

# The Morning Astorian

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### TREATMENT OF CRIMINALS.

The Hearst newspapers are now discussing in rather a vigorous manner the problem of treatment of criminals. This question has been discussed more or less for years, yet nothing has been done, seemingly, toward correcting the evil existing in the conduct of our penal institutions. Indeed, the methods have grown worse, until now prisons are literal manufacturing of criminals.

The Examiner points out the radical change which has been brought about in treatment of insane persons. Some years ago lunatics were most shamefully abused and subjected to frightful tortures. Those unfortunates who were taken to state institutions could not possibly improve under the methods of treatment in vogue and soon succumbed to the cruelty of their keepers. Science, however, has converted insane asylums into humane hospitals, where the insane are gently cared for and gradually, in many instances, nursed back to health and mental vigor.

The same reform must be brought about in the conduct of prisons if the criminal evil is to be obliterated, wholly or in part. Inmates of penal institutions are subjected to treatment calculated not to better their natures, but rather to reduce them to lower moral plane. They are attired in stripes, denied the privilege of conversing and otherwise are made to feel that the world is against them. Not infrequently they are beaten by brutal keepers. Their souls are embittered and they emerge from prison even more thoroughly imbued with wrongful ideas than when they entered.

Crime is a disease; if it were not, it would be more general. It must be scientifically treated, just as disease of the body is treated. It would be as reasonable to treat a consumptive by confining him in a close, foul dungeon as to subject a criminal to cruelty in an effort to elevate his moral character. The disease can not be beaten out of him; it must be humanely and scientifically eradicated.

Certainly our prison system is sadly lacking, and, considering our advance along every other line of science, it is surprising that more progress has not been made. It would be a genuine triumph for Oregon if her prison officials were to lead the way in this needed reform and establish a precedent for the older states of the union.

### MIXED SITUATION IN NEW YORK.

The political situation in New York state and in the city as well is decidedly mixed. Local fights may give the Empire state to Parker or Roosevelt and thereby influence adjoining states to a very material extent. The gubernatorial candidates will also have much to do with the outcome of the presidential election. Discussing the situation the New York Commercial, independent, says:

It is not surprising that the betting on New York state is even. Both sides profess confidence, but neither feels sure. If the republicans could secure Mr. Root as their candidate for governor, they would be much more inclined than they are now to offer odds on their ability to carry the state. If the democrats, on their side, could shake off Hill's control of their organization—as the World implores them to do—and could secure the nomination of a first-class man as their candidate, they would feel more eager to accept republican offers of money at even terms than they do now, and they might perhaps give odds.

A peace of some kind has been patched up between McCarren and Murphy by the appointment of Murphy's close friend, State Senator Dowling, as a member of the democratic executive committee; but it is too soon to say whether or not it will be permanent. It must be borne in mind that neither McCarren nor Murphy cares for Judge Parker's interests except as a secondary consideration. Both are fighting for control of matters in the city of New York, because it is through that source that their living comes. They get nothing out of national politics, and want nothing, provided they have control of the government of New York city. If local interests and national interests pull together, they will work for both equally, but if success in the city calls for the neglect or sacrifice of national interests, the welfare of a presidential candidate is of small concern to them.

Hill is showing his hand in a very offensive manner in inducing the democratic organization to refuse to accept the republican proposal that both parties unite upon Justice Cullen for chief judge of the court of appeals and Justice Werner for associate judge. Both men are now on the court of appeals bench by assignment. The former is a democrat, and the latter a republican. Both have demonstrated by many years of service on the bench that they are able and honest judges. Justice Cullen gave grievous offense to Hill when, in February, 1892, he declared in a decision on the contested election cases of the previous year that Hill as governor, Rice as secretary of state, and Maynard as counsel of the controller, had taken a legal election return from the mails in the controller's office, and had thus prevented it from going before the board of state canvassers where if canvassed, it would have defeated the Hill-Maynard plot for securing control of the state senate. Though a democrat, Justice Cullen showed himself to be an upright and fearless judge by this decision. It will be a most unfortunate thing for the democrats if they shall allow Hill to prevent the nomination of Justice Cullen for the highest judicial position in the state because of his fearless honesty.

