

THE JOURNAL

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The common problem, yours, mine, everyone's, is not to fancy what were fair in life, provided it could be, but finding first what may be, then find how to make it fair, up to our means.

THE ASSASSINATION OF DOLPH.

Does a glance at the past encourage Oregonians to desire legislative selection of senator? There, for instance, was the political butchery of the late Senator Dolph. It occurred at Salem under circumstances that reeked with infamy.

Senator Dolph was an illustrious statesman. He held a distinguished position in the senate. His conspicuous ability made him a factor in the councils of that body. He had a caucus nomination for senator.

Over night, the buccannery at the state capital got in their deadly work, and the next day Mr. Dolph lacked one vote of an election. The majority wanted him, but a beggarly minority determined to ruin or ruin.

Mr. Dolph was butchered. It mattered not that his personal and public record was spotless. It mattered not that he was a man of illustrious parts. It mattered not that the interests of the state were to be sacrificed in his defeat.

CHANGING STANDARDS.

Changes of standards or systems are difficult and if possible at all are usually brought about only by slow, long processes. People cling to the old and tried, and what they are accustomed to, even when not doubting that the new would serve their purpose better.

vestors and engineers insisted that the standard track gauge of 4 feet, 8 1/2 inches, should be changed to 6 feet, as was then in vogue in England, but after years of costly effort the attempt to change the gauge was abandoned, though now railroad men admit that a broader gauge would be far better.

So in political, economical and educational fields, we cling to the old; inertia is scarcely to be overcome; we make changes, even though we nearly all know they would be for our benefit, reluctantly and doubtfully.

A change in educational methods and standards has been easier, for obvious reasons, and has been gradually going on for years, and will continue, for it has not yet progressed far enough nor altogether in the best directions.

These remarks necessarily offer only a mere hint of the changes that are taking place and should take place in our standards and methods of education.

TAXING INHERITANCES.

The late Henry O. Havemeyer left his property, estimated at from \$15,000,000 to \$25,000,000, entirely to his immediate family, giving nothing for charitable or civic purposes. He had a perfect legal right to do this, and many would say a perfect moral right, too.

The first of these propositions is not worth discussing, except for the purpose of seeing how laws could be changed to prevent the monopolization of a product, for every multimillionaire is a law unto himself as to the disposal of his wealth; but the second proposition, the one for an inheritance tax, is practical and worthy of consideration.

Objections to an inheritance tax will occur at once to any one; it violates the constitutional requirement that taxation shall be equal and uniform, it would discourage thrift and enterprise, it would be evaded by some and so would be an injustice to others, and it is essentially socialistic; but all these and the rest of the objections put together are not sufficient to overbalance the arguments in its favor.

pays for this as he goes along. No; he does not. As a rule, the man with a little pay, even in direct taxes, a far greater percentage than the man with much; and in indirect taxes, especially tariff taxation, he pays many times as large a rate. Of the hundreds of multimillionaires in New York city, none pay on more than a small fraction of their wealth, some not on a thousandth part of it, and the same is true in other large cities.

On grounds broader and more general—but very likely again unconstitutional—such a tax is to be defended, namely, that without adopting socialism the general policy of the government should be to benefit the masses of the people, rather than a few, to ease the burdens of the many poor rather than those of the very rich, and so make life easier and more tolerable for the average man, and especially for the worthy poor man raising a family and by the closest economies trying to gain and maintain a home and educate his children.

Mr. Havemeyer came here from a foreign country and found this a land of great opportunity. He had business ability and improved one of the many opportunities to become very wealthy. The government helped him to do so, and yet perhaps taxed him scarcely more during all these years than one of his workmen; what injustice would there be then in the government requiring him at his death to turn over part of his great wealth, leaving his family still very wealthy, to the country, the government, the people, all of whom had aided him in his enterprise?

GAG LAW.

It is the inalienable right of a newspaper to criticize any person holding public office or performing public duties, if that person is derelict or untrue to the trust reposed in him. Indeed this is not only the right but the duty of a newspaper, and if it fails to call attention to the delinquencies of public officials it ceases to deserve the confidence of the people.

