

THE JOURNAL

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Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.—J. M. Barrie.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

IT IS WELL that there was a Prince of Peace. It is fortunate for the nations that there is a Christmas day. It was a hapless world before the Child came out of Bethlehem with tidings of peace on earth, good will to men.

A seer of old wrote in the Book of books that they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Christmas is a part of our progress toward a world of peace, with each man unafraid under his own vine and fig tree. It has brought us the American president instead of Alexander and his tears for more worlds to conquer.

Mr. Alderman is apparently for a practicalized education, and if so, it is well. Such is his evident meaning in his demand for elimination of theoretical subjects. Many critics of the schools have taken the same position, insisting that the whole system of American education is framed as a preparation for the college and university, and therefore lacking in utilitarian value.

There is no doubt of the rapidly increasing effectiveness of our common schools. That the system should have faults and weaknesses is natural. Everything in life is as yet imperfect, and everything in the midst of corrective and perfecting change.

THE JUROR'S DIFFICULT TASK

SERVING AS juror in a criminal case where the evidence is all circumstantial, when this evidence is strong against the defendant, and yet there is room in the conscientious juror's mind for a "reasonable doubt," is no easy or desirable task. It is a duty imposed on citizens, and most of them perform it with self-sacrificing and praiseworthy fidelity.

It is sometimes argued that compromise verdicts in criminal cases are unjustifiable, that in such a case, for example, as that of Mrs. Kersh, or Ellexson, at La Grande, the verdict should be murder in the first degree or acquittal, that the jurors have no legal or moral right to compromise on murder in the second degree of manslaughter.

A SUGGESTION TO MILLIONAIRES

INCLUDING HIS recent gift of \$10,000,000 to Chicago university, Mr. Rockefeller has given in all \$35,000,000 to that institution. The list of his benefactions in this and other activities now totals more than \$100,000,000.

More bountiful as a giver, Mr. Carnegie's gifts now reach an aggregate of more than \$160,000,000. The list of millionaires and their benefactions is now great in length, and the total of their philanthropies a stupendous sum. Their wealth is literally pouring out in streams upon varied plans for the benefit of their country and countrymen.

of manslaughter. It was a compromise in which one juror who was for acquittal required the eight or nine who originally favored conviction in the first degree to meet him on common ground. It is a verdict that may meet the disapproval of many people, but after all it is a verdict and a conscientious effort by jury to do its duty.

FOR PRACTICAL TRAINING

IN HIS ADDRESS before the Portland meeting of Oregon teachers, L. R. Alderman, who has been elected state superintendent of public instruction, advocated the establishment of vocational schools, the improvement of rural schools, and the elimination of a great many theoretical studies from the public schools.

A poet has said that "We can find tongues in the trees, sermons in the stones and books in running brooks." The country teacher should know that everything in nature has a voice. It was William Cullen Bryant who said, "To him who in the love of nature, holds communion with her visible forms she speaks a various language."

When the country teacher can interpret this language and teach the children in country life to understand it, an influence will be set up to keep the boys and girls on the farm. Every flower has its story, every leaf its tale, and every bud its poem. There is history in the woods, and romance in the meadows. It is all a more beautiful story than the trundle of the street cars in the city, the clatter of the steam hammers or the hoofbeat on the pavement.

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ITS FUTURE

CRY IS GOING up from eastern Oregon, Washington and Idaho for more dairy farmers. The section imports \$14,000,000 worth of dairy products annually from other states, and wants dairymen to come and produce here the commodities that are imported.

In this region, dairy farmers who know their business and attend to it, are highly prosperous. They have beautiful farms, excellent improvements and money in the bank. Such men as the Schulmerichs of Washington county and the dairymen of Tillamook are blazing the way to a dairy industry that will later save Oregon from the humiliation of importing butter and cheese from Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and other states less adapted than our own to dairy production.

MONEY VALUE IN PARKS AND BOULEVARDS

AMONG RECENT developments of municipal duties may be included the provision of parks and boulevards for every prosperous and growing city. That such improvements are desirable no one doubts. When the question is faced shall the city pay for them by general taxation, and if so to what extent, then murmurs are heard.

To justify this open, or behind the scenes, opposition three reasons are suggested. The first objection refers to the city charter. He finds there no clause directly referring to parks and boulevards—but various specific directions justifying outlay for the health of the inhabitants, or providing public facilities to be turned to private profit. So, says the objector, there's no legal warrant for the expenditure. Nor is there, if legal warrant needs expression in direct words, and can no where else be found. So the friends of the measure have to fall back on the elasticity of the general obligation to care for the welfare of the city and its inhabitants in spirit, soul, and body. This having been done is nearly all the rising cities of the nation, custom and precedent have gained the force, if not the form, of law.

