

# NEW WARDEN HOLDS A CREED

Thinks Reparation Rather Than Punishment Is Purpose of Penal Institution—"Treat Them White" Motto of Oregon State Prison—Flax Industry Within Walls Broadened to Support Institution and Make Wage-earners of the Prisoners

A dozen years ago, the state of Idaho had a really wonderful stove foundry at its state prison. The work was done under the old system that believed that once a man was convicted of a crime, his time, his soul, was the property of the state; to be used, or abused, or battered or sold with as clear a right as if it were a pound of soap. The stove foundry was a model of the older thought; it was carried on by prison labor, and there was work for everybody—but practically no money, no incentive to the individual. The state sold a certain amount of prison time to the contractors, and delivered the workers to the factory; the contractors owed only the contract price for the labor, and nothing whatever for humanity's sake.

Politics, and a growing doubt whether the state had a moral right to take all a man has merely because he is found guilty of a wrong, led to the abolition of the old contract factory. What

hair's breadth, is still a human being, surely the vote of one man more on a jury could not rightfully remove the prisoner from all human rights!

What is actually needed is not punishment, but reparation. A careful mental investigation shows that most of the prisoners are below normal, in education if not in intelligence; they show the average mental standing of boys less than eight years of age. More of them need mothers, and fathers, and brothers, than ever need the hangman's noose, of the dungeon; and almost every one needs a friend. The state ought to be all these, in one; it is the only power with the right to take men and even try to remake their lives.

Starting with the scientific fact that most of these men are below normal in their education and home training and ideals, with the certainty that most of them will be back into the world inside of two years, certainly it must appeal to business, as much as humanity, for the state to try to give them two years of training in responsibility, in honesty, in industry.

This is a long introduction to Warden Smith's short creed: "Treat them white and train them to go back to society better men than when they came in."

What is happening out there is best shown in a conversation that occurred a few days after he took office, in January. A man called on him, asking for a job as guard. He explained that he was a dead shot, an experienced prison guard, and that they'd never get away from HIM. The warden heard him through and said: "I don't want dead shots—I want good white men, and not good gunmen!" That tells a wonderful story of the present point of view.

Warden Smith believes that the old-time stingy father was a thief who gave his boy a calf to keep, and then after the boy had cared for the animal up to maturity the father would sell it and keep the money. He believes that the father who makes his home hateful by brutality and insult, deserves reprisals and hate in return. He puts the state in the place of the father, and the prisoners in the place of the sons. The sons have been bad boys; perhaps because the father was stingy, or brutal, or intolerant or careless perhaps because they had gotten into bad company. But they are still his sons; he can't kill them and forget them, or exile them, or do anything other than live with them for the years after they get out of the court's clutches. What would be the best business—to goad them on to fresh hate and reprisal, to indolence and to viciousness so that they shall go back to society poisoned through and through with criminality—or to try to teach them something better? Warden Smith knows which is the better way; so does every man and woman in the world who is not self-poisoned by egotism.

Every man who goes to prison is expected to pay the full righteous penalty. He ought to pay. But he cannot pay by suffering mere brutality; he could pay infinitely better by working and letting his labor reimburse the state for all his own expenses, and by sending wages to his suffering family and by learning to support himself when he goes back to society. "I am cold-blooded on the question of a man's paying his debt to the state," said Warden Smith; he is as far from mushy sentimentality as one could be; but he does see how every prisoner can repay and rebuild at the same time. And he is proceeding to carry it out.

There is a little furniture factory in the prison, that is having a fine sale for all its products. The maple and oak logs are bought and brought in to be worked up in the prison mill. The wood is thoroughly seasoned, before being worked up. The factory is not "modern" in its arrangement, as it was frankly an experiment, and the machinery placement not good; but the work shows a fine possibility.

