

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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A Hymn of Hate

WHEN the case of the People of Oregon versus the Higher Institutions ever comes to trial, the May issue of the Oregon State Monthly would qualify as "Exhibit A." For a revelation of rancor, of the bitterness of the University-State college feud, the editorial content of this publication can hardly be excelled. If the university is guilty of the "skulduggery" it is charged with, then the people of the state would administer sharp rebuke; if it is innocent, then there should be some way of reproving the editors of the Oregon State Monthly. In any event we think the publication's manner of treatment of the issue it attempts to discuss decidedly ill-tempered, injudicious, and so partisan as to prove a boomerang to the interests it hopes to serve.

Says the Monthly: "Certain editorials and comments in this issue of the Monthly, therefore, are designed to correct some of the many misconceptions that have grown out of the propaganda of university partisans against the college." The "certain editorials and comments" number no fewer than seven headed articles and two unheaded articles. Some of the articles are well-poised and thoughtful presentations of the college's position in matters of controversy. Others are of about the grade of controversial journalism one might expect from Bingville editors in the good old days of free-for-all. Under the heading: "University Usurps Functions of Board of Higher Education," which deals with "Oregon Chats" a circular put out by the university, the following extracts appear:

"So the university throws in a handful of headings to bring out this beautiful, white-collared conception—seven headings in the university outline to proclaim the 'professional' glory of business, education, etc., at that institution and four headings in the college outline naively camouflaged to cover up (behind a currant bush) the rather inconspicuous bulky proportions of the school of commerce and the school of vocational education! It's a cunning little puppet show designed to be highly hypnotic for high school seniors; but we miss our guess if a lot of them haven't already taken a shrewd look behind the scenes to catch Abie operating the strings."

"But there's still another compartment to this missionary kit bag designed to put the glow of seraphic illumination upon the brow of the high school senior, so dependent upon the fountains of light from the University of Quality."

The Oregon State Monthly is the official organ of the alumni association of the college, and not the publication of the institution itself. But its utterances cannot help but reflect upon the college because all too often the alumni association is but the "subsidiary corporation" providing a convenient storm shelter in case a blow develops. If we, who entertain the liveliest friendship for the state college, are thus impressed with a study of the outgivings of an important adjunct of the school, it is indeed time that official disapproval was expressed. In sharp contrast with this alumni effusion was the speech of President Kerr before the legislative committee last winter—dignified, fine-spirited toward the university, yet firm in support of the college he served, a speech which won plaudits from university supporters themselves.

The fact is that the Oregon State Monthly this time permits to get from under cover the sharpness of the feud which prevails between supporters of the university and those of the state college, a feud which is endangering the welfare of both institutions, penetrating the political life of the state, and injuring the unity which is vital to Oregon's progress. It is just this condition which the legislature recognized and which it sought to cure by the single board measure. There must be some compact body with authority to control both institutions for their own good and that of the state.

The Telegram's Sham Battle

OREGON is the scene of one of the most amazing battles of recent years. A prominent newspaper of the state has conducted an extraordinary offensive against the citadels of state government. Heavy projectiles, poison gas, TNT, all the weapons in the journalistic arsenal have been called into action. The Portland Telegram has deployed on all fronts. It has attacked every department of government. A justice of the supreme court, the state legislature, the governor, the public service commission, the state penitentiary all have been targets of the Telegram's daily cannonade.

Never have we seen a more futile and disgraceful waste of ammunition. Such a campaign carried forward by almost any other newspaper in the state would have moved the foundations of the capitol. As it is, it is a complete flop. Every other paper in the state ignores it; no attention is paid to it in official circles; the public is utterly indifferent to it. One Telegram editor was fired, so it is reported, because he published the school girl's letters in the high school shooting case. The one responsible for such a complete journalistic fiasco as the Hanzen articles might similarly be ordered to walk the gang plank.

It is all part and parcel of an effort to gain political dominance on the part of interests which inspire the articles; or an appeal to mob prejudice as a "circulation builder."

Here is a sample of its diatribe against the public service commission: "It began to arrogate to itself the powers of a tribunal and to demand that the public fortify its petitions for redress against a utility with a preponderance of evidence." In other words the Telegram wants the commission to be prosecutor and executioner with or without evidence. A simple simon ought to know that the commission ought to be essentially a tribunal; and how could any side win a case unless it had the preponderance of evidence? The fact is that the commission's own engineers do make investigations, assemble and present evidence in the public interest whenever a dispute arises with a utility. If the commission operated according to the Telegram formula its findings would be immediately annulled by the courts as unwarranted confiscation.

