

The Oregon Statesman

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OLINESS—"I am the Lord your God * * * Sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy." Lev. 11:44.

SALEM'S DRINKING CUP

"The public service commission has ordered an investigation of Willamette river water at Salem.

"The Willamette is the source of Salem's water supply. It is feared that the acid waste of a pulp mill have reduced the safety margin of the water for domestic use. There have arisen questions of the quality of the water due to sewage poured into the river by towns above.

"This inquiry ought to have results. For, surely, when people have cause to fear their drinking water has become a polluted or poisoned stream they will take no chances.

"Salem has a right to demand that the Willamette be freed of the menace from industrial or municipal waste. Nor need new laws be passed. Oregon has a law. It forbids stream pollution.

"Has it occurred to the public service commission, or some other agency, that it might enforce the law against pollution? If it were enforced the cost of violation might be made too great for any industry or town to continue.

"How long will it be, how many human lives must be sacrificed before we bring our civilization to a point where we cease to poison the river we live on—and the cup we drink from?"

The above from the Portland Journal of last evening puts the case stronger than the facts warrant—

For the Willamette is not the source of Salem's water supply. The source of Salem's water supply is wells sunk in the sand and gravel near the Willamette, and the water is thoroughly filtered; and it is also treated to prevent any chance of disease germs getting into the pipes that supply the city, the same as the water supply of most modern cities is now treated. The same as the mountain supply is treated at Seattle, and numerous other cities.

The system of drawing the Salem water supply from the wells is being changed, so that there will, within a few weeks, be no chance of contamination whatever.

The matter of river pollution is another question. There is sewage pollution at all the Willamette valley cities, like Eugene, Albany, Corvallis and Salem.

The time will come when this will not be allowed, and Salem is already taking steps looking to this future time, by having a sinking fund that will be used in making scientific disposition of her sewage.

The state lime plant at the penitentiary is already a bigger thing than it was anticipated that it might become, when it was removed from Gold Hill to Salem. The plant is capable of preparing forty tons a day of lime, and is doing that now—and still it is not able to keep up with the orders. When the fact is considered that practically every acre of land in the Willamette valley and our coast counties need lime, one may visualize a tremendously big thing in the state lime plant. It would not be hard to duplicate it, and much more.

Bits For Breakfast

A million dollar rain— And weather man predicts more of it.

With a little more rain now, and a few showers along through May, then our "regular June rains," our crops will be made—we will have bumper crops.

The state lime plant at the penitentiary shipped a car of agricultural lime Sunday evening, another last evening, and a third will go this evening. The cars contain 35 to 45 tons, and go to Benton, Washington and Clatsop counties.

Then a lot of lime is going out in trucks; some of the five-ton trucks. There is a constant surprise at the demand. No one looked for such a general desire to use lime on the farms.

It is found, however, that the capacity of the plant is larger than was expected. Forty tons a day are now being turned out. Five cars of the lime rock came in one shipment Saturday, and they will have to keep coming at the rate of about one a day, from present indications.

The retting of flax at the penitentiary plant goes right on. A few showers will do no harm to the retted flax in the field; only take a little more work in handling it. A considerable surplus of the dried flax has been piled up in the sheds.

Let Grande—Eastern Oregon fruit and grain crop promises to equal best ever known.

KIDDIES' COLDS should not be "dosed." Treat them externally with VICKS VAPORUB

EDITORIALS OF THE PEOPLE

All correspondence for this department must be signed by the writer, must be written on one side of the paper only, and should not be longer than 150 words.

About Tuxedo Park

Editor Statesman: The Statesman has undertaken the task of instructing the voters of our school district against their own just convictions. The chief question of Oregon is, first, an equitable tax levy, and, second, to reduce taxation. The first can be done by an income tax and the second by reducing the expenditures of state, county, city and school districts to an efficient, competent and just administration of public affairs. As long as a set of public officials are mere feeders at the public crib, we will not advance. All oratory, sophistry and propaganda is mere bunk to catch the unaware, unthinking, careless or trusting voters. We know the results thereof. A well greased propaganda-bunk machine is a mighty power, and the feeder at the public crib knows it. Now as to this Tuxedo Park affair. Granted, that South Salem should have a junior high school. But do they want it in Tuxedo Park? A tract of land, that 12 years ago, with an excellent horse hitched to a good strong buggy, I tried to cross. I had to back out twice, and only on the third endeavor got across through mud and water and up a steep bluff. And this was in the glorious month of May. And, now this is the "preferred school site"—and to be sure the whole thing, 13 acres of it, has to be taken or none—at \$1500 an acre—and the owners are the philanthropists and public spirited citizens, to make us, the taxpayers, this generous offer—only up to June 1st, 1926. Then we are lost. This generosity, according to your view of the matter, was turned down twice, because the voters are too ignorant, as you put it. On account of this we get into a semi-monthly school election system, and if the ignorance of the voter or his obstinacy to see the "light" continues we shall soon have semi-weekly exercises, a very efficient, economical and sensible procedure. The continuous propaganda, bunk and oratory is finally to wear out the opposition. I voted for every member of our present school board. In their private and business life they are number one citizens, successful in their business and respected. But, did they, do they, or would they, carry on their own business in a like manner? Let them purchase a block of suitable land or interview the Bush estate for a suitable tract of land and the cost thereof—three to five acres—and that will be enough. The more the frills and nonsense is cut out from our school system the better education will fare, and put a stop to waste, extravagance, bunk and incompetence—and graft out of public funds. These are undebatable facts. I do not accuse any one of graft or willfulness in this thing, but like Caesar's wife, any public business should be above suspicion.

