

# The Oregon Statesman

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## THE MINISTRY OF THE PAST

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One of the purposes which the Allwise must have had in the creation of the universe was to refine and develop the life which He imparted to every portion of it. At least, every individuality, great and small, which He has in all the ages brought into being has been subject to this law of development, refinement, improvement. The world itself is subject to the same great law. As the matter composing it has become more and more refined, higher and more complex vegetable and animal organisms have come into being upon it. At first masses of protoplasm almost unorganized were the highest forms of animal life. From these gradually through countless ages of refinement the myriad forms of organized life now inhabiting the world have been evolved or created. So modern science has discovered and teaches.

Humanity is subject to this same great law. Unconsciously it moves onward, upward. If the overbrooding Spirit of the Universe has during all the ages been working over and in all this matter to keep the life in it tending upward, much more has His life been working with and in humanity. And He has been working especially with the spiritual nature of man since the earliest history was recorded. His Spirit has spoken to and worked through His prophets and messengers from the time of Moses to the present day to stimulate into activity the spirits of men, and to make the Divine in them dominant. Many of these messages given the prophets, and the supreme revelation of the New Testament, have come down to us like great voices from the centuries, calling to men to forsake the coarse, the beastly, the physical things of life; to rise above the carnal, the sinful, the sensuous, that they may more perfectly express in their lives than men have hertofore done the sentient, spiritual inner life of their Maker, the germ of which is in every one of them.

While it may be well to hear these voices of the past, their only useful purpose in the present is to stimulate us of this day to spiritual activity, to high and holy living. But men have been so long looking to the past and listening to the voices of the centuries that they seem to have failed to hear His voice calling to them in the present. Looking back constantly to the God of Sinai and Calvary, they have failed generally to realize that the same God is within each of them. Much less have most men any inward consciousness of the presence of Him "who is nigh us, even in our mouths and in our hearts."

This worship of the past has gone to such lengths that religious men, professed Christians, even in the face of the positive teachings of Jesus to the contrary, believe that God no more manifests Himself directly to men; that the age of miracles is past; that is, that the time of spiritual life, powers and works is gone. We may read and hear of these things wrought by men of the distant past, but may not do them nor see them done in this day and age.

Could anything be further from the positive and plain teaching of Jesus and the New Testament? Can anything be conceived of more deadening to the spiritual effort and ambitions, or more tending to degrade and belittle our idea of God? "God the same yesterday, today and forever" has not made a law for Moses and Daniel and Paul that He has not made for us. He has not manifested Himself and demonstrated a spiritual life and power to any people in the remote or the near past that He is not ready to help us to actualize. Worshipping the things of the past seems not to have helped us to find God in ourselves and to learn and us the spiritual laws of our own being, any more than looking for and expecting heaven in the uncertain and shadowy future has enabled us to find the kingdom of heaven within ourselves.

May it not be that if we would devote one-half of the time we spend in worshipping the past to trying to learn and make use of the spiritual laws of our own beings, we might equal if not surpass the spiritual achievements of any age of the world? The spiritual works recorded in the Bible were wrought in the infancy of the race, when men were much more ignorant and undeveloped than they are today. Should we, therefore, be satisfied to reach even the spiritual heights to which they climbed? Should we not be striving for the accomplishment

of those greater works which the Master specifically promised? But until we have reached the heights of the men of the past we cannot, of course, pass beyond them.

The history of Greece, Rome and all of the other nations which have wrought for freedom cannot bring liberty to any people, though it may encourage those struggling for it and show them the way to it and the means necessary to safeguard it when once acquired. But every people must acquire and keep liberty for themselves. So in the spiritual life the fact that God came to Daniel and revolutionized the life of Paul and gave pentecostal power to the disciples and apostles to work their wonders can do us little or no good unless it convinces us that He can and will come to us and work through us. The Scriptures may stimulate spiritual activity to us, they point us the way to reach spiritual heights; but to be satisfied to take them or believe them as a substitute for active life and effort in ourselves is as foolish and futile as for any nation to try to substitute mere history for real statesmanship and actual national achievement.

