

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sweys Us; No Fear Shall Awe."

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A Religious Experiment

EUGENE is to be the scene of an experiment in religion starting with the new year, when Rev. Fred J. Clark of that city will initiate what he calls a "Symbiosis" service, using the Colonial theatre there on Sunday afternoons.

Rev. Clark declares his independence of denomination-alism on the ground that the church as it is now enchains one's personal God; and what religion needs is greater freedom. For his services he plans increased variety and flexibility. "No fixed order of worship. Brilliant music; we will probably use several trumpets beside organ and voices. The message will be brought largely in story-form—dramatic book-sermons, using well known and popular novels, poems and the like, as well as magazine articles."

The type of his organization promises to be unique. By renting a theatre he will get away from heavy financial burdens. People may come only out of desire and not from a sense of duty. He is quoted:

"The most dramatic difference is in the method of financing the enterprise. There will be no begging, no collections lifted with laughter, no financial appeals. There will be no financial control by large givers. Neither will there be any religious spongers, for people will pay a moderate price at the door, thus saving self-respect. There will be no prominent members' fingers around the windpipe of the preacher."

The personal credo of Rev. Clark does not take him into the camp of the "liberal" or humanist churches. He says: "Like them I accept the findings of modern science applied to the Bible and everything else. But the liberal is busy searching for a human Jesus and a naturalistic explanation of religious experience, and putting an ice-pack on every religious emotion. I admit that the figure of the Christ in the Bible may be largely symbolic. But I am not interested in searching out some human rabbi of 1900 years ago who may be behind that figure."

"The New Testament Jesus is God; and I am convinced that it is a valid, authentic and authoritative revelation of God. It is God who forms the center of my interest and worship; not a man. Only God is adequate to human salvation. And the joy of that salvation is so great that men ought to get excited about it, and be happy in it."

Rev. Clark is known as an able preacher, a sincere thinker and of the highest personal repute. His venture is singular; and there may be enough folk in Eugene who are dis-contented with organized churches that they will be attracted to this theatre-service in numbers that may assure its continuance. The Clark experiment's freedom from commercialism and from vagaries about healing and such practices are all too rare among modern cults.

With all the trend toward "church unity" there is going on at the same time the process of division. Despite the 220 divisions of the Christian church some folk do not find the groove in which they fit, so they nucleate new groups in their effort to find satisfying religious expression.

Fighting the Farm Relief

THE publisher of the Medford News is a fruit grower, operating on a big scale. He is bitterly opposed to cooperative marketing, and is not at all backward in expressing his views through the columns of his paper. Recently The News devoted a full column editorial to condemning the agricultural marketing act. Here are some extracts from that editorial which show what the Medford publisher thinks. He doesn't even withhold judgment pending trial of the experiment, but finds the McNary bill wrong even before its operation starts. This is what the News says:

"Our fight is against the Agricultural Marketing act for the reason that the latter is inimical to the interests of every farmer in this district. In opposing it we are, we sincerely feel, waging a battle in the interests of those upon whom the backbone of prosperity in this valley depends."

"This newspaper has never failed to stand by the farmers of this valley, and it is with the firm intention of continuing the fight in their behalf that we oppose the Agricultural Marketing act, for which farmers the country over are grasping as the drowning man grasps for a straw."

"We are not only opposed to the act because it was passed after hasty deliberation and only to appease the demand for real agricultural relief, but for the reason that its very construction is such that it can never benefit those local farmers who are advocates of cooperation. And furthermore, the act itself was jammed down the throats of legislators who were believers in genuine agricultural relief, and who had no other alternative than to accept it."

"We challenge not only the individual advocates of the Agricultural Marketing act, but any newspaper in the state to point out a single instance in which the act will benefit any agricultural line in this valley."

"We are opposed to any legislation which, if accepted by the majority of American people, will destroy individualism and personal initiative and eventually permit the government to succeed the individual in business."

"We are opposed to any legislation which seeks to usurp property rights, and which compels the establishment of values on American farm products at the points of marketing instead of the points of origin."

"We are opposed to any legislation or administration policy which seeks to destroy competition in the markets of the country, and which will herd the individual growers of the country into one gigantic organization controlled by government boards, bureaus and bureaucrats."

Frowning on Jacksonville's Welcome

THE Florida school girls who went to the train at Jacksonville to show the brawny lumberjacks from the University of Oregon what southern hospitality was, are on the carpet, or rather those who were responsible for their cutting classes to greet the Oregonians. The girls met the Oregon football players at the train and escorted them to their hotel; but the school board doesn't seem to have the same ideas of southern hospitality as did some of the mammas who encouraged the greeting.

