

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
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The Biggest Store On Main Street.



BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Giving him a chance:

An editorial in the Oregonian of Saturday, the 13th, under the heading, "Giving He Convict a Chance," commends the new law which makes compulsory education a part of the penal system of that state, giving the position of Rodney Brandon, director of public welfare for Illinois in these words: "It is the duty of the state, when it incarcerates a man, to improve him, not as he would have improved himself had he been free, but to improve him as he should have been improved."

"Human decency demands this of the state. The state should reconstruct the felon, if possible, as to make him a law abiding and helpful citizen on his restoration to society. To educate the convict is to improve the state. It is as simple as that." These are some of the words of the Oregonian article.

The duty is as simple as that, but the problem is by no means as simple. The public must be educated to the simplicity of the duty of the state. Age old prejudices must be overcome. The man released from prison must be given a chance by the public to have the chance which the state ought to fit him to take. Aye, there's the rub. The public will not do it. Not now. Perhaps not for a long time.

H. W. Meyers, superintendent of the Oregon state penitentiary, after reading the article, wrote that paper as follows: "The Oregonian's broad vision relative to the thought of 'Giving the Convict a Chance,' as expressed in the editorial of recent date, bears out a thought and suggestion of the writer in his report for the biennial period ended September 30, 1924, as superintendent of the state penitentiary. First, for purposes intended, a resident psychiatrist or psychologist, trained in mental phenomena, should be on the premises to give the subject presented a thorough physical and mental examination, alleviating his condition if ill, and outlining to the prison officials his state of health, so that employment could be given for which he is best fitted. As stated, in my report there was pointed out the advisability of having a vocational instructor with educational qualifications to assist in building a vast number of trained craftsmen, or at least giving them a schooling in the elementary branches, as the ages of a large percentage of the population range from 17 to 25 years, and possibly only 50 per cent have had the advantage of a common school education. A prisoner should be released from a prison rehabilitated, if possible, and with a training so he can measure up as an asset to society rather than as a liability. One can figure the economical side in so doing. Furthermore, many prisoners are received physically unfitted for manual labor, owing to diseases and methods of living. Hence the necessity of corrective treatment so they can be in as good physical condition as possible when released. Also, it is quite true that, while one might be a law violator, it does not necessarily follow that one is a criminal as applied literally."

Oregon is fortunate in having a man at the head of its prison with the views of Henry W. Meyers. And still more fortunate in having one with the ability to direct its affairs so that the institution is on the way towards realizing these ideals.

He knows, and all who study the subject, know that the first requisite in the process of rehabilitation is work. The next is wages. The ability to write and read and understand is not enough. San Quentin in California has the best prison educational system in the country. But it lacks industries, and its percentage of reformations is low; low compared with that of the Stillwater, Minnesota, state prison, where it is 85 per cent; as high as that of the juvenile reformatory for boys in this country. But the Stillwater prison is self supporting through its industries, has a wage scale, and also compulsory education. It has been self supporting since 1905.

The revolving fund law providing for the industries at the Oregon penitentiary was copied largely from the one for the Stillwater prison. It will lead to the same results. The difference is that in Oregon the system is working out its own salvation, excepting for initial appropriations to set it going, while Minnesota provided an ample and large fund in the beginning; enough for the whole capital investment for its industries.

The Oregon prison is providing the major part of its own capital investment for its industries, and also the funds to carry on by buying the raw products, principally so far flax, which takes an annually mounting sum, because of the nature of that industry. That is, little of the returns for converting flax into its primary commercial products come back for a year or more after the farmers who grow the flax get their money.

If Oregon had acted, or could under her constitution have acted, along the lines of the Minnesota legislature, the Oregon penitentiary would now be self supporting, and able to provide besides a wage for every worker. Inmates working with flax now receive wages. It will be so in three to four years, barring unforeseen events to delay the program. If low interest funds were available for an entire new plant, in addition to what could be realized on the present one, the Oregon institution could right now do all the things it is going to do in three to five years, besides providing the interest and a sinking fund to wipe out the extra expenditure for a new plant.

