

The Herald

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Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, JAN. 5, 1912.

CONGRATULATION

We feel to congratulate the good people of the State of Oregon upon the recent decision, by Judge Wm. Galloway in the suit filed by H. H. Belt of Dallas releasing the money appropriated by the last legislature for a dormitory at the Oregon Normal from the action of the referendum.

It is but fair to say this was an entirely friendly suit and the Hon. Secretary of State, Attorney General Crawford as well as the other attorneys stipulated by mutual agreement on accepted facts. It was clear that errors had crept in and the attorneys representing the parties to the referendum movement readily and willingly expunge a large number of names, thus reducing the number of names filed far below the required number. This is a broad spirit of fairness that commands itself to all. This action renders it possible for the Board of Regents to proceed with the dormitory building and they can have it easily available for the opening of school in September.

This is a large benefit to the people of the entire State for it makes it possible to supply their sons and daughters, who are attending school with accommodations at a minimum rate. While the good people of Monmouth have been most hospitable in opening their homes to the students, yet there are advantages that accrue to the students in a dormitory, not otherwise obtainable, and makes it possible to supply board and room at practical cost.

Since the people of the State in an initiative bill by a large majority established the Oregon Normal here and placed it on a millage basis we are sure that this action will meet their hearty commendation.

RESOLVE,—RESOSVING,—RESOLVED.

This is 1912 and those resolutions, doubtless, have all been made, perhaps, with one exception, and that one is, the resolution to faithfully keep those resolves.

But, what have you resolved as to the future of your city, or have you left it out of the list as a possibility which has no future, or one which time may care for with no thought or other regard to its future growth and greatness.

When we take a retrospective view of the past year and the course we have pursued, we are apt to think most of self and selfish interests, and make our resolutions accordingly, and if we have been pursuing some course that is detrimental to our own existence, we sometimes resolve. But if the thing from which we desire freedom has

fastened itself upon us because of fleshly lusts, or upon our mental faculties because of the desires thereof, we have a fight upon our hands and unless there is a great desire to overcome, backed by an indomitable supply of will power, we lose out in the battle—speaking from the standpoint wherein man alone is the moving power in the reform attempted.

It is right and just that a person should resolve to get rid of their defects, but such resolutions should carry the higher purpose to not only become free from defects, but to develop and make of ourselves that which a wise designer decreed that we might attain.

Then if we become active and improve ourselves our influence should reach out and take hold of our environment, and as we improve self let us also improve our town and see if we cannot realize some of the possibilities that lie buried in inactivity around us.

We often see people who are waiting for reform and future repose—heaven if you please—but they plod on in the same old path; no development; no particular activity—only waiting for the transformation to the other shore. Well when they get over there we are told that they will be rewarded for works, hence, we conclude that it is better to work while here, and if we work, wisely and diligently, we may enjoy a reward on this side the dividing line as well.

Then if we desire better conditions, and better surroundings let us not only resolve but think and work for better conditions and greater improvements. Who will be the first to lift up a standard?

IT IS CONSTITUTIONAL.

Political enemies of Governor West have howled until they are hoarse that he has annulled the constitution by the adoption of his prison policy. But it is now shown that the governor's policy is more nearly in accord with the spirit and the letter of the constitution than was the old time penitentiary policy. Article 1, section 15 of the state constitution says:

"Law for the punishment of crime shall be founded on the principles of reformation, and not of vindictive justice."

This clause shows the general sentiment of the constitution and with this sentiment Governor West's policy is in full accord. The West policy is to give prisoners a chance to reform and make good. They are handled in such a way that their future is "up to them" and they are impressed with the idea of self responsibility. The greater part of those so treated appreciate their opportunities and do make good.

The West prison policy, in its main features at least, is absolutely right and it will succeed if given a good fair trial. Furthermore it is legal and in complete compliance with the constitution. The old time policy to which such sheets as the Portland Oregonian would have the state return is not in conformity with the constitution.

But sheets like the Oregonian are not fighting West's prison

policy and people are foolish who give any heed to what they say about that policy. They are fighting Governor West because they don't like his political and economic views. They are Tories and he is a liberal. They think his prison policy gives them an opportunity to discredit him and they are trying him out. If the governor were a reactionary instead of a progressive the Oregonian would laud his prison policy.—East Oregonian.

Where La Follette Stands.

La Follette has invaded Ohio upon his campaign for the presidency and he is striking hard. Fighting Bob has decided views which he does not care to express. He favors the recall of judges and says that one of society's greatest menaces is the crooked judge. He says a judge that is honest won't be disturbed by the recall. Henceforth the country need have no doubt as to where La Follette stands upon this subject.—East Oregonian.

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