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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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IT'S A FAIR WORLD.

Oh, a great world, a fair world,
A true world I find it;
A sun that never forgets to rise,
On the darkest night, a star
In the skies,
And a God of love behind it.

Oh, for a far way, a high way,
A sure life, I take it,
Is what He offers to you and me;
A chance to do and a chance to be,
Whatever we choose to make it.

Oh, a far way, a high way,
A sure way He leads us;
And if the journey at times
Seems long,
We must trudge ahead, with a
Trustful song,
And know at the end He needs
Us.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

NOW DOWN TO BUSINESS.

In the view of the East Oregonian it is fortunate that the special committees that are to investigate the branch asylum site will wait a week before coming to this city. More or less bitterness has been engendered by the controversy over the site. But the strife should now be over. Those on each side have thoroughly expressed their feelings and made their positions clear. It is now time to drop the controversy and let the smoke of battle float away. By next week it should be possible to get down to business.

By a law enacted by the people of this state a branch asylum is to be established in eastern Oregon. The state board has officially ordered that the institution be located here. That decision cannot well be altered. The position now before the officials is how to find the most desirable building site in this vicinity. Most of the land needed for the branch asylum has already been secured and incidentally it may be remarked that Jay Bowerman made a good bargain when he purchased the Oliver-Carpenter place. The state bought one of the best farms in this section at a very reasonable price. But if a better building site may be secured by purchasing land adjoining that tract most certainly the purchase should be made.

From the makeup of the committees from the house and senate it seems plain that the respective presiding officers have striven to keep politics out of the matter. President Selling named one Bowerman man and one of his own supporters to represent the senate. Neither senator named has any concern in the location of the asylum. Speaker Rusk likewise has been very fair. Though himself a representative from Union county he named Representative Mann upon the house committee. The other men named are western Oregon legislators and should have no special interest in the matter. The makeup of the committees should put

an end to the accusation that the new board is trying to discredit the old. Both President Selling and Speaker Rusk are progressives and friendly to the new state administration. In the natural order of things they would have named legislators friendly to the new board. The fact that impartial committees have been appointed is evidence that the political features of the case are being cast aside.

It is now up to local people also to lay aside all political animosities, to prepare to show the asylum investigators all possible courtesies and to assist them in doing the work that is before them.

What Pendleton wants is the branch asylum.

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THE PARDONING POWER.

At Salem a law is now before the legislature which if passed will make it more difficult for life term prisoners to be pardoned. In this connection it may be cited that in some of the eastern states eminent men are advocating the creation of pardon commissions to perform duties that now fall upon governors.

Not content with the plan now current in most American states of permitting the governor to share the responsibilities of the pardoning power, former Governor Horace White, of New York, would have the right of executive clemency diverted in toto from the governor to a deliberative commission vested with full authority.

In a recent public statement, former Governor White outlined his reasons for so sweeping a change as follows:

"In my opinion our governors should be relieved from the arduous duty of investigating, considering and deciding on applications for pardons, commutations, reprieves and restoration to citizenship. The work and responsibility should be vested in tribunals especially equipped by training and fitness to undertake this important laborious work.

"It is physically impossible for any governor to perform his other constitutional and statutory duties, have opportunity for study and reflection on great public duties and at the same time give apt attention to this line of work.

"Each year the need becomes more apparent from a moral, economical and sociological point of view."

There are a great many good points about ex-Governor White's plan and some day some such plan as his may be generally adopted over the entire country. No doubt most governors would gladly welcome relief from the throngs of pardon seekers that now beset them.

FOR A NEW HIGH SCHOOL.

After listening yesterday to statements from members of the school board regarding the inadequacy of the present high school the Commercial association managers voted to endorse the action of the board in taking up plans for building a new structure. As the Commercial association represents the business interests of the city this places the approval of local business men and property owners upon the action of the board. It is another step towards securing an improvement that is unquestionably needed. It is plain that Pendleton has reached a time when decisive action must be taken if this city is to retain its rank as a place that supports good schools. It is encouraging to note that local sentiment is generally behind the school board in its move. Not a word of protest has been raised against the new high school and there should be no protest. The board is not acting hastily in this matter. A new building has been really needed for years but action has been delayed because local conditions during the past few years have been unfavorable for making costly improvements in any line.

