

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Ave."
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Turn Them Not Empty Away

ANOTHER two million Chinese face death by starvation. That is for the present season. There are always hundreds or thousands of Chinese who are starving. If not in Honan province then in Shansi, if not in Hopei, then in Kansu. In that vast land one part or another nearly every year suffers from floods or drouth. The margin of foodstuffs for subsistence is so scant that each short harvest leaves many either to die or to live in dire want.

We have grown rather hard-hearted at the annual tales of impending death to thousands or millions in China. If it were a few hundred thousand there might be hope through relief; but with millions demanding succor the measures seem hopeless. Some say, let them starve; they are better off dead than continuing a meagre existence; and better off dead than to breed a new generation to starve by degrees. That is heartless so far as our humanitarian instincts are concerned; perhaps it is a bald, scientific statement of fact.

But India used to have these recurring famines. Thirty years ago the major relief drives were for the Indian famine sufferers, and many a boatload of wheat sailed from America for distant India, contributed in response to the appeals of missionaries and public officials there. We hear of no famines in India now. Why? Because of Britain's great work in promoting irrigation works, in stimulating training in agriculture to increase production. Now India is largely famine-free, though its population density in some parts equals that of China.

It seems futile to send over grain and money to enable these poor Chinese to starve next year instead of this. The famine district covers 450,000 square miles with a population of 30,000,000 people. There at least would be a sink for all the surplus of wheat and meat in the whole world. But in the face of the futurity America cannot turn heartless away. There is the hope that another year nature may be more generous, and fair crops may suffice to feed the now famished millions. There is always the future hope, too, that eventually vast public works may be undertaken for flood control, for improvement of communications, for conservation of water, which will solve the problems of subsistence in China as England has solved them in India. At any rate our conscience will not permit us to turn coldly away from such appalling destitution and want. Out of the super-abundance of food that most of us enjoy, surely we can spare something to the race which fronts us across the Pacific.

High Cost of Politics

WAYNE PETTIT, state house correspondent for The Oregonian and The Statesman, has worked out the relative cost of the legislative sessions for Washington and Oregon. He finds that it cost Oregon \$14,000 more to run its legislature for 50 days than it did Washington for 60 days. This is exclusive of the per diem of the legislators.

The Oregon senate had 28 stenographers, while the Washington senate employed only 18. The number of committee clerks in Oregon's upper house was 33 and the total cost was over twice as much as Washington paid for the same service.

Our house of representatives hired 55 stenographers, while the Washington house got along with 17. We required in addition 61 clerks in the house, while Washington had virtually none, the stenogs handling the clerical work too.

The reason for the excess cost in this state is pure (or impure) politics. They had so many clerks and stenogs in the legislature there was scant room for the law-makers themselves. In this state each legislator gets to appoint as many clerks and stenogs as he can get away with. In Washington the number and personnel of this extra service is determined by the clerks of the two houses. The chief clerk determines how many are required to do the work, chooses the ones to handle the work, and holds them responsible for results. One stenographer or clerk is enough for a lot of the committees which have little or nothing to do, so they bunch them up and let one clerk handle several.

Oregon legislators fought any change to the Washington system simply because they wanted to preserve a petty graft just as they used to walk off with the lawbooks the state had loaned them for use during the session. While the salary grab bill was clearly unconstitutional (at least until the supreme court acts) there is some excuse for paying the legislators a decent per diem; but there is no justification for making the biennial session a feeding trough for a host of supernumeraries who want to feed at public expense and no service rendered in return.

We shall listen to see if any Marion county aspirant for legislative office declares in favor of cutting out the stenog graft during sessions at the state house.

A New International Weapon

AS we listened to King George speak about 3 a. m. yesterday morning, the idea struck us that in the radio there is a new weapon that might supersede battleship, submarine and airplane. When the radio is used as a means of communication, spanning continents and oceans, there is a vehicle of appeal to the people of the nations directly, without passing through the usual channels of foreign offices and newspapers.

