

The Independent Newspaper

Although the great American newspapers have achieved, through the development of their news service, a practical political independence, the old political thralldom has been succeeded by a commercial thralldom more insidious and more dangerous to the welfare of society. This striking statement is made by Samuel Bowles, himself proprietor of the Springfield Republican, one of the leading independent papers of America, in an illuminating article in The North American Review. It has come to pass, he tells us, that a party organ of the old-fashioned type can not be successfully maintained. But instead we have "the cheap newspaper" of many pages, selling often at wholesale for less than the cost of the paper on which it is printed, and dominated by the advertiser, "who pays all the other heavy expenses and the profit." Under these conditions the motto of an old Salem newspaper, "Hark shall the Press the People's case maintain, Unswayed by finance and unbribed by gain," might seem a counsel of unattainable perfection. Nevertheless, asserts Mr. Bowles, the press today not only stands for the rights and interests of the people, but on the whole, "represents them more efficiently than ever before." It does this by its daily presentation of each day's history of the whole world. Thus, as Mr. Bowles goes on to say:

"Even the corrupt and dependent press is compelled to publish the news. It cannot hope to exist if it fails to do so. The possession of the news, the knowledge of the world's daily life, thought, movement, constitutes the most effective weapon for the protection of society. Justice and truth flourish in the light of publicity. Iniquity and wrong dread it and are ultimately cured by the influence which flows from its illuminating rays."

The modern editorial page, moreover, has become "the most important part of the news-giving mechanism of the press," its function being "to illuminate, to suggest, to inform, to expose, rather than to persuade or denounce." Although maintaining "that the press as a whole serves the people efficiently, Mr. Bowles is unable to make certain "yellow" journals "so-called" harmoniously in his optimistic general survey. We read: "When the individual citizen neglects his civic duties, the community and state suffer; but when the newspaper, with its exceptional facilities for influence, is directed or prostituted to its powers, the effect is far-reaching and momentous. It is obviously the province of every newspaper, seeking public support, that it stands for the public enlightenment and welfare."

Even though it have no editorial opinions to express, and be simply an organ of information, it professes to publish things that are true and to be so far an honest servant of those who buy it. It is, then, a national misfortune that so large a section of the American press, under the operation of commercial influences, has been led into the adoption of methods and practices which are essentially dishonest. I refer especially to the exaggerations and misrepresentations which characterize the so-called "yellow press." The predominant tone of this journal is a painful and distressing scream which manifests itself in dreadful typographical effects, and to which the advertisers are encouraged to add their discordant notes."

The writer believes the independent newspaper to be "the most vital instrument that democratic society can produce for its own advancement and protection," and concludes: "It is my hope, my ambition, that the independent newspapers of the future shall become, as the

years roll on, more and more truly apostles of an industrious peace, not only for the sake of the highest and best development of this nation, both spiritually and materially, but for the advancement of liberty, justice and enlightened democratic government throughout the world."

Queer Story From Japan

There has always been current a story about Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln, not having been killed, as officially reported, by the pursuing posse. And other incidents of a similar nature have lent a romance and interest to the otherwise dull chronicles of history at various times, among them being that of the great field marshal, Ney, who is said to have escaped the bullets of his executioners to live for many years afterward in America.

The latest story of this kind comes from Japan and credits Sir Hector MacDonald, the famous British general who is supposed to have committed suicide to escape disgrace, with being the real leader of the Japanese army in the late war with Russia. MacDonald is said to be none other than the brilliant General Kuroki, whose exploits aroused unbounded admiration in military circles in all parts of the world.

It is pointed out that Sir Hector and General Kuroki look so much alike that it is difficult to distinguish between photographs of the two; that Sir Hector was at one time asked by the Japanese government to take command; but his suicide was altogether mysterious and his burial equally so. Further, it is held that Kuroki's strategy was exactly like MacDonald's. Therefore the gossips have it that the intrepid leader, anxious to drop out of sight of the world in which he had moved, practiced the deception of pretending to commit suicide, putting a dummy in the coffin supposed to contain his remains, and then seeking seclusion in Japan.

An added interest to this latest story of the mysterious reappearance of one supposed to be dead is the fact that the Scotch general is credited with mighty performances. But this difference from the usual run of such legends is possibly due to the fact that Booth and Ney lacked the opportunity that came to MacDonald. There was no Japan to which Ney could repair and masquerade while leading armies to great achievements; there was no power of great potentiality where such a man could lose his identity and successfully palm himself off upon the world as one of another race.

