

The Oregon Statesman

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A PRACTICAL PRISON REFORM

(From Yesterday's Oregonian) Governor Pierce has expressed the belief that if he is given the same amount for the penitentiary that was appropriated for that institution by the preceding legislature (\$420,000) he will be able to install industries that will make the penitentiary self-supporting.

The Oregonian has no definite ideas on what the initial cost of making the penitentiary self-supporting would be but it believes that if it can be made self-supporting that an expenditure of twice \$420,000, if necessary, would be a worthy expenditure. It is convinced that if such a thing is done by Governor Pierce it will be set down as one of the great achievements of his administration.

There is published in another column today a conservative and unbiased review of the workings of a similar plan in the penitentiary of Minnesota. The article was prepared at the solicitation of The Oregonian by a responsible newspaper writer.

In Minnesota, as disclosed by this review, prison industries have not only paid for a new institution, but pay the entire cost of maintenance and have built up a large revolving fund.

There are also certain indirect benefits from industries that sustain a state prison, some of which are of money value, and others are of moral value, but none of them are reckoned on the ledgers of the institution.

The Minnesota plan provides for payment of small wages to the prison inmates. The money so earned goes toward the support of their dependents, saving them in many instances from becoming public charges. In other cases dependents of the victims of murderers are supported in whole or in part by the earnings of the latter.

An important purpose of imprisonment of transgressors of the law is reformation. It is foolish to think that men kept in a cage in idleness can ordinarily be reformed. Idleness breeds moroseness, indifference, resentment, to be carried away by the inmates when released. Menial work or work which bears no practical fruit that the worker can discern is not a great deal better than idleness in the effect on the moral fiber. But productive work is an incentive to thrift and industry, lack of which is so often the reason why men go wrong. The knowledge that their dependents are cared for out of their own earnings begets, too, a feeling of responsibility and relieves a worry that assails those who have done wrong, often as bitterly as those who have been deprived of their earning capacity through no moral fault of their own.

That which Minnesota has done ought to be possible for Oregon to do. The above from the Oregonian is well written—And it is the gospel truth—And that which Minnesota has done Oregon can do; only Oregon can do it better; easier; with greater profit; with greater general benefit—Because there will be three profits here; where there is only one in Minnesota, using Mexican sisal from Yucatan and Manila hemp from the Philippines. There is a profit here in the Salem district to the farmer

growing flax; there is a second profit at the prison of about 50 per cent., at present prices, in making the flax straw into fiber and tow and taking out the seed; and there will be an immense profit in spinning the fiber and the better grade of tow into seine and sack and other twines.

Then there will be the great advantage to all western Oregon of aiding in getting the linen industry in all its various branches established here—

An industry that is bound to become the biggest industry in Oregon, by the very nature of the case; by the decrease of nature—an industry that will keep \$30,000,000 a year in the United States, now sent abroad for linen manufactures. To say nothing of possible immense shipments to countries with which we have and will develop trade relations.

It seems to be a case of the Lady or the Tiger—in Europe.

Every day, in every way, things are getting hotter and hotter in Europe; and in the Oregon legislature.

President Harding has made Irvin S. Cobb a major. But did the former Paducah (Ky.) reporter ever cock a cannon?

Everybody now begins to see the future greatness of the flax industry for the Salem district; for all of western Oregon.

There is a lot of history in the making just now. What the final result will be here and in Europe is in the lap of the gods.

"Pussyfoot" Johnson, who is spending some time in San Bernardino, Cal., says he intends to live until the world is dry. And "Pussyfoot" is no spring chicken either.

The Oregon legislature will take up Governor Pierce's on his proposition to make the penitentiary self-supporting. And Governor Pierce will make good. Sure as you are alive.

MINNESOTA PRISON MAKING MILLIONS

Inmates Pay Cost of Building \$2,500,000 Institution—Wages Paid Convicts—Pay Goes to Support Families or Help Victims of Crimes Done by Those Incarcerated.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 21.—(Special.)—Manufacturing enterprises carried on by the Minnesota state penitentiary have not only made that institution self-supporting for more than 20 years, but have earned profits amounting to millions of dollars.

In addition, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been paid in wages to prisoners for the support of dependents and millions have been saved to farmers through lowered costs of binding twine and farm machinery. The entire cost of the \$2,500,000 penitentiary, completed in 1913, has been paid from the earnings of its industries.