One difficulty of course would be the grip of government over the stations, because when any vexing international complication arose, government would stretch its hand to censor radio utterances. That would prevent a direct approach from peoples to peoples. In any event, the radio is a factor to be reckoned with in the future relations of nations.

Oregon should prepare for a yellow paper Mardi Gras in May and again in November. Besides the "Progressive republican league" and the "Independent republican league," the "minute men," the "independent voters' league" there is to be a new labor organization dabbling in politics called the "Workers' Legislative and Political League." Each will circulate its "tickets" and if the results do not suit the Oregon Journal, as they are sure not to, it will throw its usual fit about "yellow tickets." Modern politics plays into the hands of the organized minorities, that is why there are so many private bands engaged in some "league" to put over their state.

The senate has raised the duty on wool felt hats. Just before the campaign opens, too, with thousands waiting to toss their fedoras into the ring.

ONE RAY OF SUNSHINE



BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Oregon is fortunate:

The Los Angeles Examiner had a leading editorial the other day the heading of which gave the reader the idea that the state of California will soon give employment to all its men in prisons, either in industries to be established or upon farms.

But before the end was reached the conclusion was that the wish was father to the thought. A former superintendent of the San Quentin prison, now in an official position that has the making of plans for employing all the prisoners of the state, was merely dreaming of what ought to be done; dreaming out loud for publication.

After broadcasting his dream, he related the fact that the state of California arranged to work a lot of prisoners on a farm, a few years ago, and actually secured the land and partly carried out the plan, when the neighbors near the contemplated convict settlement objected. They would not stand for the kind of neighbors the state of California proposed to wish upon them; so the scheme had to be abandoned.

The reader had to conclude that the heading of the editorial was misleading; that instead of promising something definite, the former prison superintendent merely showed that the scheme would probably be a failure.

The fact is, California is up against what for the present seems an impossible situation in the solution for her prison problems, and in this respect she is in no worse a plight than most of her sister states. All the prisoners should be employed. There is no other way to build a firm basis for reformation. Any other foundation is like building the house upon the sand. But what are they to work at? Ah, there's the rub. The treadmill or other useless work is unthinkable. It is as archaic as most of the ideas of the general public concerning penology.

The makers of things in California will and do object to industries that compete with them. So will and do the growers of things. This is true in other states. The same idea goes over the whole world. The convict should be employed. But he must not do anything that will compete with free labor. And he cannot do anything that does not compete with free labor. So there you are.

Oregon is fortunate above every other state in that she has two industries within her prison walls that compete so little with free labor that no one objects or is likely to object in a voice loud enough to attract much attention, or to amount to enough to endanger their continuance and growth. They are the flax and agricultural lime industries. The first has created an industry on the farms that promises to become one of the greatest in this state, and the other makes possible the rejuvenation of worn out soils in all the country west of the Cascades, where the vegetable life-giving lime content decreases with the growth of every annual crop.

Thus, in Oregon, our prison industries are on an enduring basis, because of natural conditions; because of combinations of soil and sunshine and showers not found in other states.

On these foundations we are building a model system of penology. On these foundations a model system is possible. There is now a wage for part of our prisoners.

oners. This will be extended to all who work. Each of the other desirable things will follow, because this will make our state penitentiary self supporting. It is well on the way towards that point now. It should fully arrive within five to ten years.

Dr. A. J. Soldan, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church at Santa Monica, Cal., said in an address to the Methodist preachers of Los Angeles, a few days ago: "If society wishes to save its young offenders, a way must be found to segregate them from the older criminals in our penal institutions." Dr. Soldan was formerly chaplain at the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas.

He went on to say: "While many prisoners in federal and other penitentiaries appear to be beyond redemption, especially the white slavers, there always is a chance for the convict who retains his respect for womanhood."

There always is a chance for any prisoner, no matter what his crime. And while segregation is important if not necessary, it is only one of the measures needed in all prisons for regeneration. Employment with a wage is the foundation stone. Beyond that, every prisoner gives an individual problem, just as every individual on the outside does. Education,

the training of the mind, and especially the training of the mind through the hand, is of great importance in prisons as elsewhere. Sympathetic understanding is needed. Every prison needs a trained force of experts in charge.