If the republicans cannot draft Mr. Root into their service, they are going to have difficulty in finding a candidate whose nomination will not be something like an anti-climax. He is so large a figure, being as the saying is "a man who can be seen across the state"—and even more than that, a man who can be seen across the whole country—that there is really no other possible candidate in his class. It may be unkind to say it of several eager aspirants, but it is true, nevertheless, that the mere mention of their names after his causes a general tendency to mirth. They might run in ordinary times, but to run after Mr. Root had been spoken of as "sizing up" to the requirements of the situation would be so ludicrous as to amount to an invitation to defeat.

As it stands today, New York state is anybody's fight. A blunder by either side in the selection of its candidate would throw the election into the hands of the other.

### SECRETARY SHAW.

Leslie M. Shaw, secretary of the treasury, is a public man of the type dearest to the heart of the American people. As a farmer, a country banker and lawyer, he was in close touch with the people and they with him. When he entered political life he took with him the qualifications that had made him not merely respected, but highly popular in private life.

His simplicity, his absence of pose, his friendliness, his fine touch of humor and his solid wisdom, which entirely lacks even a suspicion of dogmatism, are all qualities which appeal to an American audience. He is without any question one of the most successful campaign speakers in the country today, because of these qualifications and because of the perfect sincerity of conviction which shines out in all that he says.

The state of Washington needs no argument to convince it of the necessity of re-electing President Roosevelt. In proportion to population, it is a safe bet that Washington gives the largest republican majority of any state in the union. Nevertheless, the people of the state are much pleased at having the opportunity to hear the distinguished gentleman who occupies the second place in the cabinet of the president of the United States, and who has already distinguished himself as in the front rank of the great financiers who have held that office—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

If it is actually true that the Russian cruiser Askold and the torpedo boat destroyer Grozovoi have been dismantled, and have gone out of business as it were, how deeply the loss must be felt by the Shanghai news correspondents. The daily cablegram concerning these two unfortunate boats may be a thing of the past. But let us not be too sure—Banquo's ghost is hard to down.

When a Portland electric car kills a child, injures a woman and smashes a wagon in running five blocks, one is inclined to inquire what is the use of going to the expense of hiring a motorman anyway? The pesky car could hardly make a worse record than that if it were running entirely on its "own hook."

Ex-Fish Commissioner Reed is right. Every salmon packer, every fisherman and the fish warden should be arrested for violating the law this year. All that is required is a man mean enough to file the complaints. Here's a rare chance for Mr. Reed to distinguish himself.

Does anybody know what has become of the report of the seawall committee? It would be interesting to know whether or not sentiment favors building of the seawall.

The republicans profess to be pleased with Mr. Parker's speech of acceptance. That makes it unanimous.

For downright indecency, the right-hand column of the editorial page of the Oregonian takes the prize.

## Biliousness

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### Will Connect North Head With Portland.

Within a short time the work of laying the new United States Weather Bureau cable from Flavel across the mouth of the Columbia river to Fort Canby will be commenced, according to Jesse M. Robinson, chief of the telegraph division of the Western Bureau, who is in Portland today to discuss the proposition with District Forecaster Edward A. Beales. Mr. Robinson leaves for Astoria and Flavel in speaking of the project which will give the local station direct uninterrupted communication with North Head. Mr. Robinson stated that the cable had been shipped from New York on the 12th of this month and was due to arrive within a very short time. It weighs about 100 tons and is nearly 11 miles long.

Heretofore all communication with North Head has been by means of telephone, and during the winter months the line is often broken by falling trees, flying branches or heavy winds. The fact that it is open to the public makes it hard to get for Weather Bureau service at the times when it is needed most.

When the cable arrives at Flavel it will be loaded on a lighter and uncoiled into the water as the lighter is towed across the mouth of the river. No relaying will be necessary, the communication from North Head to Portland being direct.—Telegram.

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7:00 p.m.	depot for Astoria	9:40 p.m.
12:30 p.m.	and way points	

Leave	ASTORIA	Arrive
7:45 a.m.	for Portland and	11:30 a.m.
6:10 p.m.	way points	10:30 p.m.
		12:50 p.m.

Leave	ASTORIA	Arrive
8:15 a.m.		7:40 a.m.
11:30 a.m.	for Warrenton,	10:30 a.m.
11:35 a.m.	Hammond, Ft.	4:00 p.m.
5:50 p.m.	Stevens, Seaside	5:50 p.m.
12:55 p.m.		

Leave	SEASIDE	Arrive
6:15 a.m.	for Warrenton Ft.	9:25 a.m.
9:40 a.m.	Stevens, Ham-	12:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	mond, Astoria	1:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m.	Flavel	7:20 p.m.
		12:50 p.m.

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