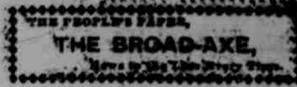


BROAD-AXE



"HEW TO THE LINE, LET THE OLD'S FALL WHERE THEY MAY."

VOL. III

EUGENE, LANE COUNTY, ORE. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1899.

NO. 40.

Prison Reform.

An Ex-Convict Lectures at Reed's Opera House—Letter of Rev. Walter.

Capital Journal: "Jno F Elliott an ex-convict, entertained an audience of about two hundred at Reed's opera house last night with a story of the abuses practiced in the Oregon state prison. The speaker announced that he had defrayed the entire expense of hiring the opera house and advertising the meeting out of his earnings at \$10 a month on a farm east of Salem. At the conclusion of his lecture he offered any one a chance to dispute any of his statements but no one entered a protest or denial. He expressed regret that there were many matters so important that they could not be discussed with propriety before a public audience. He considered the only redeeming feature of the prison management to be the medical department under Dr. Philbrook. He charges that observation of the Sabbath at the prison is a mere formal hypocrisy. He charges that the bathing of the prisoners is conducted in an indecent manner. He cited instances where convicts were flogged for complaining that the beans were sour and that the guards employ such methods as hanging a convict up by the arms to enforce discipline. A controversy over taking a hatchet from a crazy Indian who was going to assault another convict. The guard did not see it done. One man wanted to make a statement. The warden had all three flogged to make sure of punishing the right one. One man lost his reason partly over studying perpetual motion. He became very timid. Meeting an officer one day coming through a door he started back and threw up his hands. He was tied up in the chapel and given 200 lashes and an Oregon boot was put on him and he was sent to the cell and in a short time he seemed to be dying. He was carried to the bathroom, his shirt soaked off his back covered with blood, skin and flesh. So horrible was the sight that one of the hardened convicts fainted. The man was declared insane, sent to the insane asylum where in a few days he died. "The editor of the Journal does not believe the unsupported statement of an ex-convict should be received by the public as evidence in every detail unless corroborated by collateral testimony."

Every now and then reports of a similar character to the above gain currency of treatment of inmates of some of the state institutions at Salem. For a while they flare up in a blaze of momentary excitement and indignation among the people until the thing is snuffed out by those officials who are responsible and no more is heard of it. Some three years or more ago, similar reports to that detailed of flogging the man who was sent to the asylum and died from the effect of the lash, came out charging Bob Hendricks, superintendent of the reform school with allowing one or more of the little boys of that institution beaten with the back until their shirts adhered to their backs to that bathing in warm water was necessary before the clothing could be removed. Those facts were established by undoubted testimony, and yet nothing was done about it. Instead of Hendricks being removed or dishonored in any way in the estimation of those who put him in the place, he has been promoted we believe and now holds a responsible federal appointment simply as a reward for services rendered in behalf of men who through corrupt means got in a position where they could requite him for his services.

Arrested Themselves.

Seven hobos held high carnival a few nights ago in the city jail at Albany. Finding the place unlocked they went in and built a fire and warmed themselves and each took a bunk.

A Registration Law.

Oregonian: "Citizens whose opinions carry the weight of thoughtfulness are, without exception, in favor of a competent and carefully devised registration law. This being true, it is fair to presume that the present legislature will enact such a law. Intelligent representative men are not likely to ignore the plainly expressed wishes of their constituents in a matter vital to honest elections and good government. The Harmon and Hill bills have the merit of careful construction, and will, no doubt, receive the consideration due an important proposition from honest, representative men. This is to say that one of them will probably be enacted into a law, and the state of Oregon be given a safeguard of honest elections so long withheld in the interest of place-hunting politicians."

We favor a registration law by all means. But, such a law will have to be very carefully framed in order to escape conflicting with the constitution which defines the qualifications of the voter. It will be remembered that the Supreme court has declared in the case of White vs county commissioners, that a statute requiring previous registration, as a condition of exercising the right to vote, in effect prescribes a qualification addition to those specified by the constitution, and is therefore void. By a careful examination of the act of the provisions of the legislature of 1885 which the court declared void, it is difficult to see how an effective registration law can be framed that will be sustained by the supreme court. At all events let the present legislature do its best to give us a registration law that will hold good if possible and if the clause of our constitution again stands in the way, why let us amend the constitution so that the right of suffrage shall no longer be nullified and overridden by the machinations of corrupt office hunters.

About the Mortgage Tax Law.

