

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
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Too Many Teachers

IF THE farm board gets through putting agriculture on its feet it may get a new lease of life and continuance of the \$12,000 a year apiece relieving the school teachers. There is a school teacher problem the same as a wheat problem: both the same, a surplus for the market. There is this difference too that whereas wheat can always be sold at a price, there is no such absorbing market for school teachers. Teachers get jobs so long as there are jobs to go around; after that they simply lose out. That is what faces a good many teachers this fall: not enough jobs to place all the candidates.

Some of the states are trying to solve the problem through "patronize home products" regulation. They don't come out and bar teachers from other states, but they may require a certain amount of time spent in the schools of that state. California, we believe, has a provision of that kind. Washington is also promoting a policy of favoring home-trained teachers. In the latter state, too, the high school teachers are threatening to test a provision in the law which confines college or university-trained teachers to high schools and keeps them out of elementary schools. This is because of the surplus of high school teachers being turned out of the institutions there.

It is too bad when a young man or woman puts out good money for several years expecting to enter teaching, and then finds he can't get a position. While this is regrettable, to the individual, it may be a blessing to the schools; for it gives the schools a chance to select only the best qualified. There never is a surplus of superior teachers, those who can really lead out the youthful mind into fields of widened knowledge and broader culture. It takes more than normal training and college diplomas to make a good teacher. There is a certain native quality that is vital to real success in the teacher. There are all too few who have that vital spark which touches youth like a live coal off learning's altar.

Look back over the space of years separating you from school and college days. How many real teachers do you set down as having exercised a vital influence in your life? We recall one in grade school, two in high school, and only two or three in college. The others were probably faithful enough in their way, but they didn't register as superior teachers.

There is no particular alarm about the excess number of school teachers. They will be absorbed by matrimony, stenography or other employment. The same situation has existed before; and as in those days, we'll try to get a genuinely good teacher for a particular position, and see how hard it is after all. What we need is fewer mediocre teachers and more skilled mechanics and artisans.

"Leave it Out"

EDITORS of newspapers are regularly confronted with an eternal question, the censorship of news.

From the trivial item that John Doe, a citizen who speeds, has been arrested, to the fact that some minister has gotten into trouble with his choir leader, all are the subjects of efforts on the part of the parties or friends of those involved, to keep the bad news from the public gaze.

The newspaper publisher is threatened with all sorts of ill-fates. Slitting of the ears is too old a punishment to be resorted to but social ostracism and that ever-present threat of economic boycott through withdrawal of advertising are laid at the publisher's desk as dire harbingers of what will happen if he prints what he knows.

Nor is this dilemma of what to print a fancied one; it occurs weekly, yea, oftentimes daily, in the life of a newspaperman.

Now the easy way is to please every friend in trouble. James Gordon Bennett of the New York Herald had a for-bidden list, a group of cronies and intimates who could loot the city treasury and expect immunity from The Herald. Outside the circle of friends, Bennett was merciless. Present day papers are wont to employ similar tactics. If Alex Bickerstaff, the town sot, gets drunk, play up the news and let the town enjoy it. But if Alex Bickerstaff, the son of the department store owner, sows some wild oats and leaves the traces before the city recorder, erase the book, close the eyes of the reporter and keep the paper clean!

Alas for such newspaper publishing. There is no fairness in such craven playing of favorites. If a matter unfavorable to the individual involved is made a thing of public record, an item of news, why does it merit suppression because of pressure brought, economic or social? We take it that a newspaper has given a pledge to its own conscience as inviolable as the Hippocratic oath of the physician. This pledge calls for moral honesty in news dissemination. It demands fair treatment for all, rich or poor, of high or low position. It insists that news, good or bad, helpful or injurious, shall be published. It decries the intermingling of business with publishing to an extent that the press become warped and twisted, the object of favored interests. This pledge, The Statesman feels, goes beyond the bounds of friendship and sympathy and extends to duty—a solemn, responsible one, the portrayal of the news, with the full knowledge by the publisher that truth often hurts.

The Youth's Companion is getting itself merged out of existence. All the editors now slightly bald are writing tearful eulogies on the departed "Companion." The younger generation isn't so sad-hearted. The movie and the radio have taken the slip out of a youth's magazine, especially one like the Companion which tried to be wholesome and informative. Children learn to read so fast now they are going in for Red Book just after the first reader.

The International Advertising association meeting in Berlin is reported as setting a gastronomic record at a banquet, consuming 4000 bottles of wine, half of which went to Americans, 250 calves and 35,000 crabs. That shows the advertising men are still craving publicity even when on a holiday.

A professor told the Rotarians all about new discoveries in the fields of chemistry and physics, cosmic ray, new germ killer and all. We'd be satisfied if some one would invent a catsup bottle neck that wouldn't shoot the red all over your shirt-front.