These statements, taken from official documents, indicate only the financial aspects of Minnesota's long experience with prison industries. The results are even more important when measured in terms of social betterment of the convicts and their families. It was asserted by state officials and social workers.

1000 in Prison The prison, with an approx-

imate population of 1000 inmates, has had no serious infractions of discipline for years. The moral is high, and living conditions are of the best. Approximately 85 per cent of the prisoners passed the past five years have made good. Dependents of the inmates, by reason of the wages paid in the industries, do not become objects of charity, and maintain their self-respect.

All of these facts, it is believed by prison officials, are wholly or in part the result of intelligently administered industrial activities.

Minnesota now manufactures in its penitentiary at Stillwater binding twine and a general line of farm machinery. Printing, tailoring, farming and dairying are also carried on on a non-commercial basis, supplying products only to state-owned institutions.

Contract Labor Prohibited The "contract labor" system is prohibited, all convicts being employed directly by the state in the prison's own factories.

Wages paid the prisoners range from 25 cents a day to \$1.50 a day, depending on the ability of the individual and the needs of his dependents. The working day is eight hours. The men are required to render their earnings to their families in all cases where it is needed.

In some instances convicts send their pay to women and children unrelated to them, but who suffered because of their crimes. Thus, several murderers help support the widows and children of the men they killed.

If a prisoner has a particularly large family dependent on him and the regular wages would not suffice to support them, he is permitted to accept pay which comes from an aid fund set aside from the profits of the industries.

Officials of the penitentiary assert that the feeling of self-respect kept alive in both the prisoners and their dependents by the wage system, is an important factor in reforming the convicts and keeping their wives and children in paths of honesty.

Twine Made for Years The Minnesota penitentiary has been manufacturing binding twine commercially since 1890, and farm machinery since 1906. For many years, however, the industries were carried on only on a small scale.

About 1902 real development began, and from that time on the institution has been running at a handsome profit to the state.

When the need for a new state prison became pressing, about 1900, officials were so convinced of the possibilities of penitentiary industries that plans were made to erect a \$2,500,000 institution capable of paying for itself.

The state legislature authorized the issuance of certificates of indebtedness to pay the cost of constructing the prison. The work was completed in 1913, and since then the profits from the industries have paid off the debts, so that the entire installation was

erected at virtually no cost to the taxpayers.

During the fiscal year 1921, the latest period for which figures are available, the prison manufactured 20,029,475 pounds of binding twine and sold 17,440,040 pounds, for which it received \$2,218,892.62.

Farm Machinery Made During the same time the prison made and sold \$496,968 worth of farm machinery, including binders, mowers, rakes, corn harvesters, transport trucks, tongue trucks and flax attachments.

This gives a total gross sales for the year of \$2,715,878. In 1920 the gross sales were \$3,526,019. Owing to the general depression of business, and particularly the sad plight of Minnesota agriculture in these two years, the prison showed a net loss for the biennium of a little less than \$5000. This is the first time since 1901 that the expenses of the prison have exceeded its earnings, and the loss was easily absorbed by the \$4,000,000 revolving fund which has been built up for operating use.

Wages Are \$132,581 However, in noting the \$5000 loss it should be considered that \$22,581 was paid in wages to the prisoners, and \$777,489.50 went to maintain the institution, all of which was charged against the manufacturing income.

The twine was sold at 1 cent to 1 1/2 cents a pound less than was charged by private manufacturers, and the best grade of wheat binders sold at 45 below the closest competitor's price, with other machinery selling in proportion.

State officials estimate that these prices saved farmers of the northwest \$2,500,000 during the biennium.

Since binding twine is not privately manufactured in Minnesota the prison does not compete in this line with any workers in its own territory. Farm machinery is privately manufactured in the state, but the amount sold by the prison is so small in proportion to the total used in Minnesota that there has been no substantial opposition.

Prison Industry Restricted New prison industries are restricted by law to such as do not present employ free labor within the state.

The industrial operations of the prison are carried on by means of a revolving fund, created in 1891 when the legislature appropriated \$50,000 for manufacturing binding twine. By additions of profit, this fund now exceeds \$4,000,000.

The state board of control, a commission having general supervision over the state's penal institutions, reformatories, asylums, special schools for handicapped and similar public enterprises, is in control of the prison and its activities.