We observe that those opposed to the re-instatement of the mortgage tax law urge as one objection that the tax on mortgages will not fall on the holder of the mortgage but upon the borrower, who will be compelled to pay the tax in addition to the interest. That is, that the money lender may exact usury in defiance of law to cover any burden of taxation which the mortgage tax law may involve. If this be correct, if the money lender may without restraint take advantage of the necessities of the borrower—if he may demand his pound flesh, and there can be no law to restrain him, why then we have not got a great way from the days when men were imprisoned for debt, cropped and branded for petty larceny, whipped at the whipping post for swearing on Sunday and burnt at the stake for witchcraft.

Mohawk Mass Meeting.

The following resolutions were passed Feb. 3 by a mass meeting of the citizens of Mohawk valley expressive of their feelings and purposes regarding the recent action of the county court in leasing the Mohawk river to the Booth-Kelley Mill Company. Mr C W Evans, who acted as secretary of the meeting, informs us that there were about 75 persons present and that the sentiment of those present was practically unanimous in support of the resolutions adopted. Mr Evans also informs the Broad-Axe that the Register first refused to publish the resolutions, and that Mr Rowland city editor of the Guard informed him when requested to publish them, that he Mr Evans should be very cautious about what he published. We are at a loss to explain why those papers are so shy and reticent on this Mohawk franchise

An Infamous Bill.

The bill that has just been reported to Congress by the House coinage committee is a most infamous measure. The brazen audacity of its authors is most astounding and shows an utter contempt for the intelligence of the voters of the country. A proper title for the bill would be "A bill to prove to the world that the American people are self-convinced fools, who herein authorize the bankers and money lenders of the country to plunder their children of their birthright."

If the proposed measure had been the law of the land in 1893 nothing could have prevented the country being convulsed in the throes of revolution in that year, because under its provisions the business of the country would have been brought to a standstill, the laborers of the country turned into the streets to starve, and debtors would have been forced to sacrifice their possessions to meet the demands of creditors.

The crime of 1873 was committed in the dark. The people had no warning that an assault was to be made upon them, and the conspirators conducted their work with great cunning and secrecy and escaped detection. The infamous act of February 12 of that year contains sixteen pages of matter, relating to everything in connection with the operations of a mint, for the purpose of closing the attention of Congress and the country from a single line wherein the standard silver dollar was omitted from the list of coins.

Resolved, That said county court had no right or jurisdiction to grant said franchise (10-15-24 Oregon Report.)

J E YARSELL, Chairman. C W EVANS, Secretary.

News Notes.

We notice that Uncle Sam is getting supplies from Australia for his army at the Philippine just now. How much does this help the American farmer for his products?

Roseburg, Ore. Feb. 7.—An eight year old daughter of Alva Brown was burned to death last night, near Middle Creek. Her clothing caught fire at the fireplace.

Oregonian: The president's commutation of Eagan's sentence, and his reported desire to humiliate Miles are ominous for the army. Less serious matters than this have made and unmade presidents.

Silas Lane, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Lane county, died at his home at Cottage Grove last Tuesday. He was born in Granger county, Tennessee 80 years ago. In the spring of 1852, with Mr Hasleton, he started from Missouri to Oregon with five teams, missing the trip in five months. He and Hasleton were practically the founders of Cottage Grove. He had followed farming for a living. His wife is very sick and is not expected to live. They have but one son, Jackson G Lane, now living at Deer Lodge, Montana.

Lebanon, Feb. 7.—John Marshall, aged 65 years, died at his home, seven miles east of this city, late last night from the effect of burns received during the partial destruction of his house by fire early Sunday morning. Marshall was in Lebanon Saturday, and it is said that he drank considerably, and also purchased a quantity of liquor and took it home with him. He was not seen again that day. The next morning John Craft, a neighbor, called at his place, and, receiving no response to a knock, opened the door and walked in. He found Marshall in bed, with his clothing almost entirely burned off, his left side burned to a crisp, and his head singed. The floor was in flames, and Craft extinguished the fire. Medical aid for the injured man was at once summoned, but all efforts to save his life were futile, and he died within 38 hours after he was found.

Mortgaging the Country

The Oregonian is Getting Down on The Like and Scores a Point in the Interest of the People.

We ask a careful reading of the following article taken from the Oregonian. Some wholesome advice is offered to the voter that should be heeded. We are glad so influential a journal as the Oregonian has thrown its weight in the scale on the side of economy and has taken alarm at the condition of things. Sentiments such as are held by the Oregonian uttered by a populist would be denounced as an emphatic "calamity howl."

Oregonian: "The article reprinted from The Dalles Times-Mountaineer on the rush for interest bearing bonds or warrants, and on the disinclination of capitalists to invest in productive industry is in accord with what the Oregonian has often said and urged. It is easy to see why the capitalist wants these cinch investments; but why should the people and the legislature play into his hand? Why the continual demand for extravagance in public expenditure which bondholders encourage in order that they may get investments that are placed beyond risk? If the Oregonian could utter a thunder-word on the subject so as to reach the public ear it would be glad to do so.

