

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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Local Editor and Manager

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A MOST INTERESTING ARTICLE

Not recently and seldom ever have we read an article that so greatly interested us as the one that is given first place in the Atlantic Monthly for the present month. It tells of the discovery, eighteen miles east of Nazareth, the boyhood home of Christ, of a city that is frequently mentioned in the old testament, and in which are today being unearthed the ruins of seven thousand years. One civilization there succeeded another and each has left enough to show how its people lived during those seventy centuries. In fact it furnishes a cross section of human history antedating in its first layers all previous human records. We publish a few extracts from this article to give a little idea of what is being found there:

At one known spot on the earth man has dwelt continuously from the Stone Age to the present time. Originally a hill of rock, primitive man sought shelter there; then came huts, walls, fortifications, houses, temples, fortresses, basilicas, whole cities, until the accumulations of ages have elevated that hill to a commanding size as each civilization built upon the remains of its predecessor.

Today Arab laborers under American direction are leveling that hill, cutting through the canopy and revealing in what is perhaps the most remarkable work of the kind ever undertaken, an unbroken line of civilization back to the remotest antiquity. Some twenty feet of the hill have been removed, leaving fifty more to be cut before rock is reached. Already the scientist has laid bare layer upon layer of historical facts covering a period through Biblical times to the present day, while a test shaft has yielded traces of peoples who lived beyond the dawn of recorded history.

The hill is at Beisan, Palestine, known successively as the Bethshean of the Old Testament and the Scythopolis of the Hellenistic and Roman periods, when it flourished forth as the chief of the ten cities of the Decapolis. Situated eighteen miles east of Nazareth and some fifty miles north of Jerusalem, it is a little Gibraltar commanding the highway through the Valley of Armageddon at the head of the plain of Jezreel and dominating the fords of the Jordan River. Here for countless ages ran the main road from Egypt to Syria and Babylonia. The power that held the little hill of Beisan was master of the commercial and military routes between Egypt and Mesopotamia, between Jerusalem and Damascus. Allenby's cavalry passed that way in the 1918 campaign that broke Turkish resistance.

When work began we knew nothing of what the hill contained. Not a sign remained of buildings except a few outcropping walls of the latest occupation. As we went down, we discovered of evidences proving the presence of material of every important building-period in a perfectly clear, logical sequence is one of the most inspiring things I have ever experienced.

Christ was reared and grew to manhood not far from Scythopolis in one of its most influential periods, when it was probably the most prominent city in the interior of Palestine. Following Pompey's campaign in Palestine (64-63 B. C.) ten cities, nine of them located in the Jordan Valley or on the Sea of Tiberias, formed the confederation of the Decapolis for mutual protection. Keeping in close touch with Greece, they became centers of vigorous municipal life which, after the Greek manner, found expression in literature, athletics and commerce. Chief of these focal points of Greek culture was Scythopolis itself, which, by virtue of holding the trade route between the Jordan Valley and the sea, soon became the most important city in the league.

The Scythopolis of Christ's youth far exceeded in population and splendor the Jerusalem of the same period.

It early was famed for churches and monasteries. Noble houses and other buildings stood not only on the hill but in the valley below, as the city walls at that time had a circumference of nearly two miles.

Eight distinct civilizations occupy twenty feet of vertical space at Beisan. In this distance the excavators have dug through thirty-two centuries. If the intervening space between bed rock and the Egyptian level represents an equal compression of time, approximately eighty centuries more await their picks and shovels. That might push the curtain of history back to 90000 B. C. And if the first layer above bed rock contains authentic relics of the Flint Age, the interval between Beisan's first settlement and the present day may be as much as 20,000 years. The possibility that Beisan may furnish the data with which to check the fundamentals of human existence through such a long period makes it the outstanding spot in the world's archaeological research. Other sites may reward searchers with more refined objects d'art, but none offers such promise to history.

GOVERNOR WANTS ACTION

Governor Pierce in a special message last Monday served notice that if the legislature fails to provide necessary revenue for appropriations made he will veto the bills.

"I will not be a party to increasing the tax burden upon owners of homes and farm property in the state when it is within your power to raise necessary revenue from sources so easily available," the governor declared.

He pointed out various sources and urged the enactment of specific revenue-producing legislation, including cigarette and motion picture taxes.

