

Roger Williams Still Banished

THE decree of banishment which the Massachusetts General Court ordered against Roger Williams in 1635 may be lifted by the same body, says a news item from Boston. We doubt if such action is taken as that was only 293 years ago and we may hardly expect Massachusetts to show quite so much speed.

We think of Roger Williams as one who fled across the snow, took refuge among the Narragansett Indians, and founded Providence, Rhode Island as an asylum of religious freedom. In reality Roger Williams was the bolshevik of his day. He was as Cotton Mather later described him: "the first rebel against the divine church-order established in the wilderness."

He was a rebel without mistake. He found Salem and Boston governed by an aristocracy of piety. The Puritans had established a theocracy which was a combination of rigid Calvinism and Old Testament Hebraism. Only church members could vote. Civil magistrates were to carry out the orders of presbytery as strictly as the secular arm the verdict of the inquisition. Roger Williams, a brilliant graduate of Cambridge and student of the great Coke, revolted against such ecclesiastical tyranny; and so was banished.

But Roger Williams was as much of a political rebel as he was theological. He began an Anglican, then was successively Separatist, Baptist and Seeker. A Seeker could be defined as a modern Unitarian or Christian free-thinker. In politics he became a Leveler. He was a pure democrat. His own theories of the social contract long preceded the ideas of the natural-rights school and the doctrines of Rousseau. Cramping constitutions and closely-drawn frames of government were not for Williams. He would let the people revamp their government whenever they chose. A Leveler, he put all men on the same plane without distinction of race, creed or wealth.

Williams ranks as the innovator of genuine democracy. He caught the revolutionary implications of Christianity as applied to the existing social and political order. He set up no church-controlled state, no aristocracy either of wealth or of virtue. He said:

"A Civil Government is an ordinance of God, to conserve the Civill peace of the people, so farre as concerns their Bodies and Goods."

We doubt if there is much place for him even in modern Massachusetts. Seventeenth century intolerance has been supplanted by those of the twentieth century. Williams today would certainly be on the blacklist of the "keymen of America," and the D. A. R. would probably bar him from speaking in their meetings. He was nevertheless the prophet of religious, political and social emancipation in America. A modern author has well said of him, that he "was certainly the most generous, most open-minded, most lovable, of the Puritan emigrants—the truest Christian amongst many who sincerely desired to be Christian."

Fighting Against Disease

NINETEEN HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN turned out to be not so healthy a year for Oregon as 1926. The death rate in the state rose from 1123 per 100,000 of population in 1926 to 1146 in the following year. These are the figures given out by the department of commerce. Oregon continues to be one of the healthiest states in the union. Deaths totaled 9857 in 1926 and 10,206 in 1927 in this state.

The increases in rates of the various causes of mortality were from diseases of the heart and influenza, while decreases were reported in rates from diarrhoea, enteritis, pneumonia, whooping cough and diphtheria. The chief causes of death in 1927 were heart ailments, whose rate was 218 per hundred thousand; cancer, 112; accidents, 93; nephritis (bright's disease), 82.2; tuberculosis, 59.6; cerebral hemorrhage, 191; pneumonia, 68.1.

Heart disease has displaced tuberculosis as the chief cause of death. This may reflect the growing pressure of modern living, more arduous labor piled on the heart. We believe a truer explanation lies in the greater success in treating other types of cases such as tuberculosis. Medical science has accomplished so much in the war against disease, that people when they come to die don't have so much choice as formerly. Heart disease or cerebral hemorrhage haven't been conquered in the way that other diseases, notably the infectious diseases have.

It is literally amazing what has been done toward curing tubercular cases as well as preventing the disease. Dr. Mary Bissillon, medical director of the Portland Open Air sanatorium, showed slides at the Rotary club luncheon Wednesday illustrating how cures had been effected which the laymen would not dream of. For instance air is admitted into the cavity of the thorax which compresses the cavity in the lung which may have resulted from tuberculosis. Again a small nerve is severed which causes one side of the diaphragm to rise, compressing the lung and filling in the cavity.

