

Lincoln and His Letters

IT comes as a welcome relief to read that scholars have rejected as fictitious the Minor collection of Lincolnalia which the Atlantic Monthly printed with considerable flourish a few months ago. The Atlantic, after battling hard in support of the authenticity of the collection, has opened its pages to Paul M. Angle, secretary of the Lincoln Centennial association of Springfield, Ill., who has written a criticism of the material which was offered in the Minor collection.

We pretend to no skill in criticising manuscripts but the documents as they were published sounded "fishy." We should hate to think that Lincoln wrote quite such drivel as was given forth as his love letters to Ann Rutledge, though you never can tell what a man will write in a love letter to a girl. Worse still was the group of letters to or about Lincoln, written by Ann, by the unknown "Matilda Cameron" or "Sally Calhoun." The spelling was fierce and the grammar terrible. Such ignorance seems artificial; as though the author was trying to write down to a low scale of intelligence. He did so complete a job that it confounds his whole work. We can't believe that Ann Rutledge was quite so ignorant as these letters would reveal her to be.

It is very interesting how Mr. Angle analyzes the documents and finds internal evidence of fraud. Here is one: In a purported letter to John Calhoun, Lincoln is made to write: "There seems some controversy between him and Green concerning that North East quarter of Section 40—you remember?" Calhoun couldn't remember nor could any one else. Since 1785 townships had been surveyed in 36 sections, never more.

Another from the same letter: "The Bixbys are leaving this week for some place in Kansas. The letter is dated May 9, 1834; but Kansas was not open for settlement till twenty years after that date. The maps referred to the country as "Missouri Territory" or "Indian Territory." Angle reports that it is doubtful if "Kansas" was in common use at all at that time; at any rate only traders and trappers were journeying there.

Then in the collection was Newman's Practical System of Rhetoric, said to have been Lincoln's. On the flyleaf appears: "Miss Susan Y. Baker, March 15 Eastport Academy." On the title page is the signature A. Lincoln, Gentryville, with a few lines thanking Miss Baker for the gift. But the book was published in 1829, so the March 15 of the original owner could not be earlier than 1830. But Lincoln had left Indiana for Illinois two weeks before that date.

Ann is made to write Lincoln: "I am greatfull for the Spencer's copybook. I copy from that every time I can spare." Ann died August 25, 1835, while the first Spencer publication on penmanship did not appear until 1848. So it goes; so it goes. Matilda Cameron and Sally Calhoun whose existence is not known of; or rather quite completely disproved according to documentary testimony and family tradition. Yet they were the original collectors of the Lincolnalia now very much in question.

It is hard to put things over on scholars nowadays. It was easy enough in the middle ages and later on. The Sybiline books, the False Decretals are classic examples of forgeries perpetrated with a purpose. There are false manuscripts just as there are false paintings and false antiques. This Minor collection seems to have been contrived by unknown persons principally just to perpetrate a hoax. But the fraud was quickly exposed by numerous able scholars; so the authentic Lincoln of Herndon and Barton and Beveridge remains with his lineaments unaltered.

Larger School Units

THE last legislature passed a law which passed on to non-high school districts the cost of transporting children to high schools located in other districts. It came about because high schools in their eagerness for students were extending bus lines into non-high school territory and hauling them in. Formerly the transportation cost was simply included in the grand total used to determine the per capita rate to charge as non-high school-district tuition. Now the entire per capita cost of transportation of the outside pupils is added to the regular per capita, which of course will increase the load against the outside districts. That isn't so bad because until recent years the country districts didn't bear their fair share of the cost of maintaining high schools which were as much for their benefit as they could be.

The new legislation will not solve the problem of our schools. It is just piece-meal legislation. We have fiddled along and fiddled along. Oregon schools rate distinctly lower than others on the Pacific littoral. There is no constructive leadership. Offices are just jobs to hang onto. If a school executive prepared as comprehensive and progressive a measure as Dr. Showalter submitted to the Washington legislature there would be an epidemic of apoplexy in this state.

One of the first things that ought to be encouraged in this Willamette valley is school consolidation. Our schools are still in the "on foot" stage. But our roads and other development are in the automobile age. The one room rural school in a country like this, with good roads everywhere, with towns and cities conveniently placed to serve as centers, is an anachronism. School efficiency and ultimately economy demand larger areas for school districts, each with its high school center, and with as many junior high schools and grade schools as the needs of the district require. Transportation then can be provided at a minimum expense.

The legislature did enact some laws which will be helpful to the consolidation program. A number of communities are undertaking to create enlarged school districts. This is far better than setting up a new union high school district with its separate organization, additional basis of taxation, and its sharp break in school administration at the eighth grade. This is better than the county unit system which has been tried in some counties.

