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THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1901

DAILY, WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY

East Oregonian Publishing Company, PENDLETON, OREGON.

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A POSTAL PARCEL SERVICE.

A fight is on for a postal parcel service. The people demand it. The extortions of the express companies afford ample reason for the demand. In some quarters the cry comes that it is "ramoant, rabid socialism."

So it may be, but even that is preferable to a system which is only remarkable for its "grats." The New York World cites the fact that Sir Rowland Hill, the father of the penny post, was denounced by the private letter-carrying concerns of his day in just the same strain. The old-stage-coach line proprietors fought the granting of franchises to the steam railroads on the same grounds. Who ever knew of a private interest that stood in the way of a large public improvement?

"For the greatest good of the greatest number" that did not about "socialism" at the top of its selfish voice the moment it was proposed to put the improvement through?

It is argued that the parcel post would increase the trade of the big cities to the damage of the smaller places. That is veriest nonsense. It would probably increase the trade of all trade centers. Then again it is said that there would be fewer men employed in handling and delivering parcels by the government than are now employed by the express companies. This assumption is absurd on its face and emanates from those who are receiving large sums of unearned money from the pockets of the people. The express monopoly and extortion would be broken by the parcel post service. The Oregon legislature should put itself on record in this matter. Suppose some democratic member offers a resolution favoring a parcel post. Would the republican majority vote it down?

"WOODMAN, SPEAK THAT TREE."

In an address to the recent meeting in California of the Waters and Forests Society William H. Mills called attention to the waste of timber in the cutting of young trees for Christmas trees. In the cities and towns all over the country a great many thousands, even millions of pines and cedars are destroyed for this purpose. Few have thought of this willful waste of the forest young. If these trees were left to grow they would in time be worth a great sum. The present generation, to gratify a sentimental custom, is depriving the future generations of fuel and lumber of enormous value. A half should be called at once and a little publicity will be fruitful in this direction. Mr. Mills has certainly set a ball to rolling.

J. Sterling Morton, a member of President Cleveland's cabinet and the founder of Arbor day in this country, and one of the most intelligent dendrologists in the world, says that: "For Christmas trees this year Maine shipped out four hundred carloads of young evergreens. Each car contained two hundred bundles and each bundle six beautiful trees, which fifty years hence would become useful lumber for human homes and their embellishment. Four hundred times two hundred bundles of six trees each in a half century would make lumber enough to build hundreds of commodious cottages. The four hundred carloads of Christmas trees from Maine aggregate four hundred and eighty thousand trees. This sort of extravagant idolatry of a custom which does little good and much harm ought to be abolished."

It is evident that the summer fires are not the only destructive agency that is eating up our forests. The children of the present, in a holiday pleasure, are taking shelter away from the children of the future. At the rate of ten full-grown trees

per acre, the timber crop was destroyed on 48,000 acres in Maine for the supply of one year. With no increase in the rate of destruction, that means the stripping of two million four hundred thousand acres of their forest in the next fifty years for the same purpose. This custom comes to us from Northern Europe, and is probably the survival and destructive transformation of some old custom of the Druids. They, however, treated the forests as their temples and did not kill a tree to serve as a sacrifice on the altar of their adoration of a sylvan deity.

The San Francisco Call, in discussing the matter, says: "Down to us, through the ages, comes a gentle voice, crying, Consider the lilies, how they grow, and note the fall of a sparrow. In this state, when we destroy the forests we are killing the lily and hushing the song of the bird. We are so disturbing the equilibrium of nature as to replace the garden with the desert. We are robbing the future of its heritage and are going contrary to every sentiment for which Christmas stands. Is it not then rather desecration than consecration of that day to butcher trees and bring them into the circle of its associations?"

"We believe it is Hans Christian Andersen who has written the fable of the Christmas tree. It ought to be in the school readers and have a place in the literature of forestry. The fabulist was familiar with the forests of the north. We do not know that the motive of his fable was their rescue from this Christmas day slaughter, but one who has read it will hardly be able to cut a Christmas tree or use one without a sense of guilt and a feeling of shame."

GLIMPSES AT GOOD READING.

Some astonishing scientific results are recorded of the Harriman Alaska expedition. In a two months' trip, from Seattle to Bering Sea and back, between 200 and 400 species and subspecies of animals and plants new to science were discovered. Important changes made in the best previous maps, sources of unknown glaciers sighted and knowledge of the Alaska fauna and flora increased immeasurably. In the World's Work the story of this unique expedition is fully told. Last year Edward H. Harriman of the Union Pacific railroad decided to take his family to Alaska for a summer's trip. He did not care to follow the usual excursion routes and boats, yet the cost of chartering a special steamer for his family alone seemed rather extravagant. It then occurred to him to make up a party of scientists, the value of whose observations and collections would justify the expense incurred. The party numbered fifty, including Mr. Harriman's family. Biologists and zoologists, ornithologists, botanists, geologists, artists, glaciologists, paleontologists, geographers, anthropologists, entomologists, taxidermists, photographers, physicians and a mining engineer made up the party. The work will comprise several illustrated volumes, and the popular volume alone will contain about 100 photographs, 200 line drawings and thirty colored plates.

