

East Oregonian

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) at Pendleton, Oregon, by the

EAST OREGONIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Phone, Main 11

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, one year by mail	\$5.00
Daily, six months by mail	2.50
Daily, three months by mail	1.25
Daily, one month by mail	.50
Daily, per month by carrier	.65
Weekly, one year by mail	1.50
Weekly, six months by mail	.75
Weekly, four months by mail	.50
Semi-Weekly, one year by mail	2.00
Semi-Weekly, six months by mail	1.00
Semi-Weekly, three months by mail	.50

The East Oregonian is on sale at B. B. Rich's News Stands at Hotel Portland and Hotel Perkins, Portland, Oregon.

Member Scripps-McIvay News Association

San Francisco Bureau, 408 Fourth St. Chicago Bureau, 500 Security Building. Washington, D. C. Bureau, 501 14th St. N. W.

Entered at Pendleton postoffice as second-class matter.

GOD BLESS THE SHOWS.

The liquor dealers of Walla Walla complain that the numerous summer attractions, such as vaudeville parks, amusement parlors, summer gardens and other classes of amusement now found in that city, have reduced their business.

They say the young men and boys don't loiter on the streets any more at night, spending their wages and what they can borrow, besides, in drinking and carousing, as they did before the shows came to town.

They are indignant that counter attractions are interfering with their business. They feel that the city of Walla Walla should draw the line on the vaudeville park and the summer garden. It is dull in the joints, after the shows open. The boys are out with their best girls, enjoying the innocent amusement, strictly sober, gentlemanly and orderly.

Instead of spending all the way from one to five dollars of their hard-earned salaries, and going to bed with a "jag" on, they are buying two or three or more tickets to some respectable, yet cheap attraction, spending the evening in the company of the best people in the city, and are gradually losing their inclination to seek the association of the "good" fellow of the town.

What will be the result of this tendency in Walla Walla? Will the young men who were wont to spend the nights in revelry, grow up to be hoodlums, tinhorns and idlers, by thus changing their habits? Will the innocent amusement of the season, and the association with the better classes of the city, have a bad effect on these boys? Will it make worse men of them, to have it said that they are saving their money, or are spending it in company with friends and families at places of clean amusement?

Walla Walla cannot settle the moral issues before her any easier, than by encouraging clean attractions. If it will keep boys and workmen off the streets, and sober, maintain a municipal show. Let the city go into the show business and furnish a clean, interesting program, at one of the public parks, for the entire summer season, and then to continue the good work, put the municipal theater into operation during the winter months, and furnish a constant diversion for the youth of the city.

It is not that young men have a desire for hilarity, that causes them to become drunken, disorderly citizens. They crave excitement and companionship, and naturally go where the crowd goes. If the crowd is attracted to a clean and innocent amusement, there is where you will find the boys. If there is no other excitement, they can get drunk, and that is the cause of half of the disorderly conduct and police court cases.

If the vaudeville park will help the community in this way, it is a welcome addition to the list of reformers. If the theater will keep boys and young men in good company it should be encouraged. If the summer garden will reduce the rowdiness on the streets, after business hours, and make sober gallants out of the boys who have been in the habit of hunting up a private poker game in the evening, let the summer garden be the mecca of the parents who are interested in the welfare of their boys.

Politics makes strange bedfellows. It is said. Perhaps no going to bed in the history of recent politics has seemed more out of place, than that of the editor of the Oregonian, and President David Francis, of the St. Louis Fair commission. The strong partisans in the party of the Ore-

gonian, have condemned Francis for using his position to secure help in his aspirations to the presidency. It has been demanded by some of the republican leaders, that the democratic commissioner to the St. Louis Fair from Alaska, be replaced by a republican, and the appointments of Francis rigidly regulated by the administration. The Oregonian has come to the defense of Francis, and says if he could find no more suitable man in Alaska, that he was justified in appointing a democrat who would be of service to him, in his political aspirations. It is amusing to see the great organ going to bed with a democratic candidate for the presidency, in the fear that its opposition to the chief official of the St. Louis Fair might militate against the success of the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland.

Tom Johnson enters the Ohio campaign this year stronger than ever before. He has made valuable accessions to his ranks since the last fight in that state, and has learned more of the tricks of his opponents. The common people of Ohio, the great masses that depend on daily toil for sustenance, are interested in wresting the state from the hands of the spoilsman, and are learning that such men as Hanna, the millionaire republican, and George Baer, the millionaire democrat, are natural enemies to their welfare. Johnson represents the progressive element in all the parties in the state, and although it may seem a herculean task, he has a shadow of a chance of winning the governorship this time. His good sound sense and the justice of his policy toward the people, make him a strong opponent to plain hoodlum methods.

Miss Agnes Bryan, daughter of William Jennings Bryan, has entered Hull House, a socialist settlement in Chicago, for the purpose of studying economic questions. It is a tribute to the good sense of the young woman, that she selects an American institution as the scene of her investigations. She is not looking for notoriety, but truth.

WHEN LIFE'S AT STAKE

The most timid man will take any chance of escape. The slender rope dropped down the precipice, the slippery log over the abyss, anything that offers a chance of life, is eagerly snatched at. The end the man seeks is safety. He cares nothing for the means to that end.

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