Owen D. Young has been picked out as the country's best business man. It doesn't pick out the worst business man, but we would nominate Albert Fall.

The "International Youth Convention" meeting in Seattle approved "occasional kissing and holding of hands among close friends." Sorority houses will please post.

A mountain boy calling at the Hoover camp had never heard of Linbergh. Lindy must have fallen on his neck at that.

The boy scouts are coming home from England. That's making one good turn for that day.

His Ship is Still at Anchor



BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

More than conservative—

Is the way the Portland Journal puts the flax and linen industries in a dealing editorial in an issue of last week, under the heading, "Pioneering the Way," as follows:

"In three days last week the Oregon Linen mill at Salem booked orders for \$15,000 worth of varied linen products. The July sales totaled \$30,000. The mill makes daily 1100 pounds of yarn, 1000 yards of sack twine, all manufactured to order. The mill has 115 looms, about 30 of which are busy. It has 1400 spindles. That the mill will eventually have three eight-hour shifts, producing 4000 yards of cloth per day, is the expectation of Colonel Bartram. A great work is being done by the folks who are pioneering in the linen industry. The biggest thing that can be done in Oregon is to develop the habit of manufacturing Oregon raw material into finished products. In this line of endeavor can be doubled or quadrupled with a minimum of increased income to go into general circulation. The Salem linen mill is an example. Its development of the flax industry gives Oregon a new source of added wealth, gives Oregon people more money to draw from in the channels of trade. And the pioneering process, as in any realm of endeavor, means struggles, obstacles, and sacrifices. And that is a reason why, by their patronage and assistance, Oregon people should support the Salem flax as possible support and encouragement."

How conservative is the Portland Journal writer? He says: "In many a form this line of endeavor can be expanded until employment can be doubled or quadrupled," etc. In "many an endeavor," that is conservative. But in the flax and linen industries it is ultra conservative.

To illustrate: Take an acre of good land properly cultivated in the Willamette valley, and devote it to flax of the J. W. S. seed variety, and it will bring the grower at least four tons, worth \$160, and make him a very handsome profit. That is the finished product of the farmer and the raw product of the primary mill, treating the flax to the fiber stage, by threshing, retting and scutching. From the farmer's raw product the primary plant will get 1000 pounds of long line fiber, worth 30 cents a pound, and \$25 to \$40 worth of seed, besides some bolls and shives, that may be made to be worth a considerable sum now, and more as other uses than burning are made of the shives. But put the return to the primary mill for the acre of the farmer's flax at \$325, and value has been more than doubled in the first processing. The state flax plant makes several other products now, as cow feed from the bolls, etc., ground seed for the drug trade, etc. The shives are now burned with a small fuel value. They may be made into paper board. Prof. Von Eschen, chemist, says ferverol may be made from them which combined with phenol produces a colloid that excels the casein colloid as a material for fountain pens, knife handles, buttons, etc., etc. There is a proposition now to make paper board of the shives of the state plant, or a part of the supply, by a private company. Of course, the best uses will be made of them. The revolving fund law gives full authority for this to the state board of control, and before long there will be ample money in that fund to finance any such operation on the part of the state. It will be merely a question of what is best for the state, and the industry. And private enterprise may follow the state, in independent plants.

Then what? Take the long line rough fiber to the spinning mill, and its value will be more than doubled again, in spinning into yarn and bleaching.

Then what? Take the yarn, the finished product of the spinner, to the weaver, where it is his raw material, and the value may be increased many fold. Let the

weaver and his specialty workers make it into linen handkerchiefs, and the selling price by retail may go up to \$24 a pound, or \$24,000 for the farmer's acre of flax, plus what is received for the seed and the other by-products of the primary mill. Or make the yarn into table cloths or napkins, or tapestries or laces, and the value may run in some of these of much more than \$24,000 for the grower's acre.

There are at least 100 commercial articles made from flax yarn, from the cheaper dress goods and vest and coat linings, and the sails for ships and the wings of flying machines, and the covers of automobiles and the fiber of tires, all the way up through the list to tapestries fit for a king's parlor and on to delicate laces worthy of his queen.

The big forces of employees will be in the specialty mills. A little while back a man came to Salem who wished to transfer his eastern factory to this city, his factory in which he makes ornaments for band suits and lodge regalia, etc., etc. But his first requisite is plenty of yarn of the right size; that is, the right fineness, and a sure and certain supply of it. We are not up to that mark yet. But we are getting up towards it.

There is in the desk of the Bits man a letter to the late Mrs. W. P. Lord from a man who then wanted to come to Salem with a factory for the making of linen mesh for hospital and other towels, and for garments that are designed to be conducive to health, especially for wearers who must do work that brings much perspiration. For linen is an absorbent of moisture to a greater extent than any other garment material. This latter proposed specialty mill would bring 4500 employees to Salem; working in a factory that would have an already established market.