A second objector finds that parks and boulevards are expensive luxuries, and mean raised taxes for providing them, and an "army of officials"—a favorite euphemism to maintain them. And yet does not the

relief of the poverty, of the blameless poor in our great cities. On this Christmas day there are many thousands of such in New York, Chicago and other centers. They can earn barely enough to support a miserable existence; they toil ceaselessly, never having a vacation; they can never save anything for a "rainy day"; many of them women and children, are hollow-eyed, always hungry, often cold, insufficiently clad, tied down to drudgery and unremunerative toil. What a mockery Christmas is to such as these. To many of them Santa Claus never comes. The problem with them, ever pressing, and especially in the winter time, is not what to buy or give for Christmas presents, but whether on this happiest of days to the well-to-do they can have a dinner of real meat, whether the hungry children can be supplied with enough at beef-trust prices to satisfy their hunger; whether there is enough money to provide a fire to keep warm, this Christmas day.

Why don't the multimillionaires do something practical to help such people? We speak only of deserving ones, those without bad faults, of the ignorant, squalid, hopeless, tolling poor. It is a large and difficult problem, but surely something could be done with many millions of money to relieve this sad situation. Not in direct gifts of money, perhaps; but in help that would leave the beneficiaries their self respect and stimulate independence of character.

Mr. Rockefeller's or Mr. Carnegie's millions would buy hundreds of thousands of acres of land, for instance, which would support a family on each 20 or 10 acres. This land could be sold on credit at cost, and with it a few head of livestock, some implements, furniture and passage money advanced, all to be paid in 10 years in annual installments. Properly selected, nearly all such families would pay the donor, with moderate interest. And what a change it would be for them—from the squalid, murky, microbe-laden homes in the great city to the bright, broad, beautiful out-doors and health and wealth producing soil of the country.

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SEEKING FOR OIL

ALL THE REST of the people of Oregon are indebted to the oil seekers, even though the latter are doing the boring with little thought of being public benefactors. Oil is being sought in several widely-separated localities in Oregon—in Malheur, Wasco, Polk, Clatsop, Coos, and perhaps some other counties. The greatest outlay in this work has been made near Vale, where several companies have drilled quite deep wells, and there are frequent reports of "encouraging prospects." On the contrary a government alleged expert was reported recently as saying that the attempts to strike oil in that locality were doomed to failure. He may be right, but men are not likely to spend several hundred thousand dollars without having opinions of experts as well qualified to guess as is this government employe. The long time that has elapsed in the work there without results seems discouraging, yet, so far, the wells have not been bored deep enough to ascertain whether or not oil is to be found. It is never found near the surface, and is usually struck at a greater depth than has yet been reached in Malheur county.

Near Dufur it is reported that oil has actually been reached, and is in use as fuel in carrying on the work of drilling deeper, and if this report is true it is certainly encouraging, for where there is a little real oil there is likely to be, far greater quantities lower down. One supposed expert maintains that the country all the way from Dufur to Vale and Ontario is underlaid with oil, but this may be only an optimistic guess. In other localities hope is still bright, and efforts will be continued.

The search for oil in a new region is very largely a gamble, and for that very reason appeals all the more strongly to adventurous men. It is well for Oregon that there are such men, for the striking of great oil deposits would be a mighty important event.

ELECTION AMENITIES IN ENGLAND

IT HAS BEEN the fashion lately to hold up English examples for American imitation, such as speedy trials, quick procedure, inevitable punishment. So far so good. But when it comes to good manners at election time! We fancied that campaigns of abuse were our special property. Not so. The old country has gone, and is still going far ahead of our poor efforts.

This from an English paper just arrived: "At Liverpool Sir Edward Carson,"—an ex-attorney general—"ironically regretted that he was not a cabinet minister paid £5000 a year to spit out dirt by the yard. Next day at Bursley Mr. F. E. Smith,"—a probable attorney general, if the Unionists had won—"described the chancellor of the exchequer, W. Lloyd-George, as racing all over England in pursuit of his own vulgarities and a specialist in official senseless talk. So again Sir Edward Carson dwells on the government's intention of sending three or four hundred scabs or blacklegs into the house of lords to do the dirty work of the Liberal party." The newspapers use the same tricks. "The prime minister is a mock mahdi surrounded by dervish lieutenants," writes the editor of the "Observer." "The chancellor of the exchequer," the writer proceeds, "is the mille end mob monger the number of Lefebvre." The same editor writes of the "mature Gorgonzola of Mr. Lloyd-George's rhetoric"—the English parallel of our limburger cheese. He habitually speaks of the Irish as Molly Maguires, calls Mr. Redmond the Dollar Dictator, and the Buffalo bagman. He states that the Dollar Dictator has wiped his boots on the government of grovel, and will on the British flag.

All this from the high life, house of lords, hereditary peerage party, and the Liberals, if less abusive, are no less bitter. Surely Gladstone and Deacons must be turning in their graves at the degradation of the great art of oratory at which their parliamentary successors have arrived.

Meanwhile the nation is racked from end to end. Doubtless it will survive the issues of this contest. But the quiet voters and non-voters of the Unionist party are well nigh in despair. Listen to one of them,

who writes to an Oregon friend: "If this government comes in again England is doomed. William will come over in a few years to look us up and take care of us. Irish Home Rule will just place a good many thousand men at their disposal to arm against us. Our glorious constitution with its second chamber will be a thing of the past, and England will no longer be the great nation she has been."

