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ONE of the greatest tasks undertaken by the federal government is the valuation of all railway lines in the United States under the direction of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Some idea of the magnitude of the work can be formed when it is realized that there are in the United States 234,000 miles of railway, nearly fifty per cent of the world's mileage.

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ize these increased values and then make rates to earn returns on them? "It is at this point," continues Mr. Welliver, "that the chief potential effect of the valuation on rates will be felt. What will the courts say about it? What will be the public policy of the country?"

DR. BRIGGS

THE recent death of the Reverend Charles Augustus Briggs caused but little comment. A world intent on the present did not recall that, a few years since, he was the chief personality in a religious controversy in the Presbyterian church that reached to the foundation of that faith of Calvinism. The controversy involved a movement known as the Higher Criticism, one of the products of a realistic age.

As a professor in the Union Theological Seminary, Dr. Briggs attracted national attention by his views on the inspiration of the scriptures. He asserted with all the great force of his broad scholarship that errors might have existed in the original text of the Bible, that Moses was not the author of the Pentateuch, that the processes of redemption extend to the world to come, that sanctification is not complete at death and that reason is equally with the church a foundation of divine authority, apart from the scriptures.

He was bitterly assailed and called a heretic by those who cannot realize that creeds are but changing forms of expression of the religious nature in man, which alone is permanent, those who worship the symbol instead of the object symbolized, those who believe the last word in the formulation of creed has been said, those who have little if any interest in historical origin, those who regard it blasphemous to propose statements that accord with increasing knowledge, those who are intolerant of the opinion of others.

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ing civilize the world. Reading the book is not so much a command of religion in the common acceptance of the term as it is a duty one owes to self. If man or woman reads the book understandingly and follows its teachings conscientiously there will be little occasion for studying other laws. The Bible is a complete and reliable compendium on living.

MERGING THE CHURCHES

CANADA has taken a decided step in the general movement for merging the churches. The Presbyterian synod recently voted overwhelmingly for union with the Methodists and Congregationalists, the two latter bodies having already taken similar action. The Presbyterian church in Canada has shown greater signs of activity, and it is significant that its new vigor is to be used in Christian union rather than in denominational division.

The Chicago Tribune says several factors entered into this movement to assure success. None of the three Canadian churches is subdivided as in the United States and elsewhere. Another factor is that the two sects of Presbyterians in Scotland, the United Free church and the Established church, have luried their doctrinal differences of centuries and are already moving toward union. A third reason is the recent settlement of western Canada by people who pay little attention to historic divisions of churches. These settlers have already united locally.

Episcopalians across the border are also looking toward union with other denominations. The Church Unity League is active in behalf of such a movement in spite of protests from eastern bishops. In the United States there are signs of willingness for union among denominations supposed to be antagonistic to each other. The Protestant Episcopal church has a strong propaganda working toward that end, and while it is encountering opposition because some members of other churches fear they are to be assimilated rather than annexed, the movement is making practical progress. It is certain the old lines of cleavage are being obliterated. The time is approaching when denominationalism will not defile Christianity.

THE OLD HYMNS

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bad cement, how violence breeds mutual suspicion, rivalry, contention and open strife. The great powers who had encouraged the "war of freedom" later viewed the spectacle with horror. They condemned the strife, but admitted their inability to intervene, while one of them, at least, urged on the fighting.

AISCHROLATREIA

Aischrolatreia is a word used by Frederic Harrison, and his definition of it is the worship of the ugly, the base, and the brutal. The human soul has its laws as fixed as the laws of the human body. Feed the body enough alcohol and you will see the soul tremens. Feed the soul enough sensual emotion, and cultivate it with introspection, and you get aischrolatreia.

War was once carried on for plain, intelligible ends—the primitive man was not a hypocrite. Today war has the same ends in view, but the hypocrite is in command. That is why Mr. Bryan's world's peace plan may be slow in securing general approval. And yet the plan has been a success for a century on the great lakes.

WAY STATIONS TO DEATH

THE September Metropolitan contains an article by John S. Reed, a Portland young man, telling what he saw and heard in the Paterson, New Jersey, jail. He was a prisoner there four days last April because of his arrest while investigating the silkworkers' strike. His offense consisted in watching the picket line in front of the silk mills.