The flax industry has been carried on rather desultorily for some years, with no marked enthusiasm, and with faint-praise damnings. It is lived, however, and the new warden believes that it offers a chance to make the penitentiary pay all its own way, once the industry is fully established. The prison revolving fund for handling the flax business, which is actually made up from the savings over the cost of operating for the years just past, should finance the business and make it a success. It will not employ all the men now in the prison, but it will take a considerable number. The flax grown in the Willamette valley last summer, is now being worked up into fiber and tow; the spinning machinery that should make the big money has not yet been bought.

The definite scale of payment to the prisoners has not yet been established. First of all will have to come the upkeep of the business itself. After that, the total amount of prison upkeep will doubtless be

considered; a fair repayment of the court expenses would not be unjust, to be paid along with the wages to go to family or to going-out capital. All this payment will have to depend on the outcome of the twine manufacture, where the real money is.

There were 431 inmates at the Oregon state prison, March 22nd. This is not quite the largest number in the institution's history, but it is so near to it that the present may be called the high tide of Oregon's prison history.

That is not especially creditable to the state. After the profound spiritual agitation of the great war, when men were roused to their best by the appeal to patriotism, courage, integrity, it looks as if the prisons should be emptied following the return of peace.

That they are not, is a condition and not a theory. It needs handling more from the spiritual than the venal standpoint, for something has happened to the human consciousness that turns unselfish patriotism toward the prison doors. Warden Smith looks on the prison as a workshop, a moral hospital, in which there are many human derelicts that need fixing; they need intelligent doctoring and not brutal batterings.

business organization; it talks like a brother-hood of men anxious to help in the regeneration of their fellows. If it functions throughout as it appears after its first two months, it will be one of the model prisons and moral hospitals of the whole nation.

## SALEM ENTERS NEW EPOCH

(Continued from page 1)

First three groups are arranged in a rectangle extending for several city blocks and are surrounded with landscape effects which are striking and beautiful. Opposite the capitol is the campus of Willamette university, also beautiful and kept in a manner befitting its dignity and its calling. The ensemble effect of the whole is one that will never be forgotten by the person who has viewed it.

Salem, therefore, is taking on the activities of large manufacturing and business enterprises and at the same time preserving her old ideals of physical and civic cleanliness and culture, which have made her an outstanding residential city for years and years. For the person who loves beauty, Salem contains a cornucopia of charms; the man who is looking for business investment is attract-

# DEAF SCHOOL BOON TO STATE

Oregon Institution Does Great Work in Overcoming Handicap Placed on Many Bright Children—Educational Subjects Taught and Instruction in Useful Trades Imparted—Many Graduates Attend College—O. L. McIntyre Supt.

Those who lose their hearing in middle or old age, may count it only as an annoyance; sometimes as even a 50-50 gain, for they are not obliged to hear the annoying sounds that the normal person can not escape.

But to start into life without the ability to hear, means to start with a terrible handicap; for the one most understanding sense, through which one receives so many vivid impressions, is lost. One cannot speak for speech is the result of study of sounds—no eye or finger-tip or taste can give one the ability to either give or receive intelligent sound impressions. The fact that the deaf pupils are at least four years behind the average for their ages in school development, even with all the help that the state schools can give them, is the tragic story of what it means to start in life without the gift of hearing.

Oregon has 124 pupils in the state school for the deaf, here in Salem. The school is filled to the limit; and there are a number of others who have been reported in, who are deprived of schooling because there is no room for them. The school has 10 grade school teachers, and four who have industrial classes. As all the pupils are taught by the grade teachers, this gives an av-

erage of a little more than 12 pupils per teacher. This is believed to be much too large a number; one teacher to every 10 pupils is given as a fair minimum teaching force for any teaching requiring such personal, individual instruction. The state has not over-appropriated for these afflicted ones, on this showing.

The school course includes only the eighth grade as prescribed by the state public school course of study. This does not seem very high; but with three or four years handicap, even this

brings many of the pupils up close to the age of legal majority. The pupils are taken in as young as six years of age, and are kept until 21 years of age, if they wish to stay; or until the eighth grade course is completed.

