

The Herald

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Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19, 1912.

A GOOD SIGN.

One of the best signs for future prosperity, is the tendency toward inspiring the youths of our state to reach out into agricultural pursuits and other occupations which will prepare them for lives of usefulness after school days have been completed.

In another column will be found a communication from L. R. Alderman, superintendent of public instruction, who is working to accomplish this end and to instill a desire for agriculture, stock-raising, etc., in the minds of school boys and girls.

WHERE THEY LEAD WE'LL FOLLOW.

The political forces are aligning for the—shall we say the march onward to the national capitol? Well, hardly, but for the scramble for office and the patronage that goes therewith.

During the next few months the saviors of the nation, from all factions, will parade or extoll their many virtues, and their great ability and desire for the welfare and progress of the country wite a "vote for us and we will do you good."

There will be platforms to run on but none to stand on, and should some over conscientious winner insist on making his promise good he would very likely discover that he was on the "rocky road to Dublin," and his constituents, the Oil Trust, the Coal Trust, the Beef Trust together with the other members of the Trust Family, proceed to deal out some Trust advice and medicine which would cause him to shrink about ten degrees and disclose his actual insignificance when compared with those who dictate the policy of the administration.

We have, or ought to have, the best government under the Sun, because it is founded upon the best foundation, but we have left the foundation principles to a large extent and let party spirit and greed blind us to a degree that is detrimental to the best interests and welfare of the nation as a whole.

When a campaign is on the situation reminds us of a band of sheep when the leader breaks from restraint and leaps over the precipice—the rest follow. In the case of the sheep destruction comes to both leader and follower, but in the political field the leader is not blinded by partizanism; he has his axe to grind and his selfish propensities keep him wide awake to his purpose and true to his slogan he, or they, do their followers to a brown finish.

Generally speaking, we'll all fall in line and "whoop-er-up" for the next nine months, but when the votes are counted Wall

Street will be in the saddle and riding as usual.

MR. HITCHCOCK—SOCIALIST

To what base purpose is this, our Government, administered that we should hear the head of one of its departments recommending such rank socialism as the public ownership and operation of telegraph lines?

This recommendation of the Postmaster-General is not alarming except as the name socialism may have terror for us. Logically, the telegraph service, being purely a service of communication, may be incorporated with the management of the postal service, and probably would have been so incorporated if, as a service, it had been in existence at the time the postoffice was established. But, theoretically, it is held that the telegraph having started in life as a private business, it must so continue its career to the end.

It is true that in the experience of other countries, logic has been sustained and the theory crippled; but vested interests have shouted "Socialism!" and the rest of us have been terrified by it.

It is about time that we should begin to discuss all these various matters, looking to a new adjustment of governmental relations toward industrial enterprises that are essentially monopolies, without being disturbed by any hysterical fear of socialism. Those are matters to be considered on their merits, just as if there were no such word as socialism in the entire vocabulary. That seems to have been the spirit in which Mr. Hitchcock has grappled with this matter of telegraph service. The question now arises: Will Congress and the country discuss the matter in a similar spirit?—Telegram.

THE MYSTIC ORIENT.

Leisure and Languor Dominate Life in the Far East.

The Turk in spring will sit on the hillsides and smoke and dream for ten minutes at a time, sometimes for hours. They call it making "kef." When you have a Turkish student who makes "kef" in class he is hopeless. No part of the lesson sinks into his mind. He speaks when you call on him and tries to answer your questions, but his thoughts are far away.

I have stood leaning against our terrace wall in the beauty of spring and gazed for fifteen minutes at a time at certain shrubs and flowers which were bright with sunshine until my thoughts seemed to soar away beyond the confines of space and of time. It is as easy to be mystic in the east as it is to be practical in the west. The difference between the east and the west, in a word, is this: Here we do not like to sit down; there they do not like to get up. Here leisure is a sin; there it is a virtue.

Our American habit of crowding every moment, of seeking recreation in violent and exciting forms, is the result of our climate. It is hard to sit still and relax and desire nothing, not even amusement. Such a life, feverish in its activity, does not make one really happy and is bound to lead at last to a breakdown.

In the east one does not have to do something in order to be happy. One does not have to plan theater parties, games, crowded excursions, in order to be happy. One is happy merely to exist. One can sit down and be happy. Repose is as natural as activity is to us.

For this reason I have often thought that the east may in time become our great sanitarium. Just as the orientals who come to our country learn to work and to hustle, so Americans who go to the

east learn to repose. A few years there will change one's restless, nervous habits into calm and poise. You cease to worry about things. Desire, which is the chief source of our anxieties, falls from you. If you can't do a thing you have planned on you say: "Never mind. It is not important." If there is something you need, but cannot get, you say, "Well, I can do without it." If there is a play you want to see, but cannot; a trip you want to make, a friend you want to visit, and things stand in the way, you say, "Some other time." Thus the east creeps in upon you with its laziness, its repose and its feeling of resignation, and you grow fat and healthy and forget that you have nerves.

Reader, if you want to know what paradise is on this earth visit Constantinople and the Bosphorus in the month of May.—Boston Transcript.

The Welsh Tongue.

The confusion of tongues had done its destined part, work on the tower of Babel being pretty much suspended, when all at once Welsh emerged from the racket. The sound of consonants being pronounced without the help of vowels was at once seen to cause no small uneasiness in high quarters.

"No use overdoing the business!" these hastily exclaimed and forthwith called a halt.

As for Welsh, what was done could not, of course, be undone, but the ensuing distribution of languages happily relegated it to the remote corner of a remote island of the sea, so that the embarrassment was by no means what it might have been.—Puck.

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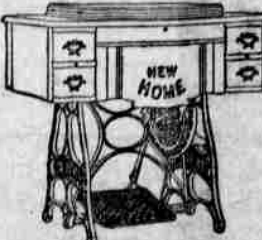
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