Dwelling on the past or living in it in thought or looking back to it in worship and adoration, or wishing that we might have lived nineteen hundred years ago and have basked in the sunshine of the love of a visible Savior who walked the earth in the similitude of a man—none of these backward roads leads to any valuable achievement in the living present. They all lead only to tombs and ashes, to monuments and epitaphs.

The past is dead and His word to each one of us is, "Let the dead bury their dead, but thou come and follow me."

Something less than a million automobiles parked on Salem's streets yesterday. Looked good, didn't it?

Some clergymen are now deserting the doctrine of the fall of man. If he does not fall, how does he get that way?—Exchange.

The planters in the south have learned that they cannot burn their cotton and still have it. Thousands did not have sense enough to store it for better prices.

Charles Ponzi, the frenzied financier, has begun his five-year hitch in prison and it will be necessary for the eager investors to put their money under the door of his cell.

Franklin D. Roosevelt is passing the hat to make up that deficit in Democratic national campaign finances. It is the same hat that was handed to him at the November election.

Secretary of State Colby is plying the watery main en route to Argentina aboard an American warship. Colby is smart; it is about the last joy ride by any member of the Wilson cabinet.

The League of Nations, after three weeks' debate, has decided that this is not an opportune time to favor the disarmament of nations. In view of the fact that all of the leading powers are adding to their armament this was the thing to do if the League hoped to save its face.

Members of congress are deeply impressed with the public demand for economy. They sense it as being more powerful and intelligent than ever before. Ordinary folks are at least interested in government expenses. It took a costly war to bring that about. Congress is feeling public pressure for saving money and will hardly ignore it.

For the purpose of stabilizing American foreign trade a foreign trade financing corporation, with a potential capacity of carrying a billion dollars' worth of business on its books, has been organized in Chicago. It is a move to dispose of the overproduction of merchandise in this country to buyers in Europe, now impossible on account of the rates of exchange. The organization, if properly carried on and financed, ought to do a great deal of good.

Did you notice the crowds on Salem's streets yesterday; and the flocks of buyers in the stores? Looked good, didn't it? Well, Salem can have such crowds and such flocks every week day in the year, and then some, if only all of her people will pull together

### FUTURE DATES.

- December 27, Monday—Salem club of O. A. C. to give dance at Dreamland rink.
January 10, Monday—State legislature meets.
January 14, Friday—Basketball, Willamette vs. O. A. C. at Salem.
January 19 and 20, Wednesday and Thursday—Annual institute of W. O. A.
January 20 and 21, Thursday and Friday—Basketball, Willamette vs. U. of O. at Salem.
January 28, Friday—Triangular inter-scholastic debate, Salem, Statton and Oregon City high schools competing.
February 12, Saturday—Lincoln's birthday.
February 14, Monday—Basketball, Willamette vs. University of Idaho, at Moscow.
February 15 and 16, Tuesday and Wednesday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Whitman, at Walls Walls.
February 17, Thursday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Walls Walls N. M. C. A., at Walls Walls.
February 18 and 19, Friday and Saturday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Gonzaga, at Spokane.
February 22, Tuesday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Idaho, at Salem.
February 23, Tuesday—Washington's birthday.
February 24 and 25, Thursday and Friday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Whitman at Salem.
March 4 and 5, Friday and Saturday—Basketball, Willamette vs. U. of O., at Eugene.
April 17, Friday—Basketball, Willamette vs. U. of O., at Salem.
April 18, Saturday—Basketball, Willamette vs. U. of O., at Eugene.
May 26, 27 and 28—Basketball, Willamette vs. Whitman, at Walls Walls.
October 1, Saturday (tentative)—Football, Willamette vs. O. A. C., at Corvallis.
November 11, Friday (tentative)—Football, Willamette vs. Whitman, at Walls Walls.
November 24, Thursday (tentative)—Thanksgiving day (football, Willamette vs. Multnomah, at Salem.

vide. Going pretty well. But the income ought to be doubled, in order to keep up with the growth of Salem; and doubled again before long. There is no solid investment than the shares of the local building and loan association. There has never been a foreclosure.

