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YESTERDAY OR TOMORROW

Gaunt and weird, barring the way. Soothe the Spectre of Yesterday. Who seemed to shake his gaunt hand. At all who crossed his barren land. Recalling every failure made. And each mistake, until afraid. They turned their backs on bright Tomorrow. And sought again the land of Sorrow. There to shiver in the cold. And wrap in Self, to then grow old. Brave and true, unlike the rest. With sunny face and jeweled crest. There leaned a youth on Hope's fair wand. Who pressed toward better things beyond. And turned his face on Yesterday. And passed the Spectre on the way. And left behind him every sorrow. And entered into glad Tomorrow. Where sunshine reigns and people try. And have not even time to die. Friends of mine, which will you do. Nurse your sorrows and failures, too. Until on all you then impart. A sinking feeling in the heart? Or will you reach for better things. And watch your troubles all take wings? Then turn your back on Yesterday. And walk with Hope along the way. And everywhere you can—just borrow. The sunshine of a glad Tomorrow. —John De Witt.

"LEST WE FORGET."

For a long time the East Oregonian has firmly believed that back of the assembly scheme are forces that have never been disclosed to view. In the opinion of this paper the Portland politicians who are doing the surface work in behalf of the assembly are not the real men behind the game. There is no reason why a politician with worthy aims should hate the direct primary. A politician who is honest and is of an independent spirit really has a better show under the direct primary than he had under the old boss system. Under the direct primary a man may engage in politics and still retain his self respect. Under the game as formerly played it was hard to do that—and succeed. If a man got anything he had first to kiss the toe of the boss or bosslet and tacitly swear to do his bidding. Under the direct primary system an officeholder is under no obligations save to his constituents. Such obligations are honorable. The real people back of the assembly scheme are representatives of corporate interests—interests that have a direct concern in the control of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the government of this state. This paper fully concurs in the following expressions of the Oregon Journal: "But a few short years ago the corporate interests were in complete control of the legislature of this state. The railroad attorneys named the committees having in charge legislation that affected them. Indeed, one speaker of the house who refused, much to their astonishment, to follow the usual custom has never been forgiven. The other public service corporations named committees to suit their interests. In unison with the so-called 'leaders' they dominated the conventions, named the officials and ran things to suit themselves. In all of this the Oregonian was an active participant." "The people finally wrung the control from these bosses with bettered conditions resulting in every way.

ADVANTAGES OF IGNORANCE.

It was night far out on the plains. Fleecy clouds swathed the pale moon and from the distant bluffs a lone coyote called mournfully through the gloom. A lone horseman rode along the edge of the cottonwood trees. Suddenly a sharp, quick command almost made the blood freeze in his veins. He reined in his horse. "Ah, I have got you at last," snarled a voice from the gloom; "pull your gun and we will fight to the death." For once in his life our hero was knocked off his perch. Here was some one intent on making his body a sort of lead depository and seemed to desire to do the job quickly. The man who had hailed him from the shadow dashed out in the open and, wheeling his magnificent horse faced our hero, the Terror of Badville. Ah! ha! it was his most deadly enemy, Cripple Creek Lige. "Draw your gun and count to five," cried the demon of Cripple Creek, "and with the last count turn loose." With lightning-like rapidity our hero had been thinking. After this had been going on for some time he turned to the man in front of him and laughed a low, mocking laugh. "I never learned to count" he said, simply. With a yell of baffled rage Cripple Creek Lige wheeled his horse and plowed a large hole in the atmosphere in a northerly direction. He had been cheated of his prey. —R. V. C. in Inland Herald.

SCHOOLS AND HEALTH.

Boise is discussing the proposition of a closer medical inspection of the schools and commenting upon the subject the Statesman has the following: The suggestion that there be medical inspection in the public schools of Boise is, perhaps, one of the very best that has been made in connection with our educational institutions. Health is the foundation. Without it there can be no satisfactory mental development. Medical inspection of the children would reveal any defects and prove a boon to the child, to its parents and to its teachers. The idea does not presuppose the detection exclusively of the more dangerous diseases. It looks to the discovery of minor defects as well. For example, a child might be suffering from eye or ear trouble, which unconsciously interfered with its studies. The proper placement of the student in the room would work to advantage, wholly aside from the satisfaction of determining a cause for treatment of which the parents may have been in total ignorance. The subject is one of supreme importance if there is anything in our boasted solitude for the coming men and women. Too little attention is paid to health. It is so in the schools and it is so in communities generally. Money is expended without stint for every conceivable purpose, but every proposition looking to more sanitary conditions and to the health of the public is met with official frowns. Officials who are business men enough to spend the public money wisely will include "health" in their budgets. Almost the entire northwest has been damaged by floods and washouts. Yet Umatilla county has been spared. The present stage of the river is very satisfactory and it seems there is little danger of a flood. Then again anything like an ordinary flood would have no terror for Pendleton in view of the present strength of the levee. According to a story Rockefeller is seeking to dispose of his wealth. He might give some of it to people from whom he took it. Secretary Wilson evidently wants to remain upon good terms with the administration as long as he is in the cabinet. From appearances airships offer no more dangers than railroad travel. Especially on the Great Northern. Patten says that speculation is the spice of life. He made away with considerable "spice" last winter. This is the time of the year that hard surface cross walks would be greatly appreciated. Now is the time to plan for a Greater and Better Pendleton.

