

The Oregon Statesman

Issued Daily Except Monday by THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY 215 S. Commercial St., Salem, Oregon (Portland Office, 527 Board of Trade Building. Phone Automatic 511-93)

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

WHY YOUNG PEOPLE NEGLECT RELIGION

(Copyrighted by the San Jose Mercury)

Two professors at Harvard University recently arranged a religious service in the chapel of that great institution especially for the members of the freshman class who had just entered the University. It was expected that practically all the freshmen would attend this service, although such attendance was not specifically required. Instead of attending seven hundred and sixty absented themselves, and only twenty were present to greet the two professors who conducted the service.

This incident has aroused rather wide discussion in the eastern press as to the cause or causes for the prevailing religious indifference among the young people of this generation. There is a wide difference of opinion as to what has caused this indifference. The Manchester (N. H.) Union is certain that it is the bringing up and the entire neglect of religious training in the home. It declares:

"If the intelligent and well-trained people will not attend their home church, we can not really expect their offspring to go voluntarily to a college chapel service even if it is arranged in their honor"; and "The evidence inclines one to the belief that the large majority of the present generation or fathers and mothers have lost contact with Christianity as the Nazarene preached and practiced it. They certainly have no right, therefore, to criticize their sons and daughters who happen to be in college for not attending a religious service."

Others seem inclined to ascribe much of the prevailing religious indifference to the colleges and universities of the land. President Thompson of the Ohio State University criticizes our state educational institutions for their failure to teach the principles of religion. He says: "A boy might become a bachelor or master in almost any one of the best state institutions and yet be as ignorant of the Bible, the moral and spiritual truth which it represents and the fundamental principles of religion, their nature and value to society, as if he had been educated in a non-Christian country."

Prof. Power of the University of Southern California, a Methodist institution, is inclined to blame also the denominational schools. He writes in the New York Herald:

"It is noticeable that in most of these institutions the departments and schools of religion are the weakest points of the whole organization. The student, unless particularly interested in religious courses, may go through the college course entirely untouched and unaffected by any religious influence. His spiritual and religious growth and development have stood still while his intellectual and physical development have reached their highest powers. His pre-university philosophy of life and religion are no longer adequate, and he goes into commercial life uninterested in the church or in religious problems."

It should be borne in mind that under our philosophy of government our state institutions of learning are not allowed to give religious instruction, the performance of that duty being left to the church and the home. Our state educational institutions can not, therefore, be justly criticized for not teaching the principles of religion. But this

is not because most intelligent Americans do not believe in teaching the principles of religion to the young, but because they believe in religious freedom. The truth is that without religious education and the development of the higher elements in man, neither the young, the middle aged nor the old will have anything in them to enable them to control or to even wish to control those animal appetites, passions and instincts that are in every man. It is the lack of this education and development that makes the drunkard, the dope fiend, the bootlegger, the thief, the highwayman, the moral pervert, the murderer. Let the religious education and development of the young be wholly neglected for a few generations and this country would go down in moral filth and rottenness like old Greece or Rome.

But what of the church in its relation to the young? The Baltimore Sun in discussing this subject lays upon the church the principal responsibility for the religious indifference, not alone of the young, but of the people generally. The Sun declares that betterments intended merely to promote the material welfare of the church have been greatly overworked. It concludes:

"Is it too much to hope, then, that while the denominational leaders have betterments in mind they will evolve, if not a better religion, at least a better presentation of its fundamentals? Why has there not been evolved any more effective method of making men better than by precept and deliverance of what used to be called a 'gospel message'? There are those who believe that unadulterated religion will accomplish more for the world than louder beating of tom-toms."

Many units in nearly all branches and denominations of the church are too much impregnated with medievalism to have much influence with the young. Its message in order to reach our educated and most intelligent young people, and these will largely lead the rest, must be brought strictly up to date. It must recognize and accept the facts and truths demonstrated by our modern progress and development and the discoveries of science. No church or other organization that, for example, still maintains that the earth is flat, and that the world and everything on it was made in six literal days and has not been evolved by countless ages of development from small beginnings, will get much hold on the modern young man or young woman.

And finally, if the church wishes to regain its influence over the young, it must cease the old spiritual ledgerdom of promising something for nothing; of promising spiritual rewards without effort at attainment on the part of the recipient. Most young men and women of this age have a very lively and well grounded suspicion that they are not likely to get very much in any line for which they do not work, and work hard, whether the object be success in business, education of the mind or spiritual development and riches. Let the church help to strengthen this wholesome conviction instead of helping to destroy it, and strive to bring home to the young the truth that spiritual treasures are more worth acquiring than anything the world can supply. Let it try to demonstrate this not alone by verbal promises of rewards in the shadowy future, but by living exemplifications of that "pure religion and undefiled" which all men instinctively admire when manifested in life and character, and the world will not long be told that the young people of this day are indifferent to religion.