The United States as a whole will be obliged to make uniform laws regulating crime and the handling of convicted criminals before there will be any hope of curbing the crime wave. That is what England does, with results that are gratifying; that show the comparative value of that system when put alongside of the many systems in the various states of our country, where everything is a jumble, and where in most states the conditions are made the football of partisan politics.

If no break comes in the program of the Oregon state penitentiary, under the revolving fund law, and the improving conditions that will result from its workings, Oregon within a few years will develop a prison system that will point the way to reforms in other states. We are in even better condition in this respect than Minnesota, whose prison at Stillwater is a model for this country, because we grow at home or have within our own state the raw materials needed in our principal industries, while Minnesota must import her sisal and manila hemp needed in making binder twine and rope that are the raw materials for her principal and profitable industries.

Yesterdays..

... Of Old Oregon
Town Talks from the Statesman Our Fathers Read

January 22, 1905

The fishermen of the Siuslaw river have protested against the proposed establishment of the fishing limit at Terrace Point, and have petitioned that the dead line be at Mapleton instead. Petition was presented to the legislature which has the new fish bill under consideration.

R. A. Booth of Eugene has made another donation of \$1000 to Willamette university, the money to be used as the beginning of a permanent irreducible fund to be loaned to needy students who could not otherwise finish their college course.

A runaway was the result of pranks of small boys, who exploded some firecrackers under the heels of J. M. Bellamy's team. Some little excitement was caused as the horses galloped madly down the main street.

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

THE THING THEY CALL

POLITICS. The spectacle of eight or more candidates for governor is interesting. If not amusing. It makes Mr. Average Citizen stop and wonder what paints the color in their rainbow of dreams. What makes the urge so generally urgent? To connect in any capacity with state politics has long been the high sign for special privilege, but there must be a special brand of honey on tap to attract any such swarm of busy bees.

The News is interested in seeing Oregon grow. What can any of these worthy individuals do to make it grow? What can the whole bunch together do to scale down taxes and double the population? All this scheming and maneuvering and double-dealing to make a candidate eligible in the first place seems vastly overplayed and decidedly far fetched. The whole bag of tricks needs to be dumped overboard and the stage set for a different kind of picture. All the cantations of political pow-wows won't help Oregon one iota at a time like this. We need a super-man of business and a master-mind of organization. Portland has been high-hatted the rest of us with a superior complex, and some of the gaxots that call themselves politicians could very easily be dispensed with.

The question of who's who in

In time, some new legislation will be required for the Oregon penitentiary. The best thing that could happen in this respect would be a general law authorizing the state board to make all regulations for prison government, with the direction for appointing a commission to have charge of all matters affecting new departures; and providing for a special set of civil service rules in the employment of members of the force of employees; such rules as a commission of experts would find to be practicable.

Let's keep our prison on the high road it is now traveling; towards the goal of a model institution. No other member of our sisterhood of 48 states has as good a foundation for approaching the 100 per cent mark of perfection, and without costing the taxpayers of Oregon a single cent.

party politics may have amounted to something ten years ago but isn't worth shucks now. The big thing is to find the right man, the right head for management, the right capacity for doing things, with force enough in reserve to carry on, and the right psychology to show good judgment. We may need a clairvoyant before we get through. We don't much care what his size or style or idiosyncrasy so long as he gets things done and puts Oregon back on the map. The whole is moss-grown and out of date. Somewhere in the offing is a clean-cut outstanding Mussolini of performance, a miracle-man of the West. For all we know he may be a Mug-wump. All we care to know is whether he is a straight shooter and a go-getter!—Marshfield News.

THE SNOW'S HUE. In widely separated parts of Oregon, the phenomenon of "brown snow" was observed Friday. Depending on the accuracy of color vision possessed by the observers, it was also pink, or red. But in the main, it was brown.

More varied than the shades of the "brown snow"—which of course was not snow at all, but merely a brown dust brought to earth by the snow in its falling—were the explanations offered. And the least acceptable of these is that the coloring matter was sand.