Thus, he it known to the Oregonian editorial writer, his own state is on the way to taking higher ground than Illinois occupies, in a way that he justly commends. No northern state excepting Minnesota has a prison that is self supporting. Missouri comes nearest—its institution is self supporting now, but the population being made up largely of negroes, its percentage of reformations is not high. The Alabama state prison is self supporting through working its negro convicts in coal mines. Louisiana with her prisons is approaching that point, with a population made up largely of colored convicts.

Editors Say:

AN APPRECIATION
Not only working people but all classes of people who think along right lines are pleased with the attitude assumed by Roberts Bros. department store toward their employees.
The store is operated by union clerks throughout and has been for years. But the employees work under far better conditions than the minimum prescribed by union rules. Roberts Bros. store was the first among the stores of Portland to inaugurate early closing; first to institute a real eight-hour

work day; first to adopt the minimum wage for men and women and now they have adopted the Saturday half-holiday during July and August.

Somehow the management of Roberts Bros. store doesn't have to be forced to take any step that appears to be for the welfare of the workers employed and for humanity in general. They just do it because it seems the right and humane thing to do.

It is indeed refreshing in these days of sordid commercialism, mass production, speed, efficiency and high pressure salesmanship to find a manager of a modern department store that puts the welfare of his employees and humanity above dollars and cents.

Others may bask in the sunshine of public acclaim to a greater degree but long after they are forgotten the people of Portland who toll will remember and revere the name of Roberts.

Every man and woman in the city who works for wages, whether members of the union or not, should give a fair share of their patronage to Roberts Bros. store in appreciation of the humanitarian attitude of the managers and owners.—Portland Solon Press.

ALFALFA PROSPERS

The promotion of the alfalfa contest is an undertaking to which the Dallas chamber of commerce may well look with pride. While the rapid expansion of alfalfa growing cannot be attributed to any great extent to superficial causes, at the same time seeing what others are doing is both a stimulant and a corrective influence. Lessons in alfalfa growing are learned both from the prize winner and the failure, with perhaps the emphasis on the latter. As Ralph Beck has frequently remarked, the difficulty in dealing with the alfalfa situation has been in keeping farmers from planting unsuitable land, rather than in getting them interested in the crop.

The encouraging fact remains that Polk county has over 100 progressive farmers who are making alfalfa an important item on their farm program. It also appears that the use of this crop are daily expanded by the resourcefulness of those who are learning to grow it.—Dallas Itemizer-Observer.

Opinions of Marion County Editors

TAMMANY AND 1925
Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt is mentioned as the coming leader of the democratic hosts and candidate for president. He seems to be Tammany's choice. In his Fourth of July speech he proclaimed for the separation of government and business. Of course this is an early day for discussion of a candidate, but Tammany believes in starting the presidential campaign. If Tammany does not enter into its old tactics in supporting its presidential choice for the governorship, a swap of much interest to the organization, Roosevelt might prove a man of strength provided his sentiments would meet with those of the country after four years of a Hoover regime. However, this declaration on Roosevelt's part may lead Hoover to play the game of government and business, including farm relief with the cooperative plan, strengthened by the debtors clause and high tariff regardless of foreign opposition. Roosevelt as a nominee would make tariff a leading issue and a campaign cry of "America for Americans." But let us see what we shall see. Probably this Roosevelt talk is but a smoke screen.—Woodburn Independent.

HARD GOING FOR CHAUTAUQUAS

The guarantee idea for chautauquas was a happy idea when it was first put into practice, but like

Lay Sermons

BANISHMENT OF FEAR

"And I saw, and I heard an eagle, flying in mid heaven, saying with a great voice, 'Woe, woe, woe, to them that dwell on the earth.' Revelations 8:13.
This eagle must have been a raven, a prophet of doom, a carrier of disaster. "Woe," three "woes" in fact for "them that dwell on the earth." Prophets have a way of proclaiming doleful warnings. Perhaps that is the only way they think they make themselves heard. Fear dominates men's minds even more firmly than superstition. So a prophet of calamity would be filled with the fears that oppress mankind. The Indians are always telling us in the fall of the year that this will be a "hard winter." In the spring the weather prophets who get a hearing forecast extremes of drought or wetness. They seem to know that people will not be satisfied unless they have something to feed their fears.

