

ROSEBURG REVIEW

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1887.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE LAWS.

The legislature of every state are besieged at every session with propositions to tinker the laws concerning marriage and divorce, and the legislature of Oregon is no exception to the experience of other states. Gov. Andrew of Massachusetts favored the confinement of divorce jurisdiction upon the probate court, a measure which many able jurists support, believing that a permanent tribunal like the probate court would investigate all suits for divorce with more thoroughness than it is possible for a supreme court judge, going around a circuit, to do. This change would be salutary, in our judgment. Beyond this, more can be done by strict marriage laws, which seek to prevent illegitimate and improper unions, or at least make them more deliberate and therefore more difficult. So long as bad marriages are made easy the annual crop of divorces will not diminish. Law might make it more difficult to secure a divorce, but law could not cure the evil state of moral and physical repulsion that sends people to the courts for relief. Practically there is no help for divorce by deliberate desertion, which is sure to follow a refusal of legal separation when the applicants are in earnest in their appeal.

There are two irreconcilable theories of divorce. The clergy have generally opposed the idea of marriage as a mere legal contract that may be set aside by the state, and agreed that divorce should only be granted for adultery; but the common sense of mankind conquers the narrowness of the church in the courts and in the legislature, and this kind of common sense is after all nothing but moral sense, purified from all superstition and bigotry by experience with the everyday working world that appeals to courts for justice and relief. Few states have consented to restrict legal divorce to adultery. New York is one of the oldest of our states, has a very intelligent rural population and a most enlightened civilization; its divorce laws are as strict as church can require, and yet its marriage laws are very loose and there are as many divorced couples, as many offenses against marital fidelity and public chastity generally among the rural population of the Empire state as there are in states where liberal laws on the subject of divorce are the rule. South Carolina never allowed divorce even for adultery, and yet there are as many persons of mixed black and white blood in South Carolina in proportion to our population as in any of the other of the old slave states, and there have been as many offenses against marital fidelity. Practically the limitation of divorce to adultery does not seem to abate the evils it is counted upon to cure, for society gains nothing by attempting to keep two persons together, who never ought to have been together, and have therefore become a source of chronic social discord and moral corruption to each other. Limitation of divorce to adultery only offers a premium for its commission by those desperately bent on separation. Humanity is against the voice of ecclesiastical law on this point, and says that desertion, chronic intemperance, intolerable severity defined with strictness, not accepted as a mere pretext, or a life of infatuated crime are fair grounds for divorce. A grossly dissolute man, a brutal husband, may make home a hell to an upright woman, demoralize and degrade both her and her children by his daily outrage of all her decencies of life, and this innocent woman must stay lashed for life to this moral corpse unless she is fortunate enough to be able to prove an act of adultery. A woman may be deserted by a vagrant husband without cause, and yet be obliged to struggle on alone with the load of children her loath husband has left her to carry, and nothing can divorce her, says the church, but death or adultery. The justice of humanity long ago refused to accept this doctrine, that no man shall be released from a wicked woman or a woman from a wicked man except for adultery. It is well to surround the institution of marriage with all the added restraints of religion, but there is a practical side to marriage which cannot be regulated or reformed by receiving the old ecclesiastical theory of marriage and divorce.

This old theory did not extirpate but rather promoted the growth of the social evil by keeping two persons together who could do no worse and might do better if divorced from a dead body of marital duties and affections. Crimes against the marriage relation seem to be as common in Catholic countries, where the church recognizes no divorce, as under the more liberal policy of Protestant countries. France, Austria and Italy are more corrupt in this respect than England or Prussia. It is no more possible to make people virtuous and happy in the conjugal sense by law than it is to make them temperate by law. There are certain economic advantages that can be secured to the state in the administration of conservative laws on the subject of divorce and marriage; but, after all, the increase in the number of divorces means something of deeper origin than laws can cause or cure. In a wide

sense an appeal for divorce means the confession of a man, low-toned idea of marriage on the part of man or wife which has resulted in a mutual moral inflammation that finally drives the injured party to the courts for relief. Of course there are exceptional cases where divorce is plotted on both sides, but, as a rule, the great mass of divorces are for cause; the explosion of a bad marriage; a marriage that never ought to have taken place, and seldom does take place where boys and girls are resolutely taught a noble and high-toned philosophy of marriage. We are not altogether sure but by the law which in some states permits parties divorced for adultery to marry new parties, secures better morals than the denial of the right to enter again the married state. Sound lawyers and upright men, like Gov. Andrew, argue with great force that lawful marriage of even people who have once abused it is better for society than concubinage; that it is not infrequent to find persons thus divorced leading lives of peace and fidelity in a second union, and it is not easy to answer this argument.—Oregonian.

THE GREAT ISSUE.

