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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

INSURANCE ROBBERY

Eugene is being robbed by the fire insurance companies until the limit of endurance has practically been reached. If other cities in Oregon are being taxed at the same rate by the financial highwaymen who control the insurance business of the Pacific coast, it seems strange that definite steps have not already been taken to organize local mutual or co-operative insurance companies that will put out of business the so-called "board" companies who are openly and brazenly holding up businessmen and property owners and rifling their pockets, protected, of course, by laws framed to foster such trusts.

As a specific example of insurance rates in Eugene we will mention our own experience, not because we have any special cause of complaint, but for the reason that we are able to speak as the subject with full knowledge. On an insurance policy of \$2700 on one floaty machine the premium for one year was \$146.81, and the guard building is only 200 feet from the headquarters of a partially paid fire department, whose team was out with the engine when the alarm sounded yesterday morning in 38 seconds. There is a fire plug at the station and an unobstructed line of hose might be laid to the rear of the Guard office. No better fire protection could scarcely be conceived than that enjoyed by a building located like this office—and yet the insurance trust demands and extorts over 5 per cent annually for insurance.

All along the business streets of Eugene similar rates to this mentioned prevail, and instead of having been reduced with more effective fire protection, the price of insurance has been steadily raised.

Here is a field of endeavor for the Commercial Club and Merchants' Protective Association that might well claim their best efforts until some effective plan of relief is formulated and put into effect. The insurance companies are placing a higher tax upon the business interests and industries of Eugene than the oppressive railroad rates or any other of the evils from which our people are complaining. It is robbery without reason or justification, perpetrated by a gang of sharks who are fattening off the tribute wrung from people who have in the past been powerless to protect themselves.

ENSLAVED BY HARRIMAN.
It seems that the Southern Pacific company has no intention of building a new depot in Eugene this year. That is the opinion of well-informed persons, the Harriman people being too busy managing legislatures to spend any time or money improving their tracks or buildings in Oregon. Perhaps if Eugene merchants would begin to route their goods from the East over opposition lines, and our people going East would buy their tickets over other roads, the officials of the company might sit up and take notice of the fact that a town of 8000 people paying them a revenue of \$7000 a month is entitled to something better than a second-class wood shed for a passenger depot.

More than this, our commercial organizations should not let their work for an open river lag. The Harriman interests may defeat all efforts in this direction for a time, just as they have virtually defeated the free lock bill before the legislature and prevented the enactment of an effective railroad commission law, but persevering effort will bring success in course of time. The object sought is worth years of endeavor—the emancipation of Western Oregon from the bondage of the Southern Pacific railroad.

A McMinnville dispatch telling of the finding of a human skeleton in the ground of a field near there, says it has been identified as that of Louis Rainey, and says he will be remembered by old pioneers as having made a memorable ride in early days from San Francisco to Portland. Rainey had several thousand dollars in the hands of the Portland branch of a San Francisco house and was in the California metropolis when the firm there failed for a large amount. There was no telegraph in those days and the monthly steamer that would take the news would not sail for several days. It was a long seven hundred miles between the two places, not a little of the distance being through a wild country with stopping places far between, with the dreaded Rogue River Indian country to pass through, still Rainey did not hesitate. Barring accident he knew that he could beat the steamer into Portland horseback and get his money before it was tied up by news of the failure. He got his thousands out the day before the steamer brought the news to the Portland branch firm.

The regeneration of the fruit-growing industry in the Willamette valley has commenced in earnest, says the Rural Northwest. The symptoms of it are found everywhere. It was feared that the great wave of interest which swept over the valley a year ago would be temporary, but on the contrary there is a much more wide-spread interest shown this year than last. It is now becoming popular to advocate the destruction of neglected orchards, which are not worth cleaning up and renewing.

Whatever Senator Tillman may think of the negroes, he has put himself on record as believing that the Indians are capable of self government. We have always suspected that red was his favorite color.

Wonder if it was reading our papers that caused King Edward to say that if he were not a king he would be a politician? The trouble with most of our politicians is that most of them want to be kings.

Lieutenant Fields, of the navy, who declared that a mutiny aboard the cruiser Tennessee, resulting in the killing of one man and the wounding of another, did not concern the public, has something to learn.

Of course they don't say so, but it is none the less plain that he is the greatest statesman in the eyes of congressmen, who pull down the biggest appropriation.

One legislator at Salem has introduced a bill fining laboring men who sleep less than eight hours a day.

The Land of Little Sleep.
The land of Little Sleep is just
A place where people stay
Who have a store of gold to spend
And hate the light of day.
A land of laughs and giddy whirls
And tinselled pleasures rare.
Where all are glad and none may show
The features of despair.

The wine is ever flowing and
Remorse is driven out.
As lissome, jeweled devotees
Commingle in the route
A world of sin and mockery.
Yet none may dare to weep.
For Pleasure rules her subjects
In the Land of Little Sleep.
—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Nice rooms and beds for 25 cents at Courthouse Lodging House, just north of the courthouse. Not far and close to the business part of town. See transparency "Beds" from Beckwith corner.

