

# Athena Press

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The legislature forces the people to make use of the initiative and referendum, is the opinion of the East Oregonians. Through petty political bickerings the members waste valuable time and then fail to accomplish work that should be done. The refusal of the senate to make a change in the office of food and dairy commissioner is an instance. Bailey was twice subjected to investigation by the legislature. Each time he was found guilty and the verdict was that if he would not resign, he should be removed. The house voted to oust him but in the senate there was a contingent that stood fast against reform. Because Governor West had urged the removal of Bailey, the Bowerman forces took up his defense. It was "peanut politics" pure and simple. Yet a sufficient number of senators lined up to block the move. Incidentally it is the shame of Umatilla county that Senators Barrett and Burgess were in the group. In acting as they did in this case the senators did not represent their constituents. The people of this county do not favor keeping in office a man who has never been anything but a political barnacle and who has allowed his office to be used to defeat the very purpose for which it was established, as Bailey has done. Every time the legislature acts as did the senate in this particular an argument is made for use of the initiative.

The state of Washington still owns an immense area of public land and timber and the Spokesman Review believes that by efficient and honest conservation of these resources for another generation will result in giving Washington a fund 30 years from now that will support the public schools and relieve the taxpayers from this expense. Such a goal certainly deserves the utmost effort to attain it. Consequently no stone ought to be left unturned to prevent any more waste and spoliation as has been shown to have been perpetrated before 1907. There still remains much to be desired. Astounding charges have been published in the form of sworn affidavits. If the affidavits have not forsworn themselves, corruption and conspiracy have robbed the people of property and profits that belonged to them alone. What the legislative investigation during 1909 and 1910 disclosed in regard to the land department made it clear that it was high time to substitute a commission for the commissioner and to see whether the new body would not safeguard the taxpayers' interests in public property more effectively than one man can do. Whatever the motives and creditability of the affidavits, the plain duty of the legislature is to protect the public interest beyond the reach of private greed and predatory wealth.

The reciprocity treaty with Canada has produced a complicated scrap among all interests that would be affected in event it goes into effect. And it does not stop at that. The West is now ready to accuse Taft with playing a political hand in the Japanese coolie embargo with the reciprocity bill as his trump card. The senate has not passed the the reciprocity measure, Japan is placed on her honor in a new treaty to keep her undesirable coolies at home, and the storm of disapproval continues to brew and gather around the Taft administration.

This year colonist travel from the East promises to be heavier than ever before, and all transcontinental lines are making extensive preparations to accommodate it. The Harriman system has appropriated \$1,250,000 for advertising purposes, the greater amount of which sum will be devoted to exploitation of the varied resources of the Northwest country. More concessions in the way of reduced rates have been granted than ever before. This fact coupled with the exhibit cars which all transcontinental railroads have been sending through the east, all tends to stimulate interest in the Northwest.

Twenty-two towns will be placed on the railroad map of Oregon by the operation of the Oregon Trunk up the Deschutes Canyon and on to Madras, which will be started March 1. These centers have never before had railroad transportation and the surrounding country will increase in productivity and wealth to a remarkable extent because of the markets placed within reach of the farmer by the coming of the railroad. Pioneer conditions will obtain no longer in Central Oregon. There is now no obstacle to its agricultural development.

An increase of 60 per cent in appropriations by the legislature over that appropriated by the 25th assembly will surely have no tendency toward lessening taxes. The present legislature has appropriated \$4,892,460.43 of the people's money for one source and another, as against a total appropriation of \$3,087,487.51 by the previous legislature. To offset this enormous sum, no revenue of consequence has been provided. It is a matter of dig up and pay it through taxes.

There is in its raw state a yellow metallic substance that looks very like gold, but is no more gold than chalk is cheese. It is called "fool's gold" in some places because of the ease with which it takes in people. Of much the same character is a lot of the mail order house goods offered to the public in alluring ways. Almost invariably they are far below the weight, size or quality represented.

There is a measure that makes it a crime to issue checks without funds to meet them that has been passed by both branches of the legislature. The Oregon law in this respect has been notoriously weak. Often it has happened that the bogus check man dupes his victim and escapes from the defect of the law. The final passage of this bill will no doubt have a salutary effect.