To EDITOR OF THE REVIEW: The great issue before the civilized world today is the liquor traffic, its evils and the best method to correct the same. It is unnecessary to go into any details of the wretchedness, misery, crime and poverty that flow directly from the liquor traffic as upheld, licensed, fostered, encouraged and legalized by the government of the United States. These evils are universally acknowledged and have in one form or another entered almost every American home. Our senses are dulled and blinded by the continual evidence of the inhumanity of this traffic. Its magnitude has been so far its greatest protection. But these evils are beginning to be dealt with according to an enlightened public sentiment. Maine, Kansas, Iowa and Rhode Island have set the example of sovereign states making the traffic in intoxicating liquors a crime, and in this manner, seeking to dig up the tree by the root. The southern states, by local option, have placed one-half of their counties under prohibition. The great state of Ohio by a splendid vote also enacted the prohibitory amendment, which was overruled by the supreme court in accordance with the demands of the liquor dealers. The territory of Dakota likewise in the constitution it proposes for its state government, by a vote of the people, has placed a prohibitory section. In fact, voters of Oregon, prohibition has always been carried when left to the voters of an American state. It is preeminently the American method of dealing with the liquor traffic. No one need have any fear of the result in Oregon. The liquor traffic will be routed, horse, foot and dragon in November next. The American people have listened to the only argument of the opposition, which briefly, is "you can't prohibit," and they spurn it. It is an insult alike to the manhood and the spirit of the age, and the descendants of the revolutionary fathers who "prohibited" English tyranny, and of that later generation who "prohibited" slavery, will vindicate their high opinion of American citizenship by "prohibiting" the liquor traffic. The battle is on and victory shall be with the right. S. F. FLOED.

The first fashionable season which the mistress of the White House has seen in her present position, closed a week ago. One feature of it at least, is worthy of note. Of the innumerable printed and spoken comments made respecting her, she herself says there has not been one hyper-critical remark that reached her. On the contrary they have been complimentary and kindly in the highest degree. When it is remembered that Mrs. Cleveland without experience, entered upon the most difficult social life a woman could attempt, and that she is the youngest mistress that the presidential mansion ever had; trusting solely to her own womanly instincts, good breeding and good heart, it is not speaking too strongly to say that her success has been really wonderful.

Mrs. Lohr left for Dallas on Thursday's freight as the train halted at the station, she was met by her better half with a conveyance to bear them to their new home which Mr. L. purchased of Ulysses Rice opposite Dillard station. Mr. and Mrs. L. have all the chance to enjoy a country life everything around them to welcome them even the state of the lamb to the whinny of the horse as soft and tremulous tone can often be heard about the house and secluded spots. Home sweet home, he it ever so humble there's no place like home. VIOLET.

Notice for Publication

Last Office at Roseburg, Or. Feb. 24, 1887.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE following land settler has filed notice of his claim to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the Register or Receiver at Roseburg, Or., on Thursday, April 14, 1887, viz:

Homestead Entry No. 3242 for the N 1/4 of S 1/4, S 1/4 of S 1/4 and E 1/4 of S 1/4, section 10, T. 26 N. R. 13 W. It names the following witnesses to prove his claim: Hiram Barker, Thos. Shrum, Wm. C. Johnson, J. F. Barker, all of Roseburg, T. O. Douglas county, Or.

Chas. W. Johnson, Register.

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THE POCKET VETO.

ROSEBURG, March 15, 1887.

Mr. Editor: Upon the subject of the amount of money unexpended from former appropriations and yet available on rivers and harbors in which Oregon is interested the Oregonian of the 8th of this month contains the following item:

"An Oregonian man called on Capt. Charles F. Powell, U. S. Engineers, yesterday, to inquire the amount in his hands still unexpended. Capt. Powell did not have exact figures at hand, but gave from memory the following statement, which is approximately correct:

Month of the Columbia R. about \$180,000

Yanquina bay a little less than 70,000

Cool bay 10,000

Couville river 10,000

Cascades canal 130,000

The appropriations for rivers expending into Puget sound have been about half used up.

The office of Major W. A. Jones was visited for the purpose of learning what amount remained for the lower Columbia and Willamette, upper Columbia and Snake, and upper Willamette, but that officer was not in."

Now then, when the facts are ascertained and the figures added up it will be found that there is an unexpended balance in the treasury in favor of the Columbia and its tributaries, and for the improvement of our harbors of eight to a half million dollars. The Oregonian of Monday last Senator Mitchell for the statement that Senator Mitchell says that sixteen million dollars of the last appropriation for this kind of work throughout the United States remain unexpended, and yet some people grumble that Cleveland has not sanctioned the appropriation of more to remain until for a year at least. A glutton might desire to eat two meals at one sitting, none other would. The appropriation of money for the mere glory of doing so is not right; it is neither wisdom nor patriotism. You must remember Mr. Editor that congress has about seven regular appropriation bills to pass each session. On the first day of the session each body is furnished with plain, intelligible estimates of what is required, carefully prepared by the various departments. There is no reason why these measures should not pass within the first eight weeks and the president given ample time to examine them and not rushed as he is at the end of each session. Congress could then devote their leisure to private interests and public business. It should also be remembered that many items creep into the river and harbor bill that greatly prejudice its approval upon constitutional grounds to the disparagement of meritorious measures. The appropriation of public money to improve local rivers, having their rise and flow exclusively in one state, never was and never should be democratic policy. It is contrary to the teachings of Monroe and other wise and good men of that party.

