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DAILY, WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY

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THE ARROGANCE OF IT.

In discussing the Eastern Oregon question, the politicians of the Willamette valley assume a very patronizing manner and speak of "giving something to the region that lies east of the Cascade mountains." This is arrogance, pure and simple arrogance, and arises from a wrong view of the situation.

These things entitle Eastern Oregon to better representation in government. Eastern Oregon does not take kindly to the talk of "giving something to Eastern Oregon," as though Willamette valley and Portland politicians owned the state and were authoritative dispensers of its power in governmental affairs.

Eastern Oregon is disposed to demand, and comes with no humble prayer to omnipotent gods of the parties. These heretofore presumptuous gods are very brittle, just like the gods of the heathens, and they will break very easily if rapped by the hammer of the voter.

In fact, there is strife among a large number of young ones who aspire to the throne once occupied by the now Senator Simon, and these young ones are going to divide Western Oregon politics into a melee that will resemble a picnic of Kilkenny case. If Eastern Oregon people can attain a reasonable unity of purpose the governorship can be secured on the republican ticket for the next campaign.

ROAD WORKING PLANS.

The Walla Walla Statesman is wrestling with the problem of good road making, and has arrived at the stage of condemnation of the present badly conceived and more badly executed plan of having twenty or thirty supervisors doing the work in the time-honored patchwork manner.

If the Statesman is able to evolve a plan for the proper handling of county roads, a very valuable public service will have been performed. It would seem as though the railroad scheme would furnish the best possible suggestion to county governments. Railroad management is conceded as a rule to be by the best administrative brain of the country.

The railroad plan is to employ a man practical and experienced, to supervise the entire system and attend to all business pertaining to the work of building and repairing the lines. He is called the general roadmaster. Here in Pendleton William Bollons has his headquarters with charge of the general roadmaster's department. He handles the entire business through his deputies and other under men who are scattered over the system.

Yet, with this practical demonstration before their eyes the average county court refuses to profit by the example, and goes on year after year working under the same old bungling regime.

The trouble seems to be that when a better plan is proposed-incorporating the railroad principle of road maintenance-the county commissioners are made aware of the objections of those

twenty or thirty supervisors who object to being disposed.

It takes "nerve" and persistency to move in the face of those supervisors. Yet nerve and persistency are admirable qualities in county commissioners.

CLIMATE AND CONSUMPTION.

The state of Colorado was inclined to resent Dr. Sewall's report to the state medical society that tuberculosis has become indigenous there. The climate was no doubt kindly to sufferers who had contracted the disease elsewhere, and the fact that at first it did not originate there gave rise to the belief that Colorado was consumption proof. This flattering delusion is dispelled by Dr. Sewall, who reports that 13 per cent of the local deaths from consumption are caused that originate in Colorado.

Minnesota has exactly the same history. It has a dry climate, favorable to outdoor life, and as there were in pioneer times no cases of indigenous consumption it was widely advertised as a prophylactic climate, and suffered a great deal of credit as a result of the surprising medical men. The clear, dry air and invitation to outdoor life effected cures as remarkable as any that are in the record of Colorado and California.

Southern California is having the same sad experience, and our sanitary authorities have even considered a quarantine against the state and measures to stamp out the disease within the state. Dr. Sewall's conclusion is: "That nothing is clearer in the history of demography than the fact that localities, if not climates, which were at one time favorable to the recovery of the consumptive patient later lose this beneficial power and even become hotbeds of the disease through cases contracting it on the spot. That is, consumption, though at first exotic, later becomes indigenous."

The summer these Western states and territories, whose element climate is their most valuable asset, admit and act upon this conclusion the better it will be for their future welfare. Consumption is a disease of civilization. Primitive people, like the Indians, who lived naturally, knew it not. But take an Indian and put him in a house and white man's clothes, and in nearly every instance he will develop the disease. The analogy is plain. If civilized people live in such climatic conditions as to wear less clothing, less shelter, and to permit the proper enjoyment of outdoor life, their return, to that degree, to the primitive and natural way of life, lessens their liability to develop consumption. But the disease is transmitted by infection, and when its bacilli are present, distributed in the sputa of sufferers, no climate is proof against it.

It is evident that public opinion must accept and back up some comprehensive plan for the isolation and extermination of this dread disease. It may well be worth while to inquire the facilities for isolation offered by certain desert tracts in Arizona. Near Phoenix there are already established camps of consumptives, but there may be found mingling with them rheumatic, asthmatic and hay fever patients, all seeking the same clear, dry desert air and congenial heat. Many a patient has in those camps exchanged rheumatism for consumption, contracted by infection.

It should be possible to form in some such place a reservation, provided with every appliance for the comfort and cure of consumptives, for disinfection of their excreta, and to make such reservation so desirable that all patients would seek it voluntarily, all who are able to do so now seek the hot springs for rheumatism and neuralgia, and Carlsbad for liver and kidney diseases. If the medical profession in every state would combine upon such a plan, it would be easy to secure co-operation of all the states in its execution, and such a division of the first cost among the states, and with the federal government, as would make it easy of accomplishment. The United States owns the Hot Springs of Arkansas. The therapeutic quality of the waters was considered of such value that the

government bought out all the private rights there, and the springs are run by a federal superintendent. Surely that is a precedent for joint state and federal action in providing a retreat for consumptives where they may be isolated under circumstances the most favorable to recovery and the best adapted to check or prevent infection of the sound.

It would be a boon to the states which have the unhappy reputation of being proof against consumption.-San Francisco Call.

OUR OWN PRESS CENSORSHIP. Press censorship by the new civil government in the Philippines is thus commented upon by the Scranton (Pa.) Times:

News comes from the Philippines that since the military censorship was removed the Manila newspapers have been filled with scandals and libelous articles in which the integrity, honor and name of the American authorities have been impugned, and that wholesale corruption against civil and military officers is charged.

There may be some grounds for these charges, though it would be well to draw the lines where there would be incitement to outbreaks. The dispatch says that Governor Taft is much incensed and will "severely punish the publication of libels or other law-breaking, and that a special translator reviews the newspapers daily."

The inference is that a press censorship is one of the features of the new civil government in the Philippines, and that Manila editors who give offense to officials or other individuals are to be subjected to punishment different from that provided for in the laws of libel now prevailing in this country.

In the recent supreme court decision in the colonial cases, it was distinctly affirmed by Justice Brown, one of the five majority judges, that the fundamental principles of the constitution must operate in our dependencies. Not one of these principles is more vital or highly prized by the American people than the liberty of the press.

No civil government in the Philippines will be entitled to the sanction of the American people and to the respect of the natives that does not concede liberty of utterance to Philippine newspapers, restricted only by the limitations imposed by the law of libel.

Philippine officials are entitled to just as much protection from newspaper attack as American officials-and to no more. Any attempt to subject Philippine editors to unusual espionage and punishment will be resented in no uncertain manner by the press and public of the United States.

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