Oregon folk feel very badly if the visit of their youth proved so disconcerting to the social customs of the southern city. The visit of the football team to Miami was a sort of "hands-across-the-continent" affair, and the tour through the southland was a triumphal tour in a mode quite the reverse of Sherman's march to the sea. No one knows, but one wonders if the overload of hospitality wherever the team stopped in the south may not have contributed to its defeat. Like Hannibal's warriors tasting the delights of Italy, the sturdy Oregonians could not resist the blandishments of the southerners.

As for the girls of the Andrew Jackson high school at Jacksonville, we hope they get no reprimand for cutting a few classes. Think what a thrill these soft-voiced maidens

KING AND QUEEN CALL ON POPE



Telephoto transmitted to San Francisco over Bell System from New York showing King and Queen of Italy with retinue and various officials just before being received by Pope Pius.

must have had when they looked up at some towering fir fresh from the Oregon forest, and when they escorted these visitors from a far country to the city's leading hotel. What do a few lessons amount to when one can describe to the other girls who staid at classes just the "football hero" she welcomed to Jacksonville?

The Eugene Register describes Portland as something of a "cantankerous old maid." Not far wrong, at that.

BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Historic church continued; and the church is still unburied. This young man will no doubt learn as he gets older than he can better serve the cause by trying to resurrect dead churches than by attempting to bury live ones.

"It might be of interest to mention the fact that my grandfather, N. Coffey, whose name appears at the head of this membership list, was converted under the preaching of and baptised into the church of Christ in Illinois, by Col. Edward D. Baker, who sacrificed his life upon his country's altar at the battle of Bull's Bluff early in the Civil war. Col. Baker was twice elected to congress from Illinois and afterwards came to Oregon where he was elected to serve in the United States senate, from which position he resigned and raised a California regiment which he was leading in the battle when he fell, his body being pierced by six bullets.

"It is said that Lincoln wept when he heard of his death. I mention this matter for the reason that there are perhaps very few people aware of the fact that Col. Baker was at one time a preacher of the church of Christ. Such, however, is the case, and he was not only an able and eloquent speaker as a preacher, but well sustained that reputation in the halls of congress.

Lay Sermons

THE BIRTH OF JESUS. "And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee." Mark 1:9.

This is the earliest recorded line about Jesus which is preserved. Mark was the earliest of the gospels now extant. It tells nothing at all of the birth of Jesus, of the announcement, of the immaculate conception. John, the last of the gospels, tells nothing of the birth of Jesus. It takes up his biography with the baptism.

Luke and Matthew are the ones who weave the beautiful story of his miraculous birth in Bethlehem. And the story given in these two gospels is strangely divergent. Matthew tells the story of the three wise men; Luke tells the story of the shepherds in the fields. Luke tells how Joseph and Mary went from Nazareth to Bethlehem because of the tax decree of Caesar Augustus. Matthew tells the genealogy of Jesus but does not say how Joseph conceived him. He immediately denies. Luke tells the story of Elizabeth; Matthew the story of the wicked Herod. Matthew tells how Joseph took his family and went from Bethlehem to Egypt for safety. They waited there till Herod died, and returning avoided Judaea for fear of Archelaus, the son and successor of Herod, and went away up into Galilee. Luke says nothing about the journey to Egypt, but says on the contrary that the parents took Jesus

as soon as they could and went up to Jerusalem where Simeon and Anna saw them at the temple. So here are the four biographies of Jesus. Two of them tell all about his birth. The accounts given by the other two are strikingly different. It is on account of these great variations that many loyal followers of Christ have not accepted the story of the "virgin birth." To them the gospel record is too scanty or too irreconcilable to justify accepting the doctrine of Mary's immaculate conception. Who is there so intellectual or so hard of heart as to reject the beautiful lesson of the Bethlehem story? Believe what he may about it or about theology which is erected upon it one may not resist the appeal of the picture of motherhood and of babyhood. None today may aspire to the role of the madonna, but what woman does not in her conception, hear angel voices and dream of some heavenly mission for her offspring? And do not men of learning and humble folk of the fields always offer tribute of goods and of praise at the birth of a child? Pure, sweet motherhood, the supreme triumph of the race; innocent, helpless babyhood, the sublime hope of the race. Surely if there be aught of divinity in life it hovers about mother and babe, though they lie in the stable of a lowly inn.

in the United States, in many of which there are Oregon men. There are 157 of these men, in the 48 hospitals outside of Oregon, and each one of them will be reminded of his home state and the regard of the Salem War Mothers for his well being by having in his mail in the next few days a clean, new dollar bill. In the Portland veterans' hospital there are 142 Oregon men, and the Salem War Mothers have sent \$20 as their contribution towards making up a proper Christmas basket. A number of other organizations will participate in this. The Salem War Mothers have also provided money, gifts and provisions to some needy people here, the relatives of service men.

