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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1885.

STATE AID FOR SCHOOLS.

It is a chronic habit of a considerable percentage of the Legislators of any given State to ride some sort of educational hobby, and Oregon cannot claim exemption from the rule.

Aid is sought for this "institution" and that, with rose colored prophecies as to the good to flow out to bless the dear people from the success of any scheme proposed. Sectarian schools never tire of begging State aid, while other institutions clamor for an appropriation "just this once more." But now another raid is threatened upon the people's exchequer to "endow" a series of "Normal Schools," and it is urged in support of this latter scheme that such schools are an absolute necessity in order to fit men and women to "teach the young idea how to shoot." It somehow does not occur to the champions of the "Normal School" great need that men and women were taught and quite well qualified for the battle of life long prior to the Normal humbug era.

In a recent interview with the Sandwich Island's Sugar King, Mr. Spreckles said that the interviewer could set down one thing as certain, viz: "that Claus Spreckles knew what was good for Claus Spreckles." We have no doubt of the truth of this, for the transition in comparatively few years, from a retail grocer in Church street, New York, to an income of ten thousand dollars a day, and a title of Knighthood from King Kalakua, shows that Sir Claus is, to say the least, thrifty. He knows how to throw out a sprat and catch a mackerel as well as most people. The late Fernando Wood, if he were alive, could tell us something about how the Ways and Means Committee of the House could be used for the good of Mr. Spreckles, and ex-Secretary Boutwell can testify that Sir Claus worked the argument of "extending American commerce in the Pacific" for all it was worth in preventing the abrogation of the one-sided Hawaiian treaty. If Mr. Spreckles don't quietly run a renewal of this treaty through the present Congress, it will not be because he does not know "what is good for Claus Spreckles" nor that he does not understand "addition, division and silence." Speaking seriously, haven't we had about enough of making men rich by act of Congress?—Justice.

Senator Van Wyck, of Nebraska, during a speech made by him in the Senate upon Senator Cullem's bill to create a National Railroad Commission, stated that "the four thousand millions of fictitious watered stock in existence are a mortgage on every acre of land in the Republic," and that in effect the farmers of the United States were "working their farms on shares with the railroads, and that the railroads took the lion's share." That this is literally true on many products can be seen by comparing prices at the point of production with those of the markets where consumed, and the principal question involved is whether the sum demanded by the railroad for its service is a reasonable one. Right here is where the watered stock comes in, and where rates are demanded which pay interest or dividends upon these fictitious securities, they are unquestionably equivalent to a mortgage upon the industry of both producers and consumers. With the industries of the country thus loaded, is it any wonder that the rich grow rapidly richer, while the poor remain poor?

The Eastern Republican papers have not yet done talking about what beat Blaine. Some are blaming Beecher and some blaming Burchard but the thing which beat Blaine was the common school system in its ordinary course of instruction. The three R's which walloped "the Plumed Knight" were not "Rum Romanism and Rebellion," but "Reading, Riting and 'Rithmetic." It was these three that enabled the American people to figure up Blaine's twenty-one years as a public servant, at a compensation not exceeding \$5-000 a year; and they found that it did not quite foot up a million of dollars. And that was what beat Blaine. The public nasal organ smelled a large sized rat.—Standard.

In a highly ironical article in a recent number of Justice reviewing our diplomatic relations, Benjamin F. Butler says "Experience, which some cynic has said is the only school that fools learn at, has shown us, that we have always lost when we made treaties with any power except barbarous tribes, i. e., the Indians, and then we always gained. Our diplomats have always been equal to the task of overreaching the Indians by treaties, probably because the poor Indian could not read them when made."

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