

The Oregon Statesman

Issued Daily Except Monday by
THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
215 S. Commercial St., Salem, Oregon
(Portland Office, 704 Spalding Building, Phone Main 1116)

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DAILY STATESMAN, served by carrier in Salem and suburbs, 15 cents a week, 65 cents a month.
DAILY STATESMAN, by mail, in advance, \$6 a year, \$3 for six months, \$1.50 for three months, in Marion and Polk counties; \$7 a year, \$3.50 for six months, \$1.75 for three months, outside of these counties. When not paid in advance, 50 cents a year addition.

THE PACIFIC HOMESTEAD, the great western weekly farm paper, will be sent a year to any one paying a year in advance to the Daily Statesman.

SUNDAY STATESMAN, \$1.50 a year; 75 cents for six months; 40 cents for three months.

WEEKLY STATESMAN, issued in two six-page sections, Tuesdays and Fridays, \$1 a year (if not paid in advance, \$1.25); 50 cents for six months; 25 cents for three months.

TELEPHONES: Business Office, 23.
Circulation Department, 533.
Job Department, 533.
Society Editor 106.

Entered at the Postoffice in Salem, Oregon, as second class matter.

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

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Scarcely an intelligent person could be found who would not agree that the coming of Christianity to the world is the greatest event in the history of mankind. There would very likely be some diversity of opinion as to why this must be regarded as the greatest world event. But most will admit that this is so because the greatest results have come from it. Because even civilization itself is the product of it. Although by no means universally accepted in the world, and still less triumphant as a rule of life and practice in most lives, its influence has still been sufficient to largely revolutionize the ideals and somewhat the conduct of the people of the western world. Although there is yet much rank injustice, hatred and gross selfishness in the part of the world which has generally accepted the New Testament, still much of the brutality, cruelty and injustice which formerly dominated the whole world has there been superseded by more humane, just and merciful systems of government and society.

The life and teaching of Jesus, as outlined in the New Testament, especially emphasize two things, love and unselfish service. He himself "went about doing good," ministering to the sick and needy, and in word and deed pointing the way to the ideal, the divine life which He insists all must live if they are to escape the sacrifices and sufferings resulting from a brutal, carnal and sinful life. "Love," He says, "is the fulfilling of the law." "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind," and thy neighbor as thy self. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." and again: "He that would be greatest among you, let him be your servant." Could anything be more opposed to the natural, carnal, selfish, brutal life of physical force which the whole world was living when these exalted ideals were given to it, and which, alas, most of humanity still live? And yet they are the expression of His spirit and the very soul of the religion which He preached and lived.

The injustice, immorality, brutality, cruel wars and strife that still dominate many if not a majority of the professed followers of Jesus are not to be taken as evidence that Christ-

ianity is impractical, and as a guide in the life of man a failure. These things are only evidence that men—professed Christians—generally have not approached as yet the standard which He set for His followers. Indeed, it is doubtful if most of them have as yet arisen to a full appreciation of them. Our ideas of greatness even have generally not yet come up to His standard, which would hold him who is the best man and who serves most as the greatest man.

In fact the spirit of Christ is alien to most of us. It is not the guide for our lives.

We profess to love it and like to think we have it; but in truth we have not His spirit, and as Paul says, we are, therefore, none of His.

We are still largely pagan. For it is our life and conduct that shows forth our spirit, not our professions or beliefs.

To most of humanity Christ is as much in prophecy as He was to the Palmist and the old prophets. He has not yet come into their world, that world in which they really live and move and have their being. If He had this old planet would now be a very different place.

May it not be that one reason why we have fallen so far short of realizing in its fullness the religion of Jesus Christ is that it has long been preached that Jesus was a special creation and so different from the rest of the race that men could not live His life? Indeed, to suggest that His followers are expected to follow Him in the sense of living his life and doing His works has heretofore been regarded as little less than sacrilege. The New Testament, of course, has not a word on which to base any such idea. On the contrary he specifically promises that those who become His disciples shall do His works and greater ones, while Paul says that "He is the first born of many brethren." James does not hesitate to call those who walk in the spirit of Christ sons of God, and every book of the New Testament makes it plain that Christians are to be counted such only when they manifest His spirit, imitate his life and are able to show some of His spiritual power.

Although it is the day set apart to commemorate the birth of Christ, to most men Christmas as yet has little meaning, for Christ is not a reality to them; only a name, a tradition, a character of history, perhaps one who shed His blood for them on the cross of Calvary nineteen hundred years ago. To few is He a spirit, ever present, and all-pervading as He himself has taught us that God is. Still fewer men have come to understand that this spirit may enter into our hearts, may come to quicken our spirits and finally be born in our lives. Indeed, until He is so born, for us He has had no birth; we have no Christ. Let Christ be born in your life. Then you will have the real Christmas.

