

Service That Counts

THOSE who witnessed the presentation of T. C. Murray's Irish drama "Autumn Fire" at the Elsinore last night will agree that in bringing this production to Salem the Kiwanis and Lions clubs lived up to their often abused designation of "service" clubs. With high railroad fares, high salaries of actors, high expenses of moving scenery and all road shows have dwindled in number sadly since the war and even those showing on Broadway have found it a long, hard winter. It remains for companies like the Moroni Olsen players to fill the gap, bringing the best of legitimate drama to the cities of the northwest, and supplying the real demand that exists for the spoken play.

The Olsen players have won their way into the affections of playgoers here as elsewhere. Their organization is small and continuing, so people have come to know Leora Thatcher, Byron Foulger, Janet Young and Olsen himself. With characters in new roles at each production the public gets fine opportunity for appraisal. Each auditor becomes a dramatic critic, and while opinions vary as to the merits of the different plays which the Olsen players present, and while there is sometimes argument as to the quality of the acting of the individual performers, the verdict is unanimous that the Olsen company is performing service of a high order in exhibiting the best of the modern plays in a highly creditable fashion.

While movies and talkies have brought new vehicles of the dramatic art to the public, it is singular that interest in the so-called legitimate drama grows apace. It is fostered now by local dramatic leagues, by colleges and schools, by "home talent" if you please. It remains true as was written long ago by the master playwright "The play's the thing."

Don't Sell Short

THE New York stock market had another one of its periodic shake-outs, and the wisecracks are telling "I told you so." The same know-it-alls said the same thing after the big break in March, 1926, after the break in June, 1928, and again last December. They proceed to warn the dear public about the evils of buying stocks and speculating on the stock exchange. The public will pay no attention because the public knows better than the solemn grandpas who write platitudes on speculation. The public, the vast investing and speculating public, now includes a goodly number of the millions of active Americans and they are doing their investing and speculating on a far more intelligent basis than ever before.

After a market break like that of Thursday the ones who really suffer will probably be the professional manipulators and pool operators who were trying to unload on the peak. There has been a lot of foolish buying of some stocks, for instance, at 35 times their current earnings, but the buying even in these cases has been of the very strongest and most prosperous companies, companies that are bound to grow. The public hasn't been buying the Amalgamated Copper of 1907 or the Rock Island holding company of the old Reid-Moore combination. It has been buying substantial values, even if it has been paying dearly, too dearly we think, for them.

Thousands of buyers have been waiting, some of them a long time, for breaks like these in order to do their buying. The bull days aren't over yet.

Call for Mr. Ormiston

THE California legislative committee is paging Mr. Ormiston.

The committee's job was to find out the exact nature of the "gift" of Mrs. Aimee McPherson to Judge Carlos S. Hardy. The judge got \$2500 from the "legal and defense fund" of Angelus temple. Aimee says it was a "love offering," though she doesn't say whether Keyes or any others got any such "love offerings."

But what does Ormiston have to do with the Hardy check? He had nothing to do with the affairs at the temple after Carmel. Is the committee going to re-open the disgusting McPherson case which dragged its nauseating way through grand juries and courts months and months ago? Scarcely anyone except those of the faith believes a word of Aimee's kidnapping story; but that does not justify this committee which had a very definite duty in the Hardy matter to turn itself into a smelling committee and probe around in old sewage with no chance to turn up aught but the old scandal.

Ormiston, trombone player and radio announcer, limped his way across the footlights months ago. Let him stay in the wings—sans wings and harp.

Malheur Should Stay Home

OLD Oregon, now graced with 70 years of statehood, would be a recalcitrant mother of 36 counties if she permitted any one of them, or any part of one county, to be taken from her and placed in any other home. Idaho has suggested, informally, that part of Malheur county be annexed to her territory and now comes Nevada to suggest that if Mother Oregon does not want to bring up this child, she will add her to her fold.

The proposal is useless. Oregon neither seeks nor will permit diminution of her territory. Some of it may be barren and construction of roads therein impractical, but pride and the unity of 70 years existence does not warrant any disintegration of the state. When roads through Malheur county are imperative Mother Oregon can and will supply them; until that day, this child had best remain as is. It is a characteristic of children to contemplate running away from home but such action always brings regret.