It cannot be that the Paterson jail is typical of American jails, although Mr. Reed says it is. It is unbelievable that in many jails boys just starting in criminal paths and men who have long traveled crime's road, are forced by society to live like beasts. It is to be hoped that Mr. Reed's story of degradation imposed upon Paterson's "jail birds" could not be reproduced from facts gathered at many other jails. But the Paterson illustration is typical in one respect.

All jails are proof that we have not yet learned how to treat people whom society is forced to confine. They are evidence that we are not yet awake to the inhumanities we practice in the name of law. No class of people stand in greater need of individual attention than those charged with crime. And yet society complacently sees them thrown indiscriminately into jail, where crime feeds upon crime and degradation breeds destruction.

A great indictment against the jail, even the clean, wholesome jail, is the fact that it forces the prisoner into idleness. It saps his strength, destroys his ambition and breaks down his manhood—principally because of enforced idleness. The attempt is being made to separate prisoners according to age, but there must be a way provided for giving the prisoners some sort of useful employment. Law must begin the prisoner's schooling before he reaches the penitentiary.

SECRETARY BRYAN is the target for sarcasm because of his world peace program, and yet Congressman Young of North Dakota recently illustrated the fact that the plan is no idle dream. He called attention to the Anglo-American agreement, now nearly a century old, for disarmament on the great lakes.

Before proceeding to Montreal he will spend several days in New York and vicinity, and will visit West Point and other places of interest. The bar association meeting in Montreal will be preceded by the annual conference of the Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, which will begin its sessions Tuesday. The annual conference of the judiciary committee of the bar association, which will be addressed Saturday by former President William H. Taft.

IN EARLIER DAYS

On June 13, 1813, in Newark, N. J., there was born to Mr. and Mrs. James Tichenor a son whom they christened William. James Tichenor was a deacon in the Presbyterian church. If the vista of the years could have been unrolled and if James and Abbie Tichenor could have looked at the unrolling screen of their son's future there would have been consternation and surprise.

Probably it is fortunate that we cannot look at our child in its cradle and see the record of the unborn years. The call of the sea was in their boy's blood and when Will was in his early teens he ran away to sea making several voyages to foreign ports. After some years as a deep water sailor he became mate at the age of 18 of a steamer on the Mississippi river in 1831. Before he was 20 years old he was married. He moved to Indiana in 1832.

Some years after his marriage he was converted and became a minister of the Christian church. He and Colonel E. D. Baker, who later wrote his name large in Oregon's history, preached on the same circuit in Illinois. In 1848 he was elected as a senator from Edgar county Illinois, to the state senate but upon the news of the discovery of gold in California he resigned from the senate and started for California.

Hundreds of vessels had been abandoned in the harbor at San Francisco, their owners and crew having gone to the gold fields. Captain Tichenor was able to secure at trifling cost the schooner Jacob Risdon. He spent the winter of 49-50 aboard the schooner, cruising the coast of Lower California and northern Mexico. In the spring of 1850 he was given the command of the full rigged brig Emily Farnham, plying on the run between San Francisco and Astoria. In March, 1851, he was given command of the steamer Sea Gull, a strongly built vessel of over 400 tons, which had been run from San Francisco to Portland and intermediate points.

In April, 1851, Governor Gaines issued, in the name of the territory of Oregon, an appointment to Captain Tichenor as a pilot of the Columbia river bar. This was the second pilot's commission issued, Captain White having received the first. The freight rate from San Francisco to Portland was about \$75 a ton. The cost of first class passage from San Francisco to Portland was \$80.

The wonderfully rich mines of southern Oregon induced Captain Tichenor to establish a supply point on the coast so that freight could be brought up from San Francisco, landed at the nearest coast point and carried overland by pack train to the mines. Port Orford seemed to offer the closest and most satisfactory route, so on June 9, 1851, Captain Tichenor secured nine men in Portland to go to Port Orford as the first contingent of a colony to found a town at Port Orford. The nine men after a battle with the Indians in which 23 Indians were killed at what is now known as Battle Rock, escaped to the settlements on the Umpqua river.

