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A GLANCE AT LINCOLN

THE CENTENNIAL of Lincoln's birth occurs next Friday, and to celebrate that occasion fittingly it is well to review his life in advance. A long series of events of national scope culminated in 1861 in one of the greatest national crises and civil wars in the world's history. Elected president only a few months previous, this event hastening the climax, Lincoln, a lately discovered, little known, humble, homely, untried westerner, almost a backwoodsman, became the central figure of that titanic conflict, the head and leader of the nation, through the most crucial, fateful period in its history. That he was not at first trusted by the experienced and supposedly wise, that prominent statesmen could not repose great confidence in him for awhile, that there was widespread doubt of his capacity and fear of results of his administration, and that he was despised by many on account of his crudeness and lack of polish, was natural, and constituted one of the great burdens that he patiently bore through that terrible time. With all but infinite patience and charity he uncomplainingly bore all, suffered all, only to fall by an assassin's hand just as his Christlike eyes were beginning to glow with the inswelling light of rightful conquest and returning peace.

As speeding time separates people further from the chief character of such a tremendous event as our great civil war, they are apt to magnify some of his characteristics and attribute to him almost superhuman qualities. Lincoln was truly great, surely, yet he was altogether human. There was nothing occult about him. He had faults, he made mistakes, he sometimes stumbled as he marched along that awful path of destiny; above and outbursting the president and the commander-in-chief was the individual as God made him, Abe Lincoln. But he had nevertheless the capacity for enormous growth to meet the momentous occasion, to carry the unparalleled burden, to press on, and ever on, even if sometimes in stalling, darkness, to the end. It was in him to run the race, to finish the course, to keep the faith, to earn the bright and fragrant crown of glory, a great nation's undying love.

As to the broad, deep issues of that crucial time, from 1850 to 1865, Lincoln was an exceedingly clear-sighted and far-seeing man. He foresaw the conflict, though he did what he might conscientiously to avert it. And he would not on any magnifying power. The problem is to absolutely eliminate vibration, for any movement, even a footfall half a hundred feet distant, produces vibrations that will destroy the perfection of the surface and distort the object magnified. In the 20 inch model elimination of the vibrations has been secured and the question that remains is whether or not it can be done in a larger device. If it can and if a model 20 feet, 50 feet or even 100 feet can be similarly adjusted the heavens will open like a scroll and man look out into the universe, conqueror of its distances and master of its innermost secrets. Within a short time Professor Wood is to begin the construction of a new model and with great hopes of a glowing success.

THE RAILWAY AMENDMENT

IT WILL not be surprising if the legislature submits the railroad amendment to the electorate. It will not be surprising if the electorate in the election of November, 1910, should adopt it. Even with these vital steps taken there might never be a resort to state ownership of a railroad. The real purpose behind the plan is understood not to be so much a policy of state ownership as of placing the people in position to deliver themselves from the clutches of Mr. Harriman. In nine years Mr. Harriman with his Oregon Railroad & Navigation extorted more than \$30,000,000 from Oregon people. He spent the sum, not in extensions or betterment of the Oregon system, but sent it away and used it in building up other states. On his Southern Pacific lines in Oregon he extorted proportionate millions and used it likewise in building up other states. Meanwhile, vast regions in Oregon are held back in development for lack of railroad mileage because Oregon, Oregon people, Oregon resources and Oregon toll are being exploited by Baron Harriman as a recouping ground for financing his schemes of railroad building elsewhere.

Transportation is the heart and arteries of state life. If this heart and these arteries are inadequate, the life, commercial and industrial, is feeble. Oregon has barely 2000 miles of railroad trackage. She has barely half the mileage of the state of Washington. She is almost at the foot of the ladder in importance as a railroad state. There are but four states that have a smaller mileage per capita of population. She is in the class with Nevada and New Mexico. It is a humiliating and contemptible position. It is the handicap of one man, and that man is E. H. Harriman. He resists the efforts of other railroads to reach the state. He fought the approach of the North Bank at the last extremity of the law. Resistance was so great that with workmen he attempted to

account or for any purpose depart from the line of truth. This fixity of gaze on truth was indeed one cause of his clarity of vision. Reading the Lincoln-Douglas debates now, in the light of history, we see how on this account Lincoln towers like a giant above the mere pygmy Douglas. The so-called "Little Giant" was full of subterfuges, shifts, sophistries, expeditives, compromises, disingenuousness. Lincoln, with gaunt, awkward form and shrill voice, a figure to inspire fear, mirth, or awe, strove straight forward along the line of truth in homely simple phraseology but with such clear, convincing, irresistible logic that the foxy, delusive, plausible arguments of the celebrated orator and brilliant statesman were swept away as a cardboard palace before the slow but steady advance of a mighty engine.

