

Capital Journal

Salem, Oregon

An Independent Newspaper, Published every evening except Sunday

Telephone 51; news 52

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History Repeats Itself

Way back in the 50's a wave of secret society "patriotism," similar to that now deluging the land, swept over the nation to "preserve" it. It was known as the "American" party, but commonly termed the "Know Nothing" party, from the attitude of its members who when queried professed ignorance of the subject.

The Know-Nothing party took the form of a secret oath-bound organization and avowed hostility to the political influence of foreigners and Catholics in the government. It demanded the selection of none but native born American Protestants for office. The society was known as the "Supreme Order of the Star Spangled Banner" and exercised the secrecy and mysticism now practiced by its successor, the Ku Klux Klan, which has added the negro and the Jew to the list of the banned.

Starting in 1852, the Know-Nothing party had a rapid growth and aided materially in the disintegration of the Whig party. In 1855 the governors and a majority of the legislatures of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, California and Kentucky were elected by the new party and in 1856 it nominated Millard Fillmore for president, and while he carried but one state, Maryland, in the electoral college, he received a popular vote of 875,000. But the movement subsided as rapidly as it had grown, the majority of its members going into the Republican party.

Political movements having similar objects have been sporadic in the United States from the first and it was to allay the discord and dissension they engender as well as preserve religious toleration and freedom of conscience that the constitutional guarantees were enacted. A similar political agitation swept over the country in the 90's and was known by the name of "A. P. A." (American Protective Association) which also was secret, and centered its opposition upon Catholics. Such movements have usually been strongest in states where there was the lease excuse for them—states in which the Catholics were in hopeless minority.

Such a state is Oregon. The Know-Nothings had a rapid growth here, but were routed by Asahel Bush, who opened a strong attack and exposure through the columns of his paper the Salem Statesman, in 1854. He characterized the Know-Nothings as "the most ridiculous piece of bigotry, intolerance and stupidity grown persons were ever engaged in" and lived to see his prediction come true "that not a man of prominence or influence, belonging to the damning conspiracy in Oregon, but is doomed politically."

Similar movements have flourished since. In the 80's the "I. W. A." (Independent Workers of America) aimed against foreigners, but the Chinese in particular, aided materially in the election of Penney as governor, but their attempts to regulate matters by direct action, brought them into conflict with the courts and prison sentences evaporated their patriotism. In the '90's the "A. P. A." cut a wide swath and the old anti-Catholic spirit had a political revival in Portland a decade ago, which culminated in the organization of the "Federation of Patriotic Societies" with the Orange lodges as back-bone, followed by the organization of the Ku Klux Klan as the controlling influence in the federation.

With the so-called compulsory school bill which was slipped over on the Scottish Rite Masons at the instance of Ku Klux members of the lodge, (but which there is no record of its having been endorsed by the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M.) as a rallying point, religious intolerance is again being capitalized by unscrupulous politicians in an effort to ride to power on prejudice, though there is no state in the union which is less threatened by foreign domination or by Catholic control than Oregon, and no schools anywhere more under state regulation and no private schools of better standing.

There is one unflinching result from sporadic efforts to commercialize fanaticism, and that is that the common-sense of America sooner or later asserts itself and damns to political oblivion the false prophets who have led the people astray. The old members of the Know-Nothing party, like the leaders of the A. P. A.'s spent the balance of their lives trying to live down their part in the appeal to intolerance, and the same fate awaits those today leading the hosts of the secret societies and trying to destroy religious liberty, deprive parents of inalienable rights, and make children the wards of the state, that the unscrupulous may ride to power.

Pierce and the School Fund

To hear Walter M. Pierce, democratic-Ku-Klux candidate for governor talk, one would imagine that he was still a poor farmer, for as he says that he came to Oregon 40 years ago as a wandering boy. The assessed valuation of his property is \$253,000—and a fortune like this is not piled up by farming, even in 40 years.

Some light on the business methods employed by Mr. Pierce to amass this fortune is being shed by the press of the state, particularly by the Portland Telegram and the Oregon Voter, which detail at considerable length, subterfuges resorted to by Mr. Pierce to secure the use of large amounts of state school funds for many years at 6 percent interest, which he reloaned at higher rates.

The state school fund provides that no loan in excess of \$5,000 can be made to any single individual from the irreducible school fund on farm lands not to exceed one third the value of the property. The records show that in November 1903, Mr. Pierce deeded to relatives and friends five tracts of land, on each of which \$5,000 was borrowed from the state, and after the loans had been secured, the property was deeded back to Pierce, who assumed the mortgages. In addition, Mr. Pierce himself borrowed another \$5,000, making in all \$30,000 of state money secured by Mr. Pierce of which \$25,000 was in open violation of the law, whose object is to assist the small farmer, not the bonanza rancher or land loan shark. Because Mr. Pierce got more than his share of money other farmers of the state were denied state loans.

The state law requires that the loans be made for not over 10 years, but the records show that Mr. Pierce did not pay up the \$30,000 borrowed until September, 1915—twelve years after the loans were secured. The county records also show many transactions wherein Mr. Pierce was loaning money at 8 and 10 percent during this interval, sometimes as high as \$20,000 at a clip, for Mr. Pierce accumulated his wealth as a farm loan shark and not as a farmer.