It was inacceptable in the fact that there was the accompanying suggestion that winds carried the alleged sand from unguessed distances, with no regard for the density of the substance. Particles as heavy as sand may be carried by winds of great velocity, but even then for only relatively short distances. And the substance, whatever it was, must have come for hundreds of miles at least, for it arrived, and was precipitated, at a time when Oregon and neighboring states as well had already been covered by snow for days.

The theory that the dust was of volcanic origin is perhaps as good as any, and is, moreover, substantiated by microscopic examination which reveals that the coloring matter is of pumice like structure. And pumice dust, one of the lightest of mineral substances, might well be suspended by air currents for days, weeks, or even months before precipitation would be induced. The distance from which matter of such buoyancy might be brought might consequently be great indeed.

If specimens of volcanic matter known to have been erupted over a period of several months can be collected locally, it is possible that the origin of Oregon's brown snow will be determined. But when it is determined, it is safe to predict, even now, that the coloring will not be found to be sand. —Bend Bulletin.

IRENE SCHROEDER REFUSES TO TALK

PHOENIX, Ariz., Jan. 21.—(AP)—Prolonged questioning by Sheriff C. H. Wright today failed to unseat the lips of Mrs. Irene Schroeder of Benwood, W. Va., accused by Pennsylvania authorities, jointly with Walter Glenn Dague, of the slaying of Corporal Brady Paul of the Pennsylvania state highway patrol near New-castle on December 27.

Mrs. Schroeder scoffed at the confession made early Sunday morning by Dague, in which he said either the woman or the "other man" had fired the shot which killed Paul.

The Rest Cure In Dementia Praecox

It's Essential in Treating the Mental Disturbances of Youth, Says Authority.

By R. S. COPELAND, M. D.
U. S. Senator from New York.
Former Commissioner of Health, New York City.

IT is very sad to see a young person, who has been well and strong, normal and cheerful in his mental processes, suddenly develop some unusual and disturbing symptoms. The things which used to make him happy may seem now so bore and even irritate him. He may develop "brain storms" when he will break furniture, swear and act like a demon. The mental diseases of youth are grouped under the general term "Dementia Praecox." This condition rarely attacks one past twenty-five years of age. It is associated with the development period of life.

There is a weakness of the mental processes and perverted ideas. At times there may be great mental excitement, and at other periods of depression and sadness. Occasionally there is mental alertness, and then times when the mind is confused.

Sometimes he may recite one line of poetry for hours at a time. He will perform the same act over and over.

The marked difference between the feeble-minded youth who has always been weak-minded and the youth with dementia praecox is shown by the history of the case. In dementia praecox the onset may be sudden. Shock, fright or prostration, either bodily or mental in origin, may be followed by this disability. In other cases its onset is gradual and the course is progressive. The acute and sudden type is the more hopeful of cure. It may take time, but recovery follows. The slow type is more serious.

If there is found to be a lowered resistance from some discoverable cause the prospect of recovery is good. For instance, if the young person has been ill or overworked, removal of the existing cause will go far toward restoring his health. Recent work of physicians in these cases has made us more hopeful of their outcome. They must be studied with particular reference to localized infection in teeth, tonsils, large intestine or other parts of the body. When the physical basis is found recovery follows the removal of the primary trouble.

Careful examination of the blood and all of the secretions are necessary. Until every test has been made no reliable estimate of the probabilities can be attempted. The rest cure is a good thing. Test in bed, proper nourishment, baths, massages, change of scene are all important. More important is the finding of the fundamental physical trouble and getting rid of it.

Questioned again, she refused to talk about the Pennsylvania slaying at all.

"I can't talk about it," she said. "I simply can't tell about it now."

"If I must die in the electric chair, I'll not squeal about it," she said.

Sixteen Lives Snuffed Out in History's Greatest Air Tragedy



Telephoto shows all that remains of the Maddux air liner after a forced landing attempt in which sixteen persons lost their lives. The plane was en-route to Los Angeles with passengers from Agua Caliente, Mexico.