All Take a Ride

SECRETARIES of chambers of commerce would get free rides on the red plush seats of railroad cars along with disabled soldiers and G. A. R. veterans if the bill of Senator Upton becomes a law. Whether the secretaries are included on the theory that they "go about doing good" or not we can't say. If so, we suggest they stay at home where their work is. None of them rides on his own expense anyway; otherwise what are chamber budgets for?

Just what right does the legislature have to say to the railroads they must haul anybody for nothing? Why leave out the stage lines? It would seem just as logical for the legislature to compel light and power and telephone companies to furnish their services free to veterans.

If Upton's bill goes through, let's wait for the legislature and we'll all take a ride.

Get Under the Load, Smith

"WEIGHTY honors conferred" headlines an Oregonian news item from Eugene reporting the election of Leslie Smith, A. P. correspondent at Portland and Ben Titus, U. P. manager at Portland, to membership in Sigma Delta Chi, national journalistic frat. Will they have to wear frat pins?

Anybody Else Want Hanging?

RADFORD WILLIAMS, an Englishman, sprung the trap that hanged him at his own request.—Capital Journal.

Our evening contemporary says the "condition of the poor in Marion county has reached a high-water mark." Using Fahrenheit or Centigrade scale?

Our idea of a pleasant alarm clock would be the sound of a warm Oregon rain to awaken us. Thermometers below the freezing point were not intended for use in Oregon.

Sandino has left Nicaragua and peace has been restored reports the Nicaraguan legation. How disappointing to the democrats who took Sandino for an "issue."

A Long Trail A-Windin'!



The Way of the World

WHAT CITIES DO New York has a larger population than all the great states of Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Its population is as large as that of Chicago, Detroit and Philadelphia together. What does this mean to the human race in America? What does it do to people to live in huge cities? A human being living in New York City can not be like a human being living in a thinly populated district. The interdependence and relationships of city life are producing a different sort of individual. It is too early to say whether he will be a human being superior to the one who grew up in the open.

GOAT'S FEATHERS

Some time ago Ellis Parker Butler wrote an article in the American Magazine about gathering goat's feathers. He made the point that many men and women give most of their waking moments to running hither and thither trying to keep up with a multitude of engagements, most of which are comparatively unimportant but which eat up all the time there is. There are so many who thus suffer for the fault of inability. They haven't the pluck courage to say no. They agree to everything, and the other place; they agree to serve on every committee that is organized. They even undertake to be in two places at the same time. They are late at appointments because they have taken on so much more than they can do. They take comfort in the fact that they are good hard working citizens. As a matter of fact, they have no opportunity to do anything well, and thus are not especially good citizens. They spread themselves out thin over many places and cover nothing.

Big success comes from concentration.

State Hospital Has Small Fire

A small fire caused by spontaneous combustion broke out in the laundry at the state hospital Monday night. It was extinguished with chemicals applied by the hospital fire department, damage being confined to the burning of two baskets of clothing.

High Pressure Pete



Who's Who & Timely Views

Importance of Trade with France Emphasized

By ALFRED P. DENNIS
Vice Chairman of the Tariff Commission
(Alfred Pearce Dennis was born in Worcester county, Md., January 19, 1889. He was graduated from Princeton university where he was instructor of history for a year. Professor of history at Wesleyan the following year, he served in that capacity at Smith college the following nine years. In 1907 he resigned in account of poor health and engaged in business. From 1918 to 1921 he was commercial attaché at the American embassy in Rome, and later in London. He was appointed assistant secretary of Commerce Hoover in 1924 and the following year was named vice chairman of the U. S. tariff commission. He is the author of several historical, economical and political articles.)

Business in the United States is based upon the principle of abbreviation. Up against the awful brevity of human life we must be pains not only to get a job done but to do it quickly. The answer to the problem is the belt conveyor and our amazing technique in mass production. We are pioneers; if we can't succeed in the old way we are ready to try something new. American business develops as a crustacean grows by bursting its shell and casting it off. Liberation from the hard shell of custom and tradition—ceaseless adaptation to new conditions—the principle of elasticity and haste in American business all contrast with the fixity and leisureliness which prevail among older peoples of the world.

The French, with quite a thousand years more of national history behind them, have developed a genius for the exquisite. It takes time to produce such exquisite things as perfect manners and perfect taste. As men come up from the depths of savagery and rise above the crude struggle for an animal existence two faculties begin to emerge and develop, first intellectual curiosity, which is the beginning of all knowledge, and second, the esthetic instinct, which is the beginning of all art. The highly-developed esthetic instinct of the French finds its expression in the commercial genius of the country.

