

The Bend Bulletin

DAILY EDITION

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1920.

"ONE OREGON EPIDEMIC"

Although the anti-compulsory vaccination measure was snowed under at the recent election, there are doubtless plans on foot to try again. We want to do what we can to get the facts concerning the importance of vaccination before the people and therefore, in anticipation of further agitation, reprint a most interesting editorial which appeared in the Oregonian nearly a year ago. The editorial has an added interest in that it relates to happenings that took place in Prineville within the memory of many now living here. It is as follows:

"A young Pennsylvania farmer named William Vasbinder played a tragic part a little more than 20 years ago in conveying an object lesson in smallpox control to the people of Oregon, and the first bulletin issued by the Oregon state board of health, dated 1903, because it recounts the history of that still remembered epidemic, is a document of exceptional historical value now. It will be recalled that the plague of the first years of the present century made a complete circuit of the country. Not a state escaped, and in many states the disease appeared in virulent form. The role played by Oregon in its spread is still classic in medical annals.

"Vasbinder came west to take up a timber claim. He traveled by rail to Shaniko, Ore., thence 60 miles by stage to Prineville, and from there 82 miles by wagon into the mountains. Almost before he had taken the steps necessary to locate his claim, he was seized by a chill, followed by fever. Turning homeward, he reached Prineville, so ill that he was compelled to seek his room at once. Unfortunately, as the report observes, and as afterward proved true, he felt well enough on the following day to resume his journey. At Shaniko, however, his illness became so serious that he was unable to proceed farther. On the journey from Prineville to Shaniko, the eruption characteristic of smallpox was diagnosed by a physician, who was a member of the party, as 'poison oak,' and this error prevented early precautionary measures. The malady was identified as smallpox by a local physician, but not until three days later. Vasbinder was then isolated, but died from a malignant and unmistakable form of the disease.

"Attaches of the hotel meanwhile were quarantined and most of them were vaccinated. The landlady and four others, all of whom were vaccinated, in time developed mild attacks and recovered. An especially illuminating parallel was furnished by two employees of the barn at which the Vasbinder party hired their team and wagon. One had never been vaccinated and refused to be so. The other had been vaccinated in childhood and was revaccinated. The first died; the second recovered. A brother and sister, the former an employee of the same barn, were stricken, neither had been vaccinated and both suffered intensely, being scarred for life.

"The incident is replete with object lessons. Four persons for various reasons, defied the authorities when the Shaniko hotel was quarantined, and evaded vaccination. One, a young woman, who dreaded disfigurement by a vaccination scar, escaped from the hotel by stealth. Twenty days later news of her death in Chicago was received. Another young woman came to Portland, where she suffered a malignant attack, but recovered. The other two were a traveling salesman and his driver. The latter developed smallpox at his home at Antelope and died; the former fled to his family, whom he exposed to the disease and was quarantined with them. He recovered. The health board afterward ascertained that he had been vaccinated in infancy.

"Foci of the disease, however, continued to develop. In the hotel at Prineville, where Vasbinder spent one



Jay Walkers

The men who drive the choo-choo boats are pinched and fined some useful groats, when they're discovered speeding; and all the witnesses applaud when justice soaks them for their wad—they get just what they're needing. The motorists are much to blame, and folks are always crying, "Shame!" We daily hear their droolings; but half the trouble on the street is caused by jays who ply their feet without regard to rulings. The man on foot breaks all the laws, breaks every rule that ever was, nor cares a cheap suspender; and when my auto runs him down, and spreads his fragments through the town, I find I've no defender. The people gather round my car and talk of feathers and of tar in tones that throb with passion; the man on foot's a sacred jay; the motorist is wrong away; and stiff fines are the fashion. I drive my car with ceaseless care, and yet I'm always in despair, jay walkers are so busy; they get before my chugging wain, as though determined to be slain, they are so brash and dizzy. They cross the street where'er they please, between the moving cars they squeeze, they dodge at every angle; and when I've driven for a mile I can no longer sing and smile—my nerves are all a-jangle.

night, four cases developed after the classical period. Three of the patients were unvaccinated. Two of these died. The third, a waitress, recovered, but not until she had infected her aged father, who nursed her devotedly, with what proved to be a fatal form of the disease. The vaccinated patient recovered after an uneventful experience with a mild type of smallpox. There had been hesitancy in Prineville, however, to accept the smallpox diagnosis, and because of the delay in enforcing quarantine measures, 15 other cases developed. All of the patients had been vaccinated, after their first exposure, and only one died. The net results of the epidemic were 29 cases, with nine deaths, a mortality of 31 per cent. 'Of these 29,' the health board's bulletin says, '12 were unvaccinated,' the nine deaths representing a mortality of 75 per cent. Of 16 vaccinated patients, none died. The aged father of the girl previously mentioned is omitted from the review because it is believed that he may have been vaccinated in early infancy. Conclusive data, however, were lacking on this point.

"This experience of the Central Oregon plateau possesses high educational value, because it is one of few instances in which it has been possible to trace an epidemic from its source through its various stages and to obtain complete information bearing on the results of quarantine and vaccination. The penalty paid by those who wilfully evade the law was tragically severe. That the rest of the community escaped as lightly as it did was due to vigorous repressive measures, adopted and enforced as soon as the authorities were convinced of the gravity of the situation. There is a paragraph in the board of health bulletin that sums up graphically the evil train of consequences. It says:

"After the death of the young man from Pennsylvania, his uncle, who had bravely stayed with him and nursed him to the last, was fumigated and allowed to go. During the process of disinfection, a fresh vaccination scar was found on his arm. Asked what this meant, he replied:

"Oh, me and my nephew were exposed to smallpox back in Pennsylvania about a week before we started. I went and got vaccinated and told him he ought to go, too. He said he knew better.' . . .

