

Eastern Clackamas News

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MEMORY REVERTS

How strange are the workings of memory. Sometimes it is so keen, sometimes so dull and yet other times so capricious. Does it ever really forget anything? It seems so, but yet some incident which for years has been absolutely forgotten, will suddenly be brought very vividly to the mind as fresh as if it had only occurred yesterday. We were forcibly reminded of this Saturday afternoon when attending the meeting in the park of the Clackamas County Development Club. While watching the speakers and the audience, a somewhat similar occasion which happened thirty-two years ago in Minnesota recurred to us with a freshness, which showed that our memory had retained unblurred the impressions then made. Like Saturday's meeting, it took place in a park with the speaker's stand and seats for the audience under leafy branches resplendent in their early summer green. We were addressed by a lawyer politician who was a state senator, an ex-state senator or a would be state senator, we forget just which, but perhaps he was the three in one, the Hon. Ignatius Donnelly, a celebrated character in his time. He had two special hobbies, both of which he rode very hard, one was to prove that Shakespeare was a fraud, and that Lord Bacon was the real author of the works attributed to the former. In other words, Shakespeare was Bacon's bacon.

To prove this he wrote a very erudite book entitled, "The Great Cryptogram", in which he showed that Bacon's authorship was indicated in the plays by a cryptogram which he had discovered. His other hobby was ripping up the back, the predatory corporations which ground down the common people and reduced them to helots.

The especial corporation which served as the target for his attack, was the Great Northern Railroad company of Minnesota, of which Jas. Hill was the head and absolute ruler. Mr. Donnelly however acknowledged that his personal relations with Mr. Hill were pleasant, and it seemed to us, that whatever he might say against the company, he took especial care that those personal relations should remain pleasant. He related in his indictment how that some years before while traveling in the Dakotas, he passed through a Scandinavian settlement. The people of the community, had come over here with scant capital except their industry and willingness to work. On arrival they wore wooden shoes but at the time of his visit, having prospered they had discarded them for leather ones. He found that they had some grievances about markets and the freight rates, like all farmers have, and that the Great Northern company was the sole line in that vicinity. Mr. Donnelly waxed warm and eloquent over the tyranny and greed of this corporation, and said that he had then predicted that if this state condition continued they would be forced back to wearing wooden shoes. And he added very impressively, "I was back there the other day, and sure enough, one of the first things I saw, was a pair of wooden shoes hanging up outside a store." We wonder what he would say now, when

owing to the action of predatory shoe and leather concerns, wooden shoes are again coming into fashion.

In those days, we were very much worked up about the corporations and the manner in which they exploited the farmers, for we were a sort of farmer ourself. But time and experience have modified our views. We find the devil is never as black as he is painted, and often those who howl the loudest when squeezed or think they are being squeezed, will if they get the chance, outsqueeze their former squeezers. Two or three years later, we began our career as a devil in a newspaper office. The editor was a lawyer whose hobby was attacking the mayor and council, especially the mayor. He was never tired of pouring out the vials of his wrath on the latter's diminished head, exposing his trickery and graft. But we found that our supposedly high-minded boss would not scruple to trim to a finish the other fellow in a business deal. And so it goes.

There is nothing new under the sun, and the cheats and steals of the present are those of past ages, and will be those of the future. Fifty years hence the babes of today, will be denouncing the same things in the same terms. What shall we say then? Are we pessimistic? By no means, for we have learned this, that in spite of all, there is a continued improvement. Abuses are corrected, wrongs are righted, and while things go back for a time, they never go back entirely to where they were before. The cause of confidence and assurance lies in two facts, first, that there is a moral governor of the universe, and second, to paraphrase a saying of the immortal Lincoln, "You can put it over all the people some of the time; you can put it over some of the people all the time; but you cannot put it over all the people all the time," the truth of which the fates of Charles I of England, Louis XVI. of France and Nicholas II. of Russia are notable proofs. Given an intelligent people, wrongs will not long survive after they have once become apparent.

The die is cast, Harding and Coolidge are the chosen leaders for the republican cohorts. But in spite of a very general dissatisfaction with the present administration, it is by no means certain that the republicans will have a walk over. Already there are rumors of a bolt from one wing of the party, and Gompers will try to swing the labor vote to the democrats, if they adopt a labor plank with which he is in agreement. Altogether the coming election promises to be a most interesting one by reason of the uncertainty of the outcome.

Jubilant republicans are confident that now will the winter of their discontent be made glorious summer by the son of Ohio.

General Wood is another victim of too much kindness from injudicious friends.

WELL DONE

Ken Bartlett will be graduated from the U. of O., Monday, June 21st, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Economics. He is one of the most prominent athletes in the University, having played three years on the football team, during which he faced both the U. of Pennsylvania and Harvard. He also was two years on the track team and served with distinction overseas during the war.

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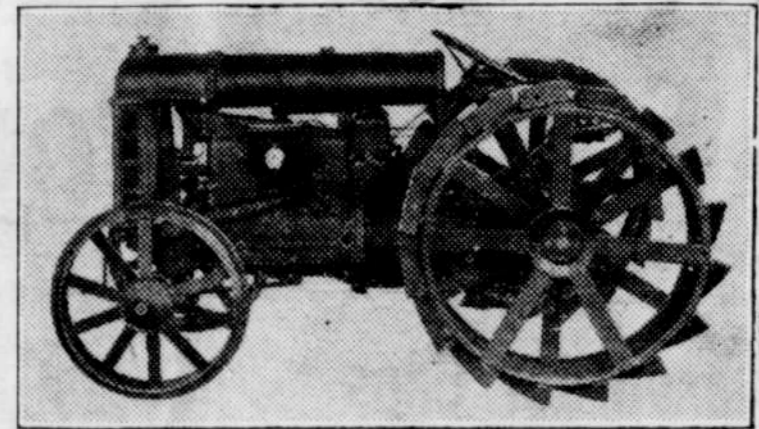
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