In the performance of what he deemed his duty to the people of his community, George Putnam, editor of the Medford Tribune, criticized a local grand jury and the district attorney for failing to indict a man who had been guilty of a murderous assault. The grand jury retaliated by indicting the editor. Now behold the unutterable farce that was enacted when his case came to trial.

Putnam desired to prove that the murderous assault was committed. This he had to do in order to show that the grand jury failed in its duty when it omitted to indict the man guilty of the assault, and that his editorial criticism was consequently justified. But the court refused to admit this evidence on the ground that the question whether an assault had been committed was res judicata; that inasmuch as the grand jury had concluded that there was no assault, their conclusion could not be assailed. In other words, when the grand jury had acted no newspaper had any right to question the correctness of their conclusions.

It would be difficult to conceive of any more pernicious or more dangerous judicial decision than this. It aims a direct blow at the freedom of speech, which is guaranteed by our constitution, and it places a grand jury beyond the reach of censure or criticism. This is not common sense and we do not believe it is law.

The attorneys for Thaw and their hired expert alienists are going to show that it was "stuporous melancholia," rather than "dementia Americana," or "exaggerated ego," that was his excruciating affliction when he killed Stanford White. But people generally had an idea that Thaw was rather a gay and lively gen, even on that occasion. However, one term will do about as well as another for an excuse.

the president on this subject came of course from the senator, and if he should not consider himself a reformer, who would? A good many people in Oregon who are familiar with the senator's brief but not barren career as a member of the legislature will learn for the first time that his purpose and object were reform.

Now Mr. A. L. Mohler gives another cause for present and prospective retrenchment on the part of railroads, namely, the increasing area of prohibition. He intimates that if prohibition goes on gaining ground the railroad business will decrease in similar ratio. There may be some truth and reason in this prediction, though we imagine it is magnified considerably in Mr. Mohler's mind.

Senator Bourne, according to a Washington report, declined to discuss the Schuebel-Bingham imbroglio, lest if he did so the public might draw the inference that there was friction among the Oregon delegation in congress. O, no, such a fear is surely without any foundation; the public would not suppose there was the least friction whatever, unless the members got into a fist fight, at least. All is perfectly serene and harmonious among them, we are sure.

If Mr. Bourne were at the head of a great corporation or cooperative concern, in which millions of dollars a month were handled and thousands of people were interested, to whom he, as general manager, was responsible, would he appoint Christian Schuebel his head attorney? If not, was he doing his duty by the people of the United States and of Oregon in particular in selecting Mr. Schuebel for district attorney?

The time has not come, and will not come, in this country, when a newspaper cannot criticize the action of a district attorney, a grand jury, or even a court. In fact, we know of no public servants more deserving of criticism now than many judges.

Perhaps the supreme court, when that decision in the Putnam case comes up, will be inclined to ask: "What is the matter with Hanna?"

Letters From the People

Facts About Kelly Butte. Portland, Or., Jan. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal: For some time the Telegram has been making a vicious and unwarranted attack on A. S. Briggs, superintendent of Kelly Butte. This source of information is from prisoners and a discharged guard. They have printed articles freely that were against him, but have refused to print any communication sent to them that was in his favor.

We all know the attempt at reform the Telegram has recently made. It has gone from the subject of "Dogs Digging for Worms" to "Punish or Send to Hell," and when a reform was naturally worked out by the authorities, they originally intended, it comes forth with the headline of "Telegram Wins Another Victory."

A short time ago the county court desired to place some one as superintendent of Kelly Butte. An investigation was held and Mr. Briggs' record proved so satisfactory to the court, for many months, that he was promoted to the superintendency. The result of the investigation did not please the Telegram, for they knew "how a victory" they would win.

The fact that it will print articles freely against Mr. Briggs from criminal records, which are "reputable citizens is sufficient to brand an injustice. It is a strong indication that they are not actuated by motives to do the county a service, but are unjustly attacking from purely personal reasons. A newspaper that will stoop to such journalism as that is guilty of a greater crime than the crime of which they accuse the superintendent of the county jail.