Roughly speaking, we supply the French with necessities while they supply us with luxuries. As our country grows in wealth and population so, too, will our demand for the rare and exquisite things of life expand, and with it our need for exquisite fine French stuffs. When it comes to swapping commodities the trade balance appears to lie with us, but our advantage is apparent rather than real.

Trade relations between the two countries can expand mightily without crowding anyone out of the bases. I doubt if we are competitors with the French in world markets to the amount of five per cent of their trade. As international traders we have more to gain from France prosperous than from France depressed. We have a huge commercial stake in the complete restoration of French prosperity. We shall prosper by trading with the French, not against them.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read
February 18, 1904
Dr. M. M. Staples will address the Salem Woman's club meeting at the First Presbyterian church on "Bacteriology."

A total of 643 receipts were issued at the sheriff's office for the day, marking a new high record with receipts amounting to \$7,202.70.

Street Commissioner H. C. Tarphey is devoting his attention these days to the gutters along the various streets in and near the business section.

James W. Mott, son of Dr. W. S. Mott of Salem, has been awarded first place in the oratorical contest at the state university in Eugene, his subject being "Benedict Arnold. He will represent the university in the inter-state oratorical contest.

Pretty Feminine Bootician Jailed At Judge's Order

PORTLAND, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Pretty Dorothy Smith of Chiloquin caused a great craning of male necks in federal court here today but she failed to impress Federal Judge McNary.

Pleading guilty to a charge of selling liquor and conducting a nuisance, the girl threw herself upon the mercy of the court. Following a sentimental plea for leniency by defense counsel, the court declared:

"It will be the judgement of this court that the defendant be imprisoned in the county jail for three months."

Editors Say:

CITY WANTS HOME RULE

Determination of the city council to administer its own affairs was seen when that body took exception to house bill 340, which would place the fixing of minimum standards of construction in the hands of the state. As it now stands, each city has a building code which suffices for that city.

The council's opposition to the bill is based on the grounds that the city is more able to judge what type of building is better for it than some state commission or board. It sees in the bill an effort to take away a little more of the power of the municipality, placing it in the hand of a board.

We see no reason for the passage of such a bill, which would create another board at the expense of construction in the state. Creation of additional boards and bureaus, with their paid retainers, should be discouraged to as great extent as possible. The cities are perfectly able to care for their own building standards.—Grants Pass Courier.

THE MERGER BILL

Senator John Bell is to be commended for his courage in submitting to the Oregon legislature the bill which brings into the open the question of merging Oregon University and Oregon State College under one management. Whether Senator Bell's plan for doing this is a good plan will require careful study to determine. The thing is right in principle, not only because it would save money, but because it would bring sounder results in higher education.

If the measure is grasped by the friends of either institution as an instrument for hurting the other, it will fail absolutely. It will be difficult to keep either or both of them from crippling any merger plan with restrictions. Our feeling is that it would be a mistake to go into any merger plan without careful preliminary study by people who understand such problems. A sensible substitute for the Bell bill would be a measure providing a special commission to work out a plan and submit it to the 1931 legislature. The thing should come and it is a good thing discussion has been opened.—Eugene Guard.

Ministers and undertakers of Eugene are asking that so far as possible funerals be held on other days than Sunday. Of course, when a death occurs, it is hard to remember such a request, and there are sometimes circumstances which make it inconvenient or impossible to postpone a funeral for even one day. But on the whole, the request is entirely reasonable and as much for the benefit of the public as for the ministers and undertakers who are asking relief.—Eugene Guard.

Recently Senator Jay Upton circulated quite a little stir in political circles by making a speech before a Salem service club in which he argued a change in governors and advocated, by strong inference at least, the election of Upton as successor. Thomas Kay, who was accepted as a renunciation by Upton of his own candidacy for the gubernatorial seat. It will be remembered that he was an opponent of Governor Patterson for the republican nomination and, when defeated, announced that he would seek the nomination again at the next election. The Bend Bulletin now offers some interesting information which may explain Senator Upton's change of attitude. It seems, according to this paper, that during the late presidential campaign the senator made another speech before another service club and was so indiscreet as to indicate his preference for the candidate of the democratic party over the nominee of his own party. With such an indiscretion against him, he would find himself rather embarrassed in going before the republican electorate of the state and asking to be its standard bearer.—Astoria Budget.