After completing the regular school course, however, a pupil is fairly well prepared for continuing in many regular branches of advanced education. Some go in to various high schools and colleges where despite their handicaps they may succeed. Gallaudet college, at Washington, is the great national college for the higher education of the deaf. The proportion of those who go here; or elsewhere to schools of higher learning, is not very large; not nearly so large as of those of normal hearing after finishing the eighth grade.

An especial effort is made, however, to teach industrialism. The boys have training in carpentry, printing, farming and gardening. The girls learn housekeeping and domestic arts, as practical experts and not as mere adventurers into a pleasing little game. As the school is an "institution" and home, and not a mere day-school, it has the opportunity to direct the activities of its students most carefully; so these practical avenues to livelihood can be insisted upon.

The school was established for abundant physical training, which is even more essential than for normal children; the deaf children here learn to forget their handicaps, and lose their self-consciousness. The school needs more room, even for the pupils now attending; and the unfortunate for whom there is no room, must waste their youth and eventually their whole lives, because of the shortage.

O. L. McIntyre, the present superintendent, came here a year ago from the Kentucky school for the deaf; prior to that he was principal in the Oklahoma state school. He is a graduate of Gallaudet college, Washington, thru special fellowship for those who are training for teaching among the deaf, and who show special aptitude for the work. The school is making little public demonstration, but its work is progressing satisfactorily in every way. It has had exceptionally good health this winter.

## STATE GUARDS WEAK Provides Beautiful Home for Tending Sub-Mental

Most people of Oregon would be shocked to know that there are now in the Oregon school for the feeble minded 730 inmates; 200 or more of them utterly incapable of receiving any assistance in developing mentality that is worse than dormant is non-existent. Not a too-large proportion, perhaps, of the total state's population; but a staggering aggregate of deficiency that is a never-ending state burden.

Where do they come from? Everywhere; from the proudest homes as well as the humblest. They come from booze, from either father or mother, or both; they come from homes where the black plague has entered, perhaps generations back, but that will have its deadly toll at length; they come from homes where nothing else could be afflicted under the present marriage laws, from homes where illness, or overwork, or worry, has laid upon the generation-to-be born the payment of the parents' debt. They come from accidents in childhood—oh, they come from myriad sources, each one a tragedy, each one a near-immortality that has failed.

This is only in a limited sense an educational institution; for it is, almost primarily, a hospital for the unfortunates who mercifully do not know usually their misfortune. A school is maintained, however, and a very effective one; with 250 or more students who are making satisfactory progress considering their limitations. There are six teachers. Most of the work is within the elementary grades, for the mental limitations of those who belong there preclude much farther flight into educational realms.

There are few who ever come to this home with criminal or at least violent tendencies. Sex perversion because of lack of mental balance, is not rare. Because of the known fecundity of the feeble-minded, the demand for marriage is growing stronger all over the civilized world; the sterilization law passed in Oregon two years ago, seemed to provide for stopping all feeble-minded marriages in the future; before the law was declared unconstitutional. The new law, passed this winter, seems to have no legal loophole; it seems to offer the solution for all next-generation weaklings by making it impossible for those of unsound mind to become parents. It should be noted that feeble-mindedness is a constant condition; it is not merely a temporary lack of balance, caused by any stress that may be removed, but it is a never-to-be-remedied lack of intellect that no fury of book-learning cramming can

overcome. There never can be a development of mentality where the seeds of mentality themselves have failed to sprout and develop. To make impossible the perpetuation of feeble mentality, is to make impossible most of the awful crop of incompetents now in the Oregon institution.