There are many articles of commerce that are made from hemp yarn, or hemp mixed with flax yarn. Such as the fiber over which is poured the rubber for rubber boots and garments, and rubber belts for running machinery, etc., etc. Well, we can, here in the Salem district, grow as good hemp as Italy can—and Italy is supposed to produce the best. Experiments have already been made, here at the Oregon prison. Our flax and linen industries will develop hemp growing and manufacturing industries here. They go together. They do in the great Belfast linen district.

We are indeed doing well comparatively in our flax and linen developments in the Salem district. But we are not living up to our opportunities—not by a very long shot. And we are ordinarily singing too low and feeble a song, like the Portland Journal writer. What would California do with such an opportunity?

Take an illustration: Oregon is the mother of California. Our pioneers went to California and made it a state. We sent California her first governor, Peter H. Burnett, who led the forces that broke that state into the union, full fledged, without ever going through the preparatory stage of a territory.

We are doing well in Oregon in the matter of good roads. We collect a lot of money for our 3 cent gasoline tax. We will get \$4,500,000 or more this year from this tax to apply on our good roads program. But California expects to collect this year \$55,000,000 from the same three cent tax.

tion of the matter.

The Santa Clara County law enforcement board, which Wright heads, will still continue to demand a grand jury investigation into the reckless driving case of Miss Josephine Grant, San Francisco heiress, Wright said.

Miss Grant was released on a suspended fine of \$50 when convicted of reckless driving by Police Judge ePrey O'Connor. Criticized for leniency by Baggerly, O'Connor filed criminal libel proceedings against the editor, who asserted the judge was influenced by the wealth and position of the accused.

Wright said other organizations, including the W. C. T. U., were to continue demands for a grand jury investigation.

JOHN LARSON PASSES AWAY AT OAKVILLE

AUBURN, Aug. 15.—Word has been received here of the death of John Larson the latter part of July, at his home near Oakville, Oregon.

He and his second wife to whom he had been married about a year, had recently purchased a small ranch near Oakville, having traded his Sweet Home tract near Albany, where he had been living since leaving this community in the fall of 1926, shortly after the death of his first wife.

In his earlier life he was a stage driver in eastern Oregon. He often told of remembering having as his passenger a certain school professor and family, having carried the small daughter some distance to a transfer station. When moving here he recognized the family, the daughter being now Mrs. C. W. Cody.

Northwest Area Favors Thirteen Month Calendar

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 15.—(AP)—The Pacific northwest strongly favors the thirteen month calendar proposed by the national committee on calendar simplification in its report to Secretary of State Simpson, said a Washington dispatch to the Oregonian today. Replies of northwest organizations which took a stand on the matter were scattered, the dispatch said, but a majority in those states showed a leaning toward the twenty eight day month.

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SAN JOSE, Cal., Aug. 15.—Although libel proceedings against Hyland L. Baggerly, publisher of the Los Altos Mail-News, have been dismissed, Assemblyman T. M. Wright, San Jose, announced today this would not see completion of the matter.

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ZENA ATTRACTS MANY VISITORS

Summer Vacations Bring Visitors to Farm Homes Of District

ZENA, Aug. 15.—Miss Julia Shepard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Shepard of Zena returned Monday from Portland. Miss Shepard visited for a week in Portland with her grandfather, J. R. Shepard and her aunt, Mrs. John Lewis and family.

Mrs. J. D. Walling and her daughter, Miss Gertrude Walling of Portland were Wednesday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Walling of Zena. Miss Walling is a teacher at Washington high school in Portland and has spent a portion of her summer vacation with relatives in Lincoln and Zena.

Private Kenneth Henry and T. Tamall, of Vancouver Barracks, were weekend guests at the home of Private Henry's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Henry of Zena. Miss Audrey Smith and her small brother, Bobby, returned to their home in Portland Tuesday after an extended visit in Zena with their aunt, Mrs. W. N. Crawford.

Monday, Frank and Fred Nichols, young wards of J. R. Shepard of Portland, returned to Portland after having visited for a week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Shepard of Zena.

Monday, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Taylor, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Hunt and two children, Helen

and Kenneth, of Zena, Mrs. Ira O. Alsmann and Mrs. Adam Kerber and daughter Patsy, of Lincoln, and Mr. and Mrs. O. G. McClaughry and children, Emma, Edward and Willard of Lake Labish, were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Worthington. On Tuesday evening they entertained Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Moss and Miss Clara Starr of Silverton.

Ellis Walling, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Walling, of Zena, made a trip to Rockaway with his uncle, Mr. Harold Walling of Portland recently. They returned home Saturday.

666

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