DESIRABLE CITIZENS DEFINED.

In welcoming a newcomer to Spokane a few days ago the president of the Chamber of Commerce said: "Although we are largely engrossed in material things, we are glad to have with us a man who is strong enough to read Emerson before breakfast." The remark was followed by a little pleasantries concerning prizefights and other favorite amusements of the American people. It opens a subject worth discussion—the quality of life. It goes to the root of the problem of desirable citizenship. Critics of American social conditions have remarked that we are either too much engrossed in commerce or absorbed beyond reason in such sports as prizefights. The same remark might apply to many other countries, though it must be admitted that the negro minstrel, the prizefight, and some like sports occupy too much of the time of the average American. Spokane has good schools, an excellent library, and some clubs where life is taken seriously, yet not without a modicum of humor. These should be cultivated, and those who have higher ideals should be encouraged to come and make their homes with us. After all, life is exceedingly narrow to a vast mass of those we meet in our daily rounds. The man who has never read a great book, been moved to tears by sublime music, or felt the tingle of new emotions when reading an immortal poem—well, he has missed much in life. The great things in life come cheap when regarded from a monetary point of view. An eloquent speech, a moving play, the mastery and magic of science, the melodies and splendors of music—these cost little, yet those who enjoy them best are perhaps the best citizens a community can call its own. THAT ASSEMBLY PLAN. (Elgin Recorder.) The "assembly plan" was proposed by a few republicans of the state of Oregon, who prefer bossism to representative government. They recently met in Portland for the purpose of devising means, schemes and ways of cheating the direct primary law, overthrowing the will of the people, and delegating to themselves the right of making nominations for the republican party. The state of Oregon has laws regarding the method of nominating candidates of the various parties. These laws were inaugurated by a large majority of Oregon's representative voters. Now comes the "assembly" man, who attempts to overthrow the nominating law and the will of a majority of his party men, by devising a scheme—or a schidde—by which they can delegate to themselves the power of making nominations. In other words we "assembly men" will go to Portland, and from there we will give to you the names of the men who must be nominated for office by the republican party. "We are the 'guineas' of high intellectual power, specially favored to tell you 'common guys' who shall be nominated. We are 'it'! We will do your thinking and you can act in accordance with our way of thinking. We believe that the average voter of Oregon is incapable of picking the proper men for office, and, we, of higher qualities, better breeding, more money and a damsite more gall will be your representative (?) and tell you the proper men to nominate. Looks nice in its way, is pleasing to contemplate and doubtless causes the 'assembly man' to swell his belly-hand a couple of inches when he thinks of the nice, neat scheme he has inaugurated. But, there is yet to remember the independent republican voters, who usually go to the polls and vote as their honest opinion dictates. They will doubtless have something to say to the assembly plan, and if the writer is any

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When You Think

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judge of human nature they will tell the self appointed assembly delegate to "go way back and sit down."

"John—John," whispered Mrs. Gidgeley, nudging her husband. "What is it?" he sleepily asked. "There's a burglar in the house."

"What do you want me to do—get up and run the risk of being killed?" "No; if you find in the morning that somebody has gone through your pockets, don't blame me."

Featherstone—That Miss Twilling you introduced me to is a very polite girl. I called on her last night and asked her if she wouldn't sit down in the only arm-chair in the room, and what do you suppose she said? Ringway—I can't imagine. Featherstone—She said, "After you."

The chronic grouch says kind words never die—if written in indelible ink.

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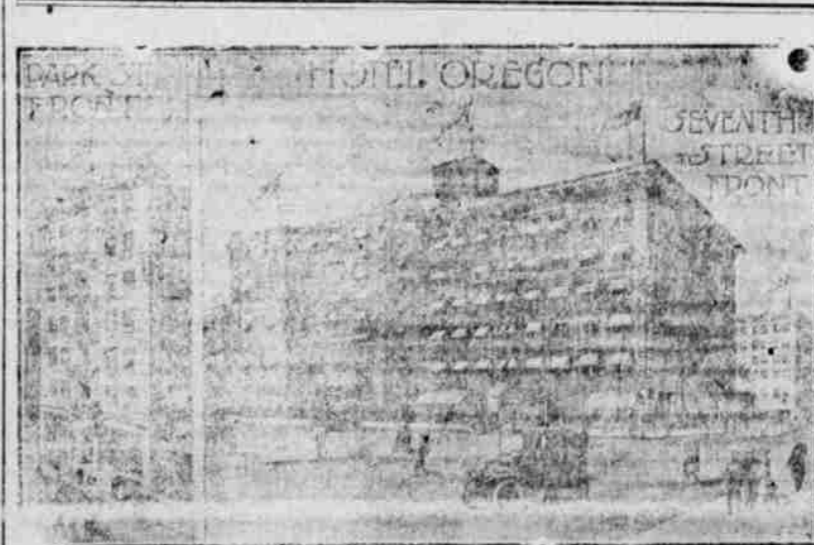
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