

The Herald

D. E. STITT, Editor.

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Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13, 1912.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

The subject of capital punishment is coming before the voters of Oregon in a very pronounced manner, this fall, and as each voter must shoulder the responsibilities connected therewith, it is but proper that each should try to study the subject and register his decision from an intelligent survey of the premises.

There is much being said for and against the measure, from different viewpoints, some quoting scriptures in favor of executing the criminal, while others quote passages from the same source and argue in favor of its abolishment.

While we do not wish to influence any person for or against the abolishment of the death penalty further than reason may be applied, yet we will try to analyze some of the arguments set forth.

Some seem to think that there is a direct responsibility that rests upon a judge and jury for the sentence imposed and upon the executioner who carries the law into effect which weighs them down like a pall of murder, but we do not understand that such is the case in the light in which it is held out.

It is true there is responsibility resting upon the judge and jury, and the utmost care should be taken that they make no mistakes, but it is the law that condemns and the law which executes. All that a jury does is to say whether the person is guilty or not guilty when the person is brought before them and the evidence has been heard. They are not asked to pronounce sentence upon the accused. All that a jury does is to say, after hearing all the evidence, whether the person being tried is guilty or not, and if there is doubt in the mind of the juror the prisoner is entitled to the benefit of the doubt. When the prisoner is found guilty the law fixes the penalty and executes him, or her, as the case may be, and there is no taint of murder attached to either jury, judge or executioner providing each has done his part with an honest, conscientious purpose.

However, there are other things to consider, and one is the part which the prosecuting attorney plays in criminal prosecution. This officer being in the employ of the state one would naturally suppose that it is his duty to see that the person under trial has justice done him or her, that the state was only interested in getting at the facts in the case and dealing out punishment where it is deserved, but the practice is the reverse of such a course and the prosecuting attorney seems to think that his reputation is at stake, and we believe there are instances where such state officers would convict the person on trial if it be possi-

ble to do so, though they are morally certain that the evidence does not warrant such conviction.

Many men of prominence have left to posterity their objections to capital punishment among whom are Thomas B. Reed, William Lloyd Garrison, Henry Ward Beecher, Benjamin Franklin, John Quincy Adams and others, while the following is credited to General N. M. Curtis, who said:

"During my four years and eight months of military service, I had opportunity to observe the effects of many executions under martial law; I came to believe firmly that they were in every case demoralizing and destructive to discipline. These convictions against the efficiency of the death penalty have been strengthened as I have become better acquainted with the evil effects of executions under civil laws."

There are several states in the Union which have abolished capital punishment, and none of them are inclined to return to the old way, and the same is true of countries which have abolished the custom. Then there is always the chance of remedy when a mistake has been made if the condemned is living but there is no chance for justice after life is extinct.

Innocent persons have suffered because of false testimony, and under the strenuous prosecution of men striving to attain a reputation for success, others who are innocent or comparatively so, are likely to suffer in the future, hence, taken altogether there is certainly no good reason for retaining the barbarous custom.

Children at the Fair.

This year, the children of the state of Oregon have had their innings at the Salem State Fair as never before. And in passing, one needs to stick a pin in this fact, the children have given such account of themselves that the people of Oregon have good reason to be proud of them.

Let any citizen who takes an interest in such matters, and every citizen ought to do so, read the list of premiums awarded the youngsters for exhibits of farm produce from ducks to onions, covering practically the entire field of agricultural production. If a perusal of that list does not establish the conclusion that the movement for stimulation of interest in agriculture among the boys and girls of the state is of the greatest benefit to the commonwealth, then it is impossible to make plain any proposition susceptible of clear and convincing demonstration. The showing that the children of the state have made at the State Fair is proof positive that the movement for agricultural education along popular lines, and in a practical and experimental way is a success; and that it not only assures immediate benefit, but gives promise of a sounder industry and a better citizenship in future. It is convincing evidence that we are on the right road.

We may as well remember that it is not alone among the children who have put on exhibits at the State Fair that the heaven is working. In the fam-

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Monmouth, - - - Oregon

ilies to which those children belong there is a higher tone of industry and citizenship than formerly obtained, and in hundreds, if not thousands of other families composed in part of other children, the same excellent principles of industry, thrift and pride in the sort of progress that counts are actively at work. No man can properly estimate the benefit of it all, to the children and to the state at large.—Portland Telegram.

No. 10,071 REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE First National Bank

At Monmouth, in the State of Oregon,
at the close of business, September
4th, 1912.

RESOURCES	
Loans and discounts	\$ 94,803.27
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	619.94
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation	15,000.00
Other bonds to secure Postal Savings	2,000.00
Bonds, securities, etc.	31,354.19
Banking house, furniture, and fixtures	11,000.00
Due from state and private banks and bankers, trust companies, and saving banks	3,813.00
Due from approved reserve agents	34,110.95
Checks and other cash items	218.40
Notes of other National Banks	65.03
Fractional paper currency, nickels, and cents	226.18
Specie	14,902.40
Legal-tender notes	14,902.40
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent of circulation)	750.00
TOTAL	\$209,058.83
LIABILITIES	
Capital stock paid in	30,000.00
Surplus fund	10,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid	4,128.17
National Bank Notes outstanding	14,400.00
Dividends unpaid	206.00
Individual deposits subject to check	119,361.79
Demand certificates of deposit	917.71
Time certificates of deposit	27,793.25
Certified checks	25.25
Cashier's checks outstanding	912.65
United States Deposits, Postals Savings Deposits	1,284.21
TOTAL	\$209,058.83

State of Oregon, }
County of Polk, }
I, Ira C. Powell, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
IRA C. POWELL, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of September, 1912.
P. E. CHASE,
Notary Public.

CORRECT—Attest:
J. B. V. BUTLER,
JOHN B. STUMPF,
F. S. POWELL, } Directors

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Church Directory.

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W. A. GUEFFROY, Pastor.
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Evening service at 7:30 o'clock
Sunday School at 10:00 a. m.
Y. P. A. Meeting at 6:30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday evening.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

W. A. WOOD, Pastor.
Morning Service at 11 a. m.
Evening Service at 8:00 p. m.
Sunday School 10:00 a. m.
Y. P. S. C. E. 7:00 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:30 p. m.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

Preaching Service, 11:00 a. m.
Sunday School, 10:00 a. m.
B. Y. P. Union, at 6:30

W. C. T. U.

Local Union meets every second and fourth Friday in the Evangelical church at 2:30 p. m.

B. F. SWOPE,

Attorney at Law and Notary Public.

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Independence, - Oregon

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