Mr. Pierce admits that the charges made are true, declaring that securing \$25,000 from the state by fraud was not his worst deed. He declared "if that was the worst act I ever committed in this state, I would go to heaven in a white sheet." This leads the Oregonian to make the following pertinent query:

Will you, Mr. Pierce, as governor, being chairman of the state board, approve of loans in similar circumstances to the grant of a loan made to Walter Pierce in 1903—viz: through fake transfers of property, dummy ownership, false affidavits?

Will you?

PANTOMIME—By J. H. Striebel



Along State Street

Automobiles are more likely to go over than around you.

The most attractive figure of a woman: \$2.98.

Hunting a house is said to be one of the bes. exercises known.

Today's best question: How much coal have you in the cellar?

Not every motion picture hero shown on the screen in uniform has been overseas.

Love makes the world go round, but knocking a man on the head has the same effect.

Memory is just something that enables us to forget our joys and remember our sorrows.

It's a curious decree of destiny that the more money you make the more bills you receive.

Considering the success of the enormous sale of fake stock, the birth rate has evidently increased since Barnum's time.

People in a large town are judged by what they have on, while in a small town they are judged by what the neighbors have on them.

After we get about two automobiles per capita, we can all make a living in the garage business—and the shoe merchants can go to the poor house.

Politics is the art of making people go to the ballot-box to give you something for nothing on the strength of a promise you have no intention of keeping.

WHAT HAPPENED When Sheila Elliston Refused Love

By IDAH McGLONE GIBSON

An Astounding Revelation

It was my brother's voice I heard. I stood dumbfounded, transfixed. "Don't tremble so, Susanna, you're all right."

"But, Phil, I'm sure there was an automobile just ahead of us as we turned the corner. Where do you suppose it went?"

"I haven't the slightest idea. It was 20 feet ahead. It could not have seen us in this darkness and the rain. With the exception of that electric across the street over the entrance, every light for four blocks back is out."

Softly I moved backward until my heels touched the bottom step of a stairway four feet from where my brother, Phil, and Susanna Jones were standing. With the utmost care I mounted four steps of that stairway backward and seated myself on the fifth step. I was completely enveloped in stygian darkness.

I could not see either my brother or Susanna, but I could see plainly the place across the street marking another dark passage exactly like the one in which we were. "I am sorry we came. I am wet and cold and uncomfortable. I am sorry we came."

"But it was your suggestion, Susanna."

"I know it. I had a letter from my brother today. He tells me that he has a room on this street. I think it is over there."

"No Susanna, it is not over there. I really know it isn't."

"It might be anywhere about here."

"Why, don't you know that this is the most notorious house in this whole district? It is the rendezvous of the wreckage of all humanity, men and women. Even your brother, I am sure, would not go there."

"Well, he told me in his letter," continued Susanna, "that he was down here and your wife, Sheila, was with him. He said awful things to me Phil—things that turned my heart cold. He said I was something worse than a murderer. He must be mad and yet I cannot understand why Sheila, your wife, would give up everything, and come to him if he were not sane and she did not love him."

"Can you understand, Sue, that she might do this—all this—if she did really love him?" asked Phillip curiously.

"Yes, Phil. Because there is no-

thing in the world that I would not sacrifice for you. I flaunted my love for you and my disdain of convention at Atlantic City in the hope that some of the papers would mention it and your wife really would apply for a divorce.

"Phil, why did you make me love you, if you intended to marry someone else?"

"I intended to marry you, Sue, until I met Sheila. And then—God help me! My heart was wax in her little hand. Even now I cannot believe that she is what you say."

"Why, Sue, Kay loves her, loves her dearly and I believe would take her part against you."

"Probably your sister does not know what we know," answered Susanna.

"She certainly knows something, for the night Sheila promised to be my wife she went to my sister and told a story that I would not let her tell to me. And Kay, after hearing it, begged her to marry me. Don't you think, Sue, your father might have been mistaken?"

"Perhaps, but if he was, it only proves more conclusively that your wife loves my brother."

"I heard Phil groan and inadvertently my hand hit against a wall, my nails making a faint sound upon it."

"What's that, Phil. What's that?"

"Probably a rat, dear, the place is full of them. You know those houses are right over the water."

"Why did we come—why did we come?"

"Because you wanted to, because—"

"Let's go back now, Phil," she interrupted, and as she said it I knew that her lips were close to his face.

He pushed her, not too gently, aside, as he said, "No Susanna. We are going to see your brother to-night or in the morning. We are going to learn whether Sheila is there, whether she is with him or whether she has been with him. We are going to learn your brother's side of the story from your brother himself. Upon all this I am fully determined."

"You remember, Phil. You remember, dear, that I love you. If I have made mistakes, it is because I love you. And you will also remember, dear, that whatever my brother may say might possibly be the vagaries of a drug-diseased

mind. All we need to ask him, if Sheila is not with him or if she has been with him? And even then we will not be sure that his answer is not one from a mad man's lips.

"Let's go back home, Phil. I am cold and wet and weary. And I am afraid."

"Of what are you afraid?" Phil demanded somewhat roughly. "This was your suggestion. For the first time in your life you are going to carry it through. Whenever before you have made a statement or decided to do something that you did not want to carry out you backed out of it, whatever the cost it might be to others. Too much depends upon this night's investigation. Here we stay."

"Look, look, Phil, who is coming out of that house?" was Sue's tense question.

Tomorrow—The Unbelievable.

Sand Point, Idaho, Oct. 16.—After deliberating eight hours a jury in district court here today acquitted Samuel Clarke of second degree murder. Clark was accused of killing Bert Partridge on March 13, 1922.

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