"No comment would be adequate to the situation. Had that ignorant Pennsylvania farmer simply followed the dictates of commonest prudence, not only would his own life have been saved, but probably the lives of eight others, and all the suffering, wretchedness and paralysis of business of the epidemic avoided."

"The board at that time concluded that the series of incidents related were proof that 'one vaccination practically insures against death from smallpox, and two vaccinations confer immunity.' This conclusion as to duration of immunity from vaccination has not been fully confirmed by later observations and cautious authorities are inclined against over-confidence, although immunity in some degree is believed to extend over a good many years.

"The epidemic of 20 years ago attained the wide incidence that characterized it largely because of early confusion as to its identity, and reluctance to regard it as true smallpox. Its eradication was delayed by

the popular names given it, among them, 'Cuban itch,' 'Manila itch' and 'black measles.' Contrary to primitive notions of its origin, it has since been established that the epidemic was not started by our soldiers returning from Cuba or the Philippines. It first appeared in Florida in 1898, before war was declared. No case was recorded of appearance of the disease in a soldier on his return to Oregon from the tropics. Its recurrence in the eastern states in 1903 was traced to the Pacific coast; for some reason not explained it reached its maximum virulence in New York and Pennsylvania. There were nearly 2000 cases in Douglas county in 1901-2, of a mild type. Coos Bay had an epidemic numbering victims by hundreds and distinguished by its extreme virulence. 'In the towns,' said the bulletin, 'the panic was well under control and led to few or no unnecessarily severe measures. It was worse in the country, on the distant ranches and in the isolated sheep camps.' Isolation had operated against protective vaccination. 'I have never before happened to be in a community,' wrote the author of the bulletin, 'where so small a percentage had been vaccinated, even in infancy.' Also: 'Take the healthiest community in the world, let vaccination fall into abeyance, and you will have a soil prepared for the repetition of the horrible epidemic of the dark ages.'

What Next!

A New York man suggests the idea of training apes as bootblacks. 'That might go in New York, but Boston would never stand for such monkey shins.'—Boston Transcript.



JACK, PICKFORD in "A Double Dye Deceiver"

LIBERTY—SUNDAY AND MONDAY

SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Deschutes County.
Elizabeth Crosby and G. A. Crosby, her husband, plaintiffs; vs. Fred W. Gilson and W. H. Wallace, defendants.

To Fred W. Gilson, one of the above named defendants:
In the name of the State of Ore-

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gon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled case and cause on or before the 6th day of December, 1920, which is more than six weeks after the 23rd day of October, 1920, the date of the first publication of this summons, and if you fail so to appear and answer, for want thereof, the plaintiffs will apply to the court for the relief prayed for in the complaint, to-wit: For a decree of this court forever barring and foreclosing any and all right of the said defendants, and each of them, in and to the property described in the complaint as follows:

to-wit: Lots 7 and 10 in Block 20, of Highland addition to Bend, Oregon, according to the duly recorded map and plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Clerk of said Deschutes County, Oregon, or any part thereof, and that the contract mentioned in plaintiff's complaint be cancelled, and that defendants' right in and to said property and contract be forever cancelled, barred and held for naught, and that defendants have no interest there in, and for such other and further relief as to the court may appear just and equitable.

Service of this summons is made

upon you by publication thereof in The Bend Bulletin for six consecutive and successive weeks under and by virtue of an order made and entered on the 23rd day of October, 1920, by the Honorable T. E. J. Duffy, Judge of the above entitled court. The date of the first publication of this summons is the 23rd day of October, 1920, and the date of the last publication thereof is the 27th day of November, 1920.

E. O. STADTER,
Attorney for Plaintiff,
First National Bank Building, Bend,
Oregon.
118, 124, 130, 136, 142, 147c.



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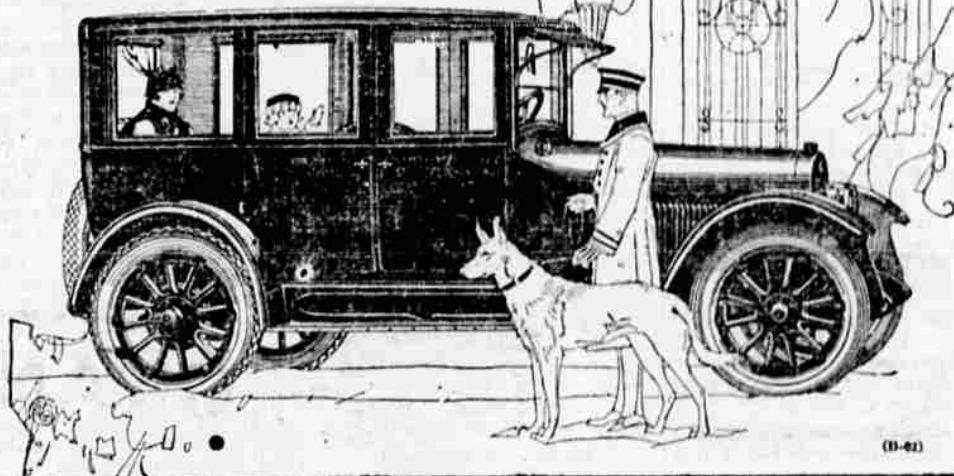
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