After all the best cure is prevention. Health habits are the indispensable factors of keeping well. Public sanitation is as important as individual hygiene in promoting health.

Razzing the Legislature

A LEGISLATOR told us the other day: "Never again." He was a new member; he admitted he was through. And we do not wonder. What with the incessant lobbying, the barrage of advice from newspapers and private citizens, the pressure from this angle and that as well as the laborious work involved of trying to keep up with the perplexing questions coming up for decision, it is not surprising the legislator throws up his hands and shouts "Enough."

The worst trial of all we feel is the razzing which editors of papers large and small give to the legislature. It has become the favorite indoor sport of news-mongers to take cracks at the legislature. The body is held up in derision and it's IQ, set down at the minimum mark.

It is true that a lot of freak legislation is proposed, a lot of foolish bills are introduced. When it is all over however the amount of absurd legislation is relatively small. The laws passed are frequently imperfect, which is not surprising considering the pressure under which they are driven through.

We submit this proposition however that the legislature, in so far as it is a unit, is intelligent, conscientious and hard-working. It deserves more of praise than of censure, more of acclaim and less of popular scorn.

Meet MISS Oregon

ONE of our pet pees is "Old Man Oregon." You all know him, the old man with long-tailed black coat, broad brimmed black hat, billowy umbrella and the inevitable set of whiskers. Old Man Oregon is supposed to characterize Oregon the same as John Bull does England and Uncle Sam the U. S. A.

Maybe he does; maybe Oregon belongs in the old man class with styles of seventy-five years ago.

We think not. We are tired of having this live, active western state pictured as a seedy old-timer. We recommend that cartoonists draw a new character for Oregon and here-with nominate MISS Oregon. Make her modern. Dress her (or undress her) in the latest style. Touch her cheeks with rouge, bob her hair, or should it be growing out again? Pencil her eyebrows. We will not shock anyone by prescribing a cigarette. Put youth, vivacity, personality into the make-up. Anything to get away from this old-man complex which holds the state back.

Ladies and gentlemen, we introduce MISS Oregon to you. Let her be queen of the party for a time.

The National Pastime



Editors Say:

THE SINGLE BOARD

Passage by the house yesterday of the bill creating a single board of higher education to replace the separate board of regents and also the board of higher curricula puts the matter up to Governor Peterson for approval or disapproval. The senate having previously voted for the bill. It is not improbable that the governor will pass favorably upon the measure.

Sponsors of the bill see in it an instrument which will save considerable money, eliminate unnecessary duplication of courses at the schools of higher education and insure a greater efficiency in our educational plants besides reducing the friction between the schools.

The measure, while it will be more or less of an experiment in this state, seems to offer results well worth striving for. Other states have adopted the idea with satisfactory results.

The bill seems particularly timely in view of the unending controversies between the university and the colleges. Both institutions are in need of more funds for buildings and equipment and present their cases to the legislature and to the people. There is dispute over the division of the millage funds. There is this charge and that counter-charge. Each institution has strong friends and partisans who are ready to do a valiant battle. The result is confusion, bitterness, strife and the issues remain undecided.

With a single board supervising the affairs of the different schools, regulating their courses of study, determining their relative needs and distributing the educational funds, it would seem that the aggravating situation would to a considerable degree be alleviated and that, too, without any one of the schools sacrificing its individuality.

The experiment is at least worth a trial.—Astorian Budget.

WE MAY YET GO INTO THE WORLD COURT

When in January of 1926 the United States senate conditionally agreed to the entry of this nation to the world court of international justice four of its proposed reservations were accepted by the other nations interested. The fifth one was not rejected but the senate invited further discussions. There our government dropped the matter for the time being. And we are still outside.

Our state department has just now taken the initiative towards resumption of the negotiations by proposing to the member nations an exchange of views regarding the fifth reservation, which provides that the United States shall not be bound by advisory opinions of the court rendered without our consent. As the court members did not at any time reject this reservation but merely asked for an exchange of ideas which might clarify the position on both sides and lead to agreement the prospect now seems at least fair that such an agreement may come about.

Secretary of State Kellogg says that "there seems to be but little difference regarding the substance" of the contentions from either side. The difference apparently is a difference largely of terminology.

