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Is it the paramount duty of the church to save souls? That depends upon what is meant by the phrase. Save them from what? From hell, of course. Is it the mission of the church to save souls from hell? That depends upon the location of hell. Do you mean by hell some place of torment in the next world, or do you mean the torment of body, mind and soul that is produced in this world by greed of gain, and selfish prejudice, and bigotry, and hate, by oppressive monopolies, and corrupting power, and bitter poverty? I know there is a hell on earth which man has made. Here, on this earth, I have witnessed the torture of the damned. Let us storm one hell at a time, and the meanest one first.—Rev. Herbert Bigelow.

TO THE SPECIAL SESSION.

The big and little members are getting out their axes to carve out all their little, selfish laws; the third house force is lining up to decorate the lobbies and work for good or bad, its tireless jaws.

The mining man from Sumpter, wants the corporation tax law removed from over the "wild cat" company's head; the foxy railroad lawyer, in a plaintive, pleading warble, begs to class the people's portage with the dead.

O, the Multnomah member, with axes up his sleeves; what, O what, can all his brooding silence mean? Does he seek to knife the tax law? Does he thirst for selfish vengeance? Will he spring upon the state some trick, unclean?

There's the statesman from Hillsboro, with a hog law for revision—back, back, into the hazel brush, you go; and the fuming hop pole orator from further up the valley—this is not the time for hop dreams, you must know.

You have pledged to meet and right this law, and then adjourn, instantler, although the boss for further gore may thirst; the people place a muzzle on your gushing oratory, although a score of hot air pipes may burst. You are going back to remedy your own defenseless blunder. Be quick, and know the sovereign people reign; lest the voter in the future recall the special session, and you'll get no chance to "muff the ball" again.

MORE THEATER ROOM.

"Ben Hur" is not coming to Pendleton, so Pendleton is going to "Ben Hur."

It is safe to say that Pendleton contains more appreciation of the good play, and hatred of the cheap one, to the square inch, than any other town in Oregon.

No matter how high the price, Pendleton people fill the opera house for every worthy production that comes along, and for this reason Pendleton people should get the best treatment and receive the highest consideration from the theaters.

A new opera house, with a larger stage, is badly needed here, for many of the high-class plays that come here leave their scenery piled in the street because of the impossibility of putting it in place on the stage.

"King Dodo," "Mr. Pickwick" and "Sherlock Holmes" were compelled to leave out some of their most striking scenery, thus crippling the productions and causing many people unacquainted with the facts to censure the companies for breach of promise.

In appreciation of this hearty patronage, the opera house management should furnish a full orchestra for each performance. The people have never kicked on paying the high prices for reserved seats on the gallery benches, and the management should return the compliment by entertaining them between acts.

The play season is just now opening for the winter. If the Northwestern

Association continues to furnish as good a list of attractions during the remainder of the winter, as during the two months just passed, with a very few exceptions, the financial success of the theater for this year is yet to come with the increased theater patronage of the next three months.

No other city on the coast shows the same proportionate appreciation of good shows and if the management cultivates the theater-going habit by booking new and novel attractions, and by bringing the noted performers here, this appreciation of the theater will be stimulated, to the pleasure of the patrons and the success of the manager.

There is profit in a good theater, rightly managed, but the same method of handling a theater patronage will not apply to Seattle or San Francisco and Pendleton. Pendleton will support a larger house, fitted with more stage room, and more theater facilities.

It is really the best business opening in the city today. The owners of the present house could rent that building any moment for other purposes and a new opera house company would meet no opposition from them.

The people of Eastern Oregon are now anxiously waiting to hear the recommendation of the reclamation engineers, who have gone to Washington to report on the feasibility of the irrigation plans of this state. The Echo and Silves river projects are the two principal schemes under advisement, and the surveys made upon them during the past season have been exhaustive and thorough, and the people are willing to trust the judgment of those in charge. It seems impossible to believe that the government will overlook either of these propositions, located as they are in the state furnishing more to the irrigation fund, during the past year, by nearly a million dollars, than any other Western state or territory. The results of irrigation on all sides of these tracts, are so highly successful, and the waste water supply so enormous, that it is only a question of building the reservoirs and turning water on the land. The people will do the rest.

If the people want to know whether it pays to keep politics out of county affairs, let them turn to the present condition of all the county offices in Umatilla county. This is a standing inducement to this county to steer clear of the politician, and his factional and selfish fights. Keep men in office whose efficiency and ability are valuable to the people. It is safe to say that all the county offices in this county were never before occupied at one time by a list of officials whose business capacity and management equalled that of the present occupants. There have been scores of good men in all the offices, but there seems to be a greater number of practical men at the head of the county affairs now, than ever before at one time. It pays to elect the man and not the politician, and the people of Umatilla county will remember it hereafter, all the efforts of the partisan to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Amateur Sportsman—Oh, I say! Have you missed any of your birds since my visit last week? Farmer—No, they got enough missin' that day to do them for a long spell.—Baltimore American.

Mammon—Did you attend the wedding? Cupid—Yes; I was among the "also present."—Brooklyn life.

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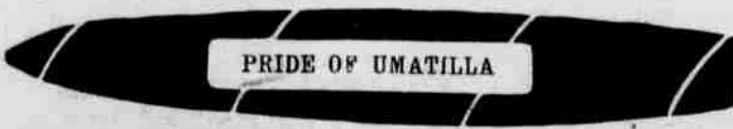
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