

The Oregon Statesman

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OREGON HAS BETTER CHANCE FOR SELF SUPPORT

The news report of the Friday evening flax meeting, printed in The Statesman yesterday, left the impression that one of the men in his remarks stated that there is manufactured "flax and fiber in the various state prisons."

There is no flax or fiber manufacturing done in any other state prison excepting in the Oregon penitentiary.

What was sought to be impressed by the person quoted is that spinning is a successful operation in a number of the state prisons—but this refers to the spinning of twine and rope mostly; and principally binder twine.

The Minnesota penitentiary at Stillwater makes a profit of about \$300,000 a year in spinning binder twine and other twines—but the raw supply of sisal and manila hemp comes from the state of Yucatan in Mexico, and from the Philippines.

The Missouri penitentiary has a surplus of \$9,000,000 in its revolving fund, earned by its industries, and one of its operations is the spinning of binder twine.

The South Dakota penitentiary is approaching self support, mainly through the spinning of binder twine. A number of other penitentiaries are looking to final self support, and some of them are approaching this stage—

And spinning operations give the best hope of aid towards success in this respect, excepting in the case of the Louisiana penitentiary, which has an immense tract of land and produces sugar cane among other things, and manufactures sugar. The prisoners there are mostly negroes or have negro blood.

Oregon has a better chance to make and keep her penitentiary self supporting, and to place it on a modern and model plane, than has any other state, because of the fact that as good fiber flax is grown here as can be produced in the world; even in the best districts of Belgium and Ireland.

So the spinning operations here will be on raw materials produced or which may be produced in sight of the prison; and because for this and other reasons there can be had a wider "spread" than can be enjoyed in spinning any kind of foreign grown fiber—

And the reader, if he is inclined, is invited to take his pencil and do some figuring, based on the following:

The contracts for 1924 will be for about 2500 acres of flax, and 2500 acres of flax, on good land, well cultivated, with good seed, in the Salem district, in a favorable season, will produce 1000 pounds of fiber to the acre; to say nothing of the by-products of seed, upholstering tow, chaff and seed ground for dairy feed, short tow for coarse spinning, and ground seed for the drug trade, etc.

Say the farmers should get \$40 a ton, 3 tons to the acre, that would be \$300,000. The present price of fiber is 33 cents a pound; that is \$330 a thousand pounds. Multiply \$330 by 2500 acres and you have \$825,000. That leaves \$525,000; not counting any of the by-products. It costs about \$200,000 a year to run the penitentiary. That leaves \$325,000 to the good, for all expenses of manufacturing. Then take 2,500,000 pounds of fiber and multiply it by \$2.60 a pound for seine twine, and see what you have. Or multiply 2,500,000 pounds of fiber by \$24 a pound, the present price of good linen handkerchiefs—

And you get some idea of the possibilities. Or multiply the 17c spinning tow by \$1 a pound for sack sewing twine. Do you say this is visionary? It is not. It is just a glimpse of the possibilities God gave the Salem district; gave western Oregon. Our people have merely been sleeping over better than a gold mine; better than a diamond mine; better than an oil well. Why better? Because the flax industries mine will never pinch out. It will endure for a longer time in the future than the present is away from the age of King Tut, in whose tomb were found flax manufactures showing a fineness of weaving whose methods have been lost; which cannot be duplicated today.

What if we should produce too much flax in any one year for that year's use? Well, it can be stored and used the year after; or 10 or 50 or 100 or even 500 years thereafter. Flax is a mystery crop. It grows in 70 to 90 days, and it lasts as long as civilization has so far lasted.

THE GOOD TIME COMING

(Copyright by the San Jose Mercury.)

"There's a good time coming, boys, A good time coming. We may not live to see the day, But earth shall glisten in the ray Of the good time coming."

Thus sang one of the forward-looking poets of the last century. And is it not more practical and sensible to be thinking of the good time coming to the earth, which time we may help to hasten, than to be content to spend one's life here in anticipating a far away heaven the reality and the time of the coming of which we can not affect? Whether there be this far away heaven and whether we shall reach it, may admit of some doubt, but there is no doubt whatever that the good time of which poets have dreamed and sung never will come to the world until men bring it.