The United States reservations already accepted by the member nations are that by supporting and adhering to the world court we do not assume any obligations under the league of nations, that we may participate on an equality with other nations in the selection of judges, that congress shall determine what proportion of the court expense we shall bear and most of the time.—Baker Dem.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

Just waking up—

There is a lot of attention to a recent article in the Statesman about the outstanding advantages of walnut growing in the Willamette valley over that industry in California.

And the evidences of this should have been more general and more prompt. In brief, the spread of the walnut industry in California is doomed; in fact, the present bearing acreage is declining, and bound to keep on in the same direction, to the vanishing point.

The reasons. There is not enough water either in the California rivers or underground from wells to supply the irrigation that is necessary for all crops there, including the walnut crops. The level of water in the irrigation wells has gone down 10 feet on the average, and it is steadily going downward. Then the walnut-codling moth is destroying the walnut trees. And the quality of the product cannot be maintained on a par with Oregon walnuts, because of the weather in harvest time, melting the oil and making the walnut meat rancid, and discoloring the kernels; making them black. Those are some few reasons. There are others, including the high price of walnut land in California; its high sale value making the overhead too much, as compared with Oregon conditions.

As sure as water runs and grass grows, the Willamette valley is headed to be the chief place all the world in edible nut growing. Nature decreed that, in the long past.

The keeping of federal prisoners at the Oregon state penitentiary is about at the vanishing point. There is only one on hand now, a woman. There are regularly about a dozen women pris-

oners there now, a high mark, compared with any former time.

For a number of years, the Oregon prison had regularly a lot of federal prisoners, mostly men. That practice existed up to November 12, 1905, when all the male federal prisoners were transferred to government institutions, mostly to the penitentiary on McNeil's island, at Stellacom, near Tacoma.

The government pays the state a flat \$40 a month for the keeping of women prisoners. There is only one federal prison in the country for women; in Virginia. In other parts of the country, the women convicted of the violation of federal laws are kept in the state prisons.

A lot has been said about the case of a Michigan woman boot-legal being liable to go to the penitentiary for life, on her fourth conviction. She is caught in the toils of the Baumes law, which in Oregon is the Lewis law. This applies only to third or fourth convictions for felony—owing to the different forms of the law in the different states. In Ohio, it is on third convictions, dating back before the passage of the Baumes law in New York.

The trouble is that the whole idea of term convictions follows wrong principles. No one should be sent to prison for any term. Every sentence should be indeterminate—absolutely. And every prisoner should be eligible to parole as soon as there is reformation, there should be no releases. Or else, the writer knows the general public will not agree to this—now. But it will come, because it is the right way. The right always prevails, in time. Every modern penologist and criminologist in the world, however, will agree to this—now.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

March 1, 1904

The C. A. A. C. has closed a contract with Harry Edmondson, recently of Santa Barbara, Calif., to manage the Salem baseball team this season.

Architect W. C. Knighton has opened an office in the First National bank building.

Harry De Windt, Russian traveler, will lecture at the Methodist church Saturday next.

Students of the Oregon state mute school have completed an exhibit to be sent to the World's Fair at St. Louis. It is now on display in the Buren and Hamilton furniture store.

Misses Hattie Watson and Mae Chapler were visitors in Woodburn.

Dr. Riley Booked For Three Talks

HUBBARD, Feb. 28.—Dr. P. O. Riley of Hubbard is scheduled to address the following meetings: the Community club - of Salem Heights, Wednesday night; the State Training school, Monday, March 4 at 8 o'clock, the subject being "Rome"; and the Kiwanis club in Portland at its noon luncheon Wednesday, March 6.

350 ATTEND AT LODGE MEETING

Oddfellows From Many Cities at Monmouth on Monday Evening

MONMOUTH, Feb. 28.—The visiting association of Polk county Odd Fellows met at Monmouth Monday night with an attendance numbering about 350. Representatives were present from Independence, Falls City, Dallas, Ballston, McCoy, Salem; and Oregon Normal student members from various lodges over the state. Mr. Lee of Falls City, president of the visiting association, presided.

