

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

In the death of Herbert Spencer the world loses one of its greatest thinkers, authors and educators. A man of thorough culture, though not university trained, a man of real genius and thirst for thought, the foremost scholar of our day, honest and fearless in expression, and necessarily an agnostic, he has bequeathed to posterity a priceless heritage. Darwin's genius gave to our age the grand, divine truth of evolution. Spencer confirmed it and from it evolved, not the fall, but the ascent of man. All honor to the grand old philosopher—the world is better for his having lived.

Senator Mitchell has fired his first gun for the Lewis & Clark Fair, in a grand speech in the Senate that occupied two hours in delivering. It was listened to by some of the most prominent senators, the most influential men of that body. Every Oregonian in Washington occupied a seat in the gallery. Among other good things he said: "Let us, therefore, have an Exposition worthy the name of the illustrious men, and their grand achievements, in whose commemoration it is to be held; an Exposition worthy of the patriotic pioneers who established the foundations of a mighty empire of political and commercial power in the Far West; an Exposition worthy of the present generation of intelligent, stalwart and enterprising people now occupying the 'Oregon Country'; but above all, an Exposition worthy the cordial recognition and liberal aid of the National Government; an Exposition that will disclose not only to every one of the people of the United States, both of the mainland and islands, but also to the people of the Orient and of Europe, something of our present and rapidly increasing greatness as a people, and the present status politically, commercially and otherwise of one of the most interesting, virile and enterprising sections of the American Union."

France has made the amende honorable in the restitution of rank and honor to Albert Dreyfus—and the rankest piece of injustice, the greatest infamy of the nineteenth century has been atoned for. Dreyfus will be restored to the army, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and the regiment he will command has been chosen. Not only this, but the government has determined to deal rigorously with any officers who express disapproval of this reinstatement. But let us remember that out of this degradation of Dreyfus has come the greatest blessing that a country can receive—the rescue of the educational interests of the republic from the hands of the church. France has been a republic for many years. It could not have been a permanent condition as long as the education of her children was in the hands of it was. Today her schools are free from the blighting ban of ecclesiasticism that has always worked for the degradation of the people. The fight has been long and bitter, against the strongest foe a nation ever met and conquered. All honor to the grand heroes that rule France in this epoch of her history. Vive la Republique.

The proper officers of the government have given their report to the state authorities regarding the right of way necessary to be acquired before the government can proceed with the building of the Celilo canal.

The governor in reply to Major Langhitt, "regrets exceedingly" that the money now appropriated by the state cannot be used for the purpose of permitting the U. S. Government to commence at once on the canal, which he characterizes in his own words as follows: "The portage railroad can only be a temporary expedient, whilst the government canal would be permanent and would do more than it is possible for the state to do to relieve conditions in Eastern Oregon and

Washington." Yet his excellency makes no suggestion to the legislature towards forwarding this movement, but "hopes the General Government may yet, through its proper authorities, see its way to take the initiative both in the matter of securing title to a right of way and in the work of construction of a canal." The governor knows, as well as any man can know, that a portage railroad will be absolutely useless till the reef at the three mile rapids has been cleared away. This cannot, and will not, be done till the government starts on the canal. The canal can be completed in four years. How Governor Chamberlain can justify his course in wasting \$160,000 of the state's money in what he himself admits to be a "temporary expedient," and jeopardizing the construction of the canal in hopes the government will do what it says it will not do, passes our comprehension. But there is a chance that a democratic commissioner can be appointed on the work, and there has been so little pie for commissions of this complexion lately that the good of the state and the coast will have to wait till the feast is over. "To h— with the state, pass out the pie."

Prof. John D. Letcher, former professor of mathematics at O. A. C., in a recent letter from Highland Park College, to a friend in this city, says, "I have accepted the position of dean of the civil engineering department and professor of mathematics. My work is congenial and my surroundings pleasant. Everything is frozen up tight and has been so for ten days, and in winter, (I am told) the thermometer oscillates between zero and minus 30 degrees for weeks at a time, never getting above zero, even at midday. I hope I shall not freeze this winter."

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