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A RELIGIOUS ISSUE

In discussing several days ago an advertisement addressed to Masons and stating the purposes actuating the Masonic bodies in sponsoring the so called compulsory education law, The Bulletin said that it might be that the bill had not been initiated for religious purposes, as stated in the advertisement, but that lodge room argument and popular discussion bore on the question of religion almost exclusively. Our weekly contemporary sees in this attack on the purpose, the aim and the patriotism of the Masonic bodies and "takes issue" with us on the subject.

Now, we are as fond of argument as the next man, but it is impossible to start one with us on this "issue," because there is no issue. The Bulletin believes just as thoroughly as its neighbor in the general right purpose, high aim and patriotism of the Masonic order. One of the owners of The Bulletin is a Mason and at least one of its employees. We have not assailed the order. We have no quarrel with and nothing against the Masonic order.

It happens, however, that the Masonic order, or one branch of it, has initiated a measure for the people to vote on which we believe should be discussed freely and frankly by every newspaper in Oregon. This measure we believe to be a bad one. We think that the Masons who initiated it believe it to be in the interests of Americanism. We believe it is not. To that extent there is an issue—not with Masonry, but with those who favor this measure.

The editor of The Bulletin is not "prone to inject a religious issue" into this column, as suggested by our contemporary. The religious issue is injected by the bill itself. And this is so even if unintended. In spite of the statement made in the advertisement referred to, the religious issue is injected. Does our neighbor think it is not?

If it is not, why last June did the Oregon Voter say:

"There must be an interesting inside story as to why Oregon was selected at this time for the attempt of the Scottish Rite branch of the Masonic fraternity to initiate a compulsory school attendance law. It is impossible to believe that the movement had its entire inception and authorization locally. If not, has Oregon's reputation as a good field for political experimentation and its receptiveness and responsiveness to new tendencies been responsible for its selection? Or is the movement to be explained by the fact that Oregon is reported to have become a thoroughly factionalized state along religious lines?"

If there is no religious issue, why do arguments in the official voter's pamphlet say the measure will "seriously curtail your religious liberty," that it "will constitute an unwarranted and unjustifiable invasion of the religious liberty of the citizens of this state," that it "virtually involves a union of church and state," that it "proposes to abolish one system of religious education and offers no substitute for it."

If there is no religious issue, why did Judge Lowell, in the letter discussing the measure which appeared in this column last Friday, take pains to point out that he was a Protestant and a Mason and say what he did about the religious question?

If there is no religious issue, why did the Oregon Voter on August 5 say:

"Bitter experience of centuries, costing millions of human lives, long ago caused civilization to abandon the use of the power of government to enforce conformity in religious practices. Conformity as to the elementary branches of education is today enforced by our compulsory education laws, and is required of private and sectarian as well as public schools. Those who would enforce conformity to the point of denying to religious-minded parents the right to send their children to schools which impart religious instruction in addition to the elementary branches, are ignoring one of the costliest lessons of human experience. They are again attempting what bigoted peoples throughout all history have only succeeded in enforcing by the shedding of rivers of blood. In matters of religious conviction, the individual values liberty more than life, and to deny liberty of choice in the religious education of a child is to revive ancient persecutions and invite martyrdom. Many of those who propose the law in effect abolishing private and sectarian schools do not realize that they are attempting infringement of

a right of the precious kind that millions have died to protect. They imagine that they are attempting to enforce conformity in a matter purely educational, apart from any religious question. If they will examine into the question, they will realize that the real issue at stake is a religious issue, and that the animus behind the measure is directed especially at one religion, although in effect attacking all religions that have a sufficient hold upon their adherents that they will make the heavy financial sacrifices involved in supporting schools where their kind of religious instruction may be imparted along with the compulsory public school branches. Once thoughtful people generally realize that this is true, they will be slow to support a measure which in effect ruthlessly violates religious conviction."

The answer is clear enough. A religious issue is raised in spite of assertions that there is "no intention to combat with any religious creed."

The statement made by The Bulletin that the lodge room argument bore on the question of religion was neither misinformation nor a willful lie. The Bulletin is not in the habit of dealing with either. In this particular case the information on which the statement was based came to The Bulletin in a most casual way. Since such a to-do is being made about it, it occurs to us that it would not be proper to make any general statement on the subject. However, we are quite willing to state the source to the editor of our friendly contemporary on his giving us his word that he will not divulge it nor use the information in any way whatsoever.