Lincoln was wonderful in his gift of verbal or written expression. He was not what is called an educated man. He had scarcely been to school at all. He had no training. He had read but few books—but these good ones, written in good English. Yet his speeches and state papers are for the most part literary models. College presidents recommended some of them as masterpieces to their pupils. He said all that was necessary, usually no more, and he said it so simply, so clearly, so sincerely, so manifestly in harmony with truth and reason and right, that it became the highest, because the most effective, order of eloquence or of argument.

But beyond all his great ability, and his devoted patriotism and his inestimable public services, the American people revere Lincoln's memory for his tender-heartedness, his all but infinite charity. No creature, even of the lower orders, much less a human being, was beneath his love, and if need be his services and his care. Though for necessary recreation and as an expression of one phase of his nature he would be times crack flavored jokes, he was as innocent as a girl baby. Though he was singularly called to prosecute a great war, he was as tender of heart as a sensitive maiden. Though surrounded by intrigue and iniquity and selfishness and slander, the milk of human kindness in his soul suffered no souring change. Of all the men who have become greatly prominent in the world no one, since that death in the garden of Gethsemane, so fully measured up to Christ's teaching and example, was so nearly an incarnation of the divine in human form.

force to hold the mountain passes required by Hill to reach Oregon and clashes between the opposing parties were frequent. When the law failed to serve his purpose, literal violence was practically invoked. It is a long record of strategem, device and subterfuge by which Oregon has been bottled up and kept bottled up. The like of it is probably unknown in the annals of any commonwealth. It is a story of discrimination, arrogance and extortion such as to anger and arouse to action even the patient people of this patient state. Because of it potential forces have been set in motion in the state and the crystallized reflection of it is the railroad amendment that has been introduced in the house at Salem by Speaker McArthur. It is the living and serious protest of an injured people against the arrogance and injustice of Harriman. It is the hand of a sovereign electorate bearing a mighty implement with which to compel Harriman to be just or be thrust from the state.

The bonds of Oregon are better in any market than those of any railroad magnate. The bonding power of the state is a practical means of deliverance. If the O. R. & N. pays Mr. Harriman a colossal profit of more than \$30,000,000 in nine years, it would, if owned by Oregon or leased for operation to Mr. Hill or other railroad magnate, quickly pay for itself and remain the debtless property of the Oregon people. To such a step we may not be driven. But by the record of our wrongs in the past it is an alternative for which we might well be ready and for that reason it need be no surprise if the legislature votes to submit the amendment.

WORKING FOR BETTER HEALTH

THERE IS much and increasing activity all over the country in behalf of health. Already human life has been considerably lengthened, and made easier, less painful physically, and only a fair beginning of work for this purpose has been made. Elderly people can remember when smallpox, diphtheria and other diseases raged almost unchecked and were usually fatal, and when children died by thousands of group and other infantile ailments. Measles, scarlet fever and other disorders, now rarely fatal, were an annual scourge. And no wonder, the way people lived, frequently in the very midst of all sorts of decaying filth and poisonous stench. That so many lived to old age, that so many even grew up, under such conditions, is rather the marvel. People now, as a rule, live much better, more intelligently and so longer; and now that there is such widespread effort in behalf of health and such an increasing intelligence on the subject, it may be reasonably predicted that a century hence people 100 years old

will be no novelty, and that the average human longevity will have been raised very materially.

Many diseases formerly fatal in a large proportion of cases are now seldom so. Smallpox is no terror. Diphtheria, formerly incurable, now rarely kills, indeed rarely appears. Yellow Jack comes no more to claim for King Death tens of thousands of victims. The war upon tuberculosis will be prosecuted until it, too, is conquered. The doctors are an hundred fold wiser than they were less than 100 years ago. The world is being made cleaner, healthier, happier. We adult people were born too soon. But no dog can choose his own day. And let us be thankful that we were not born in place of our grandfathers.