The board consists of five members, at least two of whom must be women, appointed by the governor with the approval of the state senate. The term of appointment is six years. The salary is \$4500 a year. In direct charge of the prison factories are the warden and a superintendent of industries, assisted by various subordinate officials. The warden makes his reports to the board of control. The products are sold in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota by a regularly employed force of salesmen.

(The above is from the Oregonian of yesterday. It more than confirms what The Statesman has been saying and repeating day after day, in season and out of season—if there can be any time that is out of season for such an important subject. M. C. McMillan, superintendent of industries at the Stillwater penitentiary, in writing recently to the editor of The Statesman, said: "Last year (1921) the profit on the twine industry amounted to \$270,005.19. This amount is in addition to the \$250,000 paid into the prison fund and also \$40,000 paid to the inmates as wages." So the loss of less than \$5000 in 1920 and 1921 was not made by the twine industry. It was made by the other industries there. And it was a mighty small amount in the surplus of over \$4,000,000, besides supporting the institution, and supporting it so well that it is one of the model prisons of the entire world.—Ed.)

The South Dakota penitentiary, at Sioux Falls, has also a binder twine factory—a very small one; having only 100 "spindlers," working just a dozen or so men. It made a profit of over \$20,000 last year. The prison board and warden have recommended an enlargement of their plant, and the South Dakota legislature is now considering this; with a view to making that prison entirely self-supporting.

There is much more profit in flax twine than in sisal and manila hemp twine, made in Minnesota and South Dakota—and the flax is grown here, right around Salem, while the sisal has to come from Yucatan, Mexico, and the manila hemp from the Philippines. The Minnesota prison works 300 men in its twine factory. The Oregon penitentiary, equipped to spin flax tow and fiber into sack and seine and other twines, working 100 men at the spinning, can support two penitentiaries like the Oregon penitentiary, and make a surplus of \$100,000 a year besides; and it can pay as high wages as the Minnesota prison pays, and higher, to every prisoner who works at any task.

and still create a big annual surplus, after lifting the burden entirely from the taxpayers.

Legislature will soon be half over.

Nearly everything can wait a couple of years, excepting the cutting down of expenses and the reduction of taxes. These are urgent.

When the penitentiary plant shows how much money there is in spinning twine from flax fiber and tow, there will begin to be factories outside those grim walls—and then there will be developed millionaire linen manufacturers in Salem. It's on the way now.

The linen industry in Salem will soon day alone support a city ten times as big as Salem is now. And the wide world will be the market.

Prof. Emil Coue is arguing the possibility of using his methods of mental therapeutics in the correction and cure of crime. A Salem man who had his Ford stolen thinks it may also work the other way—that is, that the thief was actuated by auto-suggestion in snatching his Lizzie.

A Salem school boy told his teacher that every member of his family is some kind of an animal; that Jimmie is mother's little lamb, he's the kid, mother's va-dear, and dad's the goat.

Since 1918, prices in the United States have dropped 10 times, and gone up 11; and it is now half-past 11, going on 12.

Willamette Men's Glee Club to Tour Northwest

The Willamette Men's Glee club will leave Thursday for one of the most extensive tours the organization has ever taken; it will be away from home for three weeks, in eastern Oregon, Idaho and Washington.

The club carries 22 men in all, including the star instrumental attraction, the Willamette trio, Delbert Moore as violinist; Avery Hicks as cellist, and Byron Arnold as pianist. They add delightfully to the vocal program. Roy Skeen has a heavy dramatic reading, "Jean Valjean," that has been highly commended, and there are some other solo and special numbers. The Glee club has never been in better condition and probably no other year has it been able to get out in public as early as this year.

\$800 Player Piano, \$355

Only \$10 down, \$2 a week. This player has been used but it is in fine condition and we will fully guarantee it. Bench and ten rolls of music included. Act at once if you want this buy. Geo. C. Will, 432 State Street

EDITORIALS OF THE PEOPLE

Have Americans Souls?

Editor Statesman:

Several weeks ago I attended a concert in a distant city. The usual "large and appreciative" audience was present. The singers and musicians were much above the average and the music was "simply wonderful," I was told. It was wonderful, I suppose. At least it was evidently the result of tremendous effort, both past and present. At the end of each number we instinctively applauded from sheer gratification at seeing a difficult feat successfully accomplished.

When I had listened for half an hour, or so, I began to feel disappointed and very unhappy. I glanced around to see if others were receiving something that I was incapable of receiving. What I saw amazed me. People of phlegmatic disposition were just comfortable and apparently enjoying having their ears tickled, while those of a more sensitive nature were evidently suffering. The musicians themselves seemed painfully self-conscious and tense.