Captain Tichenor in writing of the affair says: "The report of the supposed death of the nine men caused much feeling. There was very little difficulty in finding volunteers to go to the coast. I bought six horses, some goods and provisions and engaged W. G. T. Vaully, who had been recommended highly by Colonel Phil Kearney, an old school mate of mine at Newark, N. J. I filed my notification and settler's oath at Surveyor General Preston's office in Oregon City. On July 26, 1851, the ship sailed on her return voyage. The coast was a little better than I had found necessary to send 14 of the most desperate and insubordinate of the men back to San Francisco."

On her return trip from Portland the steamer brought Dr. Anson Dart, the superintendent of Indian affairs for Oregon territory, accompanied by Dr. Spalding and Rev. Parrish, two missionaries with Dr. Marcus Whitman, who had been killed by the Indians at the Whitman mission. Lieutenant Whyman, from Major Hathaway's command at Astoria with a detachment of troops and the mountain howitzer, was also aboard. Shortly after the arrival of the Indian commissioner and his party at Port Orford, W. G. T. Vaully, who had been selected by Captain Tichenor in charge of a party to survey a road from Port Orford to the southern Oregon mines, arrived clad in the fragments of his shirt and told of the attack on his party by the Indians and the killing of five of his men. Rev. Parrish accompanied by two Indian interpreters, went to the mouth of the Coquille to investigate the cause of the attack on T. Vaully's party. He interviewed the Indians making the attack and on the way back to Port Orford, accompanied by Sa-quah-mi the chief, Rev. Parrish was killed.

Letters From the People (Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender. If the writer desires that his name be published, he should so state.)

Another Sanitarium Protest.

Portland, Or., Aug. 23.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have two children who play with others in the vicinity of the site of the proposed tuberculosis sanitarium at East Twenty-eighth and Tibbatts streets. To me, it seems incredible that our city officials should permit a thing of this kind to be located within 600 feet of one of the largest public schools of Portland, where hundreds of children will pass the place every day. Several residences join the site.

We have saved our money for years and have put it all into our homes, and we have to pay heavy taxes and assessments every year, and we are asked to give a little protection from the city to stop this tuberculosis sanitarium, for the health of our children and ourselves, and for the value of our property. I hope more will join in the protest in this cause. MRS. MYERS.

Lands Were Confiscated.

Multnomah, Or., Aug. 23.—To the Editor of The Journal—While not wishing to take sides one way or the other in regard to the letters of J. E. Johnson against Socialism, I would like to challenge one of the statements made therein. The lands were not confiscated as the result of the Revolutionary war. As a matter of fact, the whole colonies were confiscated from their former owners, the King of England, etc. Specifically, the St. Louis exposition in charge of by wholesale and they themselves driven from the country. (See John Fiske's Critical Period of American History, page 120.)

The truth of it is that there never has yet been a step made in human liberty toward "confiscating" or denying some ancient privilege. H. DENLINGER.

KATE BARNARD OF OKLAHOMA

(From the Chicago Record Herald.) Kate Barnard, or Karkas, as she is known to every man, woman and child in Oklahoma, far away from home and the friends she knows so well, is ill and suffering from a general nervous breakdown. She is on a farm near Middleton, N. Y., and it is said her condition is serious.

The state of Oklahoma long has been noted for its picturesque characters, but in all the best probably there is no person better known for his or her work than Kate Barnard, who but a few years ago—she is now only 20—was the daughter of a struggling farmer in Nebraska, and had never known a mother's love and care. Her mother died the day she was born. Miss Barnard is an orphan and her father has been to Chicago, and her whole life has been given to assisting the poor and unfortunate, in lightening their burdens by kindly acts of charity.

It was while matron of the charity organization that Miss Barnard became a controlling spirit in the political life of Oklahoma City. She was the only person who could vote the slum element independently of the saloon, and if need be against the saloon. Her first public speech at a convention where were gathered the representatives of the Farmers' union, the State Federation of Labor and railroad orders. Her plea for the insertion of a compulsory education and child labor section in the new constitution, favored the state advocating her two pet hobbies and soon became known as a power in politics as well as a champion for the cause of the poor and down-trodden.

Pointed Paragraphs

Isn't it queer how little a bigot is? Nothing prospers like the grafter—for a time. The less account a dog is the more a woman likes it. Many a girl who thinks she is pretty is unable to prove it. Before giving advice to a woman find out what brand she wants, or a man either. The more things you attempt to do the fewer you will accomplish. A woman is awfully disappointed when her worst suspicions fall to come true.