



AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. Published every afternoon (except Sunday) at Pendleton, Oregon, by the EAST OREGONIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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. Weekly, one year, by mail, 5.00. Weekly, six months, by mail, 2.50. Weekly, four months, by mail, 1.50. Semi-Weekly, one year, by mail, 1.50. Semi-Weekly, six months, by mail, .75. Semi-Weekly, four months, by mail, .50.

Member Scripps-McRae News Association.

The East Oregonian is on sale at R. E. Rich's News Stand at Hotel Portland and Hotel Perkins, Portland, Oregon.

Entered at Pendleton Postoffice as second-class matter.



Sometimes the trend of truth is breathed. In jesting guise of a lie. And often a smile of joy concealed. In the heart-felt pain of a sigh. Sometimes the curtain of light is drawn. By the act of our unwise hand. Not that we willfully would not see. But failed to understand. —Arthur G. Lewis.

SOCIAL TRAGEDY IN RUSSIA.

The lightning flashes that momentarily illuminate the social situation in Russia are not sufficiently prolonged to show us what is actually occurring in that empire of unrest. We read of fierce conflicts between Hebrews and Christians, and between all classes and the state. Riots, assassinations and martial law are in fact the order of the day in holy Russia, and he would indeed be a hardy prophet who would venture to predict the end of it all.

The war with Japan is of course the source of the seething discontent, of which the real history is still a long way from being written, but it is a discontent that cannot be cured by armed Cossacks, nor by any of those other methods that seem to constitute the sole resources of the government.

Russian sentiment has become inflamed by repression, the safety valves of the social system have been screwed down tightly, and it is only the precise date of the explosion that has been at all uncertain. It is strange that events that have been recognized by the whole world as inevitable should occasion any surprise anywhere, even in Russia.

In the meantime the outworn, discredited and hateful methods of repression are being once more applied. Russia is being again treated with the hair of the dog that has bitten her and the flames of revolt are being momentarily covered with highly inflammable material.

It would seem as though every nation must pass through its cycle of revolution before it can reach the road of real progress. It must either sternly assert itself or it must retrograde.

France passed triumphantly through her ordeal by fire a century ago. That Russia has delayed it so long is a disquieting indication of the explosive forces that must have accumulated and that only the wisest statecraft can control.

SCANDINAVIAN SITUATION.

That war should result from the present crisis between Norway and Sweden seems almost incredible. Such a tragedy for such a cause would be little less than a crime against humanity, and we can but hope that councils of moderation will prevail in good time to prevent what would be practically civil war.

The existing deadlock, is however, distinctly dangerous. The king has definitely refused to sanction the bill providing a separate consular service for the two countries. The Norwegian ministers have thereupon tendered their resignations, which the king has declined to accept.

The ministers upon the other hand have refused to sign the protocol of the proceedings and the royal veto has, therefore, no constitutional existence. The Norwegian press, doubtless echoing the voice of the country, declares the king's decision to show that Norway has no longer a sovereign willing to follow the national advice, and the Norwegian cabinet has warned the king in very plain language that his veto of the bill is tantamount to a dissolution of the union.

That of course is very dangerous language. If the Norwegians persist in their present attitude and if Sweden be willing to acquiesce, a basis of independence might conceivably be arranged. It seems, however, more

probable that Sweden will object to dissolution for the same reasons that were urged in America before the civil war against a precisely similar movement.

It is a very awkward impasse, and if grave difficulties are to be avoided it will only be by the exercise of tact and statesmanship of which fortunately the king seems to possess a fairly full measure.

"Pendleton will invite us back within a year; she can't live without the gambler; she has always drawn much of her revenue from us, and she must continue to do so if she lives," said a gambler to the East Oregonian, as he departed for Portland this morning. What does the taxpayer and business man think of this situation? Who is the gambler, anyway? And from whom does he take the "revenue" that he pays to the city? And how does he take it? It is a travesty on business intelligence to say that the city cannot exist without the paltry contribution of the tinnhorn. No; he city will not invite him back, unless he comes with a better calling and a more decent reputation and character. The gambler need not always be a gambler. He can enter some of the beckoning occupations that surround him and lead a life of honesty and cleanliness.

The city council is to be congratulated on its determination to improve the streets, and also to ask for new bids on the street sprinkling contract. There are dozens of men with ample teams and equipment, who can do the street sprinkling fully as well as Wells, and who have offered to do it at a much cheaper rate than Wells.

It is safe to say that the East Oregonian, by agitating the street sprinkling matter at this time, has saved the city \$500 on the contract for the ensuing year. This amount is half enough to buy a rock crusher for the city.

FLOATING 'PHONE ON LAKE.

The first floating telephone in the world is to be installed in Great Salt Lake, by the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company in time for the opening of the bathing season, says the Salt Lake Herald. Three thousand feet from the Saltair pavilion where the average depth of the water is more than four feet, the telephone will be placed on a buoy. The buoy will be anchored and it will be possible to talk through the telephone to any city on the Rocky Mountain system.

The primary object of the installation is the saving of life. There have been times in the past when a telephone in the lake would have been the means of rescuing venturesome bathers. The management of the Saltair pavilion and the telephone company feel that if one rescue is made the expense incident to the installation will be more than satisfied.