At the close of the concert a clatter of comment arose. Each seemed to be vying with the other as to which could discuss the singers' voices in the most approved style. Then my disappointment changed to some other feeling, and my thoughts went back to a beautiful summer evening long ago, when as a child I sat among the rocks on a rugged Irish coast and watched a big Atlantic steamer pass by. A few women and girls stood on the stand to wave a last good-bye to sons, brothers or friends as they passed. With handkerchiefs fluttering from the deck the ship passed on. The women watched in purple haze from the distant horizon, then they slowly returned to their lonely and desolate hearths.

A few evenings later these women sat on the rocks and sang. Their voices were untrained and would not have met the approval of a musical critic, but as they sang what pathos, what infinite longing, what triumph, what joy, resounded from those lonely rocks! Those who listened were carried far away to other realms. None could return to offer cheap compliments to the singers. Nor would the singers have wished compliments. They "only sang to the skies," and we who listened merely caught the message as it passed.

Sometimes I ask myself the question: What is music? Is it nothing more than an agreeable sound that begins in the lungs of the singer and ends in the ear of the hearer? Is it not rather the expression of a soul unclipped and refined by sorrow?—the language of a "heart."

that sorrow has frowned on in vain." The Americans have good voices and very delicate ears. They have hearts, too, I believe, but I am not so sure that they have souls. The American people are amiable, generous, kind. But they surround themselves with material comforts and refuse to suffer. When their friends die they employ an anodyne they call "faith" that not only dreads the pain of bereavement but also dreads the soul of the bereaved. I just wonder if prosperity is a blessing after all. Would it not be better to relinquish the material and temporal to obtain the spiritual and eternal? Would it not be infinitely better to suffer and to grow? Sincerely, —E. R. C.

Dismissal of Suits is Objectionable to Lawyers

The committee on revision of laws in the senate yesterday introduced a bill prohibiting the dismissing by courts of suits, actions or proceedings for want of prosecution without notice to attorneys.

The bill provides that no court or judge upon its own motion, for want of prosecution, may dismiss any suit, action or proceeding pending or hereafter pending until 30 days notice to each of the attorneys shall be given. Otherwise any dismissal shall only be made upon motion of a party to the suit, action or proceeding.

FEW FOLKS HAVE GRAY HAIR NOW

Druggist Says Ladies Are Using Recipe of Sage Tea and Sulphur

Hair that loses its color and lustre, or when it fades, turns gray, dull and lifeless, is caused by a lack of sulphur in the hair. Our grandmothers made up a mixture of Sage Tea and Sulphur to keep her locks dark and beautiful, and thousands of women and men who value that even color, that beautiful dark shade of hair which is so attractive, use only this old-time recipe.

Nowadays we get this famous mixture improved by the addition of other ingredients by asking at any drug store for a bottle of "Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound," which darkens the hair so naturally, so evenly, that nobody can possibly tell it has been applied. You just dampen a sponge or soft brush with it and draw this through your hair, taking one small strand at a time. By morning the gray hair disappears; but what delights the ladies with Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound is that, besides beautifully darkening, the hair after a few applications, it also brings back the gloss and lustre and gives it an appearance of abundance.—Adv.

The Junior Statesman

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For Boys and Girls



BOY ADVENTURES

Harrison's First Flight William Henry Harrison, who afterwards became president of the United States, as a young boy was slender and frail, but, like Stevenson, he dreamed of deeds of valor which seemed entirely out of keeping with his size. He started to study medicine, but soon gave that up for the more active life of the army. Before he was twenty he was an ensign assigned to accompany General St. Clair in an expedition which he undertook against the Indians, who were murdering the white settlers and destroying their homes in the Northwest Territory. The expedition met with disaster. In a desperate battle with the Indians the little band of palefaces was almost wiped out. Young Harrison escaped.

Commands Park Train

The great daring and courage which he showed in this encounter led to his being placed in command of a park train carrying supplies to the frontier posts. As a reward for his distinguished services Harrison was made a lieutenant when he was about twenty.

ing sun, and the empty bed of the tank was the only place where there were still a few dry blades of grass for the cattle.