Oregon's public service commission has been pretty much of a parade. Its membership has changed so rapidly it has scarcely been able to develop its methods and program. Under the elective system a member was no more than acquainted with the people on his staff than he was recalled or defeated for re-election. The Telegram's purpose is apparently to scuttle the whole ship of government. It ties in with the Harlan ass-braying and vilifies persons in positions of trust. Fortunately for the state such tactics will inevitably defeat their own purposes.

The carpenters' union at Eugene is considering cutting its wage scale from \$8 to \$6 a day. Yet in the eastern cities building trades threaten strikes unless they get \$14 a day and a five-day week. There can be wage profiteering the same as store profiteering.

Weeding Time And Elbow Grease



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BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

In graduating time—

Much is being said about the value of an education; and too much cannot be said about it; in favor of it. The high places are for the trained mind and the trained hand. They come largely from the schools. But there are many notable exceptions. Edison had little opportunity for regular school training, but his is nevertheless a trained mind and hand, secured in the school of hard knocks. He is a type of men who go to the bottom and get to the top in spite of lack of early advantages.

A member of his family writing a biographical sketch of Col. J. W. Nesmith, after his death, showed that as a boy he attended only country schools in a desultory fashion, going a few months at a time; wandering orphan and half that he was. But young Nesmith was an avid reader, and he absorbed a great fund of information even as a youngster, as he was possessed of a retentive memory. The tutor he had as a boy whom he remembered best was one MacGregor, whose classes he attended in New England 120 days and received 100 lickings.

Though admitting that he never got "lick amass," the boy resolved that if he ever grew to be large enough he would administer to MacGregor a thrashing. In 1860 when Nesmith was in the United States senate, he went to New England to visit the scenes of his boyhood. He met MacGregor and told him of his early resolve, and added that he believed now that he was able to carry it out. "Weel, weel, Jeems," said the auld Scot, "if I had given you a few more lickings you would have been in the senate long before now."

Nesmith, then not quite 22 years old heard of the rendezvousing of the White party to come to the Oregon Country in the spring of 1842, and secured a horse and rode to Independence, Missouri, to join that party. He arrived 17 days late. He would have gone on alone in an attempt to overtake that caravan, but was deterred by reports of hostile Pawnee Indians. So he rode 100 miles south and did carpenter work for a year at Fort Scott, Kansas, joining the Applegate train in the spring of 1843.

While earning his living at "the falls" (which became Oregon City), for two years after his arrival in whatever work he could find, he read law, and was made judge under the provisional government in 1845.

He was afterwards a member of the legislature of the provisional government, and after the massacre of Dr. and Narcissa Whitman and the others at their mission station he served as the captain of a company in the Cayuse war and was one of the important actors in that important drama in the early history of Oregon.

In 1848 he joined the California gold seekers. In 1852 he was appointed United States marshal for the territory, succeeding Joe Meek; living in Salem for the two years he thus served; resigning in 1855 to accept the office of colonel of the volunteers in the Yakima expedition against the Indians. In August of the same year he organized a company in Salem to go to the relief of the settlers in southern Oregon who were being raided and murdered by the Rogue river tribes; the campaign ending with the famous peace treaty at Table Rock.

In 1857 Nesmith was appointed superintendent of Indian affairs, an important place then, its duties extending over the territory now

embraced in the states of Oregon and Washington.

Then came the rumblings of war resulting in the compromise election by the Oregon legislature of 1860, when Nesmith and Col. E. D. Baker were sent to the United States senate, Mr. Nesmith drawing the long term and serving in that body during the trying days of the struggle of the states over the issue of secession and slavery, on the most important committees—a great friend of Abraham Lincoln and loyal supporter of his policies.

Nesmith had learned enough in the school of hard knocks to be an expert on military matters and to give valuable advice as a member of the committee on military affairs in the senate, being frequently with the Union armies in the field and witnessing several important battles.

Also being able to give valuable aid as a member of the senate committee on Indian affairs and commerce.