We need to think in terms of modern business in the field of education. The automobile and good roads are the factors to determine district boundaries; not the walking distance of pioneer days. The Statesman is strongly committed to educational development. We shall not hesitate to scrap old sentiment and moss-back ideas about one-room schools. The Willamette valley ought to become prominent as a region of fine community school systems. Now its sole distinction on the educational map is that of a low salary depression.

Not a New Problem

THERE is even now something of an ill-omen amongst us. I mean the increasing disregard for law which pervades the country. Although bad laws if they exist, should be repealed as soon as possible, still, while they continue in force, for the sake of example, they should be religiously observed."

This is not an abstract from Mr. Hoover's last address. Nor did William Borah tell it to the senate. Rather it is an excerpt from a Lincoln lecture delivered before an Illinois lyceum in the late 30's. The plea has a familiar ring and is heartening for it forcefully emphasizes the point that rum-running and hi-jacking were not the instigators of law's disregard. The problem is age old and always will continue; its modern manifestations are only more sensational.

A recent world summary shows an exceptional total of damage by wind storms in 1928. Bring that to the attention of Senator Brookhart and he will introduce a bill in congress providing for slower tornadoes.—La Grande Observer.

Editor Appleby who comes from Brookhart's o. h. t., Washington, Iowa, should know his Brookhart better than that. Smith is the middle west's continuous tornado. His bill would provide for more and bigger windstorms.

The Mexican rebels lost the battle of Jimenez by Jimenez.

Hands Across the Sea!



Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

April 7, 1904
New officers for the Liberty Good Roads League: H. B. Cleveland, president; T. C. Davidson, secretary; Bruce Cunningham treasurer.

H. S. Gile, secretary of the Willamette Valley Prune association, is having good success soliciting orders among eastern and Canadian dealers.

Louis Lachmund has left for an extended business trip to New York.

The waiting room at the terminus of the Citizens Light and Traction company in South Salem, near the L. O. O. P. cemetery, has just been finished.

Conrad Krebs returned last evening from his ranch near Buena Vista, where Krebs Brothers are setting out a large hop yard.

Editors Say:

THE HANDSHAKERS

If he did not realize before it is certain that President Hoover now knows the dangers that lurk in the grip of the White House visitor. One thousand seven hundred and fifty of them grasped the presidential hand yesterday. Some of them may have used the "dead fish" clutch, but most of them must have used the firm, decisive, compressive clasp of the kind insisted upon by correspondence schools as a sure way to success.

For they were successful—in laminating the presidential right to such an extent that it is down to 50 per cent efficiency today. They wrung that right, they pumped it, they clung to it tenaciously, they swung it back and forth, they clamped down on it fervently.

It will doubtless be a precious memory to these visitors. If so, that will be the only good that may come of it. The nation has lost the time that its chief executive dedicated to a mauling at the hands of one thousand seven hundred and fifty shakers and in addition the time which will be necessary for his recovery.

DIVORCE LITIGANTS WANT NO PICTURES

RENO, Nev., April 6—(AP)—Newspaper photographers ran into a concert of objections this afternoon when they attempted to take pictures of the principals in the Inman divorce trial here, rapidly nearing its close after three weeks of sensational testimony.

Counsel for Mrs. Helen Garnet, Patton Clarke Inman and Walker P. Inman, heir to the Duke tobacco millions, strenuously objected to the camera men's presence and their objections were sustained by Judge George A. Bartlett. At recess, however, the photographers were successful in getting several negatives.

Following the close of Mrs. Inman's testimony, during which the attractive young woman collapsed

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Working under difficulties—

The farmers of this district, laboring between sunshine and showers to get in their late crops—

But they have been doing well.

Three fourths of the flax seed for the 4500 acres contracted to be grown for the state flax industry has been taken out, and almost all of it is in the ground. This is encouraging. But all of it should be planted at the earliest possible date. Growers of flax put in much later than the first of April will get after the flax making it an industry that is "out of luck." In case we do not get the "usual June rains," which we usually do, but occasionally do not—for flax is a 60 to 90 day crop after seeding, and it needs all the moisture it is likely to get after the first of April, notwithstanding the idea that ours is the webfoot state.

The Portland Telegram is making or allowing a series of attacks on the Oregon penitentiary management—directed largely at disciplinary methods. But there is nothing to worry about in this. Compared with former days in the Oregon prison, or any prison in the United States, the present methods make the institution here a Sunday school.

And compared with the best of them at the present time, the Oregon prison will, upon proper investigation, make a good showing. And growing better all the time, under the operations of the reformatory law making it an industrial concern, and under its present very competent management, too. The man, newspaper manager or other, who thinks differently, is just badly informed, or is playing to the galleries.

