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ATHENA, ORE., JAN. 22, 1909

Uneasy lies the head that wears a wreath won on the athletic field. There is no feat possible for any man that some other man will not risk his life to excel. Hays won the Olympic Marathon by a narrow margin, and the next best man that day, Dorando, outran him on another trial. But Dorando had to yield a few days later to Longboat, an Indian runner who owes the very best that is in him to the game. The Indian went to the international Marathon last summer with a record that called for better fortune than his pitiful collapse in the twentieth mile. Longboat comes of a race noted for swift and hardy footmen. To "run like an Indian" was enough to make a white athlete famous in the early American settlements. The trick was not altogether a matter of high speed, but of covering long distances across country and coming out as fresh as Longboat showed himself to be from his twenty-six mile at Madison Square Garden, when his competitor lay in a collapse. The whites long ago set themselves up as schoolmasters for the red men. Mr. Savage must be civilized. Perhaps his time has come to teach the overcivilized whites some things which after all, ennobled his savage simple life.

No news that has been received by the people of Oregon during the last twenty-four months is so important as the announcement that the transcontinental railroads will make a rate, beginning March 1st and continuing until April 30th, from Kansas City, Omaha, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Winnipeg and other situated towns, to all main line railroad points in Oregon, for \$35.00. The people of no state in the Union have profited more by these one way tickets than have those of Oregon during the last four years. The rate from Chicago is \$33, from St. Louis \$30.50 with a proportionate low fare from all points in the United States. This should add many thousands of actual settlers to the population of Oregon. These are one way tickets and if travelers desire to return to their former homes in the older eastern states they would have to pay full fare.

The Portland Commercial club has introduced a novel feature that should be adopted by every community in Oregon. It is the appointment of a Newcomers' Special Committee, and that committee held its first meeting Saturday, outlining a plan to be carried on throughout the entire year which will result in giving each and every newcomer the "glad hand."

There is perhaps no one topic of more direct interest to the people of the state of Oregon than proper legislation governing the use of water and it is certainly gratifying to know that the present session of the legislature will attempt to solve the problem. One does not have to look many years a-

head in Oregon under the present system to foresee almost endless litigation and trouble arising out of the use of water for agricultural purposes, and the sooner an effort is made to settle the questions involved the better. The Oregon water laws might have done twenty years ago, with a closer settlement of the country and an increased demand for water, says the Union Republican.

The annual Nobel prize award is an ideal method for letting the whole world know what has been going on among scientific toilers of late. But for the patient investigation of evidence by competent authorities few outside of technical circles would ever learn who has been doing the greatest work for humanity during the year or what branch of activity has achieved the most valuable result.

The record of the California belle who discounts Dr. Oeler and remains a coquette at sixty-five was "bent to a frazzle" by the celebrated French beauty, Ninon de L'Enclos. In her octogenarian days Ninon was asked at what age coquetry ceased to be a passion with women. "Really you must ask some one older than I," was the naive answer.

The welcome thaw extending over the Pacific Northwest did not interfere with the Walla Walla California excursionists, who reached Portland Saturday as expected. A car ride over the city, dinner and evening reception at the Portland Commercial Club, were features of their entertainment.

The apples of the Pacific Northwest are the subject of an extended article in a recent issue of the Saturday Evening Post. This attractive presentation of the fruit industry to about five millions of people is a recognition much appreciated by Oregon and Washington.

Oregon grape was the chief decoration in historic old Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, New York, on Christmas Day, and Oregon's state flower was deserving of a place of honor in the church made famous by one of the greatest of all Americans, Henry Ward Beecher.

Statement No. 1 legislators were loyal to their constituents and Governor Chamberlain was elected United States Senator on the first ballot—the Oregonian, seavenger newspaper, and ward politician McHarg, to the contrary notwithstanding.

The government expects to put \$13,000,000 in collecting and printing the next census. If we were in dead earnest about retrenching we would all chip in the necessary data and save the treasury about \$10,000,000 of that money.

A brilliant, sagacious business stunt—that of opposing a \$350 detective bill the labor for which netted the county something like \$6,000. The Sage of Bengaloola had better foresight than that.

Cuban Liberals flaunt a rooster as their party emblem, which is all right, but Cuba Libre's bird should bear in mind that certain live things this side of Florida keys also wear spurs.