The governor urged the repeal of the quarter-mill road tax and thirty thousand dollar appropriation for the battleship Oregon, and a law for the collection of unpaid income taxes under the repealed act.

Even with these sources opened up the governor sees a shortage of about \$500,000. He urged a gross earnings tax on utilities and severance tax.

Increased collection on gross insurance premiums was urged and the governor asked a ten per cent contribution to the general fund for self-sustaining commissions and activities, which already has been agreed upon by the ways and means committee.

If the session will enact a gross earnings tax on utilities, the governor promises to sign a bill appropriating a hundred thousand for the public service commission.

The governor charged the legislature with having frittered away its time, and urged that the remaining days be given to serious work and co-operation.

PROHIBITION A BENEFACTOR

Under the caption, "The Economists' Forum—Problems of Finance and Business: Diffusion of Prosperity," an article appeared recently in the Chicago Daily News from the pen of T. N. Carver, professor of economics at Harvard University and the author of many standard texts on economics. Its concluding paragraph reads as follows:

"The writer is not above mentioning prohibition as a factor in the diffusion of wealth. It not only enables the laboring classes to live better and to save money; it also tends to raise wages. Wholesale drinking tends to prevent men from rising out of the poorly paid occupations, thus tending to congest those occupations and make conditions worse. General sobriety favors promotions, relieves the congestion of the unskilled trades and makes wages better in them. No country can hope to compare with us in the wide diffusion of prosperity so long as it permits wholesale drinking to incapacitate laborers for promotion out of the poorly paid occupations."

MARRIED FLIRTS

After having listened to the dreary story of 10,000 divorce cases, Judge Sabath of Chicago recently wrote a paper on "Marital Harmony." One of his wise counsels was that wives should cease teasing their husbands by idle flirtations. Some of us know husbands, who, being a shade too fascinating to women, should ponder this suggestion.

They can either have the highly spiced excitement of these flirtations, ending in a bitter taste, or the sweet satisfaction of a loving marriage. The two can not be enjoyed simultaneously.

STATE FINDS FUNDS A PLENTY

Revenue producing bills now before the ways and means committee, with the amount each is estimated to produce, are:

- Reversion for Vale relief fund—\$20,000.
- Suspension of industrial accident commission aid—\$50,000.
- Addition tax on insurance companies—\$264,000.
- Cigarette tax—\$600,000.
- Quarter mill road tax repeal—\$265,000.
- Additional corporation tax—\$229,200.
- Cosmetic tax—\$100,000.
- Ten per cent fees from various state activities—\$200,000.
- Battleship Oregon refund—\$30,000.
- Total—\$1,758,200.

In addition to this, Governor Pierce has proposed a peddlers' license bill estimated to yield \$500,000, and also a possibility of a motion picture tax.

Besides the above sums, the state has in cash for the committee's consideration \$5,684,991.

Available funds, if the above measures pass, are expected to exceed appropriations by several hundred thousand dollars.—Associated-press dispatch from Salem on Wednesday.

HOW EASILY HE MADE \$20,000,000

Like an eraser on a lead pencil, George Campbell Carson's copper smelting invention was a simple thing, only no one else had ever thought of it.

The reverberatory furnace Carson designed and which will bring him \$20,000,000 or more under an appellate court decision, "is so plain I wondered many times why it had never been figured out before," Carson said.

"The old plan was to shove ore in through the furnace door and then bank it with other ore to protect the walls from the fierce heat.

"I just designed a hopper and a chute affair on top of each furnace to drop the ore in from above. It saved the slow, tedious and exhausting work formerly done by hand.

"That's all there was to it."

It is stated by the Electrical Service that the capital invested in the electrical industry in this country now amounts to more than six billions of dollars. Ten years ago it was only fifty-six million or less than one per cent of what it is now. The electrical industry is said to be only forty years old. The Sentinel's senior editor remembers that in the later nineties, about 27 years ago, he first saw an electric railroad car at Pueblo, Colo., where he was then in the printing business; and that he first saw an electric arc light at Topeka, Kansas, five years earlier.

At Salem the house committee on health and public morals held a public hearing Monday on house bill 409, by Representative Tuckey providing for the creation of a state board of moving picture censorship. It is probable that the committee will send in a divided report, the majority recommending that the bill do pass, and a minority against it by Representative King of this county.