And how are they to bring it? Not by fighting and warring, whether their warfare be as individuals or as nations, and no matter what the subject of the contentions may be. The history of the past should have taught us this. The selfish domination of any one class of society over the others never will hasten its coming. The nightmare of the old autocratic way in Russia and the horrors of the succeeding Soviet regime ought to settle forever that question in the minds of thinking men. Fake political reformers, whether they be of the Lenin or the Magnus Johnson brand, or that

of some other political mountebank, can never usher in the golden age.

Brother Bryan, with his religious doctrine that not a letter of the old creeds and dogmas handed down to us by our forefathers must be changed, is not the prophet to lead us out of Egyptian darkness into the glory of the new day. Neither are the evangelists of selfishness, dogma and ritualism, who promise external rewards to those who have done nothing to earn or merit them. If this would bring the good time, the western world would now be basking in its rays instead of suffering in the horrors and darkness of its present night.

That good time will come to the world, or at least the world will be well on the way to it, when men learn that the highest good to all the people is the greatest good to each individual, and knowing this they go about seeking that good and helping to bring it, not to themselves alone, but to others, to the world.

This was a part, and a large part of the message which the gospels tell us Jesus brought to the world. "He that seeketh his life shall lose it, but he that loseth his life for my sake"—that is, for the sake of the principles that I teach and live—"shall find it." Forgetting self and finding our happiness in bringing good and blessings to others—that is the very soul of His gospel. No matter what one may do to us it is our duty to do only good to him. Thus shall we not only bring the greatest good to ourselves, but shall teach our selfish brother the true way of life for all. Until the world catches something of this spirit and lives it, the new day will not dawn for it.

Yes, the gospel of Jesus Christ is what is to bring to the world the "good time." But that gospel can do nothing for one who does not accept it, and he has not accepted it, no matter what he says or professes, until he makes it the rule of his daily life, until his heart is regenerated by the Holy Spirit of Truth which He promised so that he has forsaken the law of selfishness for the golden rule.

Let it be remembered that His gospel does not consist of the words He uttered, nor the purported printed record of them that has come to us, however glorious and divine they are. His gospel was to teach us the way to that spiritual leading which dominated His life and which distinguishes Him from all other spiritual leaders that the past has brought to the world. He emphasized not verbal dogmas, but the necessity of the development of the inner life so that all may receive the spirit which led Him. When He commanded His disciples to carry His gospel to all the world, He did not say, "Here are my words, declare them everywhere and command all men to obey them," but His last words to them were, "But tarry ye in Jerusalem until ye are endued with power from on high,"—or "until the Spirit of God is in you and can speak and act through you even as it has in and through me."

Men must learn that the light of religion has really not come to them and that they really walk in spiritual darkness, until "that light which lighteth every man who cometh into the world" is really alive and burning in their souls. Without that the New Testament is a closed book to them. The Bible whose precepts and truths are not lived is no Bible to us. Not only does the New Testament teach this, but many great spiritual souls have come to realize it. More than fifty years ago Henry Ward Beecher said, "What is the Bible in your house? It is not the Old Testament, it is not the New Testament, it is not the Gospel according to Matthew, or Mark, or Luke, or John; it is the gospel according to William; it is the gospel according to Mary; it is the gospel according to Henry and James; it is the gospel according to your name. You write your own Bible."

"Walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." These words of Paul are as true today as they were when he uttered them. While we are serving the flesh we can not walk in the spirit. While men are dominated by selfishness and the animal appetites and propensities they are in no condition to hear the voice of God saying to their hearts, "This is the way, walk ye in it." And if they hear they do not obey. No, the "good time coming" sung by the poets is not due yet.

A CRISIS COMING

The European situation continues to become more and more delicate and alarming. A German crash is due at any time and, like Samson of old when the house of cards tumbles down, Germany will not be the only one in the debris. Germany is the key to the entire structure and yet it has been deliberately goaded into overthrowing the civilization of Europe and plunging dozens of countries into chaos.