To add to the legend which has thus been founded respecting MacDonald, it is said that the Japanese themselves claim that Kuroki has a large admixture of Caucasian blood in his veins; that he was educated abroad, and that he has had a history that cannot be fully revealed. Moreover, the busy correspondents delving into the mystery declare Kuroki has now dropped out of sight, as though fearful that his identity will be discovered by a prying world.

Ambitious Mr. Hearst

Wm. R. Hearst, who has had a great desire to edit a dozen or more yellow journals from the White House, seems apparently swamped by the onward sweep of the Bryan tidal wave. He recently declared that he would not be a candidate for president, but stood ready to support Bryan or any other Democratic leader, except Senator Bailey, whom he designated as a representative of the trusts and corporations. However, sincere this declaration may be, Hearst certainly has not let go his ambition to become governor of New York, as a stepping stone no doubt to higher honors. His supporters confidently assert that they will land their leader in the Albany state house with 100,000 votes to spare.

Hearst showed remarkable strength in the last national convention and a comparison with the Roosevelt vote in the states that were out-and-out for Hearst shows that the New Yorker was coupled with the president in many of the Western states.

The votes received by William R. Hearst for the presidential nomination in the Democratic national convention at St. Louis in 1904 were as

follows: California, 2; Colorado, 5; Florida, 4; Illinois, 54; Iowa, 29; Kansas, 19; Maine, 1; Minnesota, 19; Nebraska, 4; Nevada, 4; Oregon, 2; Rhode Island, 6; South Dakota, 8; West Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1; Arizona, 6; Indian Territory, 1; Hawaii, 9; New Mexico, 6, and Oklahoma, 2.

The territory having no votes in the electoral college, it may be in order to recall that in the foregoing states which gave the whole or a part of their nominating votes to Mr. Hearst the count was as follows: Roosevelt's pluralities: California, 115,822; Colorado, 54,821; Illinois, 305,039; Iowa, 158,766; Kansas, 136,693; Maine, 26,791; Minnesota, 191,434; Nebraska, 86,682; Nevada, 2885; Oregon, 42,934; Rhode Island, 16,766; South Dakota, 59,114, and West Virginia, 31,753.

Despite the bitterness of the ultra-conservative element in the Democracy toward Hearst, practical partisans who are out to win and in whom the Bryan renaissance has planted new hopes, are determined to conciliate Hearst and if possible to make him a factor in what they profess to believe will be the Democratic landslide in 1908.

As to The Labor Vote

It begins to look like a battle royal next fall between the labor forces and the capitalistic element, led by that doughty political warhorse, Joe Cannon. The American Federation of Labor threw out a bold defy and Uncle Joe accepted the challenge, declaring that he would see no Republican congressman defeated for re-election because of his opposition to labor measures—and that's the way the trouble began.

And speaking of the labor vote there is no doubt but it is a political element that must be reckoned with in the future. The labor forces have carried San Francisco three times in succession. When the catastrophe of last April came a labor leader was mayor of San Francisco, and he has shown more firmness at the right time, and a broader vision, than himself a bigger man all around than the governor of the state.

That has encouraged the labor party throughout the United States, because really the labor party is in the field of politics. Their meetings last spring all tend to the same thing, that they must enter politics in order to obtain what they hold to be their rights.

The party in 1908 is liable to be big enough to make a balance of power, and the election is liable to turn in favor of the party that the labor organizations agree to support.

Oregon's New Laws

Governor Chamberlain is now publishing in the newspapers his official proclamation declaring the new laws enacted by the initiative system to be in full force and effect from the first day of July, 1907. There are seven of these laws, as follows:

Providing method for amending the constitution by applying the referendum to all laws affecting constitutional conventions and amendments. Giving cities and towns exclusive power to make and amend charters. To allow the state printer's salary to be regulated by law at any time.

For initiative and referendum on local, special and municipal laws and parts of laws.

To compel sleeping car companies and other common carriers to pay an annual license on their gross earnings.

To require express, telephone and telegraph companies to pay an annual license on their gross earnings.

The law to prohibit free passes and discriminations by railroads was carried by a majority vote at the polls, but it has been declared void by the attorney general, owing to an error in the law, inasmuch as it failed to contain an enacting clause, as required by the constitution.

A Thaw-White Moral

The Thaw-White tragedy has furnished a text for many sermons, and thus a deplorable incident is made to serve a good purpose by the lesson it teaches. Some men and women on the downward road may stop and reflect—and thereby be saved. One of the many commentators on this sub-

ject has said that if White had cared for his home he would have been alive today. He could not have cared for his home or he would not have maintained apartments away from it. And the little thought that so many men in New York and elsewhere give to their homes, the little time they spend there is pointed out as a danger to the republic, says the Salt Lake Herald and truly, too. Certainly there is something radically wrong about the man or the woman either, who does not care for home. In that one little word there is a direct heart appeal. Unhappy indeed is the human being who is not reached by it.