The congresses and leagues, the societies and organizations, the scientists and investigating physicians, aiming to benefit the public health, are all doing a good work, but many people even in a private capacity can help. The secretary of a local health organization at Jacksonville, Fla., recommends the adoption by everybody of the following resolutions, which are commended:

- That I will take better care of my body.
- That I will seek to know more about my body and so be better able to give it proper care.
- That I will try to aid others that they may take better care of their bodies.
- That I will plan to learn more about the conditions which affect the physical well-being of others.
- That I will give particular attention, as occasion makes possible, to conditions affecting the health of the poor, the ignorant and the neglected.
- That in school, church, club, lodge, union or society I will encourage the discussion of health topics and the suggestion of plans toward better health conditions in the community.
- That I will endeavor, every day of every year, to:

- "Sleep in the Fresh Air."
- "Work in the Fresh Air."
- "Play in the Fresh Air."
- "Live in the Fresh Air."

THE SENATE AND THE LOCKS

THE JOURNAL takes it for granted that the purpose of the majority in the senate toward the Willamette locks is honorable. It is inconceivable that changes will be made in the bill that will interfere with its effectiveness. The desires and plans of the people with respect to it are perfectly understood. The purposes and desires of the interests that oppose it are likewise understood. The profits that come from freight rates 40 to 100 per cent higher than they ought to be are great. The desire to perpetuate that profit naturally makes enemies to an open Willamette. Those enemies never fight in the open, but do their work in secrecy and silence through others. Their opposition not infrequently appears in the form of honey worded professions by legislators themselves, protesting vast interest in the public welfare, but secretly voicing those things the interests themselves desire. Many a virtuous measure has been struck down by the hand of him who wore the garb and spoke the language of a friend.

If there is division in the senate over the locks bill, and if there is purpose to destroy the effectiveness of the measure, it is simply a contest between the people on the one hand and the interests on the other. If, however, the difference is merely one of detail, with the main desire of all to bring forth a measure that protects the people in this plan of securing a free river by bearing half the cost, it is well. The latter, at this distance, seems the more reasonable view of the situation. In any event, by the product, the purpose will be disclosed, and by their votes the men will stand revealed. If the completed measure shall carry full facility for immediate beginning of work the moment the federal government may act, and if it shall hold out complete inducement for the federal government to act at the very earliest moment, the result will be satisfactory. The people, and their voice is mighty because united, will be satisfied with nothing less.

SIX MONTHS' SCHOOL

THE SIX months' school bill is riding the buffeting waves of legislation at Salem. It has passed the house and is in the hands of the senate committee on assessment and taxation. It provides that there shall be at least six months of school per year in every district in the state.

It is a measure of real bigness. It is constructive in that it molds for an enlightened citizen body. It is in striking contrast with some of the measures that have been injected into the legislative proceedings. The true conception of legislation is not the making of laws to regulate petty and trivial matters of personal conduct, but to engraft on the statutes broad policies of action that make for the common and universal strengthening and uplift of the social order. The state itself is the product of the social units gathered into a collective mass. The standard of speed in a battleship fleet is fixed by the slowest vessel, and the average intelligence of the citizen body is fearfully reduced by a section of illiterates. The six months' school is an effort to carry effective instruction into the remotest districts. It is an endeavor to make Oregon education universally effective. It proposes to convey thought and the habits of thought into the mind of

every child in the state and to illumine every neighborhood and every home with a working and workable mentality. It designs for a thinking and thoughtful citizenry, capable of grasping public policies and capable of helpfulness in private concerns. It goes to the very roots of the social garden, where it waters and fertilizes the growing flowers and prepares them for the wholesome growth out of which they will pass into a perfected state of bloom and beauty.

It seems impossible that opposition can intervene against this bill. Its purpose is too lofty, its scope too practical and its ultimate too exalted for it to be opposed. The common school is the sheet anchor of the race. Its work carried into every home and shedding illumination around every fireside, is the hope of the age. Whatever the legislature does to prosper and foster it is a work well done, no matter what the cost.

JAPANESE IN AMERICA

THERE HAS been no better statement of the case of Japanese in the United States than that made recently by Senator Newlands of Nevada, hence it is herein briefly summarized. Nature has classified the peoples of the world mainly under three colors, white, black and brown. East of us are 300,000,000 white Europeans, regarding whom we have established strict immigration laws, though they assimilate with us and become Americans. The blacks we necessarily have with us constitute a great problem, and possibly a great peril of the future. Confronting our Pacific coast are nearly 1,000,000,000 brown Asiatics who, unless restricted, would quickly settle upon and practically take possession of our entire coast region, at least. History teaches that it is impossible to make a homogeneous people by the juxtaposition on the same soil of races of different colors. Only amalgamation, if that, and that is undesirable, will do this. Race antipathy and hostility, under such circumstances, are inevitable. The antagonism would be political, social, industrial and moral. The Japanese in large numbers are more undesirable than the Chinese, who, unlike the Japs, are patient, unambitious and submissive. We admire the Japanese for their strong and progressive qualities, but the two races cannot remain friendly in competition on the same soil.