After the business meeting the following program was enjoyed: Song, America, in which all joined; reading by Miss Alice Butler; song by Miss Florence Bierce, accompanied on piano by Devere Penhollow; reading by Eunice Grimsgard; piano-accompaniment number by Irene Blackberry. The meeting was then turned over to Claude Booth, chairman of the social committee.

Cards and Dance Enjoyed Following the banquet a social hour of cards and dancing was enjoyed with music furnished by Whiteaker's orchestra.

Mr. and Mrs. Clay Taylor and daughter Nan, and Mr. Pettit, father of Mrs. Taylor, drove here from Vancouver, Wash., Monday evening for the Odd Fellows meeting, returning home after midnight. Mr. Taylor was formerly city marshal of Monmouth and they retain membership in the local lodge.

Monmouth's Lions club entertained the first and second basketball teams of Oregon Normal school and Coach Wolfe at luncheon Tuesday. A number of visitors from the Independence Den also were present. Miss Margaret Scruggs, a normal school student sang, accompanied by Miss Alice Varks.

The Lions are arranging for a Ladies' night March 15.

COLDS KEEP PUPILS AWAY FROM SCHOOL

BROOKS, Feb. 28.—(Special)—The Brooks Community club will meet Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Frank Ramp. All ladies are cordially invited to come. Mrs. Willard Ramp and Mrs. Sylvester Harris will assist Mrs. Ramp at the tea hour.

Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Harris were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crawford and children, Barbara Jean and Kenneth Robert Crawford of Salem, Mr. and Mrs. Sil Wanez of Mission Bottom, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Harris and Miss Lavin Harris and Albert Harris.

Virgil Loomis spent the week-end with his family. Mr. Loomis is working near Tillamook this winter.

Visits Eola Friends Wayne Harding spent the week-end visiting friends at Eola. Mr. Harding is principal of the Brooks public school.

Robert Irwin and Wiley Sullivan, pupils of the Brooks public school, moved with their parents to Labish Center this week.

Mrs. A. Baynard, of Waconda, spent the past week as guest of her cousin Mrs. Cris Otto here.

Glen Coffindaffer, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coffindaffer is ill with influenza.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bolter of Roseburg and his brother Ernest and wife, of Portland were Sunday guests of their aunt, Mrs. Mary Moisan.

Miss Brennen, county health nurse, visited the Brooks school Monday. She found several children with very bad colds. Twenty pupils are absent from school because of bad colds.

MILL CITY, Feb. 28.—(Special)—The building formerly occupied by the Mill City garage is being moved to the back of the lot on which it stands, and will be used for a storage garage, the front of the lot to be occupied by a modern service station. The property belongs to Bulger Hill. The service station will be leased, the names of the proprietors not yet being made known.

Arthur Nesheim of Toledo, and Miss Naomi Huggens of Siletz, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. Nesheim's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Nesheim on Kent street. Other dinner guests for the day included Ed Reede and Laurence Cook.

'EARLY BIRD' IS PLAY SELECTED

Seniors at Silverton Choose Comedy; Miss Hadley Will Direct

SILVERTON, Feb. 28.—Miss Dorothy Hadley, assistant dramatic coach of the senior high school has just completed the try-outs for the senior play which is scheduled on the school calendar for early May. The play selected is "An Early Bird" and the cast will include: Harold Putnam, Wilbur Nuenberg, Harold Merri-man, Elmo Lindholm, Joe Lytle, Elizabeth Keene, Beatrice Booth, Reta Rahn, Bergiot Johnson, Marguerite Sather, Irene Goyette, Edgar Irish and Robert Riches. Rehearsals for the play will commence this week.

Miss Elina Sandine, spent vacation from Oregon State Normal school, in Silverton visiting at the home of Miss Helen Dickerson, Miss Muriel Benton and Miss Florence Nesheim. Miss Dickerson was also at home for the extended week end.

Miss Naomi Huggens of Siletz, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. Nesheim's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Nesheim on Kent street. Other dinner guests for the day included Ed Reede and Laurence Cook.

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