HOW MISS JONES GUESSED LILLIAN'S PERPLEXITY

"Hello! Hello!" Through the door of the telephone booth in the drug store at Bridgehampton I could see Dicky pressing the receiver up and down as he reiterated his impatient call. And when he finally emitted an impatient, "What's that?" and put the receiver on its hook with a bang, I was not surprised to hear him say as he came breathless and perspiring out of the booth. "They don't answer! Now, what's to be done?"

THE DEER THAT DROWNED IN LONG LAKE

Two lads were stricken with fear. A mean game warden purloined their deer; He took it away, But they say the next day He was ordered in court to appear.

THE SHORT STORY, JR.

"Oh, dear! What can we do? He isn't going to make it." "Hush! Don't yell so hard," Red hissed in Harvey's ear. Now look what you've done. You've scared him so he won't land. Oh, do you suppose he is going to give out so near the shore? If we were only better swimmers!" "We'd only scare him if we did go in after him. Oh-h-h-h!" It was a long draw-out wall. "There he goes!"

INTO ITS OWN

The meeting held in Salem last Wednesday resolved itself into a determination to advertise the prune nationally and bring it in to its own. The country at large of its patients.

STILL GOING

A legend over the building just north of the Oregon Statesman says that the W. C. T. U. is organized to secure national prohibition, and national suffrage. The legend bears the date of 1902. Today, both these results have been secured, but the W. C. T. U. refuses to quit. In fact, it is continuing its operations with the same spirit of devotion it has always shown. This is brought to mind by the fact that two new cottages are to be dedicated at the W. C. T. U. home at Corvallis. Thus, it is that a noble organization completes one task and goes after another one.

THE FEVER

LOWELL M. SHOEMAKER I'm tired of the drab old homeplace, I ache with provincial cramp, And my heart burns with ambition To be an automobile tramp.

THE BOYS AND GIRLS NEWSPAPER

The Biggest Little Paper in the World

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DRIVING A NEEDLE THROUGH A PENNY

"Drive a needle through a penny? It can't be done," you say. But you'll be doing it yourself in five minutes as soon as you read how. And this is the way to do it: Rest a penny on a flat surface; then take a needle and a cork. Put the sewing needle's head into the cork, gradually pressing the needle through the cork till only a short point remains at the bottom. You must break off with pliers the head of the needle if it projects above the top of the cork. The cork holds the needle taut so that when you hammer it the needle point enters the penny without breaking. With a few minutes of hammering, the needle will have made a hole through the copper.

A PERT QUERY

A young man home from college wished to inspire his little sister with awe of his learning. Accordingly, he pointed to a star and said, "Amy, do you see that bright star? It's bigger than this whole world!" "No, it isn't," said his sister. "Yes, it is," declared the young collegian. "Then why doesn't it keep off the rain?" was the triumphant rejoinder.

THE SHORT STORY, JR.

"Waal, I guess I caught you with the goods this time." Red and Harvey had been so intent upon saving the deer that they had never noticed that the man from the other side of the lake had followed the deer over in a boat. They saw that he had left his gun and dog behind. "I seen yer keepin' him from landin'," he pulled back his coat, displaying a badge of an officer of the law.

THE SHORT STORY, JR.

The boys drew back in amazement. "You better be skered," the old man chuckled. "You know it's agin the law to bring about the death of a deer in any manner a-tall." "But we didn't kill him." "That don't go with me. I been watchin'. I seen yef yellin' an' harin' the poor critter and keepin' him from landin'. It ain't the

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ILLINOIS SOCIETY HEARS ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR

Governor Pierce was the orator of the day at the annual picnic of Illinois society, at the fair grounds, Saturday afternoon. He dwelt particularly on the early history of Illinois, and the part the state had played in the development of the America of today—the Lincoln and the Grant and the Chicago and the Cornfields and the fat hogs and all the splendid common citizenship that has made the state such a power for orderly progress.