The Salem War Mothers have for several years been doing something in the way of remembering at Christmas time Oregon boys in federal hospitals. This is the first year, however, when every mother's son of them has been remembered. The reader will note from the above that there are at this time one less than 300 Oregon boys in the veterans' hospitals. How many more are in other hospitals and institutions of various kinds there was no attempt to find out.

G. W. Clymer can find the location of the "old Hunt school house" where the republican party of Oregon and all the Oregon country had its beginning. His people once rented the Hunt land on which the school house was located, and Mr. Clymer as a boy played around the historic school house. Mr. Clymer now lives near the end of the pavement on the Salem-Pratum road, about five miles east of the "four corners" beyond the eastern end of State street. The location of the historical school house will be marked soon.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays. Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read.

Dec. 29, 1904. The county school superintendent is sending letters to all teachers relative to plans for the general education exhibit planned for the county, to be held late in February.

Rev. N. Doane, D. D., pioneer minister of the Methodist church, was given a Christmas gift in the form of \$40 in cash by the members of the Portland Methodist Ministers association, according to word received by his friends here. Doane is now in Portland but lived in Salem for many years.

Mr. Baker, of the Gilbert and Baker grocery, 287 Commercial street, has sold his interest to B. O. Schucking, who has been engaged in the hop business here for some time.

WOODBURN HIGH HAS GOOD PROGRAM. WOODBURN, December 21.—The freshman class was in charge

DON'T PICK MEALTIME TO NAG OR ADMONISH

Parents Err in Scolding During the Meal Hour, Says Authority, for the Child Becomes "Upset" and Cannot Properly Digest Its Food.

By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M.D. United States Senator from New York. Former Commissioner of Health, New York City.

APPETITE is an uncertain thing. In the average child the appetite is aroused by what we call "psychological factors," or it may be ruined by them.

Children are more emotional than grown-ups. They are easily influenced by small things, by their moods and "feelings." The delicious aroma of cooking will at once arouse the desire to eat, and just as suddenly some distressing occurrence will make the child refuse to eat.

The food he eats will not necessarily nourish the child unless it can be digested and assimilated by the body. If the child is all "upset" over something at mealtime, the digestive processes stop, and the food already eaten may do him more harm than good.

It is important that the circumstances under which the meal is taken should be pleasant, happy and cheerful. Some parents appear to be ways to take the mealtime hour for correcting the manners and admonishing the child what to eat. This is a mistake. Firmness with the child is proper, of course.

Sometimes you may get the same results by simply taking his mind off himself by telling some pleasant story. You may do a lot by giving a happy talk about some person he is interested in, or what games are to be played. The important thing is to keep him in a happy frame of mind during the meal. It is well too, to see to it that the hour before mealtime is a happy and relaxed one.

I know of one family in which the parents are persons of large affairs, as well as people of wisdom. No matter how busy they are, no social affair or business engagement is so important that it cannot be put aside for the hour with the children from 5 to 6. They invariably spend this time with the youngsters. It is a happy hour brimful with play and merry-making of some kind.

This practice will 25 years of good health for those children. It guarantees a happy frame of mind at mealtime and at bedtime. In all time to come they will think back upon this happy hour in the home circle.

Incidentally let us say a daily hour like this is good for the parents. It keeps them well and happy. In order that your child may be properly nourished he must form good habits. What is essential he must form proper eating habits.

The foods should be eaten slowly enough to allow the digestive juices to do their work. Food "bolted" is worse than useless. How many children have this bad habit.

If children are not attentive to a parent's suggestion on this point, perhaps the family physician can take a hand. He may tell the child in a tactful manner just how important it is to eat slowly and to eat at mealtime and not between meals.

A happy meal, without jargoning, unpleasant painful table scenes will go far to making both parents and children healthy, wealthy and wise. Be firm with your child in his eating habits.

of the program presented Friday in keeping with the holidays at Woodburn heights.

The program was typical of the "youngsters," consisting of music, readings and group songs. The following numbers comprised the program: "Christmas Bells," Gwendolyn Strike; Christmas carols, by the group; "Angels We Have Heard on High Christmas," Charles Cammack; harmonica solo, Daniel Lorenz; "Sings of Christmas," Lois Seely; Christmas carols, by the group; "Christmas Week" by Fred Rogers; magic stunt, Frank Bartos; "Jes for Christmas," Donald Garrett; saxophone solo, John Kings; "Best Christmas Pudding," Dorothy Lee; "Christmas as Thought," Mary Alice Conyne; "Christmas Story," Mildred Grim; Christmas carols by the group; "The Night Before Christmas," Alfred Stewart; "Oh Holy Night" and a Christmas tableaux concluded the program which was under the direction of Miss Ruth Mitchell.

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