The Bible is replete with its prophecies of woe. The sins of the race caused Noah to foretell the devastating flood, Jeremiah uttered his lamentations on the impending fate of the chosen people. Malachi painted a doleful picture of never-ending punishment. The author of the Apocalypse from which we have taken, used colorful imaginings to depict the doom of later days. Daniel saw broken kingdoms and polluted sanctuaries.

Much of the preaching which the faithful have listened to has been modeled on the pattern of the Hebrew prophets. So powerfully did Johnathan Edwards describe the fate of the damned that his auditors seized the pillars of the church to save themselves from pitching immediately into fiery torments. Woe, woe, woe.

Just what we wonder are these woes, which never seem to come? Forever warned, humanity seems thus far to have escaped the predicted disaster. Do we live in a fool's paradise? Are we dancing on the brink of destruction? And what is this chaos into which we soon may plunge? Or is it all just old wives' tales born of ancient fears, preserved by hereditary superstitions? Is the "woe" merely the scarecrow to frighten weak minds? A bogey of ignorance or conniving priesthoods?

Life is a thing of lights and shadows. Some see only objects that are dazzlingly bright. Others treat constantly in gloom or in the melancholy grey of twilight. Their minds are that of darkness. It is all just a little of hope. Death or disaster awaits them just round the corner. For them perhaps the

greatest woe is their own fear. The true philosophy of religion is it not that of triumph over woe? When the blow falls, is there not the compensation of faith? Does not the sinking soul find a buoy in his religion? Why then fear woe? Why fear losses? Why fear disaster? It was loss of health, loss of property, loss of relatives, loss of friends that transformed Job, a rich old sheik, into a gallant and triumphant figure.

You recall Henley's "Invictus":
"It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishment the scroll;
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul."
There is too much of braggadocio in those stirring lines. Too much of the ego, no evidence of any reserves of strength. There is defiance, but no faith.

We greatly prefer those verses from Browning's Epilogue to "Asolan":
"One who never turned his back but marched breast forward,
Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph,
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,
Sleep to wake.

"No, at noonday in the bustle of man's worktime
Greet the unseen with a cheer!
Bid him forward, breast and back as either should be,
'Strive and thrive' cry 'Speed,—
fight on, fare ever
There as here!"

True Christianity brings emancipation from the fears of woe, it cultivates courage and strength from which victories come.

Eugene Pageant Advertised Here

Eugene business men on an air tour advertising the Sunset Theatre pageant, will land their plane at the Ferry field in Salem about noon next Monday and will have luncheon with local men including B. E. Sisson, president of the chamber of commerce; W. L. Phillips, chairman of the civic committee of the chamber, and E. L. Wieder, president of the Business Men's League.

Travel, Traffic, and Automobile insurance, all for \$1 per year if taken through the Oregon Statesman. Don't leave on your vacation without the Insurance or the Statesman.

BOURBONS TO FIGHT TARIFF

Democratic Faction in Senate Organizes For Real Battle on Floor

WASHINGTON, July 20 (AP)—The Democrats began organizing today for the senate floor contest over the tariff. Meeting in the office of Senator Borah of Idaho, a Republican independent, is of the opinion that these commodities ought to remain on the free list.

Meanwhile, a sharp clash was promised on the proposed tariff on hides and shoes. It developed that Senator Borah of Idaho, a Republican independent, is of the opinion that these commodities ought to remain on the free list. He doubts whether the farmer would obtain any benefit from a tariff on hides and believes it a duty is to be applied, it should be placed on the free animal, thereby insuring the benefit.

The white house denied a published report that President Hoover had asked the tariff commission to furnish him the names of all Democrats in congress who had made requests of it. Under the minority program, the two Democrats who served on each of the four sub-committees during the public hearings on the house bill will be in charge on the floor of the particular sections of the measure considered by them.

