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A RECENT CONVERT.

Editorially, on Sunday, our esteemed contemporary, the Oregonian, gave the gamblers its very straightforward opinion of them. Commenting on the decision of the circuit court that the charter of the city of Portland does not countenance the crime of gambling, the Oregonian says that the "gambler is lucky to be on earth;" that "gambling is wrongdoing of the most palpable, unmitigated nature, without standing in any court;" that "it has no lodgment or refuge anywhere except in the dock, where it belongs;" that a gambler has "no more right to hold up his head as a business man than a prostitute has at a mothers' prayer-meeting;" that the city has been stirred to its depths against open gambling by the "ostentation shown by boss gamblers in investment of their ill-gotten gains and in a complacent swagger which indicated that they owned the town." Incidentally, the Oregonian predicts a hard winter for the knight of the green cloth.

Well!

As we look back over the events which have led to this rather severe arraignment of the Oregonian's erstwhile friends, we pause to marvel at the very decided change of sentiment which has come over our Portland contemporary. It appears to us the Oregonian has been rather slow in arriving at conclusions which have been a source of constant irritation to other people for many, many years. We naturally wonder what particular difference there is between the present-day gambler and the gambler who plied his vocation three or four years ago. As far as our information goes, we are satisfied the men engaged in the gambling "business" are the same who have operated for several years past. Surely, they are no worse now than then. Then the Oregonian had no such arraignment for them, nor did it put its black mark upon the outrageous saloon box. Now it brands them criminals and says they are lucky to be on earth.

We have always given the Oregonian credit for its ability to arrive within a reasonable time at sensible conclusions, but it has exceeded the time limit in the matter of gambling and gamblers. For once, our Portland friend has been laboriously slow. It has been sure, it is true, but its readers will probably consider it remarkable that the representative journal had not long ago voiced this sentiment.

The saloon box fell before the onslaught of the Portland Daily Journal, and that newspaper has put the quietus on gambling. The Journal, acting independently while still struggling for prestige, has accomplished more for true reform than the Oregonian has accomplished in the half-century of its existence. The Journal has not been influenced, and its success only serves to demonstrate the unwavering utility of an independent publication. After the death struggle and the triumph of decency the Oregonian steps to the front to damn the vanquished.

The showing is not a flattering one for the morning paper, but it is gratifying to know the Oregonian has at last acknowledged the evil of gambling. To the merciless it has been merciful in the past, when it alone reflected public sentiment, but now it cries, "No quarter!" The cry is pitifully late, for the period during which quarter might have been implored has passed. It is a bitter parting of old friends. Had it been anticipated, perhaps the swaggar indicating ownership of the town would never have been taken on.

But Portland is to be congratulated. It has taken a long step forward and will be better and more prosperous for it.

THE "YELLOW-PERIL" ABSURDITY.

As the far eastern war progresses the utter absurdity of the "yellow-peril" scare is more and more apparent. It has been insisted by the pro-Russian element that victory for the Japanese would so strengthen the position of the brown men as to justify alarm for the safety of the white races, which would be promptly overrun by the "yellow" hordes.

The "yellow" cry is calculated only to arouse sentiment against the Japanese, and, so far as is apparent at present, has absolutely no basis. The Japanese are showing themselves to be of superior intellect, and we of the western world have nothing to fear from intelligence. If the Japs triumph in the present war, as seems likely, they will have won the

victory of tact and bravery. They are proving themselves quite the equals of the warriors of the older and more enlightened nations, and are demonstrating that they are to become worthy people, of credit to the world.

The fighting of the past few days around Mukden has been a series of battles in which generalship has counted. Oyama's victory was gained in an hour. The Japanese general took advantage of an effort on the part of the Russian commander to change the position of his forces, and in the brief period mentioned, after terrific fighting of undecisive character, the day was won for the mikado's men. Had Oyama been of inferior ability, he would have been defeated. Concisely stated, he outgeneraled Kuropatkin and the other distinguished commanders with whom he is associated.

There must be some reason for the continued Japanese successes. The defeat of the Russians has been excused all along, but never reasonably. The Japanese commanders have tried conclusions with about all the Russian generals, and the Slavs have been invariably defeated. Considering that the opposing forces are numerically equal, there is but one explanation of the success of the brown men—they have displayed superior mental strength. War is a game of science and the most intellectual men win. We have yet to hear that the Russians have shown cowardice. They are, the dispatches from Tokio and St. Petersburg tell us, quite as "fanatical" as the Japanese.

The Japs are a new people, in a way, and they are evidently a capable people. They plan and they act, and both in planning and action show marked intelligence. If the Japs expand, the world will be the better for it. The fittest will not perish; nature decreed that they should survive.

THAT RELIC OF DESPOTISM.

One of the latest victims of that barbarous law which permits imprisonment for debt in New York under certain circumstances is to seek damages in a suit against his persecutors—an installment-plan furniture company, says the New York Commercial.

Briefly, the only offense of Thomas Zablosky, just released from Ludlow street jail through the intervention of Sheriff Erlanger, was that he introduced a prospective customer to the company, and that, later on, when this customer had defaulted in part on his payment for a purchase, he helped the company to recover the goods. Had this installment house managed to collect practically the whole of the selling price and then gotten the goods back, too, it might possibly have been satisfied. As it was, it proceeded deliberately to put the introducer of the customer behind the bars.

Zablosky makes affidavit that he was locked up on an order of arrest in a civil action brought by the company against him as a co-defendant with the purchaser of the goods—this, although he was in no way responsible for the bill of goods, had never been served with a summons and knew nothing whatever about any such suit until after he had been thrust into jail. He might still be languishing there, had not the sheriff discovered his predicament and secured his release.

It is quite probable that in this instance the victim's grievance does not lie so much with the law that permits the imprisonment of debtors as it does against those who are responsible for the failure to properly summons him to the court at the outset. But the outrage would have been impossible of perpetration did not a vicious statute furnish a convenient club for such persecution. The imposition of heavy damages in this case would help materially to put the law into popular contempt and thus lead to its ultimate repeal.

The millionaire who leased apartments in one of the new hotels in New York at \$125 a day found the bed too short for him. The fit may be better after he pays the first month's bill.

General Booth, of the Salvation Army, says no man should run an automobile unless he is prepared to die. He should at least be prepared to bribe the constable.

Experts are now discussing the question as to what should be done with our idiots. Better lock them up before they begin paying those wheelbarrow election bets.

There is a report of some discontent among the Minnesota farmers. It may be necessary to have the Chicago farmers raise the price of wheat again.

A political crowd out in Indiana threw decayed vegetables at a campaign orator. That's about the first report of real interest in the campaign.

Officials of the labor bureau report that there are very few idle men, which is probably due to the fact that the politicians are all at work.

Michigan has a \$7,000,000 bean crop, and is now ready to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with Boston.

Somehow, the democratic editors have quit comparing Senator Fairbanks to an iceberg.

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