JUDGE LOWELL'S OPINION

Judge Stephen A. Lowell, of Pendleton, is, we think it safe to say, a good citizen and a level headed man. His opinions and beliefs are entitled to some weight. That is why we are reprinting here a letter written by him on the subject of the so called compulsory school bill. Judge Lowell says:

"As a Protestant in religion, as a member of the Masonic fraternity, and as a native born American believing in the ancient standards of human liberty, namely, free speech, free press, freedom of education and the right to worship God as the conscience dictates, the writer desires to publicly take a stand in opposition to the measure to be submitted to the people in November known as the compulsory education bill. It is indeed regrettable that Oregon has become the testing ground of fanaticism and radicalism.

"The very title of this bill is a misnomer. This state already has a comprehensive compulsory education statute. (See Chapter 19 of Title 21 of the code.) Likewise the existing law provides that all subjects taught in the schools shall be taught in the English language. (See Section 2223 (3), page 1274, of the statutes.) The legislature has clothed school authorities with investigatory power over all private educational institutions. (See Section 406, paragraph 1, on page 132 of the 1921 school pamphlet.) If the supervision is not ample, the legislature can easily amend.

"It is apparent that the fundamental object of this bill is to prevent those citizens who deem religious education essential to the welfare of their children, from sending their offspring to schools where religion and morality are stressed. The Bible has been substantially driven from the public schools. Are those institutions where the Book of Books still remains now to be destroyed?"

"It is good upon occasions to recall the language of Paul's letter to Timothy wherein he admonishes that 'all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.' There are many thousands of men and women in the state, members of the Christian church, who believe in the truth of that utterance and its applicability to our age. Are they to be compelled to remove to other states to find freedom in the education of their children? The troubles of the nation at this juncture come not from any particular kind of religion, but from too little religion of any kind.

"The argument filed with the secretary of state by the visible sponsors of the bill under discussion as published in the newspapers, endeavors to leave the impression that the Masonic bodies are supporting the measure. The writer has been of that fraternity for a quarter of a century and has found the brotherhood tolerant, mentally poised, generous and chivalric. There are doubtless zealots within the body, but the predilection is here ventured that this bill will not stand the test of intelligent criticism, and that there will be in the end few Masonic votes in its favor. "The Masonic institution has always been intensely loyal to the accepted principles of civil and religious liberty. It will not prove recalcitrant now."

Charles Hall's fishing expedition has turned into a boomerang, if we may judge the figures of speech. Defeated he asserted that Olcott was the beneficiary of fraud, and now the account shows that in one Multnomah county precinct fraud gave Hall some 34 votes that should have gone to Olcott. As soon as this turned up, Hall quit. His qualities of sportsmanship keep cropping out.

Portland papers report that Bishop Robert L. Paddock of the Episcopal church, who has been suffering from a nervous breakdown to resign his position. Charges that he has failed to wear church robes at services have worried him so as to cause his illness and he will leave his work.

Fifteen Years Ago

(From the columns of The Bulletin of August 16, 1907.)

Prospects for an extension of the Corvallis & Eastern have been materially brightened during the week. According to word from Sisters, a crew of surveyors has arrived at that point and as soon as their equipment arrives will start a survey across the state.

The latest railroad company to express itself as determined to tap Central Oregon through the Bend country is the Eugene & Eastern. J. C. Bracher, director of the company, states that construction of a line from Eugene to Springfield is now under way, and that it will be extended to reach Bend in two years.

The Bulletin has it on reliable authority that another irrigation project will soon be in process of construction in Crook county that will rival even that of the Deschutes Irrigation & Power company in size and importance. The scheme is in the first stages of development, but is backed by money men who are able to carry it to a successful close.

A real estate transfer of the week was the sale of the H. J. Overturf residence on Hawthorne avenue to C. M. Redfield at a consideration of \$1,000.

Hugh O'Kane has brought in a lot of sweet corn from his homestead this week and is beginning to think that he is quite a farmer.

F. S. Stanley was the guest of honor at a banquet given by the Knights of Pythias at the Hotel Bend this week.

Johnny Edwards was in Bend Sunday with samples of water taken from three soda springs recently found near Sparks lake.