The other guards had this prisoner in custody for a week, and it was his duty to see that he was held in the time. If we are to hold Briggs responsible we will have to prove a conspiracy between the guards. It was his duty to see that he was held in the evening. Earle escaped from Kelly Butte by visiting her husband at Kelly Butte, where he was held in the cell of the Montavilla carline with Mr. Briggs. This is an absolute falsehood, for the evening of Earle's escape Briggs left Kelly Butte and Mrs. Earle was still there.

FIRST PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM

The revival of Sunday laws in various cities is distinctly a religious movement. The laws in the first place reflected the religious creeds and predilections of their authors.

In taking notice of the flaming zeal which everywhere accompanies Sunday law enforcement, it should be remembered that, notwithstanding the pious inspiration of Sabbatarianism, the courts have held almost without exception that violation of this kind can be sustained only on secular grounds. To advance religious belief as a reason for Sunday blue laws would be to nullify them.

We have the strange spectacle, therefore, of religious laws enacted and enforced by the courts, and upheld by courts which deny that they are religious laws and assert that they are nothing more than police and health measures.

This is a situation calling for a little common honesty and for some genuine American backbone. If the courts are to be enforced in obedience to a religious demand and for religious purposes, they should be carefully revised by the law-making powers, for it is probable that the best religious sentiment today is not reflected in these fantastic enactments.

Religious laws having no standing in the eyes of the courts, and the fact that they are secular in purpose ought to be easily repealed. When they were first enacted in this country they had the sanction of the church, of wealth, of money and of the state.

What Will the Poor Girls Do? Wyeth, Or., Jan. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal:—This being leap year the young men of Wyeth, to protect themselves against the many matrimonial attacks by the young ladies, have formed a club which most of the young men have joined to win the prize given to the one who is most successful this year in refusing proposals of the young ladies.

The Honorable Allies.

Great excitement in Tokio; great grief in London. An honorable treaty joins the White man and the Brown. The worthy British Lion loves the red-rayed flag and Union Jack henceforth shall wave as one.

The honorable Briton, when the treaty has been signed, will be filled with the spirit of the patriot. "Unselfish in outlook, he works for the entire west, and not just for Oregon," he has said, "yet he is filled with the spirit of the patriot."

Prince Arthur's Birthday.

Prince Arthur, of Connaught, one of the most popular members of the British royal family, was born January 13, 1851. He is the only son of the Duke of Connaught, brother of King Edward.

Doubtful About Teddy.

From the Los Angeles News. William E. Curtis tells the story of a little girl who was saying her prayers at bedtime one night recently: "After repeating 'Now I lay me down to sleep,' and asking 'God to bless her mother, father, sisters, two brothers, poor and rich,' she added: 'Oh, Lord, be awful careful of yourself, because we have only you and the president to depend upon, and he doesn't like the way he is acting.'"

His Unfortunate Business.

From the Catholic Standard and Times. "Why is it," asked the fox, "that you always look so gaunt?" "Oh," replied the rabbit, "it's all due to the business I'm in. I always have to keep away from the door until there's nothing left in the house to eat."

Small Change

Bourne never writes to the newspapers. There is no disgrace in running for office. Schuebel, if capable will earn his salary. Clearing house certificates are about out of date.

Nevada belongs in the Arizona and New Mexico class. There is no danger of Mr. Henry suffering from ennuil.

Isn't there an anti-spitting-in-the-face ordinance in Paris? Everybody who can employ labor advantageously should do so now.

Maybe we had our winter last summer; there wasn't a great deal of difference. There is nothing in the new scriptural discovery upholding the Dingley tariff law.

Governor Hughes has some mighty good ideas, whether he is fit for president or not. How those old boozers of Georgia must be suffering by this time. But maybe not.

It has not been reported that Fulton called on the president on his return to Washington. Count Boni is probably very mad because he can't get at his wife to lick her some more.

"The Lord knows," says Mr. Taft. But the Lord seems to let us work out our own salvation. Now is the time to "launch" candidates and "get into the race," also to "make the fight."

