

Bandon Recorder

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THURSDAY..... June 3, 1909

The Man on the Salt Barrel

THE other day a Bandon man of a pessimistic turn of mind was sitting on a barrel of salt, condemning the country with every vociferous expression which his limited vocabulary could conceive. He stated in substance there was no land in southern Oregon worth having and that farmers and dairymen were about ready for the poorhouse. When his attention was called to a number of excellent ranches in the very community he was condemning and the fact shown him that these people were making all kinds of money, he admitted that he had not investigated that section and knew nothing about the conditions. Then with the wandering mind of a pessimist, when his foolish ideas were spoiled in one direction, he started on another path, this time condemning the system under which our country is run. Among other things he opined that this was a great country, that you could neither buy flour nor salt by the barrel any more. The gentleman to whom he addressed the remarks called his attention to the fact that he was then sitting on a barrel of salt to which he responded that he had never before heard of such a thing as a barrel of salt, at least not for a good many years, and again his vociferations were foiled. Thus it is with the pessimist, they go through life deaf, dumb and blind, refusing to hear the birds sing, post themselves on the fact that the sun shines, or see the beautiful spring flowers as they bloom forth in all their glory. They walk right over golden opportunities, and sometime the opportunities even jump up and try to stop them, but are given a shake and a curse, and the poor, blind pessimist goes on, stumbling along in the darkness, refusing to see the light. This same idea might be applied to many more people right here in Coos county. Men are every day walking over land that if properly developed, would keep a cow to the acre, the year-around, or raise fruit or vegetables enough to almost support a family, and yet they stumble along and say that the land is no good, simply because they are unwilling to put forth the effort of giving it a trial. But some men will move along in life, refusing to see the glories therein contained, and condemning everything that comes in their way, finally landing in the bottomless pit of disappointment and despair, all because they were either too stupid or too stubborn to be shown. In other words they sit on the salt barrel and ejaculate and expostulate and vociferate, while the other fellow comes up and gets all the salt, leaving them only the barrel. You can have the salt or the empty barrel, whichever you choose. The only condition is that you go after the salt.

IN THE course of the Calhoun trial there has been no more interesting or significant incident than that of the testimony of Rudolph Spreckels. It was brought out during that testimony that the total sum of \$213,391 had been contributed for the conduct of the graft prosecution, and that of this sum

Mr. Spreckels had furnished out of his own private purse \$138,478. Why did he do it? Honest men who appreciate and applaud what tends to rid municipal government of corruption, believe that he did it because he loved the city of San Francisco, and sought to deliver it from the hands of thieves. Dishonest men, men of easy conscience on the subject of hoodling, the satellites of astute and educated crookedness, all the hired men who are laboring in defense of the high class exploiter—these cannot imagine that Mr. Spreckels could have any other motive than they would entertain, namely, a dishonest and unworthy one—a greed-serving motive. Upon direct examination Mr. Spreckels was asked: "Why did you engage in this work of prosecution and spend this large sum of money?" To which he replied: "Because my interviews with Ruef had convinced me there was corruption in the city government, and because I believed it my duty to wipe out that corruption and place the community on a better and cleaner basis." The testimony relative to the disposition of the money, including a full statement of disbursements submitted to the court, reinforces this conclusion as to singleness of purpose on the part of the prosecution. It was shown in that statement for example, that Mr. Heney had refrained from accepting a cent for professional services, contributing that service as an offset against the money contributors of his coadjutors. A considerable sum was spent in providing protection against thugs and the desperado mercenaries of the defense. It may easily be recalled that when Mr. Heney spoke in San Francisco prior to the election of Eugene Schmitz he declared to the San Francisco people that if Schmitz should be elected they would ask him within a year thereafter to come back to San Francisco and send Schmitz and Abraham Ruef to the penitentiary. This fact corresponds exactly with the testimony of Mr. Spreckels as to the original intent of the prosecution. Mr. Spreckels said on the stand: "Mr. Heney volunteered to work without pay at the outset of the prosecution, at which time there was no intention of attempting to bring to justice any person other than Mayor E. E. Schmitz, Abraham Ruef and officials of the administration." The story of Mr. Spreckels appeals to honest men as an honest story; as a refutation of miserable calumny set afoot by broadclothed scoundrelism, and circulated by those people who would prefer to make a dollar out of municipal corruption than to live in a clean city.—Telegram.

