

THE JOURNAL

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The stone that is moving can gather no moss. For master and servant of changing is loss. —Tusser.

HANGINGS

Is it any less a crime for the state to murder a human being than for an individual to murder a human being? The Mosaic law says "thou shalt not kill."

When the state of Virginia killed Beattie yesterday, and thereby set an example that it is, on occasions, proper to commit murder, did it bring the dead wife back to life? With its hands covered with Beattie's blood, is the state of Virginia a noble example of civilization, or has it merely given one more evidence of the fact that relics of barbarism are still with us?

We apologize for our hangings by claiming that they stop murders. But they don't. We have had hangings in the United States since the nation was born, and we are still killing 24 to 30 people every day in the year.

State killings of murderers have not stopped the murders. Indeed, there is strong reason to believe that instead of lessening murders, the example of murder set by the state in its public killings has actually increased murder.

Five states in the United States have no hangings. The law forbids public killings. And those states that do have state executions, in the Swiss cantons which have no capital punishment, not one fourth as many murders are committed as in the United States where the gallows and electric chair are the tools of state vengeance.

Life is mighty cheap in the United States. It is held so lightly that in 1908, 8332 persons killed themselves. In 1909, 8402 held earthly existence so lightly that they took their own lives.

by joining hands. Once each week the two congregations worship together. Out stations are served in turn by the two ministers. Denominational distinctions are made light of. The Christian verities are enforced in the simplest form.

The public schools have many pupils, since the population is so closely set together on the irrigated lands that many of the advantages of city schools are secured.

The main point insisted on by the correspondent who describes this community in the Indiana Farmer, is its naturalness. The people are live and progressive. They owe much to the leadership of a shrewd preacher and a clever principal of the public schools.

At the same time that it nominates Mr. Lea, the Homestead applauds the administration of J. W. Bailey, the present state dairy and food commissioner. It says, "We can conscientiously pay tribute to the present incumbent for the good he has accomplished during the past two years for the dairy interests in Oregon."

The Journal is not informed as to the qualifications of Mr. Lea. He may be an entirely fit person for the position. What it and thousands of people in Oregon would desire to know is, does the endorsement of Mr. Lea by the Homestead in the same breath with its endorsement of J. W. Bailey, mean that Mr. Lea would be the same kind of commissioner that Mr. Bailey has been?

These are questions on which the public should be afforded very definite and specific information. Mr. Bailey has not been a good official. For twelve years the office, under his administration, has been a farce. It has been conducted in such a fashion that the employees in the office could not conscientiously continue in the work, and resigned their positions and their salaries.

The office, properly conducted, could be of great constructive value to the state, but badly conducted, it is of no value to anybody except for the petty salary that the incumbent draws. Unless occupied by a competent and scrupulously honest man, the office would better be abolished.

THE PRESIDENT'S DUTY BY his mere word of approval, President Taft can strike the west Umatilla reclamation project into life.

It is more practical and of more immediate value to man than the president's excellent scheme of international arbitration. Splendid as would be the benefits of the latter, they are yet far removed and will be slow of realization.

THE UNEARNED INCREMENT THE rights of the nation in the unearned increment of value in its lands, as a proper object of taxation because unearned by the present owners, was claimed in the Lloyd-George budget of 1909 for the English people.

with approval of that project. He should throw the whole power of his administration behind government reclamation, and, as did President Roosevelt in his time, make government reclamation one of the paramount policies of the presidential office.

It would be of infinite value to Mr. Taft in his claim for a second term, because it is constructive statesmanship.

WHAT WE BURN FREDERICK COWLES is to deliver in the Portland public schools a series of lectures on fires. He will discuss before the pupils the care of lamps, stoves and the handling of gas.

From carelessness and design, we are a nation of incendiaries. We burn up \$500,000,000 worth of property every year. Five American fires between 1901 and 1910 destroyed 2100 lives.

There is authentic announcement that our equipment and methods of fighting fire are far superior to those in Europe. But, in the United States, we burn every year half as many buildings as we erect. If placed side by side, the buildings we burn in a year would line both sides of a street from New York to Chicago.

THE KNOCKERS Phillip Dormer Stanhope, the fourth earl of Chesterfield, was one of the greatest of the wits of the eighteenth century. Lord Hervey says of Chesterfield that he was "allowed by everybody to have more conversable entertaining table wit than any man of his time; his propensity to ridicule, in which he excelled himself, in infuse humor and no distinction, and his inexhaustible spirits, and no discretion, made him sought and feared—liked and not liked—by most of his acquaintances."

Religion and Advertising. Portland, Or., Nov. 23.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Scarcely a day passes but what one is forced to come to the conclusion that that which was held in the highest veneration and was regarded as absolute truth is only a myth and a delusion.

Party Fences. Portland, Or., Nov. 23.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Kindly inform me as to the law regarding party fences. If I erect a fence between my lot and my neighbor's, will the law require me to place the posts wholly on my side of the line or can I place three inches on my lot and three inches on my neighbor's lot?

Punishment in the Schools. Portland, Or., Nov. 21.—To the Editor of The Journal.—There has been a great deal said in the papers about child welfare. Do those who are interested in this movement know that corporal punishment is allowed in the public schools here? Many years ago whipping in schools was prohibited in Boston.

THE CHRONIC INVALID (Contributed to The Journal by Walt Mason, the "Newspaper King.") His presence at the regular feature of this column in The Daily Journal.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE. Portland and Gipsy Smith seem to like each other first rate. Of course the members of the great Chicago "bull trust" are pessimistic just now about "business."

Letters From the People (Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should not exceed 500 words and be accompanied by the name and address of the sender.)

Knocks Portland Boosters. Portland, Or., Nov. 22.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Look over the papers. I ask why so many clearance sales and crowding of goods before the eyes of the public.

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SEVEN LITERARY WITS The Earl of Chesterfield. Phillip Dormer Stanhope, the fourth earl of Chesterfield, was one of the greatest of the wits of the eighteenth century.

Justice on a Sliding Scale. From the Cleveland Plain Dealer. An Indianapolis judge has made public announcement of the methods he intends to employ in dealing with offenders under the automobile statutes and regulations.

An Eye for Figures. From the Baltimore Sun. At the Men and Pencil club in Philadelphia the other day, talking about the elevation of the stage, T. A. Daly, the poet, said:

The Chronic Invalid. (Contributed to The Journal by Walt Mason, the "Newspaper King.") His presence at the regular feature of this column in The Daily Journal.

War and Massacre

From the Detroit News. The difference between war and massacre is usually an imaginary line. The horrible massacres in China have had their counterpart in Europe, and may have their counterpart in Africa.

Albany Democrat: Claud Carnegie has returned from Calgary, where he spent four months taking up his half section north of that city. When he left there was 18 inches of snow on the ground and the thermometer was as low as 40 degrees below zero.

Next week—Seven Famous Romanes. Tanglefoot By Miles Overholt. DINKY LITTLE ESSAYS.

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