F. A. English, Salem, Or., April 28, 1926. (Mr. English, in the above, used these words: "Because the voters

are too ignorant, as you put it." That is, Mr. English says. The Statesman said the voters are too ignorant. The Statesman never said that. Does not believe that. Never has said it. No one but a fool would say it. There was a misunderstanding as to what the wording of the ballot meant, in the vote to authorize the school board to divert some of the money already voted for the building for the purchase of a site. It was largely the fault of the wording, which said: "For bonds, yes; against bonds, no," when it was not a question of bonds at all, but only one of diverting some bond money voted three years ago. Some of the other statements of Mr. English are worthy of discussion and explanation.—Ed.)

"RED DICE" IS NOW AT OREGON THEATRE

Picture Starring Rod La Rocque, Tells of Great Bootlegging Industry

Bootlegging—America's huge criminal industry, until now carefully disregarded by motion picture producers because of the necessity of taking sides was chosen as plot material for Rod La Rocque's new star picture, "Red Dice," which starts today at the Oregon theatre.

istically represented in the story, which was prepared for the screen under the supervision of Jeanie Macpherson. Miss Macpherson spent most of a recent visit to New York studying the methods of big bootleggers, the federal officers assisting her to obtain data by permitting her to go on board a revenue cutter to chase rum runners, and to be present at the raiding of a huge liquor warehouse. Although she describes several of her experiences as "too melodramatic for the movies," she obtained much valuable material for "Red Dice," which is a frank presentation of the situation confronting America today.

In collaboration with Douglas Doty, Miss Macpherson adapted "Red Dice" from Octavus Roy Cohen's thrilling story. Marguerite La Motte is featured opposite Rod La Rocque, and both acquit themselves creditably. The picture is novel and thrilling and fully deserves the success it achieved. The supporting cast is excellent.

POLK PRUNE DRYERS TOUR IS ORGANIZED

Caravan to Leave Wednesday at 9 O'Clock, Marion Men Invited

An inspection tour of prune dryers in Polk county has been scheduled for Wednesday morning, according to information given out Monday by the Polk county agent. A record crop is predicted and

all interested are invited to join the tour which will leave Dallas court house at 9 a. m. and proceed to Fred Ewing's dryer near Brush college, where persons from Marion county are invited to join the crowd at 9:45. Mr. Ewing's dryer has four long tunnels with no fan, four long tunnels with a fan, and four short tunnels. From there the tour will lead to representative Dallas dryers, George Schroeder's dryer being of the new type known as the "Puccinelli Dehydrator." All joining the tour are asked to bring their lunch which will be eaten en route. Prof. Wiegand, OAC, will accompany the group and discussion of prune problems will be featured.

GREAT SHOW COMES TO HEILIG THEATRE

George White's Scandals, Magnificent Production, to Be Here Tonight

A mighty interesting event in connection with the theatrical season is the engagement of George White's Scandals, considered the best of all of his revues, which comes to the Heilig theatre tonight. After a full year at the Apollo theatre in New York it played to immense business in Chicago for six months at the Selwyn theatre, after which followed engagements at Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis and Cincinnati. Too much stress cannot be laid on the fact that the entire New York and Chicago production will be seen here, including the famous George White Beauty Chorus.

The chorus members of the "Scandals" can actually dance, in the early days of the theatre the chorus girl was supposed to dance, and she did, but the vogue soon lapsed and finally through disease vanished entirely from the American stage. The chorus girl of the ordinary musical comedy is chosen primarily for her ability to wear smart clothes, or to show the contour of her ankle. George White has long been familiar with the inability of the native chorus girl to dance—if not inability at least unwillingness—so when arranging for his revue he hit upon a novel innovation. He decided upon a genuine chorus, one that could do everything and then in unison and with actual rhythm. How well he has succeeded will be demonstrated when his big revue is shown here.

The production of George White's Scandals entails a large roster of players, among whom may be mentioned Nyrá Brown, Zelma O'Neil, Johnny Getz, Tom Patten, the De Nardos and their seven Shelta. Ace Brown, Fred Lightner, Sonia DeCalve, Maybelle Mellon, Brown Elwood, John Grove, Mary Leland, Astor Sisters, the Harmony Four, Madelynn Billings, Sally Eaton, Jeanette Burns, Lester Booker, Billie Fan-

ning, Alice Brown, Mercedes Philbert, Katherine Dougherty, Madelynn Bent, Nell Reese, Lois Lindvalle, Gonda Haworth, Jean Richmond, Roselle Quinn, Dorothy Muller, Madge Evans, Eva Noll, Greathouse Sisters, Jane Chapman, Peggy Scott, Sarah Burch and many others. The company carries its own special orchestra under the personal direction of Mr. T. L. Corwell, formerly associated with the Manhattan Opera company.

HEILIG Tonight
Curtain 8:30 Sharp

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