IN VIEW of the fact that it usually requires weeks and sometimes months to secure the conviction of people of whose guilt there can be no possible doubt, it is most exasperating to hear of the conviction of the innocent. The national government is just now concerned with the case of Maj. Frank Del Carrington, who seems to have been the victim of the most monumental piece of court stupidity on record. Carrington was major in the First

infantry and in duty on the Philippines in 1905. He was charged with embezzlement and convicted in both the civic and military courts. By the former he was sentenced to sixty years' imprisonment and by the latter was dismissed from the service in disgrace—a service with which he had been actively identified since graduation from West Point twenty-seven years ago. The prison doors had no sooner clanged in front of Carrington than his wife and daughters believing in his innocence, began to work in his behalf. Four years of unremitting effort have resulted in bringing sufficient evidence before the United States supreme court as to convince that tribunal that a most outlandish miscarriage of justice has resulted in the conviction of an innocent man. Meanwhile the last dollar in the family exchequer has been spent. President Taft has appointed Mrs. Carrington to a clerkship for which she is said to be abundantly qualified and Senator Clay of Georgia is preparing a bill to restore Major Carrington to his place in the army. We can think of nothing more frightful than the conviction and severe penalizing of an innocent man. This newspaper cannot be accused of being an apologist for law violators, but if Washington is so thoroughly convinced that Major Carrington is a cruelly wronged man this government can afford to be lavish in its effort, to make all possible reparation for the injustice which has been done.—Des Moines Capital.

HERE and there are to be heard the usual annual admonitions and suggestions with reference to a "safe and sane" Fourth of July. For a number of years this sort of discussion has been going on; but upon the celebration of the last National birthday the record showed that we had accomplished little of practical effect. As it affects the city of Washington, D. C., residents of the Capital have evolved a plan to turn all the conduct of celebration activities over to the civic authorities, or, in lieu of that, to a publicly appointed committee. With especial reference to all kinds of fireworks, the proposition is to prohibit them entirely within fire limits. This does not mean that there is to be no fireworks display. On the contrary, one grand general display is planned for the evening that will relieve the celebration from any violation of traditions. The day's events will comprise the various features of a real old-fashioned celebration—a civic parade speeches and the usual games and amusements. This concentration of the fireworks end of the celebration is a suggestion for other communities to consider. It looks like a practical elimination of the nerve-racking noise and the maiming and life-destroying business by which the day is foolishly, not to say wickedly, characterized. It is really remarkable that such a great, sensible people as the Americans are, should have to surrender annually to an explosive spasm that costs so enormously in life and property. We have not failed to talk about the matter in a common-sense way; and after these years of talk we may as well act in practical fashion.—Telegram.

A MYRTLE Point man who is putting in a bowling alley recently had his fixtures shipped from Muskogee, Mich., and among other things was a bunch of shingles of such inferior quality that no self respecting building would have them around

its quarters. Wonder if the fellow didn't know there were shingles in Oregon. He could go to any shingle mill here and they would have been glad to give him better shingles, just to get them out of the way, and he would have saved the price of the shingles and the freight all the way from Michigan. In fact we have better wood, for every part of a bowling alley, right here in Coos county, than any of the shipped in stuff from Muskogee, or any other eastern town. The material was brought in here on a recent steamer and unloaded at the Central warehouse to be transported from here to the Point. The nerve of the importer was the subject of much jesting conversation by people who saw the goods.

THE United States last year raised 14,000,000 bushels of onions, worth \$10,000,000, and the department of agriculture estimates that the value of the 1909 crop will be twice as much. Yet the demand is so great that last year 1,400,000 bushels were imported from Bermuda, Spain, Egypt and the South Sea Islands. The Bermuda onion is milder than ours, but not so good a keeper, and is now being raised with great success in southern California and the southern states. As a rule, onions raised on land adapted to them are a profitable crop. They require rich, soft soil, of which there is much in several parts of Oregon. Moral: Raise more onions.—Journal.

THE courts of Missouri have decided that the evening meal is supper and not dinner. It is to be regretted that they did not go one step further and decide whether eating pie with a knife is a felony or simply a misdemeanor.

ROSES AND MARRIAGES

Make June especially notable and serve to bring to mind the importance of having good trellises for Oregon's famous climbing roses and of having suitable houses to be made into homes by married couples—whether newly arrived at that happy state or long accustomed to it. A climbing rose without a trellis is an ungainly object and a home without a house is almost an impossibility. Those owning Crimson Ramblers or desiring homes for themselves or others can get the lumber from us at any time.

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