NEED BOTTLES FOR FLOWER SHOW USE

Empty bottles are needed by the flower show committee of the Woman's Civic league, for use in arranging the exhibits at next week's show. Members of the league and others who wish to help should wash their bottles and leave them at the rest room, according to Mrs. W. P. Myers, chairman of the committee.

GIRL FALLS FROM SWING, BREAKS ARM

Margaret Beaudieu, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Beaudieu, sustained a broken arm Thursday afternoon when she fell from a swing at her home, 1946 West First street. The arm was set and the girl is doing well.

WE OFFER CONGRATULATIONS

Citizens of every denomination and of no denomination will join, we think, in congratulating the Methodists on the completion of their fine new church building, which was dedicated Sunday. Courageously begun at a time when business was suffering from a depression, the project has been carried to a successful end. The church now has a meeting place equal to its various needs, and the town an addition to its public buildings which will be shown to the visitor with pride.

In offering our own congratulations, we think it proper to say a word also in recognition of the part taken by the minister of the church, J. Edgar Purdy, in securing the new building and for his services to the community in general. Mr. Purdy happens to be the Methodist minister, but he has permitted the town to claim his interest and service in dozens of public spirited ways and the town therefore has a right to claim him also as its own. In doing so, it honors both itself and the church.

Mr. Purdy has labored early and late for the church; he has given to the Boy Scouts time for which there were many other demands; he has served in important capacities in the Red Cross and the county public health association. To our mind he is one of Bend's most useful citizens. We are glad to have this opportunity of saying so and of congratulating him on his success and his church on its good fortune in having his services.

We trust that the pulpit in the new church will be occupied by Mr. Purdy for many years to come.

WHAT IS A FRIEND?

(La Grande Observer)
 Two men were talking about friendship, and one of them had praised Emerson's splendid essay. The other said, "I don't know what Emerson wrote on friendship, but I am willing to accept for myself the definition of a friend, written by some unknown writer, that I found somewhere the other day, printed on a little slip of paper. Let me read it to you," says Thomas Drier in Our Dumb Animals.

"What is a friend?" he read. "I will tell you. It is a person with whom you dare to be yourself. Your soul can go naked with him. He seems to ask of you to put on nothing, only to be what you are. He does not want you to be better or worse.

"When you are with him you feel as a prisoner who has been declared innocent. You do not have to be on your guard. You can say what you think so long as it is genuinely you. He understands those contradictions in your nature that lead others to misjudge you.

"With him you breathe free. You can take off your coat and loosen your collar. You can avow your little vanities and envies and hates and vicious sparks, your meanness and absurdities, and in opening them up to him they are lost, dissolved in the white ocean of his loyalty. He understands. You do not have to be careful.

"You can abuse him, neglect him, tolerate him. Best of all, you can keep still with him. It makes no matter. He likes you. He is like fire that purges all you do. He is like water that cleanses all you say. He is like wine that warms you to the bone. He understands.

"You can weep with him, laugh with him, sin with him, pray with him. Through and underneath it all he sees, knows and loves you.

"A friend, I repeat, is one with whom you dare to be yourself."

—Stephen A. Lowell—

SECOND CUTTING OF ALFALFA UNDER WAY

Third Crop Assured on Fields Cut Within Next Week—Arnold Ranchers Busy.

Ranchers in the Arnold district have started their second alfalfa harvest, assuring that a third crop will be cut this year for the first time in several years. Fields cut within the next week will raise another crop this year, ranchers acquainted with conditions say.

Among the ranchers on which the second cutting is going on are those of Herman Tekampe, W. H. Slienick, John Dealer, H. J. Sotting, Floyd Brandon and George Murphy.

SISTERS HAY CROP IS BEST IN YEARS

The best hay crop in several seasons was harvested as the first cutting in the Sisters vicinity this summer, reports Harold Kline, who was in Bend yesterday. Over a ton and a half to the acre was harvested throughout that part of the county. The second cutting will start Monday, assuring either a third crop or unusually good fall pasture.

TIRE COMPANY TO HAVE BRANCH HERE

To establish in Bend a branch of the Columbia Tire corporation, recently organized in Portland, Lewis Wyman, treasurer of the company, is in the city today.

SANDERS RANCH IS SOLD TO HUTCHINS

Roscoe M. Sanders, formerly of Bend but now of Los Angeles, has sold his irrigated 80-acre ranch near Deschutes to W. B. Hutchins, it was announced here. The consideration was not reported.