There are some more who could be considerably helped in school if the quarters allowed; the institution is much overcrowded. The farm of 630 acres is worked by the patients; it supplies much of their living. There is no "school year" for this unhappy school; for the conditions that send them there in the beginning, continue without vacation. They will continue on until death; and that blessed boon is usually a long way off, for the deficient may outlive even the normal, because of having no worries or cares. The net result is that the school attendance is cumulative; it would necessarily be so. The death rate is based on the same ages as that of all the people of the state. There are some patients there, of extreme old age; there can be no other place for them, because they can never improve, never graduate, and many can not even hope for a merciful release.

The biennial appropriation of \$315,000 takes care of the institution, with the income from the farm. There are some of not very great degree of sub-normality who can be used in all the farm, dairy and home work. It is a plaintive and not a violent place. There is none of the violent, grotesque, sinister, homicidal feeling of the insane; it is the helplessness of infancy, that wonders through its sluggish senses, that does not hate, or love, or even suffer deeply. There are no noble intellects in ruins, no strong souls in chains of torment; it is all a pitiful weakness that has no way out save as the state lends its helping hand. No end but in oblivion! There is not a locked door on the place—nobody there but children against whom doors need not be locked!

Through the school, and thru social entertainments, life is made very attractive to those who can grasp the meaning of happiness. Class dances are given, two a week, to teach coordination of mind and body. Some attractive little playlets are given, one each in June and December; some of these compare creditably with similar work done in any school. Music is an attraction for many; and they have a motion picture machine for which films are brought in for a program once a week. It would be supremely delightful if it were for normal children of the same physical age as these are mentally—from six weeks up to four or five years.

Recently a feeble-minded mother was brought to the place, with her babe six weeks old. A second generation inevitably cursed with vacuity, with no possible chance for development; it may grow in physical size, but it must remain a weakling. These were the cases that made the new eugenics law seem a necessity. It did not come in time to save this poor little waif; but it will save many others from a frightful life. The feeble-minded school would not be possible in some of the hardy heathen lands, where the weaklings are slain or left to die. Civilization has not been able to reconcile its conscience with such slaughter—but it is providing a way to prevent the breeding of weaklings.

The Oregon school is reckoned as a conspicuously efficient one of its kind. The state has not a larger proportion of these weaklings, than other states; though they are more carefully located and placed where they can be properly cared for. It is a work that only a few gifted people could do—gifted in sympathy, in understanding. Oregon has found teachers and directors who can do the work, and they are doing it well.

SALEM'S CLIMATE MILD AND BALMY

(Continued from page 1)

To supplement the water supply of summer is the most urgent industrial need of the climate. It isn't altogether a question of climate—only that the climate provides the big rains of winter and the drought of summer, and they could be so beautifully equalized by a rational co-operation of man with nature. The summer heat could be made an ally instead of an enemy; it makes crops grow in watered soil, where it burns and destroys the crops in uncareful for soils. "The Rainmakers," or irrigators have a chance to do marvels in equalizing Oregon extremes, and make them help each other instead of fighting like Kilkenny cats with their tails tied together and their claws tearing up clouds of fur and fury.

People everywhere are invited to get in touch with the Salem Chamber of Commerce for information relating to the Greater Salem District. They will find that their inquiries will receive prompt attention and that the information they receive will be of great interest.



