PAGE FOUR

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL, SALEM, OREGON

nind. All we need to ask him, if sheila is not with him or if she has

en with him? And even then we

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1922



PANTOMIME-By J.H. Striebel

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plainly the place across the street you think, Sue, your father might narking another dark passage exact- have been mistaken ?" ly like the one in which we were. "Perhaps, but if he was, it only To hear Walter M. Pierce, democratic-Ku-Klux candidate and cold and uncomfortable. I am wife loves my brother." revenuer talk, one would imagine that he was still a poor servy we came." I heard Phil groan and inadver-"But it was your suggestion, Su tently my hand hit against a wall, my nails making a faint sound upon "I know it. I had a letter from it. y brother today. He tells me that "What's that, Phil. What's that ?" has a room on this street. "Probably a rat, dear, the place full of them. You know these think it is over there." "No Susanne, it is not over there uses are right over the water." Why did we come-why did we

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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 oathbound 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 "Su-preme 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 collage, 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. . . .

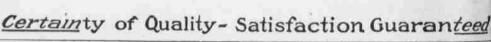
Political movements having similar objects have been sporadic in the United States from the first and it was to allay the discord and dissention they engender as well as preserve religious toleration and freedom of conscience that the constitutional guarantees were enacted. A similar political agitation 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 strong-

est 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 riduculous 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."

against foreigners, but the Chinese in particular, aided ma- promise you have no intention of keeping. terially in the election of Pennoyer 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 organiza-tion 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 all right." 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 unfailing result from sporadic efforts to commercialize fanaticism, and that is that the commonense 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 intelerance 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, de-pletely enveloped in stygian darks prive parents of inalienable rights, and make children the ness. I could not see either my tell to me. And Kay, after hearing wards of the state, that the unscrupulous may ride to power. brother or Susanno, but 1 could see it, begged her to marry me. Den't



Pierce and the School Fund

for governor talk, one would imagine that he was still a poor sorry we came." farmer, for as he says that he came to Oregon 40 years ago as a wandering boy. The assessed valuation of his property same. is \$253,000—and a fortune like this is not piled up by farm-"1 ing, 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, subter-fuges resorted to by Mr. Pierce to secure the use of large here." 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 irre-ducible school fund on farm lands not to exceed one third the value of the property. The records show that in Novem-ber 1903, Mr. Pierce deeded to relatives and friends five tracts of land on each of which \$5,000 can be made to any single individual from the irre-ducible school fund on farm lands not to exceed one third the value of the property. The records show that in Novem-ber 1903, Mr. Pierce deeded to relatives and friends five ber 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 with him, He said awful things going to learn whether Sheila is 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, mak-ing 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.

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 the state law requires that the loans be made for not over the might do this-all this-if she did really love him?" seked Phillip member, dear, that whatever my up the \$30,000 borrowed until September, 1915-twelve cariously 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, sometime as high as \$20,000 at a clip, for Mr. Pierce accummulated his wealth as a farm loan shark and not as a farmer.

Mr. Pierce admits that the charges made are true, de-charing 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 bard, approve of loans in similar circumstances to the grant of e loan made to Walter Pierce in 1803-viz: through fake transfers of property, dummy ownership, false affidavits? Will you?

"It might be anyplace about ome?

"Because you wanted to, be-"Why, don't you know that is cause

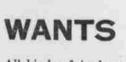
brother may say might possibly b "Yes, Phil. Because there is no- the vagaries of a drug-disense

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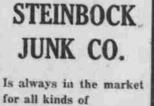
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