It seems impossible only because we have become habituated to the debt-ridden, tax-ridden city. We accept this kind of communal government as we do many other things, simply because we have never known, and have never striven hard for something better."

WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

GOOD EVENING.

Time can not take my jewels of sympathy, love and faith from the crown of life. Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

MARCH.

And 'o the larch, blue 'o the sky, Storm winds of March, roistering by; Call of a bird, somewhere o'erhead, Green branches stirred, soft petals spread.

Song in my breast, eager and fair, Hope at its crest, Spring's in the air.

Sky like an arch, clouds misty white.

Sunshine of March, golden and bright; Flowers on the lea, Eastward and West.

Whisper to me, Earth's at its best. Joy in my soul, why should I care, Certain the goal, Spring's in the air.

Breath 'o the larch, sweet 'o the pine, Green fields o' March, alders in line; Patter of feet, squirrels at play, Bird-songs that greet, happy and gay.

Bliss in my heart, Life is so fair, Praises upstart, Spring's in the air. Lalia Mitchell.

THE BACHELOR GIRL SAYS:

"The fascinating thing about flirting with a boy of 20 is that he sometimes means what he says at the time he says it."

TO J. J. HILL, PESSIMIST.

Oh, say, J. J.,

Why don't you try to roll the clouds away

Instead of piling them up as you do? Quite true,

The era of prosperity

Won't last forever, still

You needn't feel you're called upon

To point the end out till it comes a little closer.

What good is it to run

Our time out in the shadows

As long as there is sun?

Say, J. J.,

You're a rainy day. W. J. Lampton.

Coos Bay still has some chilly mornings despite the hot air passed out to us by admiring visitors who have viewed the community's good points.

MANKIND NOT ADVANCING SAYS WOMAN STUDENT

NEW YORK, N. Y., Mar. 1.—"Is mankind advancing? No. We reached our zenith 2,500 years ago and have never attained the same plane since. Modern civilization is distorted. We are on the wrong track, going like a runaway train at full speed, headed for where, what? Who knows? It is true we have achieved airships and automobiles, telephones and wireless telegraphy, four days to Europe and a mile a minute by rail. But do these things signify progress? No. Not when the men and women for whom they were invented have declined mentally, morally and physically."

This startling denunciation of modern man, his aspirations and achievements, was uttered, not by a rabid sensationalist, as any one might suppose, but by a sweet-faced little woman, whose mildness of manner belied the harshness of her words. She is Mrs. John Martin of Stapleton, Staten Island, and she knows whereof she speaks. For 10 years she has studied the question of social development.

The fruits of that study have been gathered into book form.

Mrs. Martin, whose husband is a member of the Board of Education, sent a copy of her book to the Mayor, eliciting from him a very favorable comment. Inquiring if she were the wife of the member of the Board of Education, the Mayor wrote that if so he thought he would have to appoint Mrs. Martin a member of that board also.

Her Disconcerting Questions.

In her beautiful home, Mrs. Martin talked of the book in which she has treated a much discussed topic in a most original way. She has asked a disconcerting question in "Mankind Advancing?" and has answered it in a disconcerting way, one which will make a self-satisfied civilization wake up to its own deficiencies.

"If we are to measure the progress of an age we must measure it first by the genius the age has produced," Mrs. Martin said in explaining how she has come to her conclusions.

"A man is not great by accident. He is pushed up by the social forces beneath him. He is the product of the people. For that reason people can be judged by the number of great men they produce. What age has produced so many great men, in every phase of life, as the Greeks? Their civilization sits upon the pinnacle of human greatness. It has never been equaled."

Only Material Advancement.

"We are told that this is the greatest age in the history of the universe," she went on after a moment. "Scientists say that our advancement is greatest, that human existence is enlarged. But is this so when one looks at the question clearly? Have we made any advancement other than that of a material nature? I think not, and I have studied the question exhaustively. Is poverty any less than it used to be in the time of the Greeks? John Pliske tells us that there were no beggars or paupers in Athens."

"But today? Of course it is admitted we have a great deal more wealth, but has this been a benefit to mankind? No one will dispute the evil of poverty, and insofar as wealth cures poverty it must be set down as a positive, indisputable blessing to humanity. The difficulty is that our increased wealth has not cured poverty. In America and in all the large cities of Europe the condition of the poor today is more dire than it ever was in Greece. In this country, one of the richest in the world, there are no fewer than four million paupers in a time of unprecedented prosperity. In London conditions are worse. In Greece they had slaves, but they were not slaves in the accepted sense. Rather they were members of the household, protected by law and allowed to lift themselves from that condition. Today slavery is abolished in name only. Men who cannot choose their work, and cannot limit their work and cannot enjoy their work are not free men. They are just as much slaves as the Grecian servants."

Standard Is Not High.

"Our physical standard is not high, and surely our moral standard cannot compare with the Greeks. Every day we hear of some new disclosure of corruption and dishonesty. Mentally, we have not produced a mind like Aristotle, like Plato, or any of the other men who have hand-

led down all the philosophy the world has ever known."

"But surely you will admit that women have progressed?" was asked of Mrs. Martin. "This age has opened to them many new fields which were heretofore closed."

For a moment the authoress thought in silence. She is a very accurate woman, who hesitates to give voice to an opinion before she has regarded the question from all sides. With a pencil she tapped her forehead, framed in soft ringlets of wavy hair, and the blue gray eyes half closed as she sat framing an answer.

Women's Advancement.

"And what have they done with their opportunities?" she finally asked in return. "They have not advanced any further than their brothers. 'But women are men's equal in these days,' I hear my critics say. To which I answer they have always been and always will be, just as the left foot is the equal to the right. If they were relegated to the home in other days it was because they preferred to remain there, to be sheltered and to center their interests in the home."

"And women would be very much better off if they were content with the home today. They are not fitted for public life. Why? Because their whole view of life has a personal standpoint. They see everything through the light of how it is going to affect them and their homes and not the community at large. As one woman said to me some time ago when I remarked that her husband had more than his share of this world's goods, 'His share is all he can get for me and the children.'

"I am not a suffragist; in fact, I am very much against the cause," Mrs. Martin went on. "I think woman's sphere is in the home; that she can do a great deal more good there than in any other sphere of life, and that the quicker she returns to her proper place the better it will be for all humanity."

"There is a little story I am very fond of telling which adequately illustrates this point. They say that the third generation of incubator chickens are idiots, though they have just as good food, just as much warmth and attention as an ordinary chicken. What they need is the personality of the hen. Just so the home."

"Women will never make a success at public life," Mrs. Martin continued, handing a death blow to the hopes of the militant suffragettes. "For one reason, because they do not co-operate—or if they do so at all, it is reluctantly. They are not generous and cannot understand that fraternal spirit which makes men congregate wherever they are. They cannot hold long discussions, as men do, for their minds do not run in straight lines, rather in circles. It's more exciting, but one who pursues that course never arrives anywhere."

"Women do not enjoy one another's society. They tire of each other and become cross and critical. If a band of women were shut up on an island for any length of time they would be lunatics before long. Their delicate susceptibilities could not stand the strain of contact with other minds equally as erratic in their orbits as their own."

"Their clubs have become mere lecture courses, where they remain after the paper is read only if forcibly detained by afternoon tea. Men do not need tea and lectures to make them congregate."

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