Who will furnish the Bible upon which President-elect Harding will take the oath of office? The practice of having the volume purchased by the clerk of the United States supreme court has been deviated from but three times. In both of President Cleveland's inaugurations he used a small Bible given him by his mother; President McKinley used one that had been given to him by the colored bishops of the country; Woodrow Wilson, in both of his inaugurations, used a Bible on which he had taken the oath of office as governor of New Jersey.

### AFTER MANY YEARS.

A bulb which had been part of the luggage of an Egyptian mummy was planted in the warm soil of the Nile basin and in a few moons had burgeoned into a beautiful flower. Though dormant for more than 3000 years, it had ever held that mystic germ which we call life. This will teach us, little children, that even the presidential boom of William Jennings Bryan may have unwonted vitality.

### PRAYER AND GASOLINE.

By equipping our foreign missionaries with Fords instead of

ox carts we are to be enabled to carry the blessings of civilization and the smell of gasoline still further into the jungle. A neighboring paragrapher suggests "Why doesn't Henry join the Sons of Gideon and put a copy of the Word in every car? It's a more important accessory than his self-starter. Ask any driver."

### ROYAL SPORTS.

The king of Spain is off on a hunting trip and the dispatches report his killing 2500 "pieces of game" in one day. He must have hit a bee hive or possibly he put in the day shooting craps and made quite a killing. Of what does a "piece of game" consist when royalty is hunting? Do they count grasshoppers? Does a leg count as one piece or two? Is the gazard measured as a piece?

### SAWING WOOD.

Congress will lay off four days for Christmas instead of the usual two weeks. The representatives think that by working overtime they are playing Santa Claus to the country, but it doesn't always result that way. Apparently congress isn't going to observe the opening of the New Year at all. Since the immortal amendment New Year's day doesn't mean any more in the life of a congressman than of any other wild animal.

### BITS FOR BREAKFAST

No sirree— You can't prove to the Salem

postoffice employees that there is no Santa Claus.

A well known Salem lady phoned to The Statesman last night—

And she declared that there are a number of Salem families that are very needy; that the Salvation Army is doing all it can, and so are several of the churches; but this lady thinks there should be further organized efforts to see that there is no suffering in this city of plenty.

Suggestions are in order. We must do our part to keep the children of Europe from starving—

But we must also look out for our own; for it is recorded that he who looks not out for his own is worse than an infidel.

And this all brings us around to the point that The Statesman has hammered on in and out of season—

That Salem needs an employment agency with the fullest possible efficiency; needs it at all seasons. There is plenty of work

crying to be done in this district for all willing workers—

And spring will soon be here, when there will be more work than there are workers. The big thing is to connect the man with the job; and to encourage the men who have work to do to have it done, by supplying the right kind of help at all times.

Don't think because you have taken many remedies in vain that your case is incurable. Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured many seemingly hopeless cases of scrofula, catarrh, rheumatism, kidney complaint, dyspepsia and general debility. Take Hood's.

"Bob Hawley's married his cook." "Yes, he'd rather fight than eat."—Judge.

## LADIES

When irregular or suppressed use of... Write for "Hints" and particulars; it's free. Address: National Medical Institute, Milwaukee, Wis.

## A CHRISTMAS GIFT To Your Eyes

Have them Examined. Our service is complete

DR. ALBERT R. MILLER

Optometrist - Optician

510-12 U. S. Bank

SALEM



# Grand Opening

We wish to take this means of announcing the completion of our new Sales and Service Station, and of inviting the Public to be our guests on the afternoon and evening of Tuesday December 21st, at which time we would like the opportunity to show you our new "Automobile and Tractor Home."

Music 2 to 5 p.m.

Program 8:30 p.m.

## Vick Bros.

Corner of High and Trade Streets



**THE EARLY SAVER BUILDS THE BIG BANK ACCOUNT**

**D**O your Christmas SAVING early. We want every youngster in and around Salem to have a Savings Passbook included among his gifts.

You furnish the starter for that account. The United States National will supply the passbook.

**United States National Bank**  
SALEM OREGON