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The Test of True Religion

By Sir CONAN DOYLE, Novelist

HERE is an aggressive form of religion calling itself the Dogmatic Faith which has done far more harm to the human race than PESTILENCE OR FAMINE. Directly to its door must be laid not only all the bloodstained history of Mohammedanism, but all the murderous doings which have in turn disgraced every sect of Christianity.

In the name of Christ, the Apostle of Peace, this dreadful school of thought within a few centuries of his death brought about such quarrels and such murders as had never been heard of IN PAGAN DAYS.

Over the Homoiousian question, a theological point depending upon a diphthong, it has been reckoned that a hundred thousand people lost their lives, champions and victims of faith.

The crusades, the murders of the Albigenes and of the Cevennes, the Thirty Years' war, the inquisition, the outrages of Catholics on Protestants, the no less detestable outrages of Protestants on Catholics, the persecutions of nonconformists by the church, the persecutions of Quakers by the nonconformists, the manifold domestic tragedies and tyrannies, embittering the lives of countless numbers—surely, when all these are considered, the reader must admit that faith in the positive, aggressive sense HAS WROUGHT MORE MISCHIEF THAN FAMINE OR PESTILENCE.

ALL SECTS HAVE BEEN MISLED BY MEN OF THE SAME ACRID FRAME OF MIND AND HAVE INCURRED THE SAME BLOOD-GUILTINESS.

I only know four cults—the original Buddhists, the Quakers, the Unitarians and the agnostics—who can, I think, say that they have no blood upon their hands. Certainly the atheists cannot, for their excesses in France—in the revolution and also in 1870—have been as bad as those of the churches.

And what has been the root of it all? Saying you believe what your mind cannot grasp and what your free reason would frequently reject. A makes his proud assertion and calls it his faith; B has the right to do the same. Then A and B hate each other with a holy hatred, and there is the epitome of the blackest chapter of the history of the world. We who are like shipwrecked mariners upon this little raft of a world, moving upon the face of the infinite ocean, have enough to do to live kindly among ourselves, without quarrelling bitterly about that which is beyond the horizon.

Perhaps you say that even in these very words I myself show want of religious charity. But surely it is not so. If the Catholic finds the pope or the Anglican the bishop or the nonconformist the minister a help upon his path, then in every case it is a good thing—IF IT CAUSES THAT MAN TO BE A BETTER, MORE NOBLE HUMAN CREATURE. Every form of belief is admirable that does that. But when it turns to want of charity and the reviling of those who have other methods, then it is a petty twentieth century exhibition of that which ranks in history among the gravest and most blood-thirsty crimes.

A Poem for Today

I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER

By Thomas Hood

I REMEMBER, I remember,
The house where I was born,
The little window where the sun
Came peeping in at morn;
He never came a wink too soon,
Nor brought too long a day,
But now I often wish the night
Had borne my breath away.

I remember, I remember,
The roses red and high,
The violets and the lily cups,
Those flowers made of light;
The black where the robin built,
And where my brother sat—
The laburnum on his birth-day—
The tree is living yet!

I remember, I remember,
Where I was used to swing
And thought the air must rush as fresh
To swallows on the wing.
My spirit flew in feathers then,
That is so heavy now,
And summer pools could hardly cool
The fever on my brow.

I remember, I remember,
The fir trees dark and high,
I used to think their slender tops
Were close against the sky;
It was a childish ignorance,
But now 'tis little joy
To know I'm farther off from heaven
Than when I was a boy.

Laughin'est Baby
Laughin'est, kickin'est squishin'est
kid!
Laughin'est, kickin'est baby!
I'll bet that angels loved you—I
know that they did!
Before they gave you me; may be
They didn't shed tears when they
bade you goodbye,
I may be they didn't, perhaps angels
don't cry;
If they didn't they couldn't, I know
that was why,
I know that was why, oh, my baby.

I'll bet that when the stork started
out with his load
All heaven was worried and sighing,
And with you from paradise 'way
down the road
The angels were swooping and flying.
I'll bet they came with you as far
as they dared,
I'll bet the most careless one of them
all cared,
I'll bet they felt lonely as backward
they fared,
Their eyes on their white plumage
drying.

I'll bet heaven ~~was~~ ^{was} it was
before,
Before they had brought you to us
dear,
Yes, heaven was sad when you left
heaven's door,
But I'm glad as could be,
dear!

And I, oh, you kickin'est, squishin'est
elf!
My love for you fills every uttermost
shelf
Of my heart, and your mother loves
you some herself.

Now kick and goo goo in your glee,
dear!
I think at least one angel didn't go
back,
Just couldn't bear to go back know-
ing
The bleakness and gloom of the heav-
enly track
Without any you on it. Going
Along as she watches, invisible sprite,
Beside where you're sleeping by day
and by night;
When you dimple she's kissing you,
oh, you sweet mite!
With your hands stretched to me
pink and glowing.
—J. M. Lewis, in Huston Post.

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