"Not where the wondrous infant lay
Upon that Christmas morn,
But in the manger of thy heart
Feel thou the Christ-child born.

Not where the wondering shepherds heard
The song of peace on earth,
But in the chamber of thy soul
Sing thou thy Savior's birth.

Guard well the child; bid every thought
Before the Christ bow down;
The Son of God, immaculate—
Within thy being crown.

Then will God's angels sing the song
That ne'er will pass away;
O earth be still! O soul rejoice!
This is thy Christmas day."

The Russian soviet has abolished money. There is now but one other thing to do, and that is to wipe out hunger.

President Wilson and Joe Tumulty ought to collaborate on that new history. What Woodrow forgets Joe can supply.

It is a good thing for President Wilson that his acceptance of the Nobel peace prize does not have to be confirmed by the senate.

We presume that when Mrs. Harding called on Mrs. Wilson the other day to look over the White House the latter told her all about some of the rooms that it is impossible to heat and beamed the lack of closet room in the historic edifice.

Connecticut leads the union in the number of women chosen as members of the state legislatures, with five. California has but two, and Oregon one. And the Nutmeg state is one of the commonwealths that balked on giving the women the right to vote.

If there be those among us who think that with the advent of the Harding administration there will be a vanishing of taxes, forget it. Nothing of that kind will happen. The war debts must be paid and the psychological conditions following the war man-

ifested itself in record figures. But we will soon touch our feet on the ground again. This is official.

Over \$300,000,000 contributed by the government to the railroads from March to November, according to the official figures. Charge it up to the guarantee act that went into effect when the roads were turned back by the government to their owners. A costly experiment was the government operation of the railroads.

What made Salem the prune center—and the loganberry center? The fact that we happened to get the start in acreage is what. And what is the matter with getting a larger bulge in the fruit industry? It can be done, and is being done in a very fair way now. But why not get a still larger acreage than has so far been planned, in the Salem district? This is worth considering.

The California prune growers have for some time had the edge on the Oregon prune men, or most of them, because they have been able to say that their prunes took very little sugar. Now that sugar is cheaper than prunes, the shoe is on the other foot—and the Oregon prune is not only cheaper, but it has the tart-sweet taste that makes it and has always made it the premier prune of the world. And this advantage is likely to persist. That idea will not need much exploitation, either, and will likely not be given any; for the Californians might consider it a knock—though they themselves have not hesitated to boost

FUTURE DATES.

January 4, Tuesday—Coronation of King King, armory.
January 14, Friday—Basketball, Willamette vs. O. A. C. at Salem.
January 19 and 20, Wednesday and Thursday—Annual institute Y. W. C. A.
January 20 and 21, Thursday and Friday—Basketball, Willamette vs. U. of O. at Salem.
January 28, Friday—Triangular inter-scholastic debate, Salem. Sturton and Oregon City high schools competing.
January 28 to 30—Interstate convention of Y. M. C. A. in Salem.
February 3, Thursday—Duroc day, show and sale, state fair grounds.
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 Walla Walla.
February 17, Thursday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Walla Walla Y. M. C. A. at Walla Walla.
February 18 and 19, Friday and Saturday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Gonzaga, at Spononia.
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 15, Friday—Baseball, Willamette vs. U. of O. at Salem.
April 16, Saturday—Baseball, Willamette vs. U. of O. at Eugene.
May 26, 27 and 28—Baseball, Willamette vs. Whitman, at Walla Walla.
October, Saturday (tentative)—Football, Willamette vs. O. A. C. at Corvallis.
November 11, Friday (tentative)—Football, Willamette vs. Whitman, at Walla Walla.
November 24, Thursday (tentative)—Thanksgiving day football, Willamette vs. Multnomah, at Salem.

their former advantages with an implied knock against the Oregon prune. Among the Jews of New York's East Side, the idea of the cheapness by comparison of the Oregon prune will not be long in getting itself known, and from that source it will spread. The Oregon prune is going to be the great prune of the future in the markets of the world, and every man in this section who has a prune orchard will do well to attend to it carefully and well.

RECOMMENDED TO SCHOOL CHILDREN

This is the season when children are subject to croup, colds and coughs. Rena C. Marchard, 36 Lawrence St., Salem, Mass., writes: "I used Foley's Honey and Tar with good results. I had a very bad cold and it gave me relief at once, so I recommend it to every child that goes to school." This standard, low priced medicine loosens and clears mucus and phlegm, checks strangling coughing, makes easy breathing, soothes and heals raw, inflamed membranes, and stops tickling in throat. Sold everywhere.

Rev. H. E. Pemberton Accepts Post in Iowa

Rev. H. Elmer Pemberton, who for several years has held the pastorate of the South Salem Friends church, closed his work there yesterday and will take up evangelistic work in Iowa, his native state.