It is very unfortunate that any political strife should have been aroused over the matter of the branch asylum. It is not a political question. In the view of the East Oregonian there would have been no strife had all the parties concerned fully understood the intentions of the present state board. Now that the political features have been fought out here's hoping for peace. From this time on the branch asylum should be a business proposition—not a political issue.

Pendleton is in line to secure two long needed improvements this summer—a gravity water system and a new high school. Neither improvement stands in the way of the other. As pointed out yesterday by Postmaster Brown who is a member of the water commission and also of the school board, the new high school will in no way interfere with the improvement in the water system. The gravity water system will pay for itself.

Speaker Jerry Rusk is showing himself a pretty big man for he is not using his powerful position to play petty politics. If he keeps up his

good record there will be further honors for him. Two years from now eastern Oregon will need a congressman and Rusk is showing himself to be well fitted for promotion.

The death of Paul Morton shows that even "Captains of Industry" must "show the white flag" like other mortals.

When some people observe the ways of legislatures they become stronger supporters of the initiative and referendum.

Why not use that surplus money in the water fund in constructing a mountain water system?

Now we are getting some eastern Oregon weather again and local grip sufferers should recover.

THE PLEASURE OF WEALTH.

(Indianapolis News.)

From Paris comes word that the manufacture of "masterpieces" is a pretty well established industry in that city. Mr. Henry Pike, a picture expert says:

"It requires only six months to produce a painting which it is impossible for any one except a deep student of classic art to distinguish from one that is genuine."

The people who buy such pictures are American millionaires. And why not? If the fraud can not be detected except by an expert, such a picture is fairly safe in almost any millionaire's gallery, unless he foolishly calls in an expert, and even then it may merely be one expert's word against that of another. It is all well enough to avoid substitutes and to insist on having the original in some things, but why in pictures when it is admitted that the imitation will serve any millionaire's purpose as long as he does not know the difference? And if he ever knows the difference it will be his own fault.

Besides, it is frankly admitted that there are not enough genuine masterpieces to go around among our rapidly accumulating millionaires. Every one of them who even pretends to put up the culture front must have his picture gallery, and just think how bare those galleries' walls would be if nothing but the real goods were hung in them. To be sure, good modern paintings might be had, but they lack the charm of the antique—even of the imitation antique.

Furthermore, it is to be remembered that a millionaire's opportunities for having a good time with his money are limited. The rest of us, of course, have a good time by doing occasionally the things that we can not really afford to do at all. But no such pleasure as this can be the millionaire's. He can afford to do anything any time. Thus such privileges as the rest of us enjoy become with him mere dull, monotonous routine. So if he can break it by buying bogus masterpieces he should by all means do so. He may even get some entertaining thrills out of the discovery that he has been bunked, and thus while he may not get his money's worth in art there is a chance for value received in the way of emotion. Moreover, while there may be a slight feeling of annoyance at the thought of the profit made by the French dealer, it is to be remembered that the percentage is always in favor of the dealer, and in addition there is the rather pleasurable feeling that perhaps the purchase of such paintings is saving some art in going and deserting artist from starving to death. Indeed, there does not seem to be any loss from the start to the finish of the transaction except by the millionaire, who, of course, expects to rise to the bad when he has sat in at another man's game.

THE ANTHONY MEMORIAL.

February 15 has been set aside by the National Woman Suffrage association to raise a fund for campaign purposes, as a Susan B. Anthony memorial. As this date is the anniversary of the birth of Miss Anthony, it has been chosen to receive the contribution from the women of America, in recognition of their improved status and in grateful remembrance of the fact that Miss Anthony devoted her life to the cause. Miss Kate M. Gordon says of the proposed memorial that no woman of America can afford to miss this opportunity to show her respect for the memory of Miss Anthony. It is a debt of gratitude, she says, and no American woman is exempt. The benefits enjoyed through such efforts as those of Miss Anthony, she enumerates as: Economic independence, education, social liberty, property rights, equal guardianship of mothers and fathers, equal pay for equal work. All contributions will be classified that in this way it may be possible to know whether a wage earner, a professional woman, a college woman and so on, gave the amount. Every suffrage club in the United States is expected to contribute. Dollar contributions will be asked from professional women, including lawyers, ministers, journalists, doctors, actresses and college women. A 50 cent contribution will be asked from nurses, teachers, stenographers and college students. Ten cents will be asked of store and factory employes, while of women generally the request will be to give as generously as possible.

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