As Arul hurried along the street, she saw Seeta come out of her hut. Arul's dark face flushed with anger at sight of her. "I hate her as I do the snakes of the jungle," she thought. "She is a snake, a thief!" Seeta, too, was one of the herd girls. She was jealous of Arul because Arul came from a better family and had many advantages that Seeta had not. But the one thing that Seeta

girls carried Seeta home. Arul followed, driving her cattle and goats, but paying no attention to the sick girl. She hurried home to her supper of dark bread and black gruel. At the door her sister met her. Under her ragged dress Arul saw something sparkle. With a loud cry she made a dive for it and jerked forth her precious beads.

"I didn't think you would care," her sister wept. "Care!" Arul shrieked. "You wicked girl. You shall never wear them again."

Down the street she ran to Seeta's hut. She burst into the one dirty little room. "Seeta, Seeta," she cried. "Get well. See what I brought you." Kneeling down beside the sick girl she clasped the sparkling beads around her neck.

Seeta sat on one side of the basin and watched her cattle and goats, while, as far away from her as she could get, Arul sat and brooded over her hate for Seeta. How she hated her! She wanted to hurt her, to make her suffer as she had made Arul by stealing her beads. She must think of some way to get revenge. She wished the Miss Missionary were there to tell her what to do, but she was away up in the mountains. She could not have lived in such terrible heat.

Then Arul sat up and stared. Something was the matter with Seeta! She was ill! The other herd girls were helping her up. Arul could scarcely believe her eyes. Seeta was being punished for being so wicked. Yes, that was it! Arul was glad.

It was almost evening, so the



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Answer to last puzzle: Dublin, Ireland.



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A WELL DRESSED young man walks down Broadway. He wears an Oregon-made overcoat. In Oshkosh a mother tucks an Oregon blanket around the children as she kisses them good night. At Palm Beach, Waikiki and other fashionable resorts made-in-Oregon bathing suits lead in popularity.

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These Oregon industries make Oregon Quality merchandise to be obtained at your clothier's or dry goods and other stores. Ask for their brands.

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- Adrian Neckwear Co., "Handy-Tie."
- Ball Angel Co., Leather Specialties.
- Ball Waist Co., "Palmyra" Waists, Dresses.
- Beaver Cloth & Suit Mfg. Co., "Beaver" Cloaks, Suits.
- Beaver Glee Co., "Beaver" Gloves.
- Bergman Shoe Mfg. Co., "Bergman" Shoes.
- Brownville Woolen Mills, "Brownville" Woolen Goods.
- Columbia Knitting Mills, "Columbianni" Line.
- Eugene Woolen Mills, "Three Sisters" Cloth, Flannels, Fleischer, Mayer & Co., "Mt. Hood" Shirts, Overalls, etc.
- Globe Hat & Cap Co., "Globe" Line.
- Greenland, Herbert, Tailored Oregon Fabrics.
- Hartness Plume Shop, Plumes, Feathers.
- Hirsch Weis Mfg. Co., "Willamette" Tents, Waterproof Cloaks, etc.
- Hudson Bay Fur Co., Furs.
- Huntington Rubber Mills, "Non-Skid" Hoels, Soles, "Evening" Buttons.
- Jacobs Hat & Cap Works, "Jaro" and "Trazel" Lines.
- Jansen Knitting Mills, "Jansons" Swimming Suits.
- Kay Woolen Mills (Salem), Woolen Cloth.
- Liebes & Co., Furs.
- L. C. Cloth & Suit Mfg. Co., "L. C." Suits.
- Meadows, F. J., Tailored Oregon Fabrics.
- Monsie & Paxon, Inc., Waists, etc.
- Metropolitan Hat & Cap Co., "Clay" Cap, etc.
- Multnomah Trunk & Bag Co., Trunks, Suitcases, Gladstone Bags.
- Newlander Bros., "N B" Line, "Deer-of-the-Head," etc.
- Northwest Knitting Mills, "Westmont" Suits.
- Oregon City Mfg. Co., "Jacobs" Oregon City, Woolen Oregon Worsted Co., "Maypole" Yarn.
- Paris Hat Mfg. Co., Women's Hats.
- Pendleton Woolen Mills, "Pendleton" Blankets, etc.
- Portland Woolen Mills, Woolen Cloth.
- Prufke Garment Co., Aprons, Drivers' Garments.
- Rinsberg, S. E., Aprons.
- Simmons Glove Co., Gloves.
- Times Mfg. Co., "Will-Wear" Cloaks, Suits, Outer Suits.