FUTURE DATES

August 1 to 29—Annual encampment of Boy Scouts at Canada. August 26, Sunday—Scottish Rite Masons go to Independence. August 26, Sunday—Partial eclipse of moon seen after midnight. August 31, Friday—Salem playgrounds to close. September 3, Monday—Labor day. September 3, Monday—Automobile races at state fair grounds. September 3, Monday—Tommy Gilchrist to be in Salem. September 3, Monday—Mt. Angel Highway-Holstein celebration. September 4, Tuesday—Sacred Heart academy to open 61st year. September 5, Wednesday—Salem day at Linn county fair, Albany. September 10, Monday—Partial eclipse of the sun, about noon. September 17, Monday—Constitution day. September 16, Sunday—YMCA setting up program at Wallace farm. September 19, Wednesday—Williamette university opens. September 20, 21 and 22—Federation Roundup. September 24 to 25—Oregon state fair. September 25, Saturday—Football, Williamette vs. Oregon, at Salem. October 1, Monday—Salem schools open. October 6, Saturday—Football, Williamette vs. Washington, at Seattle. October 20, Saturday—Football, Williamette vs. Mt. Angel college, at Salem. October 27, Saturday—Football, Williamette vs. Chemawa, at Salem. November 3, Saturday—Football, Williamette vs. College of Puget Sound, at Tacoma. November 10, Saturday—Football, Williamette vs. Linfield, at McMinnville. November 16, Friday—Football, Williamette vs. Whitman, at Salem. November 23, Friday—Football, Williamette vs. Pacific, probably at Portland. November 29, Thursday—Football, Williamette vs. College of Idaho, at Boise.

THE FEVER

LOWELL M. SHOEMAKER I'm tired of the drab old homeplace, I ache with provincial cramp, And my heart burns with ambition To be an automobile tramp.

THE FEVER

I'm sick of the land and labor, Of hoing and making hay, So we will crank up the fiver, Ruth, And ramble 'till we're far away. I want to patch tires by the roadside While the hot sun burns my nose; I want to crawl under the engine While the grease drips on my clothes. I want to go mostly nowhere But I do not want to stay My home will be aboard the fiver, My address the U. S. A.

THE FEVER

I long for the parks of the tourists Where strange tramps we will find With mattresses tied on carriages And bedsprings on behind. So we'll sell the cow and chickens And give the cats away And pack our traps in the fiver And be off at the break of day. And if friends should wish to write me The local news of the day, Address, "Bill Jones in his fiver, Somewhere in the U. S. A."

THE FEVER

"Thank you so much," I returned, knowing it would be useless to protest that it would be just as uncomfortable in the booth for him. Where the small courtesies and attentions of life are concerned, Dicky is the most royally thoughtful and selfless man I have ever known.

THE FEVER

"You Are Right—" "Just ask for Miss Jones," I said. "Then, while you're getting her on the wire I can take your place." "Yes, ma'am." He ducked his head in another imitation of Jerry Tiger, which set me to laughing, and made me forget all my worries for the minute. And the

THE FEVER

Senator Hiram Johnson has not yet learned that politicians must never write letters. It is better to walk 100 miles than to write one letter.

THE FEVER

Yes, the mayor of Portland is candidate for office. He refuses licenses for Japanese hotels. This is the first card he has laid.

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Complaint was made of the tourist camp in Portland. The mayor promptly accepted the indictment and said he was going to do all he could to have it remedied. That is the spirit. The world is advanced more by constructive criticism than by any other method.

THE FEVER

Constitutional Day is a pretty good idea, despite the fact that we are overrun with holidays. We need to study our state constitution and our laws. Oregon people are no exception in that not one per cent of them are familiar with the fundamental laws of the land.

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Here is something good. A hundred loans have been made by the Federal Reserve bank in the Willamette valley. \$430,000 has been distributed among the farmers. Not a farmer has defaulted and only two are behind in the prompt payment of interest. These two are perfectly good and will pay in a few days. That certainly is some record.

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