No new birds were found, but specimens of McKay's snowflake and Killit's murrelet, which are very rare, were collected. Among the mammals twenty-six kinds new to science were discovered in the collection of 215. The new foxes painted any North American species previously known, and five species of shrews, five new forms of hares, besides lemmings, porcupines, spermophiles and the like. Work in marine invertebrates was particularly successful. Almost 5000 pinned insects, besides spiders and larval forms, preserved in alcohol, were brought back. Of the 900 species, 200 have never before been described. Botanists gathered a rich harvest and geologists found many strange freaks of nature. The north and west sides of Prince William's Sound had never been accurately charted, and a noble find, the existence of which had never been suspected, was a great geographical find. It was named Harriman's Fiord, is fifteen miles in length and contained five new discharging glaciers. Many hundreds of "dead" glaciers were observed during the voyage, but only twenty-two of the class known as "living" glaciers.

"Are Young Men's Chances Less" (sic). This question receives most encouraging answers in the World's Work. The replies come from life men in the business world, from bankers, railroad men, physicians, lawyers and college presidents on the

lookout for men of force as teachers. High positions await men who can fill them. Combinations multiply opportunities, and have increased the necessity for intelligence. Charles R. Flint is quoted as saying that he has places for several men to whom a salary of \$10,000 a year will be paid when the right kind of applicants come along.

The supply of brains is not equal to the demand. Nor are men willing to assume responsibility common. The aspiring, energetic young man will find the avenues of success wide open. It is the rule in great corporate business to divide responsibility among men fitted by their training to direct special departments. The head of a single department in a great modern concern has more authority and more responsibility than the owner of a private business had twenty-five years ago. James B. Dill, a New York lawyer, says: "The profession of the law today, as every other profession, calls not only for men of strong individuality, but for men capable of intelligent, strong team work." General Francis V. Greene, soldier, writer, engineer and business man still on the sunny side of 50 years, adds his testimony:

"There are three sorts of men, and for two of these sorts the tendency to industrial consolidation is a distinct advantage, while for the third there is no salvation in any economic system that has yet been devised. These three classes are: The thoroughly competent who go to the top and command annual salaries that would once have been fortunes; the half-competent who find profitable employment in subordinate positions and are saved from going into business for themselves and failing as they would have done under the old system; and the incompetent who sit on the park benches as they would have done before."

President Roosevelt, the Seventh National Bank of New York and W. A. Nash of the New York Corn Exchange bank both say that alert, trustworthy and capable young men are in demand. Opportunities for advancement are far more frequent today than in the past. Dr. George F. Shady of New York finds that there is a great field for medical specialists in the large cities.

An interview with William J. Kinsley, the handwriting expert, develops his idea that handwriting is really a physical characteristic of the human body. Like the sound of the voice or the expression of the face, which is innately peculiar to its owner. No one can destroy or even temporarily get rid of the characteristics of handwriting. It is part of a man's expression of being as much as his manner of talking or his gait in walking. It is due to this underlying principle that the expert is able to judge between genuine and spurious handwriting. A bank teller depends mainly upon his memory of the pictorial effect of the writing to decide on a signature. But an expert looks beyond general pictorial effect to the make-up of the writing.

Theodore Waters, writing in the House magazine on "The Art of Handwriting Expert," relates a conversation with Mr. Kinsley, the leading expert in the Molinoux trial. Writing of a number of suspects was dissected under the microscope and analyzed. Chemicals were poured over the ink, the quality of paper examined and water mark brought out. The likenesses and differences of individual letters were compared. It is impossible to get away from one's handwriting, for the reason that it is a definite existing thing, the result of reflex action like breathing, walking or winking the eyes. Most writing is done unconsciously. The thoughts wander down the pen point, and the reflex action of the hand, which has formed habits of its own, carries out the training, carries on the mechanism of writing. The tricks of penmanship are in the brain, not in the hand, for men who write with artificial members have much the same penmanship they had before accident deprived them of their hands. Children's writing has little character because all the thought is given to the mechanism of shaping the letters and none to the subject matter. It is not until a child gains a certain independence of mind that his writing is peculiar to himself.

Mr. Kinsley's science, like other sciences, grows with the times. He is making a collection of the handwriting of all nations, of people of all ages, classes, callings and conditions. He is studying lead pencil and indelible ink impressions and typewriter peculiarities. Experiments are made with different pens, and a collection of pen preservers. The work of the handwriting expert has become an art.

BAD COLDS

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Treasurer of Umatilla County