"Will not the people consider? Will not the legislature consider? The worst of this abuse lies in the unremitting demands put forth by large numbers of the people for enlargement of every function of the governmental system, and for discovery of new ways and methods of making things free, which means creation of new burdens for the shoulders of the people. "The Oregonian is repeating what it has said before; but it would be glad to find power to hammer the protest on the public ear till heed were given it as its importance and gravity demand. "On one side the demand for increased public expenditure is incessant and insatiate. On the other it is encouraged by bond-buyers, men of large capital, who seek opportunities to make investments that call for no exertion or enterprise, and are absolutely without risk. So long as the people go on in this course of creating public debts and issuing bonds, the money syndicates, withholding their money from productive enterprises, will wait for these "sure-thing" opportunities. Augmentation of great fortunes, without risk is thus made easy, and little or nothing is done by capital for promotion of productive industry. The expense thus entailed on the property of the community, with the excessive taxation made necessary by continually growing current expenditure, rapidly diminishes the value of property—for all property is mortgaged to the bondholder, and is taxed, besides, to support the extravagant current expense. The tendency of it all is to eliminate the smaller properties, to reduce the number of persons of moderate means, and to create a small class of very rich and a large class of very poor. It is so inevitably. Public expenditure in excess, with sale of bonds, payment of interest and excess of taxation from which the bondholder is exempt, since there is no possibility of reaching him, produces this result as surely as any effect follows its cause; and it cuts off the inducement and means of employing labor in productive undertakings. "Another word. They who complain most of the grasping bondholder are, for the most part, the very men who create his opportunities and put the power over the whole property of the state, city, county or district into his hands. It is the general voter who does this business. Will he not see that he is bringing his own nose to the grindstone, putting a mortgage on the energies of his posterity, and forcing, indeed, the

Clippings and Comments.

Oregonian: "The federalists who got up the Hartford convention in 1814 did not stop the war with England, but they wrecked their political reputations for life and damned themselves historically for all time. Senator Hoar and his following will only be named to be hissed and cursed for many years to come."

It is hardly fair to compare "Senator Hoar and his following" to those old Hartford convention sympathizers with England. We are not certain but that the minority in the senate who voted against ratifying the treaty, represented the majority of the people of the United States. The question with the people is: What have we got as a result of that war? What have we got for the \$20,000,000 we pay Spain for the Philippines, and for the lives of our soldiers expended in the war we have had in the Philippines? And what have we got for all the lives and money spent in Cuba? What have we got to show for it? It looks to us like we have been out on a Don Quixotic errand, fighting windmills to defend the honor of some imaginary being and been lambasted for our pains. Surely people who cannot join in the procession for conquest on the other side of the globe, and the demand for a large standing army, an abrupt departure from the settled policy of the nation for a hundred years should not be classed with those Hartford convention Tories.

We rise to give it as our private opinion publicly expressed, that the removal of General Miles from the command of the army, will make Miles the most popular man in America, possibly, excepting Dewey, McKinley, Alger and Egan must take a back seat. Critterian: "A democratic exchange remarks that the mass of the farmers are opposed to expansion. This is a huge mistake. The farmers know it will make more and better markets for their products. The increased trade relations of the United States are of vital interest to the farmers, and in no other way will they so quickly and surely find favorable markets for the products of their farms."

Oregonian: "Senator Gray is a sound, consistent gold democrat, is friendly to expansion, and there are no other serious questions before us in the future. Why not re-elect Senator Gray?"

The above remark of the Oregonian is significant as showing that old party lines are being broken and that the question of finance and questions growing out of the late war will in the future form the basis of future public policies.

F E Touchette, aged 39 years, died at Cottage Grove Tuesday morning from cancer of the liver. He moved from Wisconsin ten years ago and has been engaged in the sawmill business. He leaves a wife and a ten year old son.

What is the remedy? Stop the

incordinate growth of these expenditures in every direction, and do everything possible to reduce them to reasonable limits and to hold them down. It is the lesson for state, city and country, for school district and road district and for every division and subdivision of public administration. That is the way to stop the issue of public bonds and warrants and to get your capital on the inquiry for investment in productive industry."

The vote in the house last week on the mortgage tax bill stood as follows:

Ayes—Blackaby, Brittain, Bobb, Cummings, Curtis, Donnelly, Flagg, Fordney, Fredland, Grace, Gray, Hawson, Jones, Knight, Kruse, Lamson, Lewis, Marsh, Mastenfill, Maxwell, McAlister, McCourt, McQueen, Nichols, Palmer, Platts, Sherwin, Stewart, Stillman, Stump, Thompson, Clackama, Topping, Virtue, Whitner, Wilson, Wonnacott, Young, and Mr Speaker; 39, 22 Republicans, 17 Union.

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