White's home was not a home for him in any sense. He had two houses, one in New York city and the other in the country. Both were magnificent so splendid as to be beyond the dreams of the great majority of Americans. Contained in them were treasures of art, magnificent furnishings, every comfort, every convenience, every luxury. Yet White found no pleasure in them, devoted no time to them. The night he was killed he had dined with his son at a restaurant. He lacked the saving virtue of a love of home, the virtue that has kept the feet of so many men in the path that is straight and narrow.

There is no reason why the rich should not have as happy homes as the poor, and the reverse of the proposition is likewise true. Misery, like death, is not a respecter of persons. It enters the palace and the cottage and makes its presence bitterly felt. Happy homes are not made by money, or the lack of money. They are made by the individual members of the home. Any home can be made happy just as any can be made unhappy if the individuals so will.

Most of us can look back on the days of childhood and remember the joyousness of them. Should we not leave the same precious heritage to our children? For there is no more precious heritage than the recollection of a happy home. A typhoid epidemic is reported prevailing in Pendleton, where there are not less than 100 cases at the present time. This emphasizes the fact that this fever is becoming more prevalent throughout the West each year, and may become as common as the so-called smallpox scourge of a few years ago. Not many cases, however, are serious and in many communities it scarcely resembles the dreaded typhoid of the past, with its inevitable weeks of wasting fever and dangerous complications. Now the majority of cases are mild and easily controlled. The cause of the epidemic also seems in most instances to be a matter of doubt and disagreement, even among physicians. In Boise, Idaho, for instance, with its healthful mountain climate and pure artesian water, typhoid patients have crowded the hospitals during late summer and fall for two years past, and no satisfactory explanation of the cause can be given by the health officers and local physicians. The same is true of many other localities and in the direction of its determination there would seem to be a field for more thorough research on the part of the medical profession.

O. V. Hurt, of Corvallis, seems to be having more trouble than falls to the lot of the ordinary mortal. His family has been broken up, his wife and daughter disgraced and his son led astray by the Hay Roller craze, but he still stands by the wayward ones and is now expending money to defend his daughter for complicity in the cold-blooded murder of George Mitchell. Most men would feel like quitting long before this and showing all of them to hustle for themselves, but Hurt seems anxious to gather the scattered members of his family under the home roof tree once more and help them to live down the past. The patience of Job seems commonplace compared to the Corvallis example of this rare virtue.

Alfred Dreyfus is now major in the French army and is also to be awarded in due time in the Legion of Honor. Of the 315 deputies 42 were stupid or wicked enough to vote against his reinstatement. The French parliament would up with a kind of fight that would have been worthy of the olden time. Barrault, a radical Socialist, struck Pugliese-Conti, a Republican, in the face and in the duel which followed was dangerously wounded. The restoration of both Dreyfus and Picquart compensates for such displays of Fallic temper.

The increasing interest and development in Lane county mines is a most encouraging sign of the growth and prosperity the future holds in store for Oregon. Mining is a great producer of wealth. It benefits the wage-earner, the merchant and the small and large investor. The information which the Guard is providing on mining is stimulating inquiry and keeping money at home. Although Oregon is near the mining regions of Idaho, Montana and British Columbia it has not been prospected to any great extent. It is to such prospecting that the Nevada revival is due. Production there is so great that Senator William A. Clark, of Montana, announces that he will build a railroad from Butte to Goldfield and Tonopah.

M. Torky, the Russian, in this country, says in a recently published article: In America they steal money very frequently, and lots of it. In the hand of the state of liberty blazes not the torch of liberty, but the dollar. Not so far from the truth and well-expressed. But the great mass of Americans are clean in their private lives, something of which the Russian author and agitator cannot boast. Genius and disregard for the laws of society seem to go hand in hand in the Old World which M. Torky professes to believe is so much better than the new.

Lane county's mines of gold, copper and coal are coming into notice at a two-minute gait. Let's see, the county of which Eugene is the capital and commercial center has more standing timber than any county in the United States; large areas of fertile agricultural lands and most prolific hop yards, and a vast mineral wealth in the first stages of development. No wonder shrewd investors are anxious to operate street cars and build interurban electric roads in a section where the future possibilities for development are almost unlimited.

In Pennsylvania the Democrats have made up a peculiar fusion ticket that governs, Lewis Emery, Jr. of Bradford, the Lincoln party nominee; lieutenant governor, Jere Black, of New York; auditor general, William T. Greaser, the Prohibition nominee; secretary of tuterial affairs, John J. Green, of Philadelphia. Emery is a Republican and leads the Republicans who form the new Lincoln party. Three parties are recognized on this ticket.