The buoy's telephone's first connection will be with the private branch exchange that is being installed at Saltair. An operator will be constantly in charge of this station so that it will be possible to call from the lake to any point in the city or about the pavilion, where the instruments connected with the branch exchange are to be distributed. The sensation of floating in the water and holding conversation with individuals many miles away will appeal to Saltair visitors this summer. It will be a distinct novelty.

CANT FOOL THE BANKS.

A stranger came into an Augusta bank one day and presented a check for which he wanted the equivalent in cash.

"Have to be identified," said the teller.

The stranger took a bunch of letters from his pocket, all addressed to the same name as that on the check. The teller shook his head. The man thought a minute and pulled out his watch, which bore the name on its inside cover. The teller, merely glancing at it, said: "That won't do."

The man dug into his pockets and found one of those "If-I-should-die-tonight-notify-my-wife" cards, and called the teller's attention to the description, which fitted to a T. "Those things don't prove anything," he said. "We've got to have the word of a man that we know." "But, man, I've given you an identification that would convict me of murder in any court in the land." "That's probably very true," responded the teller patiently, "but in matters connected with the bank we have to be more careful." —Philadelphia Ledger.

"RETURNED WITH THANKS."

Some of our readers, we are sure, have been crossed in literature, which is considered by some to be a good deal worse than being crossed in love. To these, and to others, only less, the romance of "Returned With Thanks," we set out shortly in the Eystander, should be interesting. We read that Maarten Maartens was forced to print his first book himself. Quite recently J. J. Bell made about \$20,000 out of a tiny book, "Wee Macgregor," for which no publisher would make an offer, though the author would have sold the entire copyright for \$50.

Think of Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" refused by Colburn's Magazine as lacking in interest, although written expressly for that publication, and refused by every publisher to whom it was afterward submitted. Thackeray published it at his own risk.

The same is true of Stern's "Tristan shandy." Keble's "Christian Year" was offered to a publisher for \$100, and finally published at its author's risk, bringing him in, it is said, \$200,000 during his lifetime. —London News.

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Speaks of Destruction of a Continent

D. R. Hubbard, who has just returned from a visit to the Mindoka irrigation project, brings the highly interesting and important story of uncovering of remains of prehistoric animal life on those plains, says the false statesman.

This discovery has been made in excavating the irrigation channel. There are two or more lava flows at that point. The most recent proved to be some 12 feet thick. Immediately beneath this the men uncovered a bed of sand from six to eight feet in thickness. In this sand the remarkable discoveries were made.

Mr. Horn, the engineer in charge of the work, has a fine collection of bones, teeth, horns, tusks and other remains of the old life of that section. Many bones are found which he cannot classify. He has sent some of these to Washington and has been informed they have so far baffled the scientists of the government who look after such matters.

The remains are those of many species. At one point, within an area no larger than a good-sized room, four species were found. There are teeth and other bones of the mastodon that can be recognized, but the others will have to be passed upon by those who make a specialty of such subjects. One of the very interesting products of this remarkable bed of sand is a pair of horns. The skull lay with them in the sand but it crumbled when an effort was made to remove it. These horns are like those of the musk ox and they are a foot in circumference at the base and spread beautifully six feet from tip to tip. These horns are charred, evidently by heat from the flowing lava.

Another highly interesting find was of a lower jawbone like that of a horse and about the same size as the jaw of a well developed modern animal of that species. The teeth are in perfect condition. It has been suggested it might be the jaw of an animal like the camel, but Mr. Hubbard states it is so nearly like that of a horse that he is satisfied it must be from some animal of that kind that roamed the valley in prehistoric times. The horse, however, is not thought to have come to his present size while he was yet an inhabitant of this country. The latest specimens of him found by the scientists are about the size of a Shetland pony.

Still another interesting exhibit in Mr. Horn's collection is a beautiful tusk 35 inches in length. It is like the tusk of an elephant, having the same curve.

Mr. Horn, as stated, has reported the find to Washington, and sent on some of his specimens. It is believed the field will prove a rich one for the men of science and that some interesting information may be gained from it.

How so many animals came to perish in that bed of sand can never be known. The theory is that the lava penned them in and overwhelmed them on the edge of a river or lake.

GALLATIN VALLEY PROJECT.

The reclamation bureau has under consideration the construction of an irrigation canal in the Gallatin valley, Montana. The plan is to take out water from the West Gallatin river and convey it to the high bench lands between that stream and the Madison river. It will be necessary to tunnel through what is known as the "hogback" before water from the Gallatin can be distributed on the Madison side. The tunnel will be about 3000 feet long.

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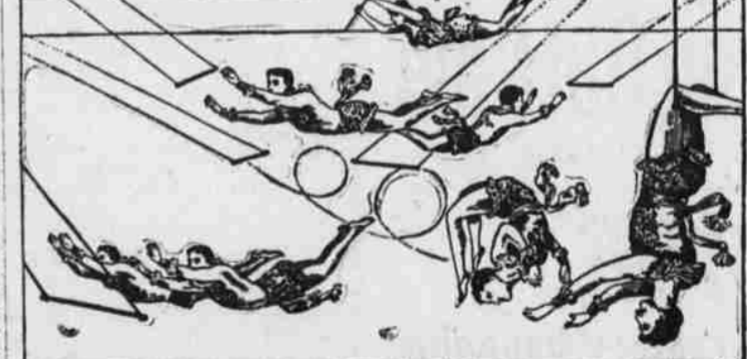
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