Looks like the return of normalcy in China. They are kidnapping missionaries over there.

Why is it that there are many people in this town who will believe in the predictions of a palmist who decline to believe the Christian religion? Can anyone say?

Irrigation is the big thing at the present stage of development of the fruit industry in the Salem district. The time to plan and prepare is now, not after the dry spell comes in June and July.

The cooperative flax company should live and expand, by all means. The penitentiary plant should not interfere with this.

On the contrary, it should help it; and it will, if properly managed.

The United States treasury has held that the Chicago Opera company is an "educational" body and the receipts are, therefore.

FUTURE DATES

December 3, Sunday—Elks' annual memorial service.
December 8, Friday—Reunion of Company M.
December 12, Tuesday—Salem school district budget meeting.
December 12, Tuesday—School budget meeting at high school.
December 14, 15 and 16 — Marion county corn show.
December 15 and 16, Friday and Saturday—Meeting of fruit growers at Woodburn.
December 25, Monday—Christmas.
December 31, Sunday—Elks "Midnight Follies," Grand theater.
January 8, Monday—Inauguration of Governor-elect Walter M. Pierce.
January 8, Monday—Legislature meets.

exempt from the payment of the war tax. Hitherto only symphony concerts have been exempt. Why not exempt the movies? Looks as if there might be a "bull" concealed somewhere.

Under the impetus of a \$30,000 gift the national Audubon society is conducting a campaign of education in behalf of the birds among the school children of the United States and Canada. One million, seven hundred thousand children have been enrolled.

Henry Ford will be asked to assist in the construction of the Victory highway through Utah and Nevada. But Henry is very hard of hearing in such cases and he may not have anything left since his contribution to the defeat of United States Senator Townsend in Michigan. — Exchange.

National thrift week will begin January 17. So far as we are personally concerned we would be better fixed to celebrate a later date. We are likely to be suffering from the financial cramps growing out of holiday expenditures about that time. However, let there be no delay on our account. — Exchange.

The important thing in any prison system is steady employment for the convicts. Idleness is bad there, as elsewhere—worse there than anywhere else. The development of the flax industry in the Oregon state penitentiary will provide employment and wages for all idle men; it will make the service reformatory and educational. And it will relieve the taxpayers of Oregon of the burden of the cost of the prison; all of it, with money to spare.

TAMING THE TIGER

(Los Angeles Times.) Senator Borah wants Clemenceau muzzled. The Idaho statesman is of the opinion that the French visitor is a blood-thirsty person who was largely responsible for the war and should not be permitted to travel over this

country urging Americans into the League of Nations. Senator Borah is a champion of free speech, but prefers to make all the speeches himself. He thinks the Clemenceau utterances should be suppressed. He should be given no encouragement or consideration. It would be some task to silence the Frenchman in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Even those who differ and disapprove would hardly have the courage to deny him a platform. Neither is he to be denied the privilege of criticizing the American failure to participate in the perpetuation of peace through the League of Nations. The Americans are doing it themselves and can endure it further from the lips of a Frenchman as representing those who have suffered much through this nonparticipation. Apparently, Senator Borah would extend the right hand at fellowship to Russia, but, outside of that, would have no foreign relations worthy of the name. If he were to visit France the mayor of Paris would hardly welcome him with a brass band, but he would at least be permitted to talk himself into hysteria if he wished. He is the last man in the world who should remonstrate against the appearance of the French Tiger on American soil. Senator Borah is one of the most charmingly inconsistent men who ever carried a moukey wrench.

SEEING RED

Trotzky says that the Commune in Russia will sit tight until the Red revolution sweeps the world. He says that in less than five years the earth will be ablaze with its fires and that all government in Europe and America will then pass under the domination of the Moscow Internationale. The soviet system will prevail everywhere on this continent and capital will be extinguished. We will have a sweet-scented country when the Trotzks succeed in obliterating government, property, initiative, religion, society and the home. Yet there are a lot of supposedly sane citizens in America who would extend aid and comfort to the Moscow regime.