While no details were agreed upon, Senator Simmons said a vigorous stand would be made against the house flexible provisions, which not only retain the authority of the president to adjust tariff rates up or down, but give him the power to change the basis of valuation if competitive conditions cannot be equalized by other methods.

Another important change in the administrative sections of the law which the Democrats will strive to eliminate is that transferring to the secretary of the treasury the authority now exercised by the customs court over appeals from calculations adopted by an appraiser.

HIGHWAY BILL LAIRGE

Oregon's highway bill for 1925 was \$19,000,000, according to a tabulation of figures recently issued by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads.

Arkansas Authorities Put On Strenuous Campaign to Halt Women Bootleggers

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 20

(AP)—Women ranging from a sixty-year old mother to a 20-year old stockless girl, were arrested Friday in drives on women bootleggers in Arkansas and just across the border in Texas. Federal prohibition agents who arrested 14 women at Texarkana yesterday in a series of raids designed to stop female bootlegging in that section, crossed into Texas and arrested the girl and another woman, the mother of two children.

At about the same time Constable J. L. McBurnett at Pine Bluff, gave chase to an automobile and arrested its five occupants, including the aged woman, but not until he said, they had broken several whiskey containers.

McBurnett asserted they were transporting a considerable quantity of liquor from Pine Bluff to Star City, where a county confederate veterans reunion was being held. The five were held under bond on charges of possession and transporting liquor.

The aged woman, Mrs. Ella Long, had been in court before, officials said, in 1927 she was indicted on liquor charges three times. Two of the indictments, however, were dismissed in circuit court and she paid \$50 fine on the third.

Mrs. Long's daughter, Willie

B. Long and two sons and, the wife of one were the others arrested. The latter were Mr. and Mrs. E. Long and Lester Long.

Meanwhile S. M. Gurley, deputy prohibition administrator for western Arkansas, who announced yesterday that the arrest of 14 women there was only the beginning of the campaign to end bootlegging by women left with his squad of raiders for an unannounced destination.

The two women arrested in Texarkana on the Texas side, Dot Benson, 20 and Mrs. Bonnie Palmer were soundly lectured by G. W. Ragland, justice of the peace, when they were arraigned before him on charges of possession of liquor.

"I'm tired of women appearing before me and begging for mercy simply because they are women," he said. "From now on I'm going to treat them as men. They smoke cigarettes, hold men's jobs and otherwise act as men."

Guaranteed WATCH REPAIRING THE JEWEL BOX OR MONEY BACK 13 N. Liberty St., Salem, Ore.

SERVICE MEASURED NOT BY GOLD BUT BY THE GOLDEN RULE

The Second Paragraph in the Creed of the Golden Rule funeral director's is this:

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We adhere strictly to the ethics of the mortuary profession, both in word and in spirit.

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ESTABLISHED 1878

FIRE IS INDIRECT CAUSE OF INJURY

SEATTLE, July 20—(AP)—A grass fire set off by small boys playing with firecrackers, which was extinguished almost immediately, caused the critical injury of one and serious injury to four others when a responding fire truck collided head-on with a delivery truck here late today.

The injured were: Captain Guy Hartnett, in charge of the fire engine, still unconscious and feared near death; Arthur Wilson, delivery truck driver; Stanley McKimney, fire truck driver; Al Smith, and Johnny Cotton, pedestrians.

A Chicago stenographer hired a "plastic surgeon" to "fix" her bow legs. Perhaps she wanted to go barelegged, we do not know. But the surgeon did a wretched job of bone hacking, gangrene set in and the girl lost both her legs. Dangerous business to try to remake face or figure. All the girl with bow legs can do is to trust to the old motto: "Handsome is as handsome does."

The doctors' convention at Portland looked over its schedule of fees and pronounced them good—not too high. So now families of moderate means may make up their minds they can afford only about one operation in a lifetime.

A fruit fly did more damage than safe-crackers could do with Florida banks which shows that size isn't everything.