For many years before the church was built, Rev. Mr. Pemberton was interested in establishing a Friends congregation in South Salem, and since its establishment in 1912 its growth and

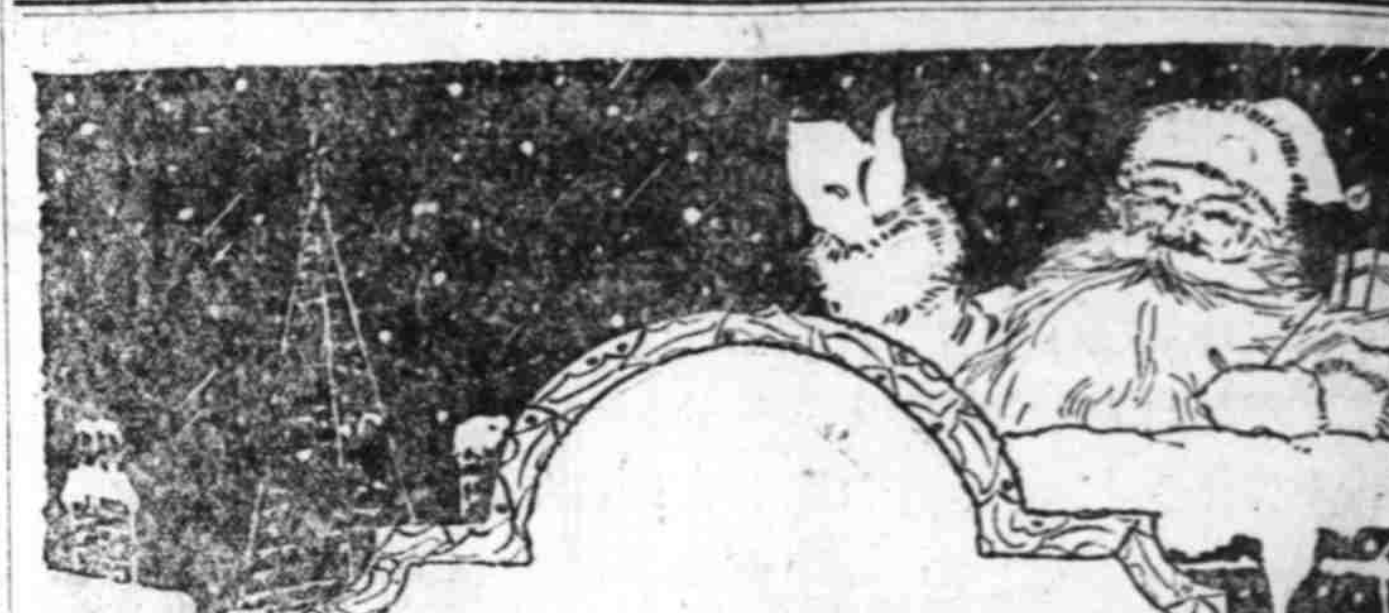


VIVIAN MARTIN
IN
HUSBANDS AND WIVES
STARTING SUNDAY
GRAND
THEATRE

success have been attributed largely to his efforts. He became pastor in 1914, and since that time

the membership has almost doubled. Mr. Pemberton will begin his

new work the first of the year. —Use Statesman Classified Ad.



Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the Coming Year

Valley Motor Co.

What Will \$10,000 Insurance Do?

- Depends on how you leave it. Live insurance, left in a lump sum is usually dissipated in a few years.
- But—suppose you made a simple Insurance Trust Agreement directing that this Bank invest your \$10,000 insurance money and pay an annuity to your wife.
- She would receive an annuity approximately as follows:
 - \$100 monthly for 10 years—remainder to her credit, \$600—or—
 - \$50 monthly for 20 years—remainder to her credit \$5,480.
- Our officers invite conferences on Insurance Trusts regardless of the amount of your insurance. Salem, Oregon

Capital National Bank
Trust Department, Salem, Oregon

We Wish Everyone a

MERRY CHRISTMAS

MILLER'S
Good Goods

Here's wishing you a good old-fashioned Christmas

WELCH ELECTRIC CO.
379 State St.

Christmas Cheer for All the Year

A solid year of Christmas cheer! Smiling faces and happy hearts! No time for worrying and crossing bridges!

Who does not long for a way to make that true? Well, there is such a way and many are finding it.

Give Christmas presents that are useful and will be appreciated the year 'round. They'll recall to mind daily the happy occasion when they were given and received. Thus will the Spirit of Christmas be kept green.

People who put thought into their giving are saying "Merry Christmas" electrically, this year especially. Such presents invariably impress with their lasting elegance and good taste, yet they are not expensive. And their great service commands the instant appreciation of the user.

There's something electrical for all on your list, something they'll be the happier for having and using. Come and see.

PORTLAND RAILWAY, LIGHT & POWER CO.