He returned to Washington in 1873, as the congressman from Oregon, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Joseph G. Wilson, his cousin. The home of Wilson, which he built, was at the corner of State and High streets, now occupied by the Bligh block in which is the Bligh Capitol theater. The Wilson home became a hotel, conducted under various names—its most flourishing days under that of the Salem hotel. The building was torn down to give way to the Bligh block, only two or three years ago.

They Say ...

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

To the Editor:

Dear Sir: The splendid address given by Miss Maud Aldrich recently in Hood River was well received by those present. The subject which Miss Aldrich handled so successfully is a pertinent one—and should receive such attention from all lovers of purity as to justify a decided change in the moving picture industry. We are again reminded through this forcible address—that the boys and girls of our period are still being exposed to the corrupting influences of these shows which appear too often in our large cities. The problems of life are our special need—if parents, teachers and the churches would manifest a keener interest in the forming of good characters among the youth—by discouraging in every

possible manner those enemies of children which are constantly seeking an entrance into the lives of the unsuspecting—we would not have so much crime in the world today.

With the infernal cigarette business on one side—and the unwholesome movies on the other—we have an unfortunate situation.

Under the circumstances we should not censure the 18th amendment for all the public and private ills which a present exists. President Hoover in his past pronouncements—places much emphasis on high ideals—and according to reports Washington society, is having a transformation in its social affairs. Total abstinence principles will be the rule of practice at the White House for the next four years—and also among the diplomatic relations—the writer is led to understand—and may we only hope the day is not far distant when the federal moving picture council in America of which Miss Aldrich is a member be eventually added through Mr. Hoover's administrative ability and willingness to participate in a decided effort to seek a change in this branch of social morality which should demand special interest at the present time. Your truly,
JULIA A. HUNT.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

June 4, 1904

Col. T. C. Smith has constructed a cement sidewalk to the entrance of his large Chemeketa street home.

The second rehearsal of Queen Esther will be held at the Presbyterian church tonight.

Attorney John A. Jeffrey has gone to Grants Pass to address a Democratic meeting.

A big excursion of Sunset Lodge No. 130, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, will make Salem its destination this year. The group will picnic at the state fairgrounds.

State Branch of Izaak Walton to Be Formed Soon

GRANTS PASS, Ore., June 2.—(AP)—Organization of a state division of the Izaak Walton League of America will be effected at a meeting set for June 23 at Portland. Letters are now being sent to the 35 chapters in Oregon by the Josephine chapter, the second oldest in the state, upon request of many Oregon Waltonians. The state chapters are asked to send at least three delegates to this first meeting. The Portland chapter will provide entertainment for the visitors on the Sunday following the organization of the state association.

Editors Say:

MR. COREY'S INFALLIBILITY
Why the Oregon public service commission is opposing construction of the Nyssa to Winnemucca railroad is told by H. H. Corey, member of the commission, in an interview published Friday. People in that part of Oregon which would be served by the proposed line have already been antagonized by the commission's attitude. They will be in no degree mollified by what Mr. Corey declares to be the reasons for that attitude.

The commission's policy has nothing to do with whether or not the Nyssa-to-Winnemucca road is in itself a worthy project. The commission, interprets for no other reason than that such construction might injure prospects for a cross-state line. In other words, the interests of the southeastern Oregon territory are to be sacrificed in the effort to put over Mr. Corey's pet project.

To quote the commissioner directly, intervention "is based upon the fear that diversion of tonnage by this proposed line which would benefit only a small corner of the state might seriously interfere with the prospects of the east and west cross-state line which would benefit a great section of southern and Central Oregon."

Mr. Corey's method of argument as revealed in this quotation is characteristic. Instead of ascertaining facts and basing his statement upon them, he makes a statement in which the wish is father to the thought, then looks about him for supporting facts, if any. Reference to the "benefit" which would accrue to "a great section of southern and Central Oregon" belongs in this class of support. Southern Oregon is not touched by Mr. Corey's pet cross-state line. The part of Central Oregon through which he would have it run offers a tremendous tonnage in sagebrush and jack-rabbits—and very little else.

The same sort of reverse gear logic has been used by Mr. Corey in the years of his undoubted activity for cross-state transportation. First of all he decided that the line from Crane or Burns should follow a desert location and connect with the Nation Cutoff at or near Odell. Then he sought reasons for such location. That they were largely lacking was unimportant. Other routes were suggested where real tonnage could be had, where real development could be achieved. They did not coincide with the Corey route, however, and naturally could not be given serious consideration.