JOHNSON S. SMITH  
Warden of Oregon State Penitentiary

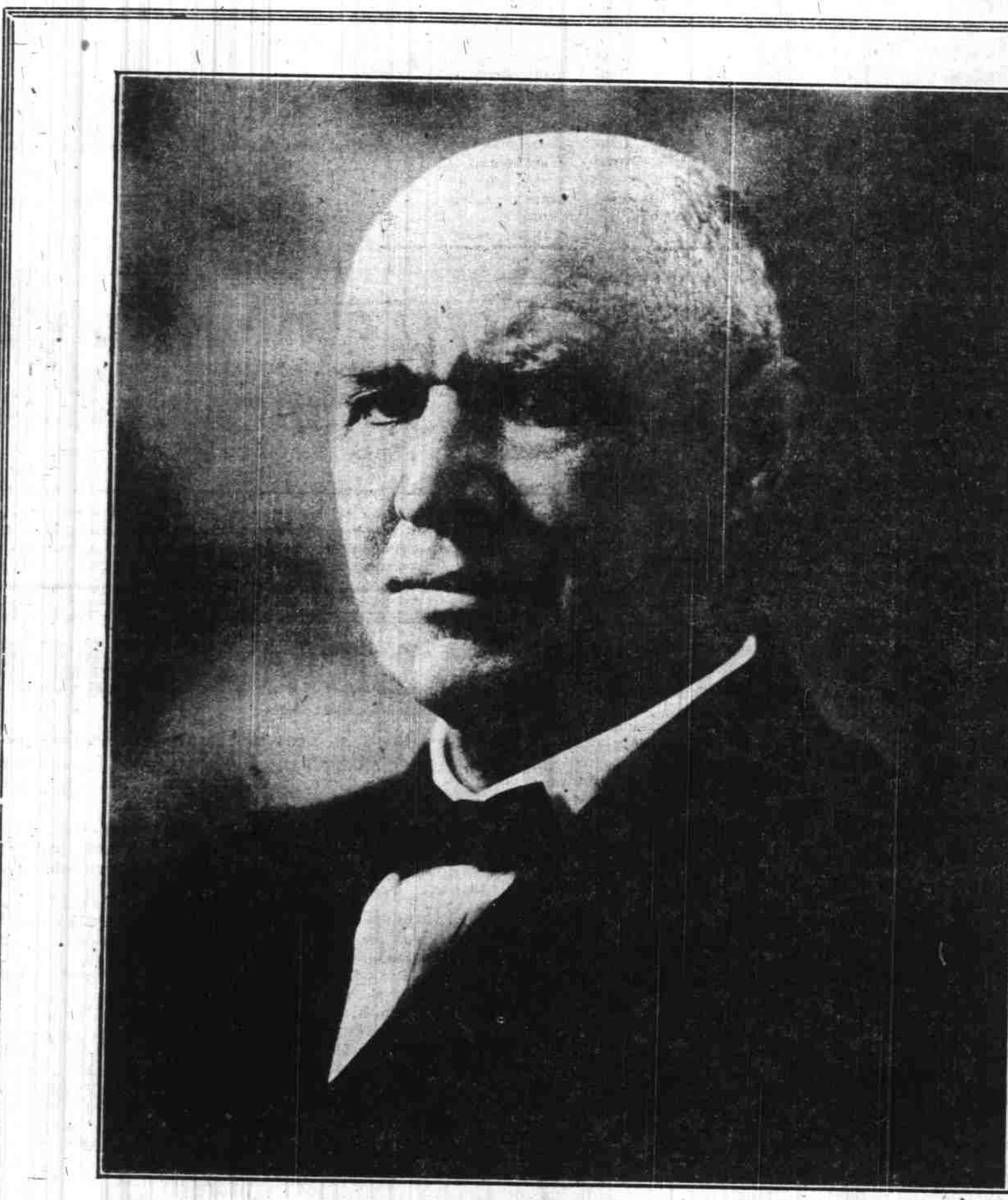
followed, however, was certainly far less moral, less expedient; this was, absolute idleness. Hundreds of men, shut up for years, without a thing to do in all that time but rot down in physical and moral idleness, and then returning to society after an average length of term of only one year and eight months—that has been the net result of the old penal system. In Oregon there have been two small industries, it is true, the woodworking and the flax; but they were totally inadequate to do more than show how bad the rest of the system was.

The legislature this winter appropriated the same amount of money as was given two years ago for penitentiary support; but the new warden, Johnson Smith, believes that out of this appropriation he can finance a great flax industry that will furnish employment for several times as many employes as are now working in the flax mill, and can install and pay for and operate the twine-spinning machinery that will go far towards making the penitentiary self-supporting.