Salem's free employment office had last week 33 women and 136 men applying for work, and secured jobs for 81 of the men and six of the women. Not good, but growing better.

On several occasions while relating marital difficulties, Inman was called to the stand and admitted that the reason for many conflicting statements in his testimony was because he had a "very poor memory."

The much altered deposition Inman is alleged to have made at the beginning of the divorce proceeding was subject to fire by George B. Thatcher, Mrs. Inman's chief counsel.

Mrs. Inman was called to the stand again at the close of Inman's testimony and she told of the discovery of a diagraph in the Inman apartment. She said that when she called her husband's attention to it, he admitted having it placed and said that he was "thoroughly ashamed of what he had done."

Mrs. Inman said that Inman had paid \$47,000 in federal income tax returns but that he, his mother and his sister had filed their returns collectively but that he paid his pro rata of the tax.

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Opinions of Marion County Editors

MORE SETTLERS NEEDED
We of Oregon are selling much scenery and little land. That is because the state legislature has contributed many thousands of dollars which, added to the donations, enable us to send representatives who fire the tourists' blood and the tourists come, admire the attractiveness of our mountains, seashore streams, caves and lakes, then return home.

Since before the war we have not had a great land boom notwithstanding our exceptional climate, rich soils, fine crops, no total crop failure in history, no destructive elements, and in winter time little if any cold weather or snow. It is a state in which life is worth living.

The sale of scenery leaves thousands in the state, but those who come and locate spend more in the long run. Some day there will be another boom, but there must be more agitation to speed it. The people further east seem to prefer cyclones, tornadoes, blizzards and the usual floods, and desire to remain where they are.

We are not looking upon this scenery-selling with contempt, for Oregon, like California, gains by having tourists, but we are yearning for the old days when so many thousands came here to permanently locate. It was in the early part of the century that the rush was on, and then came an automobile era and an airplane age is in plain view.

This is a great state, making advancement, but it should have more than a million inhabitants. With twice that number of people, Oregon would prosper more than ever, taxes, including those of railroads herein, could be lowered and all would be well with the old and new settlers.—Woodburn Independent.

THE JONES ACT

One of the real tests of the prohibition law has come in the form of the Jones Act, a federal statute increasing the penalties of the Volstead law to a higher degree of felony, or with a maximum punishment of \$10,000 fine or five years' imprisonment, or both. It will be a real test because the final test of any law is its enforcement. If the citizens of the United States, thru their federal trial juries, want to put a stop to the illicit liquor business they can come nearer doing it with the Jones Act than with any other enforcement measure. The advent of Prohibition as a national regulation. If they do not desire prohibition as it relates to intoxicants as beverages the severity of the Jones penal clauses will be their tacit excuse for wholesale acquittals.—Mt. Angel News.

PAYING BRIDGE DEBT

Linn county's bridge bond debt will be liquidated in full on April 1.

Leona Powell, county treasurer has called for payment on that date the \$39,300 balance of the \$280,000 issue that was floated in 1924 to pay the cost of constructing the Albany and Harrisburg bridge over the Willamette river.

This balance comprises bonds numbered 133 to 201. It was issued for the purpose of building the Albany bridge.

Funds for the bond retirement come from accumulated balance of Oregon and California refund receipts from the federal government.

The original \$180,000 bond issue consisted of \$122,500 for the Albany and \$57,500 for the Harrisburg bridge.

On October 1, 1929, Linn county will pay the installment of its county road bond issue, floated in 1919, and then will be entirely out of debt. The issue was for \$600,000.—Sci-Tribune.

PIONEER DIES

William Henry Hurley, a pioneer of Southern Oregon and one of the first to realize the fruit growing possibilities of the Rogue River valley, is dead at the age of 79 years.

But better counsel prevailed and the Indians were brought and settled on the 6000 acres of the Grand Ronde reservation that had been purchased for \$35,000. This was in April, 1856. Phil Sheridan, as a young lieutenant in the regular army, had charge of the United States forces there soon after, to keep the Indians within bounds.

The United States government finally paid the costs of the southern Oregon Indian wars, amounting to about half a million dollars, in 1919, and then will be entirely out of debt. The issue was for \$600,000.—Sci-Tribune.

Lay Sermons

"For before these days rose up Theudas, giving himself out to be somebody."—Acts 5:36.

Theudas admitted he was "somebody." We wonder if when he reached Jerusalem he didn't hurry up to interview the editor of the Jerusalem Gazette to let him know he had come to town. Undoubtedly he joined the Masons and dangled for an invitation to the Jerusalem Kiwanians. Maybe he even went to the synagogue that he might there give "himself out to be somebody."