Laws restricting or preventing immigration are preferable to international treaties. A treaty prevents subjects from going abroad, which we would not do; a law prevents certain people from coming in. At such action Japan cannot justly take offense; she can do the same if she pleases. Such a law is no implication of the inferiority of the excluded race; it may rather be a confession of our inferiority in certain respects, our inability to cope with them economically. Local and sporadic anti-Japanese legislation is impolitic and unwise, but a broad national policy, as herein indicated, should be announced and adhered to. Japan, nor any other nation of brown or black men, cannot reasonably object to it. We do not hate or quarrel with our neighbors because we do not allow their children to come into our house to live.

Except for one or two bills, the greatly important matters pertaining to the development of the state have as yet received but little consideration, or not the amount their importance deserves at the hands of the legislature. As the speaker said last week, it is time to wake up with respect to these larger matters, of incomparably more importance than hat pins, school superintendents' salaries and changes in the code to fit the cases of certain attorneys. The water in streams, water power

rights and irrigation; taxing public service corporations to obtain more revenue; provision for state railroad building; free and open rivers, and settlement of the normal school question, are some of the matters that demand attention and action, rather than, as the Salem Journal expresses it, "absorption in peanut stand controversies."

The president's veto of the census bill because it provides for the application of the spoli system is well grounded, from his viewpoint. The spoli system thus applied is doubtless a great evil, as he says. Yet it may well be doubted if a competitive examination for all the army of census takers and tabulators is a practical improvement. As in many other cases, persons really inferior to others for the work in hand might pass a better examination. A civil service examination is often no real test of a man's actual capacity for a particular job. It is something like a woman deciding on a husband among several applicants on his looks, or his style, or his letter-writing capacity.

Can any one see where party principles have any application to matters before the Oregon legislature for consideration? Of all the bills and resolutions discussed or introduced, is there any to which party politics has any proper application? Does any member, or should any one, act as he does with reference to any measure because he is a Republican or a Democrat? No. There is properly no politics in the whole batch, from bill No. 1 to bill No. 500. Then why this great tiddling about electing members of this or that party to attend to the state's absolutely non-partisan business? Verily, it is mostly claptrap, "humbug."

The people of Multnomah county agreed to pay Sheriff Stevens \$4500 a year for his services, and he sought and accepted the office under a law providing that he should receive no other fees or emoluments whatever. He is entitled to the salary, and we assume earns it, being a capable officer, but he is not entitled to an extra \$4000 a year or so profit on prisoners' food, and it is an imposition on the taxpayers if he takes it. The salary law ought to be strictly observed by the county's chief executive officer.

It is desirable and even important that Portland should acquire more park sites, but the necessity for them is not sufficient to justify submission to extortionate or extravagant demands as to prices. If owners of such grounds will not sell at reasonable, moderate valuations, condemnation proceedings should be resorted to, or lands of less grasping people purchased.

There is a good deal to be said in favor of separate schools for Japanese and other Asiatics, in communities where there are enough of them to form a school. And in the absence of a specific treaty provision on this point, it would seem to be a state or local rather than national or international matter.

Four weeks out of six gone and only one or two bills of importance passed or thoroughly considered. It certainly is high time to quit wrangling over comparative trifles and attend to some important business.

Both houses have resolved to consider no more salary raising bills. This is well, but it would have been better if done about 25 days ago.

Vice-Versa Vision.

From Baraboo, Wis., Enterprise. A Bartlesville man went home drunk the other night and got into bed with his clothes on. When he awoke in the morning he found he was lying with his feet on the pillow. He told a friend afterward that he had dreamed all night that his teeth were aching when it was his shoes which were pinching.

FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

"The United States Led the Way"—By William H. Seward

(From an address before the Young Catholic Friends' society at Baltimore, Md., December 22, 1848.)

We behold at present only the rising of our sun of empire, only the fair seeds and beginnings of a great nation. Whether that glowing orb shall attain to a meridian height or fall suddenly from its glorious sphere, whether those prolific seeds shall mature into autumn ripeness or shall perish, yielding no harvest—depends on God's will and providence. But God's will and providence operate not by casualty and caprice, but by fixed and revealed laws. If we would secure the greatness set before us, we must find the way which those laws indicate and keep within it. That way is new and all untrod. It departed at the beginning from the beaten track of national ambition. Our lot was cast in an age of revolution—a revolution which was to bring all mankind from a state of servitude to the exercise of self-government, from the tyranny of physical force to the gentle sway of opinion, from under subjection to matter to domination over nature.