A scientist has set himself seriously to try to discover why men usually try to discover why men have an almost irresistible urge to sing at their morning baths. Well, a man goes to his bath just after getting out of bed. The day's annoyances have not yet begun to manifest themselves. And if the temperature of the water is right and there are fresh towels on the rack and if nobody yells at one to hurry because the coffee is getting cold, why, we ask you, should not a man sing? Conditions certainly will not be as favorable for it at any subsequent point in the day's activities.—Eugene Register.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

Second the motion—
The one made by the man who wants the date of the state fair changed to February, to insure fair weather—

And, anyway, what does the weather man mean when he keeps on predicting fair weather?

Doesn't he know that fair weather in the rainy season in this webfoot land means rain?

The Bits man has before him a Jeremiah from a good Jeremiah who has been led to believe everything is going to the demotion bowwows in this country. He says he has before him a folder issued by the Bible Institute Colportage association of the Moody Bible Institute, 843 North Wells street, Chicago stating that: "An Illinois penitentiary completed three years ago to hold 2,500 inmates now holds 3,000 prisoners."

That Michigan's prison population increased 18 per cent in 1927, that New York has 1200 more convicts than it has cells to hold them in; that the 11 penitentiaries of that state for long term prisoners are jammed with 10,000 occupants, and that a prison the size of Sing Sing, which has a capacity of 1664, will be needed every 12 months to care for the increase—

And continuing the doleful recital, the weeping good Jeremiah says: "More young men are in the prisons of America than are in the colleges and universities, according to a recent report which states that there are 250,000 students in the universities of higher learning, and 286,000 prisoners."

And our W. J. concludes, on his own hook: "I simply cannot believe that these educated people who are stuffing the people with the falsehood of world improvement believe a word to that effect."

Some one has imposed on this good Jeremiah. The World Almanac reported 63,828 prisoners in 58 state penitentiaries and 31 reformatories in January 1, 1927; exclusive of New York, and in New York state in May of that year there were 7300 inmates of prisons and reformatories. That makes a total of 71,028. There has been some growth; a little above the rate of increase of population in the country, and a considerable growth in short term commitments, owing to convictions in violation of the dry laws.

That is bad enough. Our crime cost is one of the greatest and most distressing and far reaching of all our expenses. The lowering of it is one of the greatest questions before the country. But the statement that we have "more young men in the prisons of America than are in the colleges and universities" is ridiculous; far from the truth.

We have more than 767,141 students in our colleges and universities, and more than 188,363 in our commercial and business schools; and more than 270,206 in our normal schools. We had in 1925-6 in our high schools 4,132,125, and have a great many more now.

And our high schools teach most of the branches that were taught a generation ago in our universities and colleges, which produced the leading scholars of today.

The good Jeremiah writing the letter being referred to is of a class of people easily imposed upon. Had he thought before writing he would have concluded that the "statistics" quoted from must be wrong.

In Oregon we have (had a day or so ago) 721 prisoners in our penitentiary. We must have over 15,000 in our universities and colleges, not including our high schools.

wary of trying to sleep with cold feet. Turn on the heat, Mister, turn on the heat.

They Say...

Expressions of Opinion from Statesmen Readers are Welcomed for Use in this column. All Letters Must Bear Writer's Name, Though This Need Not Be Printed.

To the Editor:
This poem was printed in Coffeyville, Kansas, in the winter of 1816-17. I think it is quite appropriate for Oregon just now. It has been in my scrap book all these years.

A SUBSCRIBER.
"Backward, turn backward, O time in your flight, give me July again, just for tonight. Soften the ground where the frost king has lain. O let me hear just one mosquito again. I am so weary of snow drifts and ice, weary of paying the gas company's price, weary so weary of frost bitten peep, give me a piece of the 4th of July. Backward, swing backward, O season of snow, mercury fifteen or twenty below, turn on the heat of the tropical zone, roast me until I am cooked to the bone. I am so tired of freezing my nose, weary of chilblains and frost on my toes."

Thy note that forth so freely-rolls
With shrill command the mouse controls;
And sings a dirge for dying souls.
"Te whi! Te whoo!"
—Thomas Yester (R. 1616)

Poems that Live

SWEET SUFFOLK OWL
SWEET Suffolk owl, so trimly
Sight
With feathers, like a lady bright;
Thou sing'st alone, sitting by night,
"Te whi! Te whoo!"

Call 1855

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By Swatt