One thing is sure. History is being made at a great rate in the British islands, for the old forms of king, lords and commons have gone for good. The old constitution, based on precedent, tested by centuries of slow growth, and adapted to the special needs of every emergency in the nation's life, is in the melting pot, and that pot is very hot just now.

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Is this labor and money spending justified by the results? If the figures can be believed it is. For in two years, Mr. Drew reports, that in a badly neglected orchard of 200 trees, fully 30 years old, a crop of 600 barrels of choice, hand picked, fruit was harvested. And the apples sold at from \$3.50 to \$5 a barrel. Next, an old orchard where scale and cinder had run riot, was taken in hand. In two years the 75 old veterans returned an average of nine barrels of choice fruit to the tree. And so on.

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News Forecast of Coming Week

Washington, Dec. 24.—Beginning with the celebration of Christmas and ending with the festivities accompanying the birth of the New Year, the week will be truly a holiday period. To a great extent all public and private affairs will be permitted to come to a standstill while the people devote themselves to pleasure.

Many public men of note will attend the banquet of the Illinois Society of the War of 1812, to be held in Chicago Thursday evening, at which plans for the building of a great memorial for Commander Perry at Put-in-Bay will be discussed. Football and other branches of college athletics will come up for critical consideration at the fifth annual meeting of the Intercollegiate Athletic association, which is to be held in New York city Thursday. The association has a widespread influence in intercollegiate sport, and has an active membership of 48 leading universities and colleges.

The Iroquois Memorial Emergency hospital, erected in memory of the 400 Iroquois who were killed in the war of 1812, will be formally dedicated to the city of Chicago next Friday, which will be the seventh anniversary of the dreadful holocaust. The first of the large automobile shows of the season will be opened Saturday in the Grand Central Palace, New York. The exhibition will be that of the called independent automobile manufacturers and the announcement is made that it is expected to exceed all of its predecessors in the number and variety of its exhibits.

The annual meetings of many educational associations and learned societies will be held during the week. Among the meetings of general interest will be those of the Southern Educational association at Chattanooga, the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Minneapolis; the American Historical association and allied societies at Indianapolis; the American Philosophical association, at Princeton university; the Archaeological Institute of America, and the fifth annual meeting of the Brown university, and the Society of American Bacteriologists, at Cornell university.

Colonel Hofer's Advice to Taft

From the Salem Journal (Rep.). The old political machine at Portland seems determined to send Oregon over to the permanent Democratic column. They are now trying to have President Taft elected direct primary law collector of customs. Mr. Malcolm is a man of highest character, but he is not worth 10 cents to the Republican party in a campaign. The principal federal appointments in Oregon are frittered away on purely ornamental, bangle wearing brigades who do not even vote the Republican ticket. President Taft makes a serious mistake when he appoints men who make war on progressive Republican policies. He should direct primary law on direct election of senators, is all that men like Malcolm and Colwell represent.

That is all their backers represent, and then President Taft is apt to wonder why Oregon goes Democratic. Because of the staid program of the standpatners to put the party in an attitude of hostility to the people, you frequently hear the statement that neither Taft nor Roosevelt can carry Oregon for the Republican party in 1912. The serious need of the Republican party in Oregon is to take a look ahead, if it wants to get ahead. The rank and file will not surrender the political weapons which enable them to fight down special interests.

When the party is used to reward men who want to rob the people of those weapons the people revolt. The people of Oregon have only the kindest feelings personally towards President Taft, but they will not surrender basic principles of program in public affairs. If he wants to have a look-in for re-nomination, or to carry Oregon for the Republican machine in 1912 he must stop rewarding the enemies of popular government.

Electing U. S. Senators

From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The subcommittee of the senate committee on judiciary has decided to authorize a favorable report upon the proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States, requiring the election of United States senators by popular vote. Whether the full committee will accept this report and thus bring the matter before the senate remains to be seen. In a large number of the states already the election of senators is by popular vote. The constitution itself has been disregarded, precisely as it has been so long disregarded in the matter of the election of president, that the great majority of the people of the country no longer realize that the framers of the constitution attempted to take the choice of president entirely out of the hands of the electors and vest it in a body of selected citizens, to exercise an unrestricted choice.

It would probably be just as well to have direct constitutional election by popular vote. The constitution itself has been disregarded, precisely as it has been so long disregarded in the matter of the election of president, that the great majority of the people of the country no longer realize that the framers of the constitution attempted to take the choice of president entirely out of the hands of the electors and vest it in a body of selected citizens, to exercise an unrestricted choice. It would probably be just as well to have direct constitutional election by popular vote. The constitution itself has been disregarded, precisely as it has been so long disregarded in the matter of the election of president, that the great majority of the people of the country no longer realize that the framers of the constitution attempted to take the choice of president entirely out of the hands of the electors and vest it in a body of selected citizens, to exercise an unrestricted choice.