In Minnesota the Republicans have nominated A. L. Cole, of Walker, once a real estate man but now a merchant. He has served two terms in the legislature and is on good terms with all the party. He has a strong opponent in Governor Johnson who carried the state against "Bob" Duane in 1902, by a plurality of 56,386. He made a good record and being of the Scandinavian race, will receive many votes on that account.

The demand for homes in this country is as great as ever. Over 40,000 registrations are expected in the drawing for claims on the Wind River, Wyo., reservation, soon to be opened for settlement. And best of all the increasing interest in irrigation work has made it possible to supply good homes for several million people on the erstwhile desert tracts of the West.

The dispatches from Oyster Bay tell about the president mowing and pitching a load of hay on Monday just in time to save it from a fierce thunder storm. No doubt this interesting bit of news is correct—since the presidential press bureau vouches for it; but the idea of mowing hay and taking it into the barn on the same day is a new one on the farmers, who have always thought that newly cut grass had to cure a reasonable length of time in the sun before it

became hay. Teddy is probably the greatest farmer that has lived since the brilliant author of "What I Know About Farming" passed in his cheeks. Lady Curzon's father was a Chicago speculator, but she, having several million dollars, swiped a lord, became a lady, and practically queen of India. All of which shows that if you want to become good and great you must save your nickles, rob your countrymen and marry a foreigner, remarks the Salem Journal. But times and ideals are changing since enforcement of the anti-trust laws began; now residence in Europe has the added charm of freedom from disagreeable warrant servers.

This seems to be an age of fraternity and brotherly love, in spite of the growing tendency toward commercialism and greed. There are the Elks for instance; this week in Denver they have elected in full harmony officers of the grand lodge, Henry A. Melvin, of Oakland, Cal., being chosen grand exalted ruler. As many as 25,000 Elks are attending this twentieth annual reunion of the order, the delegates to the grand lodge alone numbering nearly thirteen hundred.

Eleven years have elapsed since the conviction of Alfred Dreyfus, who is now reinstated as major of artillery in the French army. Even the second trial in 1900 failed to vindicate him. Now his innocence is manifest to all and he is invested with knighthood in the Legion of Honor. The plot to ruin him was the vilest on record and brought disgrace on all concerned in it. His Hebrew blood was at the base of all this persecution in which prominent officers took part.

All Pittsburg seems to be worked up over the Hartje case, in which that millionaire sues for divorce. The judge has found it necessary to warn the lawyers and newspapers to be more discreet. It is asserted that Mrs. Hartje sent love letters to a coachman, but the defense contends that the letters are forgeries. Experts on handwriting figure prominently in the case.

Senator Fulton objects seriously to Secretary Hitchcock's decree that he must go to prison, which may be taken to mean that Charlie is trying to break with his old political friends. More of them are in jail, or are likely to be, than he could get together anywhere else. Is it possible that being senator makes a man so puffed up that he does not care for the company of old associates?

The Corvallis Times says the name of Crawford will be found up towards the head of the list of the damned in the next world. Probably about right; anyway the authority is good. Corvallis has been "dry" so long and is altogether so good that St. Peter uses the phrase as a sort of ante-room to heaven, which gives the Times' announcement at least a semi-official coloring.

Even if Russia executes the death penalty upon General Stoessel, his name will ever hold a high place on the roll of fame. The long defense of Port Arthur was an heroic achievement and its eventual surrender was dictated by the proper impulses of humanity.

Tom Lawson's magazine articles probably had something to do with the court's verdict of a million and a half against Henry H. Rogers in that Bay State gas deal. The power of the press is more potent at this time than ever before.

An exchange remarks that "Harry Thaw is to be 'whitewashed' by being sent to an insane asylum against his will." How would it do to "whitewash" John D. Rockefeller and those other money-mad trust magnates in a similar manner?

Rev. Dr. Brounger, the Portland reformer, states that he has seen worse places than The Oaks. The doctor probably sowed a pretty good-sized crop of wild oats before taking up the ministerial work.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

United States Land Office, Colquhoun, Oregon, July 12, 1907. Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled an "Act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1902, William M. Sides, of Deep River, county of Washington, state of Washington, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 6390 for the purchase of the S. E. 1/4 of section No. 5, in township No. 19 south, range No. 7 west, and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Eugene, Oregon, on Monday, the 24th day of September, 1907. He names as witnesses: Frank Nighswander, Mierle Nighswander, William Hadley, William Canair, all of Crow, Lane county, Oregon.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 24th day of September, 1907.

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