It was only after most insistent community demand that these suggested routes were even looked into, and then the investigation was perfunctory. The findings were against them, as might have been expected. How could their proponents hope to prevail against predestination?

So it has been in the past, so shall it be in the future. The Corey project must go through. Should any other project, no matter how deserving, stand in the

Here and There:

Terse comments on Events, Local and Abroad, of the Past Week.

EVIDENTLY we can not only send a rich man to jail but we can keep him there six months longer than the first sentence provided.

Which will console many a long-timer in durance vile. Misery loves company even if Mr. Sinclair must furnish it.

Every Monday paper for the next three months will contain accounts of deaths by drowning. Another generation and we may have

way. It must be relentlessly removed. The Nyssa-to-Winnemucca railroad stands in the way. Nyssa has protested, and Mr. Corey has answered. But it is not the kind of answer that convinces. Neither is it the kind that "turns eth away wrath."—Bend Bulletin.

PANNING PORTLAND

The Portland idea of developing the state is not much better than Portland's idea of a ball team—Medford Tribune. Well, no doubt the opinion of the Tribune in this regard has been formed without having been to Portland recently. Why, Portland is doing everything to develop the state. There are big posters on all the bill boards saying that a "United Portland Means More Pay Rolls, therefore Join the Chamber of Commerce." With such irrefutable logic and such spiritual advice, how can Portland help growing and with it will grow the state. So, here's for a bigger and better Portland ball team. No doubt the team would be better if it would just adopt a few wall mottoes as the chamber of commerce has done. How would it do to have the ball field fence plastered with "Strike while the ironing's hot," or, where the pitcher could see it, "Remember the brave French, They Shall Not Pass," or "There, Little Bearers, Do Not Cry, You'll be a Ball Team, Buy and Buy."—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

Corvallis started something when it passed the ordinance barring carnivals by placing the license so high they can't get in. Now The Dalles has done the same thing and other towns are talking about it. If anybody can think of any reason on earth why a carnival company should be permitted in a civilized town, we will publish the reason and present the reasoner with a diamond studded necktie for a doodle-bug.—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

MCCORMICK'S WIFE SINGS

PARIS, June 2.—(AP)—Madame Ganna Walska, wife of Harold F. McCormick and some time opera singer, in a blaze of jewelry tonight made her first appearance as an actress in her own theatre.

succeeded in teaching everyone to swim. How foolish that people will practice such stunts as tipping canoes when they can't manipulate themselves in the water for 50 feet.

IF Premier Baldwin is wise, he will resign his position. England gave a majority to no candidate, but the electorate showed clearly that it has lost its belief in the conservative regime and that McDonald was favored for the next premiership. Moreover, Lloyd George will not keep step with the conservative group with whom he has so long battled. Baldwin will save himself the humiliation of a parliamentary defeat if he resigns now.

FOR once, extensive newspaper publicity failed to bring the crowds it usually musters. A Portland organ kept its front page makeup man busy with accounts of Dr. Doney and his attitude towards "The Piper." But little more than half a house greeted the performance Sunday. If there had been something of questionable morality in the play, or if Boston or Brooks had refused it a place on the stage, there would not have been standing room. The public isn't so much interested in when a play is produced—the "play's the thing."

One service station keeper asked 115 people Saturday if they thought Dr. Doney was right in his stand.

Ninety-eight people are said to have answered "yes." Evidently the public has more scruples about Sunday observance than is usually thought to be the case.

ALBERT TOZIER who takes care of Champcoo park has a storehouse of Oregon history in the old building at this shrine of the state. Journals are there of earlier days and clippings and pictures galore of the historic events of the last half century. No one should make the trip to Champcoo without calling on Mr. Tozier and taking time, if possible, to examine his collection. When one cannot locate the specific information desired on some question in recent Oregon history, it's a good guess that Tozier can produce it or tell where it can be found.

GRAY BELLE

Special 50c Week Day 50c Dinner 11 A. M. to 8 P. M. Special Service for the Kiddies 440 STATE ST., SALEM, ORE. Gray Belle now under management John Blakely

BOYS!

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The Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon

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