"I am very reluctant to sentence a woman to jail for bootlegging but in these modern times when women insist on taking a man's chances they must pay the price," said Federal Judge Louis Bean of Portland, Ore., sitting at San Francisco, in sentencing Mrs. Jennie Caster, a widow, to four months in jail for violating the Volstead act.

With only slight amendments from the form in which it came out of the house, the Mott bill providing for increases in salaries of district attorneys throughout the state, aggregating \$18,000 annually, was passed by the senate at Salem Tuesday.

There are evidently a good many mosquitoes in the present Oregon legislature, also the free textbook bill, of which Representative Dal M. King of this county was one of the sponsors, would not have been defeated at Salem this week.

Taking time by the forelock the state senate has passed a bill providing for a constitutional convention six years hence.

Lots Given Away
At a recent meeting of the Central Point city council an ordinance was passed which provides for the deeding over of 10 lots owned by the city to persons who will agree to construct upon each lot a building to cost not less than \$1000.

What \$2.25 Will Do
For \$2.25 you can have the weekly visits of the Coquille Sentinel and the Oregon Farmer—\$2 of each—for year.

Appreciates Recent Special

The Sentinel is in receipt of the following letter from Pasadena, California; the author being a former Coquille girl, at one time a teacher in our city schools:

Dear Mr. Young:—I wish to express my appreciation of your "Anniversary Edition," which has just reached me, which I have enjoyed most thoroughly.

Coquille citizens are to be congratulated upon having so clean, concise in words and local news and good inspiring a paper as is the "Sentinel." I haven't seen its equal elsewhere. This edition has entailed a great deal of special effort on the part of your whole staff and should be and is, feel, most heartily appreciated, not only by the citizens of Coquille but by everyone who has lived in Coquille and loves it as I do.

I am wondering if I shall know your city with its splendid new business blocks and attractive homes. It is, indeed, gratifying to look forward to a visit to one's old home town, which is progressing so rapidly as is Coquille. Certainly every inhabitant of such a city should be happier and younger because they dwell in such an environment.

Because of my interest in Coquille and its citizens I should like to make this suggestion, either to your estimable mayor or worthy Chamber of Commerce president—that you place the name and slogan "Coquille, The Clean City" across your highway wherever the city limits come. One I would suggest near the High School, the north entrance and the other near the Sherwood Hill.

Each year you launch a "Clean Up" campaign, all very effective, I deem. But would this not aid that movement every week of the year and instill more civic pride?

Certainly it will have its influence on tourists and you are destined to have them by the thousands. Half of California knows Oregon and especially Coos and Curry counties as the green, cool garden spot of the coast in summer.

Another reason; I have observed this in our trips, when entering a small city we would wonder what place it was and perhaps not find the name before we had passed through.

This, or any similar slogan, will give your city prestige and distinction. All cities are not named.

I have read away this "Anniversary Edition" for its interest in future years, to the twins especially.

I am eagerly looking forward to my visit to Coquille this summer. With kindest wishes to you and yours, very sincerely, Mrs. Calver Mace.

Farm Pointers From O. A. C.

Hannchen barley is the best variety for western Oregon, says the experiment station. It should be seeded at the rate of 8 pecks an acre on a well prepared seed bed. Barley will not do well on poorly drained soils. Late March or early April is the best time to sow.

It is fortunate that seed of common vetch and gray oats is plentiful in western Oregon. Heavy sowings of the oats and vetch are needed the coming February or early March to make up for a short clover acreage and some winter damage to the fall planted vetch.

Land plaster at 75 pounds an acre will do much to help out weak stands of all vetch of the spring planted crop, says the experiment station. The application should be made in March if possible.

Light early applications of nitrate of soda or sulfate ammonia stimulate stooling of thin stands of small grain. Fifty to 75 pounds an acre early in March are the time and amount.

Many vegetables are started under glass at this time of the year. Among these are early head lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes, and in a short time, celery. The greenhouse is valuable for starting plants of these vegetables, making it possible for the grower to have plants that are large enough at the right time and that are vigorous and well grown. In order that these plants may be set out in open ground at the proper season, they must be started during February.

Chicks need direct sunlight, say Oregon experiment station authorities. Sunlight filtered through common glass does not provide the necessary elements for prevention of leg weakness. Getting the chicks out on the ground as soon as the weather permits is recommended.

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Solution of Puzzle No. 8

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