CLEANING THE WORLD

The Epworth League is engaging in a brisk campaign against the cussedness of cussing. The league is endeavoring to end all forms of profanity. "The speech of the nation is to be purified and made sweet. It is admitted that the task is a heavy one, but the crusade is undertaken with enthusiasm. It would be a fine thing if the causes for profanity could be removed. Then the temptation to indulging in violent speech would be lacking. If some of our business men would cut out golf they would not curse half as much as they do. One of them thinks the enactment of a constitutional amendment forbidding profanity would be necessary to make a complete job of it, and even then some of the voracious millionaires would be hiring vocal bootleggers to indulge their pyrotechnics. There's a task ahead.

THE MOVIES IN SCRIPTURE

"Sit in darkness."—Isaiah xlii: 7.
"The stars appeared."—Nehemiah iv: 21
"All pleasant pictures."—Isaiah ii: 10.
"The sound of the grinding is low."—Ecclesiastes ii: 4.
"Clap your hands, all ye people."—Psalms xiv: 1. — Boston Transcript.

GRUNERT AUTO TOPS

256 State St.



Xmas Suggestions

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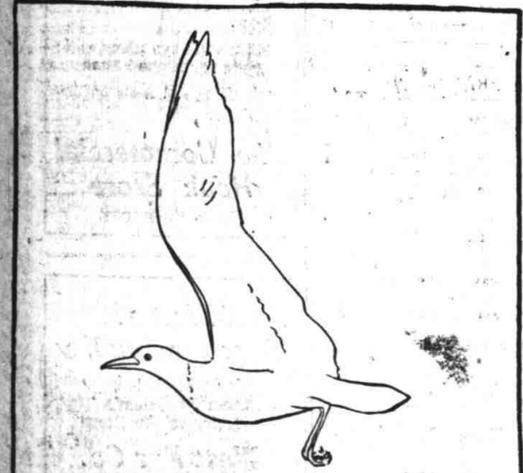
H. L. Stiff Furniture Co.

COMPLETE HOUSE FURNISHERS

The Junior Statesman

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Lessons in Trick Cartooning



The "Sea Gull"

(Complete the big drawing by adding, one by one, the various lines, shown in the series of small key pictures below)

THE SHORT STORY, JR.

THE VOICE OF BENNY A. CLOCK

Benjamin Alarm Clock was his full name, but they called him Benny A. for short. "Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah!" he shouted.

"It's time to get up. Hurrah!" "Mercy," groaned old Grandfather Clock. "It's a pity you couldn't keep still at this time of the morning and let a fellow sleep. A person of my age shouldn't have his early morning rest disturbed." "Oh, you're such a staid old

fossil," grunted Benny A. disgustedly. "Weren't you ever young in your life?"

Grandfather Clock looked pained. "Yes," he answered with dignity, "but I was never boisterous, and I always showed respect for my elders. The young people of those days were far different from the present day. There weren't any of these fast tickers then, and no painted faces or gold-tipped hands. And as for these frivolous little wrist watches," Grandfather Clock sighed, "they're bold faced, fancy dressed dolls! I'm glad to say we never heard of such things."

"Whew, what a pokey old time you must have had," declared Benny A., laughing. "I'm glad I'm a present-day clock."

Grandfather Clock smiled reminiscently. "Not so pokey as you might think," he replied, "and I haven't always been so staid and quiet either. There was a time when I made as much noise as you ever thought of making. I believe I made more," he added proudly.

"Well," said Benny A., "then you shouldn't be so hard on me."

"Oh," Grandfather Clock hastened to assure him, "I made my noise at proper times. Every hour I sang forth, and I had a beautiful bass voice, too. Not one of these cracked, jazzy voices that you hear every day now."

"Like mine, I suppose you mean to infer," snapped Benny A. He was beginning to get angry at Grandfather Clock.

"Well, yours isn't as sweet and soft as it might be," Grandfather replied quietly.

"Hub," sniffed Benny A., "why don't you sing forth in your beautiful bass voice now? I'd like to hear you."

"I'm old and my voice is ruined," sighed old Grandfather Clock. "Alas, you are a bold, disrespectful clock, but some day you, too, will know what it is to be old."

"Not if I know it!" Benny A.



grunted, Grandfather Clock made him tired with his queer, old-fashioned ways. He'd just show the old fossil. "Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah!" he shouted, louder than ever. "HURRAH!" There was a whirr, a crash, and then a loud bang. Benny A. ticked slowly and painfully. "Why, what's the matter?" asked Grandfather Clock. "Oh, I've lost my voice. It's cracked," wailed Benny A. "I told you so, I told you so," ticked Grandfather Clock.

PICTURE PUZZLE

What 4 rhyming words are here?



Answer to yesterday's: Thomas.