A New York man has buried 14 wives and yet if he has any money left may a woman would marry him. A Jersey City woman gave a man \$12 to marry her. She can't reasonably expect much of a man at that price.

If Secretary Taft is going to attempt to answer all the questions everybody asks, he will have a steady and strenuous job. A Detroit preacher says: "In the next world there will be no cabinet, no king, no pope, no deacons, no bishops. There are lots of worse people and things than these."

Detroit News: Only \$125,000 for Attorney Cronwell for transferring the property of the Panama Canal company to the United States? Huh! A savings bank receivership is worth more than that.

The new minister from Greece is quoted as saying: "I never saw greater resemblance between the women of two different races, than between those of your own country and those of our people. He would better not marry a Greek woman, as anything like her would ruin him."

Chamberlain for Vice-President

From the Salt Lake News. This is the launching of a real vice-presidential boom, and is the first boom of that kind ever to be launched in Salt Lake. One circumstance is present to guarantee that it will live longer than the day on which it is launched, and how near Salt Lake is getting to the westward shifting center of events, is suggested by the fact that the town in which this boom will fight its way to final defeat or success, lies just over the mountains to the east.

July is the time for the boom to come in here. Denver is the place, and George E. Chamberlain, the place, of Oregon, is not in this case, the girl—but the twice elected Democratic governor of Colorado, and the man who, of western men, is best known in the east, and of the men in his own country is the most widely loved.

The reporter to set down this record of the launching of a boom for Chamberlain for vice-president, fell aghast at the white sea of delegates who ran into a fair of local Democrats and bearded Fisher Harris in his den. The effect of the hour was to get Fisher to speak on other matters, and the farming president was making the beginning of a Chamberlain boom and the work was done.

"You can't say things too good about George Chamberlain for me," he said and I tell you this boom for the vice-presidential boom, and many a one. Chamberlain knows the east, and he knows the west, and what's best of all is that he knows that no good can come of any other way, but he can't say anything about it affecting Oregon one way or another. So whenever there is anything done to promote the west, you find Chamberlain supporting it with intelligence, energy, and a good heart. He is the man who more than any other has done for the west, and that exposition has been the greatest single agency working in the past five years to attract to the west.

Salt Lake knows Chamberlain. When the Salt Lake convention brought to the attention of the delegates the name of Chamberlain, the president of the convention, the presiding officer was Governor Chamberlain. He guided the convention on every point, and his demonstration of the west, its needs, and its opportunities. Quiet in manner, he yet gravitated easily to the center of interest, and his personality remained as one of its most agreeable spirits.

There is only one other Democrat," said Fisher Harris, "who is a serious rival to Mr. Chamberlain. This is Governor Johnson of Minnesota, who is a marked success, and that exposition has been the greatest single agency working in the past five years to attract to the west. Chamberlain is to lose to the west. Going on to speak of the Oregon man, Mr. Harris declared in all the warmth of his heart that he was a warm backer from a man to whom he would never furnish return support. "George Chamberlain is a clean, clear, and bright man, a dollar. Without an exception he is the ablest man in the west. He was born in Vermont, yet he is filled with the spirit of the patriot."

"Unselfish in outlook, he works for the entire west, and not just for Oregon," he has said, "yet he is filled with the spirit of the patriot." "I haven't heard of a Chamberlain boom anywhere else as yet," was suggested. "No, you haven't," came the answer. "This is the original launching of it. I haven't either, only it is the best boom I ever saw, and it is going up. You write up this interview and you can launch the boom."

And there now, it is done. Bryan and Chamberlain are the best of friends. It may be supposed, for any western Democrat, but the wild steed of unbridled ambition is not in the question. Chamberlain is a man of high character beyond reproach, a signally successful career in office, and I want to see him named for vice-president on the Democratic ticket.

Prince Arthur's Birthday.