It was ours to lead the way; to take up the cross of Republicanism and bear it before the nations; to fight its earliest battles; to enjoy its earliest triumphs; to illustrate its purifying and elevating virtues; and by our courage and resolutions, our moderation and our magnanimity, to cheer and sustain its faithful followers through the baptism of blood and the martyrdom of fire. A mission so noble and benevolent demands a noble and generous and self-denying enthusiasm. Our greatness is to be won by beneficence without ambition. We are in danger of losing that holy zeal, we are surrounded by temptations to a selfish and avaricious and our villages are transformed as if by magic into great cities. Fugitives from famine and oppression and the

sword crowd our shores and proclaim to us that we alone are free and great and happy. Our empire enlarges. The continent and its islands seem already to be within our grasp and more and more fabulous wealth opens before us. No public virtue can withstand, gone ever encountered such seductions as these. Our own virtue and moderation must be renewed and fortified under the assaults of such temptations. Where shall we seek the influence adequate to a task so arduous as this? Shall we invoke the press and the pulpit? They only reflect the condition of the public morals and cannot change them. Shall we resort to executive authority? The time has passed when it could compose and modify the political elements around it. Shall we go to the senate? Congresses, seditions and corruptions in all free countries have begun there. Where, then, shall we go to find an agency that can uphold and renovate declining public virtue? Where should we go but there where all Republican virtue begins and must end? Where the Promethean fire is ever to be rekindled until it shall finally expire? Where motives are formed and passions disciplined? To the domestic fireside and humble school where the American citizen is trained. Instruct him there that it will not be enough that he can claim for his country the name of free, but that more than Spartan valor and more than Roman magnificence is required of her. Go, then, ye laborers in a noble cause, gather the young, Protestant and Catholic alike, into the nursery of freedom and teach them there that although religion has many different shrines on which may be made the offering of a "broken spirit" which God will not despise, yet that their country has appointed only one altar and one sacrifice for all her sons, and that ambition and avarice must be slain on that altar, for it is consecrated to humanity.

Stamping Out Consumption—It Can Be Done

From the New York World. Dr. Woods Hutchins figures, and so informed the audience at the tuberculosis exposition Sunday, that if he had \$15,000,000 and despotism powers he could nearly stamp out consumption in New York City. The statement is true.

The state board of health reported yesterday that consumption costs New York state \$63,000,000 a year. Fully half of this is charged to the city. Dr. Hutchins' plan is to isolate all tuberculosis patients to isolation camps. The more advanced cases would die there, the others would get well, go home and go to work.

In the main time collected of direct contagion, new cases would diminish greatly from year to year until by 1913 the disease would be practically gone. The families of wage earning consumers would be spared the expense of doctoring during their absence.

Consumption has already been stamped out among a considerable proportion of the American people. In the death location maps of upstate cities shown in the tuberculosis exposition there are considerable areas where no one dies of consumption.

These are the regions of detached houses, occupied in the main by prosperous and well educated families, whose members begin to understand that to permit one of their number to die of a disease so easily prevented or cured as consumption would be a disgrace.

Yet 50 years ago consumption deaths were probably commoner in well to do native American families than in any others, since these could better afford weather strips, tight coat stoves and other devices for the exclusion of cold air. Tight stoves for open wood fires—to this day the best ventilation known—has cost untold lives. Today all understand that coddling kills, that consumption is communicable and that at the start it can be cured almost invariably. What has been done for the well to do can be done for the poor; only the city must help.

To check consumption in the entire country within the next few years, its annual death rate to about that of diphtheria or measles, and save 100,000 lives a year, might cost for the entire five year period \$125,000,000 in money and some politically dangerous constitutional changes. The support of the army and navy for a single year costs about \$180,000,000.

Why does civilization, which has robbed smallpox, cholera, yellow fever and diphtheria of their status as errors, permit consumption still to stay?

Medford Makes Strong Claims.

From the Medford Tribune. In 1908, more cars of commodities were unloaded by the Southern Pacific at Medford than at any other city in western Oregon outside of Portland. As many as 1000 carloads were made to Medford as compared with any other city. More cars of household goods were shipped to Medford than to any other city, indicating a greater influx of people. These new residents came from a greater number of states and from a greater number of other localities, every state west of the Mississippi being represented. The shipments increased 60 per cent over the shipments of the year previous, and the number of cars an increase of 50 per cent