On this 13th day of March, 1887, before me, John Lane, a Notary Public in and for said county, personally appeared, Asher Marks, D. S. K. Buick, J. W. Mullen, S. C. Flint and Chas. W. Johnson, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and they are severally duly acknowledged to me, that they executed the same for the purpose therein expressed.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this day and year above written.

[SEAL.] JOHN LANE, Notary Public.

The incorporators of the "Oregon Southern Pacific Coast & Utah Railway," met on the 17th in the parlors of the Douglas county bank, and organized a business by electing Asher Marks, D. S. K. Buick, J. W. Mullen, S. C. Flint, Chas. W. Johnson, Secretary; S. C. Flint, Treasurer. The Secretary will open books for subscription to the capital stock of the company shortly.

Items scarce.

Another vacant house of Riddle's has at last found an occupant.

Boase Riddle of Medford is with us again, he remembers his namesake (Riddle).

Miss Sarah Rice and Miss Windie of Dilbaris are visiting relatives, Mrs. Alice Riddle of Riddle's.

We have been having some very warm days the last two weeks, which seem more welcome after the many dreary days of the past.

Our city now affords a first class singing school, it consists of 23 scholars and is conducted by Mr. Robinson who is a late resident in this place.

Miss Mellicie Quinn and Mr. Sydney Myatt of Riddle started for W. T. on Monday's train where they intend spending a few of the hot summer months with their relatives.

Mrs. B. F. Lohr of East Portland arrived at our little bag Saturday last accompanied by her brother William Webber, the latter being at Portland for medical treatment. Mr. W's health is slowly improving.

Miss Mellicie Quinn's return home on Monday's train from Roseburg, where she has been employed as assistant teacher in the public school at that place. Miss Mellicie now has charge of our school and we know she will do her part as a teacher.

Old Mail and Mollie seem to take quite an interest in the violets. Old Mollie always worry about something so she can rest her mind about violets, she stood the wintry blasts of the past and now the spring days have come. I feel satisfied of my situation that I feel disposed to emigrate to a spot where violets prevail in the snow to the end of the year is impossible.

Old Mollie has queer notions of their own.

Mrs. Lohr left for Dallas on Thursday's freight as the train halted at the station, she was met by her better half with a conveyance to bear them to their new home which Mr. L. purchased of Ulysses Rice opposite Dillard station. Mr. and Mrs. L. have all the chance to enjoy a country life everything around them to welcome them even the state of the lamb to the whinny of the horse as soft and tremulous tone can often be heard about the house and secluded spots. Home sweet home, he it ever so humble there's no place like home. VIOLET.

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OREGON SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST & UTAH RAILWAY.

Articles of Incorporation of the Oregon Southern Pacific Coast & Utah Railway.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we, the undersigned, have this day associated ourselves together for the purpose of incorporating under the laws of the State of Oregon, a corporation, to be known by the corporate name of "Oregon Southern Pacific Coast & Utah Railway."

And we hereby certify that the objects for which this corporation is formed are:

For the purpose of locating and securing the right of way, and also for the building, operating and owning said Railway above named. The initial or starting point of said Railway shall be at or near Salt Lake City, Utah Territory; thence westerly by the most practical route, across the Territories of Utah and Idaho, to the headwaters of the North Umpqua River, in the Cascade Range. State of Oregon; thence down said River to a point near the mouth of the East Fork of the North Umpqua River, in Douglas County, Oregon; thence by the most practical route to the city of Roseburg in said Douglas County; thence down the South Umpqua River, to its junction with the North Umpqua River; thence down the said last named River, to a point near the town of Elkton in Douglas County, intersecting with the Umpqua Valley and Drain Railroad, at or near said town of Elkton.

That its principal place of business shall be in Roseburg, Oregon.

That the period of its existence shall be ninety-nine years.

That the number of its incorporators are five, namely: Asher Marks, D. S. K. Buick, J. W. Mullen, S. C. Flint and Chas. W. Johnson.

That the capital stock shall be One Hundred Thousand Dollars, divided into one thousand shares of one hundred dollars each. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 12th day of March A. D. 1887.

ASHER MARKS, J. W. MULLEN, D. S. K. BUICK, S. C. FLINT, CHAS. W. JOHNSON.

State of Oregon, County of Douglas, ss.

On this 13th day of March, 1887, before me, John Lane, a Notary Public in and for said county, personally appeared, Asher Marks, D. S. K. Buick, J. W. Mullen, S. C. Flint, Chas. W. Johnson, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and they are severally duly acknowledged to me, that they executed the same for the purpose therein expressed.

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