Prince Arthur, of Connaught, one of the most popular members of the British royal family, was born January 13, 1851. He is the only son of the Duke of Connaught, brother of King Edward. His full name is Prince Arthur Frederick Patrick Albert. Prince Arthur received a liberal education, as do all members of the royal family, and has been supplemented by extensive travel in many parts of the world. The young prince is a sportsman and a dandy, whom he has represented at the king, coronations and other important functions abroad. One of these occasions was when he was in Canada two years ago to confer the Order of the Garter upon the milkmaid, Prince Arthur and his suite returned by way of Canada, and was heartily received by all the cities in which he stopped. One of Prince Arthur's two sisters is the wife of the Swedish crown prince. The other is the popular Princess Victoria Patricia.

This Date in History.

1805—Salmon P. Chase, chief justice of the United States supreme court, born. Died March 7, 1873. 1813—John Armstrong of New York became secretary of war. 1814—Thanksgiving in Great Britain for successes over Bonaparte. 1846—Hessamborn, Lexington burned on Long Island sound, with loss of 141 lives. 1855—Schuyler Colfax, seventeenth vice president of the United States, died. Born March 23, 1823. 1891—Parnell presided over meeting of Irish National league in Dublin. 1892—John D. Rockefeller, philanthropist, died.

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Oregon Sidelights

A telephone line is being built from Eugene to Donna. Island City is to have electric lights again from the flour mill power.

Hubbard wants a harnessmaker, one who can also make shoes preferred. G. C. Mathews of Lane county has killed over 100 cougars with one gun.

Morrow county has 205,169 sheep, 50,000 less than last year, all in good condition. By various persistent methods Grant county stockgrowers are getting rid of coyotes.

Five families have within a few weeks bought parts of a former large farm near Central Point. J. W. Cook of McMinnville, 51 years old, had last week lettuce, beets, radishes and turnips in his garden.

The Salem board of trade is advertising Salem in 4,000 of 5,000 papers—all the "patent editions" in the country. Many strangers have arrived in Sheridan recently for the purpose of looking over the country with a view of investing in the fertile valley's productive soil, says the Sun.

While no new developments relative to the new outlet to Tule lake have been reported, it is believed that there is no apparent change either as to the amount of water running out or to its disappearance into the "bottomless pit" as it were.

Last Wednesday at noon thermometer in Pendleton registered all the way from 88 to 90 degrees, which was warmer than at Los Angeles or San Diego. For the past two weeks the thermometer has registered above 80 every day, and most of the time the weather has been cloudless.

December was an unusually busy month in the La Grande land office. There were 159 timber and stone proofs, 42 homestead entries, 13 final homestead proofs, 12 mineral claims, 3 original deserts, 48 timber and stone applications, besides a sprinkling of contest cases and minor matters that required an unusual amount of correspondence. The total receipts amounted to \$69,237.98.

Attention Record: The Record has received an offer from a manufacturer to furnish us an automobile and take his pay in advertising. We need it badly, and have instructed the builder to send one of the kind we have in return mail. There is an excellent opportunity to "loop the gap" from the top of one hill to that of the other on either side of Arlington, and we are expecting a lot of fun when the machine arrives.

Heppner Times: The weather so far this winter in Morrow county would do credit to the world-famed winter weather of California. We have had very little freezing weather, the farmer being able to plow at his leisure. Stock have kept in good condition on the range, and the winter work of all kinds has proceeded the same as though it were the fall season instead of midwinter. Yet we have had considerable rain and storm winds, and the outlook for the coming crop is very good.

J. B. Stump of Monmouth had 140 acres in oats in 1907, and threshed out 8,000 bushels, or an average of 57 bushels to 1 acre. Mr. Stump is a specialist on livestock, and has some fine animals. He has a large flock of sheep, and last year shipped about 2,000 bucks. Orchard culture is interesting. Mr. Stump now, and he has just set out 175 acres of work of all kinds. The trees have been planted 80x40 feet apart, and between the rows Mr. Stump has planted 420 Royal Ann cherries, which he expects will bear a good crop. The trees have been planted in the shade of larger trees to protect them by their shade.

Far From Dangerous. From the Philadelphia Press. The boom of Governor Johnson of Minnesota for the Democratic presidential nomination is showing signs of being in a good way, and in some quarters of the country, but it will have to become far more robust than it is to shake the Bryan boom out of the way.