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Life is a privilege. If some sad fate Sends us alone to seek the exit gate; If men forsake us as the shadows fall, Still does the supreme privilege of all Come in that reaching upward of the soul To find the welcoming presence at the goal, And in the knowledge that our feet have trod Paths that lead from and must lead back to God. —Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

One-half the world don't know what the other half is doing. When Postmaster Bancroft, of Portland, had his fingers in the government funds last week, he perhaps didn't know that New York's postmaster was doing the same thing at the same time.

The call for the meeting at The Dalles on Tuesday, May 17, for the purpose of organizing a permanent portage road and river transportation commission of farmers of the Inland Empire, is the best step yet taken toward the construction of the portage road. It is the story of the old lark and the wheat field over again. The farmers of the Inland Empire have waited in vain for relief, for the past 32 years, and are no nearer actual relief today than then. Now they have called a meeting of wheat growers, of actual shippers from the Inland Empire, to take steps to hurry up some kind of relief for the producers of this great section. Umatilla county takes pleasure in sending Thomas Kirk and R. M. O'Brien, two representative farmers to join in the work of relief. The farmers must take up this task, as the legislators and representatives in congress fail to accomplish anything. The people need competition in the matter of transportation and the Columbia river has been placed at their service by nature as a means of civilizing the West.

Thinking voters will be struck with the different campaign methods of the local option forces and the Liquor Dealers' Association. The liquor dealers are collecting large sums of money for campaign purposes, assuming by this that the voters of Oregon may be won by a price for their ballot. The local option people are conducting a campaign of education, and information, appealing to the intelligence and honesty of the voter to win. One represents the machine rule and brute force in society, the other the intelligence and conscience of the land. Which method do you prefer during the campaign, and which force do you prefer to see in power after election? Do you want to see the force triumph which values you by so many dollars and cents which it will require to buy you, or do you choose to be counted as one of so many intelligent beings, to whom the appeal of reason and righteousness is an incentive to act? Don't forget that a vote for local option is a vote for the majority rule and local self-government.

It is interesting to hear republican papers declare that there is no issue for the democrats for the 1904 campaign, while the same papers are forced to print as their live news the accounts of official rottenness in every government department, including the postoffice in Portland, New York and other of the largest cities of the country. If there were no other issue the people would be glad to see this corruption overthrown and its roots and branches cut off. If there were no other reason for

a change of administration than that the departments be cleaned out by the appointment of new officials for but four years, that is sufficient for a campaign issue. One party in power so safely and so long, becomes bold and brazen in corruption. Democrats are but humans and would doubtless fall into the same habit, if as firmly entrenched in governmental departments as their opponents. It is best for the people that the parties be evenly balanced in national affairs. After one party has held full sway for years and used its official position to strengthen and perpetuate its power, the people should find in that dangerous tendency a sufficient campaign issue upon which to effect a change.

It is worthy of note to taxpayers to know that county government in Umatilla county cost \$5,584.72 less in 1903 than in 1902, notwithstanding the increased labor which the amended tax law necessitates in the sheriff's office. This saving was effected through the most rigid economy and business management in the county offices having charge of the assessment, and collection of taxes, and the office of district attorney and county judge. Mr. Strain assessed Umatilla county for \$4,142 in 1903, when the average cost for seven years before had been \$5,963.75. Sheriff Taylor has also made a saving in his office and by close vigilance in miscellaneous expenditures, Judge Hartman has been able to cut down the general expenses greatly, saving the people \$216 by protesting the county printing bill alone. One of the greatest savings effected during the last year is through the advice and efficient counsel of T. G. Halley, as prosecuting attorney, who has steered the county clear of much costly litigation. These comparisons reflect no discredit on the efficient officers who hold strictly salaried offices, but are prominently mentioned because of the need of the same economy and the same rigid surveillance in future, that have been exercised in the past year.

Any citizen of Pendleton who will stand on the high school ground any week day evening after school and watch the invigorating sport enjoyed by the students, will experience a thrill of pride for the city and her institutions. Instead of running away to town and hoodlumism as soon as school is dismissed, the young men go to the play ground for an hour for relaxation from study, and for a physical finish which is just as necessary to a complete education as mental finish. It requires genius in a principal to give just enough physical and mental training always necessary to balance the man. It requires personality and self-sacrifice and persistent energy to hold the esteem, confidence and enthusiasm of 160 romping high school boys from 15 to 20. It is an exalted ambition in a principal which suggests sports and useful diversions for students after school hours, to prevent the perilous temptations of the town from weakening the school enthusiasm. It is a matter of pride to Pendleton that there is no break in the process of training in her high school, where the students are young men and young women, susceptible to so many social and other interruptions to study. It has been the aim of Professor Conklin to form a continuous claim of interest that will bridge over the hours from 4 p. m. to 9 a. m., in order that the school influences might not be broken by outside forces. When school dismisses he finds sports and literary contests and musical education and other elevating studies to hold the interest and improve the mental and physical nature. The result is gratifying. Instead of finding your high school boys on the streets after school, you find them pursuing some mental or physical pastime connected with their school life. They are occupied, active. No slothful habits of mind or body are allowed to grow. There is clean, refreshing, elevating diversion, yet all of it a part of the general onward course of their education.

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