If it does that, it will do infinitely more than merely ceasing to be a money tax on the state. From the industry it is expected to pay nominal wages; either to the families of the men in prison, who now are the worst sufferers in every conviction; or wages that a prisoner can save as working capital when he gets out. This restores to a man his self-respect; he is imprisoned for his crime, but his family can live through his own efforts, the state is repaid for the costs of his conviction and keep, and he has done the honest thing by paying his debts to everybody. More men go back into crime the second time because of having no money to start on, than for any other reason; to remove these men from second-term convictions, by paying them a fair wage after they have paid their own keep, seems only decent morality and good business.

There are those who fear that prisons can be made so fine and comfortable that men will want to stay there, and will commit crimes to stay within the grey walls. If, under the present plans, that should occur, it would be a great stroke of business on the part of the state to encourage men to come back; for their labor would be making the state money—they pile up a \$4,000,000 surplus in the Minnesota prison, and \$9,000,000 in Missouri.

But normal men, with normal, wholesome minds, do not fear the influences of humane treatment on any man. The difference between a man convicted of murder, and one who goes free, may be but one vote; the difference between a man in prison for many other prison crimes and many who enjoy himself outside, may be only three votes out of a jury of 12; the difference between the men who are not indicted for steering so close to the limits of the law, may be but one man in a grand jury indictment. If the man outside who escaped by



WALTER M. PIERCE, Governor

Governor Walter M. Pierce has lived in Oregon for almost two score of years. He has been interested in many things—politics, education, business; but always he has been a farmer and stock raiser. There is no title that he would rather have than that of "the best farmer and breeder of the county." It marks a striking difference between him and many other men in public life; he is essentially a producer, and of the soil that produces, while so many are only vendors or assemblers of things that others have made. From the Pierce standpoint, Oregon must produce more and better goods—better boys and girls, better livestock, better crops, better laws. All things start from the ground, under this philosophy, and all are controllable by the people themselves.

Governor Pierce would have every person vitally interested in this great family partnership of production. His own "white faced calves" have become a political proverb in Oregon; he is prouder cent for a little dead money stuck into its bonds or securities. He is genuinely a part of the state's productive life; the way the people voted for him, regardless of political names, last fall shows their opinion of his sympathetic interest.

His best friends haven't been able to say that he is a demigod who could do no wrong, could not slip into error, or never fail in his judgment of men or measures. Things are not always what on the surface they seem to be; the Pierce vision may sometimes fail to pierce below the surface and detect the things that may be in his way. But he'll be there with the good heart and the earnest mind and the untiring spirit to serve the people of Oregon to the best of his ability. And the man who determines to do right will do it.

Here's to Governor Walter Pierce of Oregon.

The governor says that Smith is to have his own way. What he outlines in the way of financial and moral rehabilitation appeals to the tax-burdened man in the street, as a reasonable way. He is surrounding himself with men in full accord with his aims. R. E. Mantor, closely identified with the American legion, is deputy warden. W. A. Mullins is principal keeper; A. M. Dalrymple is head of the commissary. Some changes have been made in the guard service, but a number of the trustworthy old men have been retained. It looks like a

ed by the great field of natural resources round about; and for the me and women who wish to live amid beautiful surroundings and at the same time earn a livelihood, the city offers inviting openings. And what of the city's future? Perhaps this question is best answered by referring to her tremendous growth of the past decade, during which her native resources have been scarcely tapped. What she will be when she shall have more nearly accomplished the development of her natural advantages will be measured only by their wealth and extent.

more than 50 years ago, and has had more than 600 students, though not nearly all have graduated. The number of children so afflicted is not large; the causes for deafness are not very definitely understood. It usually happens that the children of even two deaf-mute parents—and there are a good many marriages among the graduates of the deaf schools—are as normal in their hearing as any children; the defect is not usually transmitted. There will be four or five graduates this year.