Perhaps he was somebody after all, and Jerusalem was just different to him. Towns are like that, especially towns with holy names like Jerusalem and Salem and Bethlehem. They have traditions to preserve; and pretending somebody is not wanted.

But Theudas did have good temporary success for a town like Jerusalem. He got four hundred people to sign his petition or join his church or vote his ticket. By that time the powers that were must have interfered for Theudas was slain; his lodge or society was dispersed and "came to naught."

So Gamaliel advises the Jews to apply the acid test of time to the new cult headed by Peter. "If this counsel be of men, it will be overthrown"; and if of God it could not be overthrown. But it is the test of time a real test af-

ter all? Theudas may have been a somebody, preaching a beautiful gospel, but lacking a Paul and a Peter his teaching perished with him. Carlyle argues that Mohammedanism must contain truth because it has survived so many centuries. But what of the false which has survived from the dawn of civilization? There are superstitions which have persisted in spite of all the revelations of science. Obnoxious religious practices continue in many lands to this day. Time has not proven them; it has frozen them in a rigid perpetuity.

That an idea or a faith has survived does not necessarily mean that it is true. While the presumption may be "in its favor," yet it must continually stand the criticism of new discovery and new reasoning. Mendel died ignorant of the significance of his discoveries in genetics. Had his manuscripts been burned he would have been known less than Theudas of old. As it is, his name is given to one of the great laws of biology.

Folk of today are called on to pass judgment on every Theudas who appears, whether he be a false or true prophet. We may not live long enough to give him the test of time or the test of a majority vote. It is our task to appraise him for ourselves using just that clear thinking and fair judgment which we may possess.

Who's Who & Timely Views

Sustained Prosperity Forecast

By GEN. W. W. ATTERBURY
President, Pennsylvania Railroad
(William Wallace Atterbury was born at New Albany, Ind., Jan. 31, 1866. He is a graduate of Yale university, and holds three honorary degrees. He began his career as an apprentice in the Altoona shops of the Pennsylvania railroad in 1888, and gradually climbed to the office of president, to which he was elected in 1925. In 1927 he was in charge of the erection of the United States military railroads in France, during the World War. He has been commissioned brigadier general. He has received several decorations from foreign governments, including the Distinguished Service Medal.)

THE business and industrial situation throughout the United States is satisfactory and indications are that it will be sustained.

I do not hesitate to say that I have never seen the country in as uniformly good condition as it is today. Now we cross the country east of the Mississippi and north of the Potomac and almost without exception our industries throughout that entire section are working 90 to 95 per cent. This is true not only of the large steel companies, but of the independent ones.

Cement, for instance, is really a function of the general business of the country. I mean, if business keeps good, cement is good. The cement industry as a whole has plenty to do.

The question of prices is a different thing. The price of cement is entirely controlled by the price of the imports. Cement, in any case, is a by-product; so with the steel industry.

I should think cement and the textile industries require a high tariff. But the tariff has to be left to the committees of congress. Textiles are picking up. In New England they are getting back on the map.

I think Mr. Hoover's policies have made a profound impression on industry and the business of the country.

For the purpose of increasing the bird population in the Decatur country, the Kiwanis, Lions and Elks clubs of Bend will hold a bird house contest in which school children may enter. Prizes to the amount of \$45 will be awarded.

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Of course, it is to be regretted that there are violent fluctuations in money rates. That always disturbs industry. If the fluctuation does not necessarily mean that it is true. While the presumption may be "in its favor," yet it must continually stand the criticism of new discovery and new reasoning. Mendel died ignorant of the significance of his discoveries in genetics. Had his manuscripts been burned he would have been known less than Theudas of old. As it is, his name is given to one of the great laws of biology.

Calles Confident Revolt is Crushed

MEXICO CITY, April 6—(AP)—Secretary of War Plutarco Elias Calles in reporting to the government tonight expressed the opinion that the military problem in the state of Chihuahua has "completely disappeared" in view of the fact that the remaining rebels are entirely disorganized.

He declared that the federal army had only to march on Chihuahua City and border towns in order to occupy them without opposition. He reported that rebel General Gonzalo Escobar and General Marcelo Caraveo now were in Chihuahua City where they have ordered five railroad trains to be made up to carry them with the remnants of their forces toward Casas Grandes. From there it was believed that they would follow the road through Pulpito canyon toward Agua Prieta, Sonora.

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be it day or night, one has only to call us to secure prompt and reliable service. We are on duty every hour of the twenty-four.

DESPIITE the alarming rumors we have recorded, the matter of the boundary was settled without the bloodshed that was feared.

The resolution, amended in the Senate and given a more conciliatory tone, was passed by Congress on April 23d, 1846, and the United States at once entered into intimate diplomatic relations with England in an effort to straighten out the vexing matter.

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