Theodore was probably taking a day off when Roosevelt signed that contract specifying that his contributions to the Outlook would be "limited as to length."

It cost just \$116,000 for Marjorie Gould to break into society. Now that she's in it's to be hoped she will not get the measles and break out.

Dire predictions are made for the peach buds because of the cold wave, but so long as the social buds are all right the country can get along.

A California man proposes to pension parents of more than a dozen children. But it's the neighbors that really deserve the pension.

A Utah Mormon has died, leaving 300 children and grandchildren. Wonder if they left him anything to leave besides descendants?

Here's to Astoria and Clatsop county. May they live long and prosper. They surely got what they voted for!

AN IMPERTINENT DEMAND

There is a member of the Legislature of California who, upon the mistaken premise that all children who are born are blessings to the state, has introduced a bill providing that any man who is father of twelve children shall receive a pension of \$25 per month. Stupidity and assumption could hardly go farther than this. Why should the state pay for what it already has in over abundance—children who come into life at the behest of a selfish animal instinct merely? Why put a premium upon irresponsible parentage; itself the root of two-thirds of the social and economic evils of the time? Look at the Children's Homes and Boys' and Girls' Aid Societies, and Baby Homes and the records of Juvenile Courts, through all of which parental irresponsibility stalks in moral nakedness, unashamed, and then talk of placing a premium upon fatherhood that does not recognize the duty of caring for its own! The egotism of such a proposition, coming from a man who had already in his own estimation reached the parental distinction—numerically considered—that entitled him to a pension, is disgusting. It mocks at the finer sensibilities that find expression in parental responsibility and honest, self-respecting pride of posterity, contributes to the pauper spirit already rampant, and seeks to make merchandise of an instinct that if not sacred, is gross to the last degree.

The father of a numerous progeny can only be just to himself, his children and the state by bringing his family up to be self-respecting, self supporting members of society, with an educational equipment that will fit them to discharge the duties of life, as these come to them according to their station in the industrial and professional world. The man who brings up his children, whether two or twelve, on these lines, may well be accounted a good, reputable and useful citizen. Such a father does not ask a pension or any special commendation, being satisfied with the simple fact that of duty honorably performed toward his own and to the state. As to the others—the irresponsible class—it is enough and more than enough that the state is compelled to care for their surplus of neglected children in ways shown by the records of philanthropic, reformatory and punitive institutions without levying further tax upon itself to provide a pension for this chief of sinners against it—the self-complacent progenitor of more children than he can bring up to lives of usefulness, including their ability to support him when he is old, without appeal to public charity—Oregonian.

President Helps Orphans. Hundreds of orphans have been helped by the President of the Industrial and Orphan's Home at Macon, Ga. Who writes: We have used Electric Bitters in this institution for nine years. It has proved a most excellent medicine for stomach Liver and Kidney troubles. We regard it as one of the best family medicine on earth. It invigorates the vital organs, purifies the blood, aids digestion creates appetite. To strengthen and build up the thin pale, weak children or rundown people it has no equal. Best for female complaints. Only 50c at Palace Drug Co.

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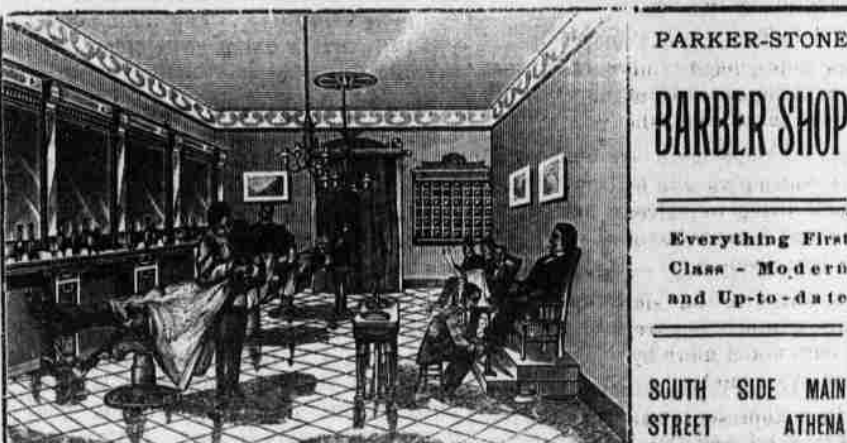
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