LIGHTNING CAUSES FIRE EAST OF BEND

Lightning set fire to a tree near the Henry Selde ranch home in the Grange Hall district Monday afternoon during the rain and electrical storm. Selde and his family extinguished the blaze, which would otherwise have spread.

BEND BACKING FOR PORTLAND FAIR CERTAIN

(Continued from Page 1.)

and to watch spellbound as Mayor Baker imprinted a kiss on the dark cheek of a buxom belle from the Warm Spring Indian reservation. This also was staged by the Redmond club in recollection of the time when the Portland mayor achieved fame by kissing Mary Garden. The "Indian" girl is said to have been a popular Redmond man who had donned a rather thorough disguise for the occasion.

BEND HAPPENINGS

Thursday—

Miss Iva Kuekerbocker of Sisters is visiting in Bend.

C. C. Brix of Redmond is in Bend today on business.

W. C. Hollinshead of La Pine is in Bend today on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Milligan are spending today in Bend.

Mrs. Shannon Bond of Portland is visiting with relatives here.

S. I. Daughenbaugh of Millican was a visitor in Bend today.

G. W. Waltman leaves today for Silverton, Ore., to spend a year.

Attorney W. B. Daggett of Redmond is in Bend today on business.

County Commissioner M. C. Conlon of Redmond is spending the day in Bend.

Martin Madsen is in Bend today from his ranch at the head of the Metolius.

Allan Willcoxon of the Elk Lake summer resort is in Bend today on business.

Ralph Lucas has gone to the Willamette valley, where he expects to be employed.

C. H. Irvin, merchant and undertaker in Redmond, is spending the day in Bend.

Mrs. E. G. Snyder of Sisters is visiting with her daughter, Miss Lucille Snyder, in Bend.

John Silvertooth of Antelope spending Bend today on his way to Silver Lake.

J. H. Jeffries and family returned this morning from a vacation of several weeks at the beaches near Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Choltek were in Bend yesterday from their home at La Pine, attending the funeral of James Johnson.

Miss Pearl Dutt returned last night from Portland, where she has been attending the U. of O. summer school. Miss Dutt is a teacher in the Bend schools.

David L. Povey of Portland arrived in Bend this morning on business in connection with the delivery of the windows for the new Methodist church.

C. M. Shaver of Millican has just completed drilling a well on the S. I. Daughenbaugh ranch. A good head of water was secured. Shaver reported while in Bend today.

Nathan Henderson entertained a group of neighbors and some friends from Bend at a chicken dinner at the J. D. Donovan ranch today, the occasion being his 57th birthday.

C. L. Olson and A. J. Larson, who are employed at the road camp doing lava work on the McKenzie highway, are in Bend today. They report that the work is progressing satisfactorily, in spite of a shortage of men.

S. Q. Ellis, who has been relieving W. J. Mahoney as ticket agent and telegraph operator for the O-W here, left last night for Roosevelt. Mahoney returned to his duties today after an illness of several weeks.

Assistant National Forester Will C. Barnes, Assistant District Forester E. N. Kavanagh and Supervisor H. L. Plumb of the Deschutes forest are looking over the range in the vicinity of Suttle lake today. They will return to Bend tonight.

Our Final Clearance Sale of All Summer Stocks

Our Final Clearance Sale of all Summer Stocks will continue another week, sacrificing all our left overs and Summer Goods, regardless of cost, to make room for NEW FALL COATS, SUITS, SWEATERS and BLOUSES arriving now on every express. Come in—get your share of the bargains.

\$12.50 Voile Dresses	\$ 7.50
\$10.50 Gingham Dresses	\$ 4.98
\$22.50 Silk Dresses	\$10.00
\$35.00 Silk Dresses	\$15.00
98c Collar-Cuff set	50c
50c Children's Button Waists	39c
38c Children's Ribbed Hose	25c
98c Ladies' Bloomers and Vest	58c
\$4.50 White Tub Skirts	\$1.98
\$2.48 White Voile Waists	\$1.78
\$1.38 White Silk Hose	75c
\$1.00 White Fibre Silk Hose	50c
58c Children's Sox	35c
\$2.95 R. & G. Corset	\$1.90
\$1.75 R. & G. Corset	\$1.00
39c Ladies' Ribbed Vests	25c
68c Union Suits	48c

The People's Store