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## Brock & McComas Company

THE MODERN DRUGGISTS PENDLETON



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1902

### POLICE SILENCE.

The Pendleton police have adopted the plan of silence about what occurs in police court circles. They claim that the cause of this step is based on the fact that a certain paper so distorts the facts given out that it places the police force in a ridiculous light and places things generally in a false light.

East Oregonian thinks this is a wrong move on the part of the police department. The people ought to know what is going on at all times and they expect to learn this through the newspapers. The police are in a better position to give out this information than any others, and if they would do so it would save the publication of a great deal of "misinformation." The papers will find it out. Criminal acts cannot be kept a secret, and this news, like all other news, should be given as straight as possible. The fact that one paper leads the police to believe that it is on the yellow journal order should not cause them to mistreat another that always gives the news as it receives it.

Another reason that the police make a mistake in giving out facts for publication is that when the papers must get it from other sources they may not only get it incorrect, but may publish facts that the police would not like to have published. Criminals are often thus put on notice and know how to take advantage of many points, while if the officers would give out the news and request that certain facts not be published, no respectable paper would violate the request.

Officials and newspapers work together in the largest cities and in the highest official positions and to do otherwise is a mistake. Pendleton, with only three or four policemen, including the town marshal, should not be made the exception of a universal custom, when it is calculated to injure the public in not having the truth published about all matters that ought to be published.

Such action on the part of the police officers leads to all kinds of speculation. East Oregonian, however, has nothing to say against the Pendleton police. They are intelligent men and good officers. They are trying to do their duty and have taken this step because they think it is best. They do not think they are shrewder than other police or have greater power. Neither do they conceal what is going on for any selfish purpose. It is simply a mistaken idea on their part that it is best for the administration of justice.

But if the state department at Washington, D. C., the state and city official department of New York, and every state and city in the Union, take the newspapers into their confidence and find that it is the best plan, and the only safe plan for administering the affairs of government, Pendleton police must be wrong. It is proper to take such steps against the paper that abuses the confidence of the officers, but not against the papers that deal honestly with them and the public.

As suggested by the East Oregonian several days ago, it does not pay for heads of governments to travel about the country, except on the most urgent business, and then it should be as rare as possible. The head of the government is too important a personage, officially, to take the ordinary risks attending travel. The president is now subject to blood poison-

ing from an accident received in the collision with an electric car. While there is no serious alarm, yet it shows how hazardous it is to take unnecessary risks. The death of a president at any time disorganizes the Department of state and places the country in a state of unrest. And at no time in the history of the country would the death of a president have been more serious than it would at this time.

A negro insurance agent and a negro lawyer were the cause of the catastrophe in the negro church at Birmingham, Ala., where more than 100 lives were lost. They got into a fight in the "meetin' house," and some one shouted "fighting," which was mistaken for "fire" and the panic followed. The fight grew out of a quarrel over a vacant seat just as services had closed. It is presumed that the insurance agent was a life insurance agent and that the lawyer was a private lawyer.

The czar, too, has been traveling. He happened to meet with no accidents, but it was not on account of his anarchic subjects' good behavior. They tried to wreck his train three times and came nearly succeeding.

Old King Leopold would not speak to his daughter and she was thus prevented from attending her mother's funeral. Kings must be kings, you know.

With wheat a-jumping in Chicago, the average Umatilla wheat raiser is wearing a broad smile. He is willing to see it jump just as high as it likes.

The Walla Walla papers are painting things red over the success of the fruit fair, though the Union uses purple ink.

And now the women have turned against their mothers-in-law. One in Portland has sued her's for \$20,000 damages for defamation of character.

### THE PANAMA RAILROAD.

In some quarters criticism is heard because United States forces are guarding the Panama railroad and keeping it open during the present revolution in that country. In doing this we are simply discharging our treaty obligations. The Panama railroad was built by American capital, not to supply a convenience to the government of Columbia nor to rebels against authority but for the commercial purposes of all nations whose trade uses that method of transportation across the isthmus.

It happens, in the frequent revolutions which affect and disturb that country and retard its progress, that the neutrality of the railway is resented by the government and by the rebels in turn, as each discovers that its use would strengthen their military operations. But neither has the right to complain. The road was not built to aid rebellion nor to suppress it. That Central American pastime must be indulged on foot and not in the cars, for the United States, by treaty, is the trustee of the neutral right to the unobstructed use of the road, and proposes to discharge that trusteeship, no matter who protests.

Even without the treaty obligation we are clearly within our international rights in protecting the road and its terminal as an American interest, and we would do so without in any way interfering with the government or rebels against its authority in using all domestic facilities against each other. We have no desire to interfere with the innocent amusement afforded by revolution. It is the Latin-American habit and may be indulged to any extent, provided it is done with proper respect for the rights of neutrals and the property of aliens.

One drawback to the construction of the isthmian canal has been this revolutionary habit in those peppy little states. They have imperfectly learned or are perfectly indifferent to their international obligations and responsibilities, and when forced to

make restitution for humiliating outrages upon foreigners or for spoliation of their property, they protest that their national dignity is affronted. The day is past in which they can do as they please with neutral rights and alien interests. The strong nations, whose power and dignity are of concurrent measure, have long since accorded respect and protection to each other's nationals.

When the flighty and headstrong countries south of us learn to do this by being compelled to do it, they will have learned something of great advantage to themselves. They must be taught this from the outside, for they seem incapable of learning it themselves. They are even unmoved by the honorable example of Mexico, which under the highly enlightened government of Diaz, has recovered from the chronic itch for revolution, has instituted a system of jurisprudence and taken her place among the nations which relate stability of government and protection of life and property to national progress and prosperity. What Diaz has done in Mexico wise men can do in the governments south of her. Unfortunately their frequent revolutions are simply to attain power usually for misuse, and not for the establishment of any useful principle, nor to lay the foundation of civil stability.

The Columbian government is protesting because every passenger and freight train on the Panama railway is guarded by United States blue-jackets, equipped with rapid-fire guns. Let that government cease to protest and learn the lesson taught by the blue-jackets. They are there as an expression of the power of the United States to perform its treaty obligation. The source of that power is stability of government. It is the dream of Simon Bolivar realized. That soldier and statesman sought to concrete all the warring and jarring nations of Central America into united states, under a federal system like ours. He said that with this accomplished he would disarm the soldiers and dig an isthmian canal. Had the United States of Central America been formed 60 years ago, and the canal built, the isthmus and the northern part of South America would today be one great nation, abreast of the world in the arts of peace and strong enough to compel peace at home and command respect abroad.—San Francisco Call.

The Yellow Daisy mine, in the Alamo district, has been sold to G. W. Gates, of Saganaw, Mich., for \$45,000.

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