## HUNTING THE WALRUS.

The Eskimo Takes Advantage of the Animal's Curiosity.

In his frail skinboat it is a difficult and dangerous task for the Eskimo to go out to sea forty to sixty miles and intercept the walrus as he passes on his migration into the Arctic.

One carcass will fill his boat, for it weighs from 1,000 to 3,000 pounds. He hunts the walrus when they are lying asleep on the ice floes in herds from ten to several hundred. Death must be instantaneous, else with a few rolls or the peculiar lumbering, humping movement (seen of the seal when ashore), he makes the few feet to the water and then is lost, as he has not sufficient blubber and air to float. He has much natural curiosity, and if not scared by shots will come up close to your boat or the ice floe on which you are sitting, spurring, snorting and rolling his eyes; with his gleaming tusks and bristled snout he has an uncanny, goblin, monster-like appearance. A herd of fifty or sixty of them will come up en masse, raise high out of the water to stare at you, then snort, spurt and disappear again, only to come up on the same spot and repeat the maneuver indefinitely. Taking advantage of this the Eskimos hide behind ice hummocks and throw a harpoon into one, then snub the tough rawhide line around an ice cake. He must perforce come up to blow, and he is then killed with the rifle. The thick skin and the mass of blubber and meat beneath render him almost invulnerable.—Pacific Monthly.

## MAKE THEM LAUGH.

A Bachelor's Idea of the Way Children Should Be Trained.

"The people who don't have to do things can always do them better than the people who are obliged to do them," said the cynical bachelor. "If you want to know how to invest money, ask a fellow who has never had any to invest. I suppose it's the same with raising children. Nevertheless, I am fond of children, and never having had an opportunity of raising any of my own, I am critical about the way other people, more fortunate than I, raise theirs.

"My brother has a youngster, a boy about six years old, and everything that kid wants he cries for. The minute he begins to cry he gets it, which, according to my reasoning, is all wrong.

"Why not make him laugh for it? It's just as easy for a child to laugh as to cry, and it's far more healthful, besides being much more cheerful for the surrounding populace.

"I've tried the experiment with him, and it works like a charm. If I happen to have anything he wants, and he cries for it, I make fun of him. 'That isn't the way to get it,' I say. 'Don't cry for it. Laugh for it.'

"It took only about two lessons for him to understand this, and you have no idea what a wonderful difference it has made in the disposition of that kid. Still, I'm only an old bachelor, and I'm not supposed to know anything about such things."—Philadelphia Ledger.

## Took an Unfair Advantage.

Mrs. Dorkins—Yesterday I called Mrs. Grundage's attention to the fact that she had left the gate between our back yards open and that her chickens had come through and scratched up our flower beds, and she looked as if she would have liked to bite my head off. How foolish it is for people to get angry when you remind them that they have been careless about something they had no business to overlook!

Mr. Dorkins—I am glad to hear you say that, Maria. You won't mind if I mention that when I came home last night I found that you'd left both the back doors unlocked.

Mrs. Dorkins—Yes; you're always watching to see if you can't catch me in some little fault, and it makes you perfectly happy when you do!—New York Tribune.

## Something to Live For.

Three little girls were playing. The mother of one came into the room and engaged the children in conversation. "Marian, what are you going to be when you grow up?" she asked.

"I am going to be a famous singer," she replied.

"And you, Susie, what are you to be?"

"Oh, I am going to write stories when I grow up," she answered.

"And what is Marjorie to be?" continued the mother.

Marjorie, aged five, thought seriously a moment, and then said, "Well, I am not sure, but I think I'll be a widow."—Delineator.

## A Failure.

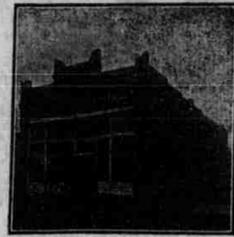
Maama—What in the world is making the baby cry so, I wonder? Little Eva—I guess he's mad 'cause I tried to make him smile with your glove stretcher.—Chicago News.

## Domestic Difficulty.

Old Lady (turning to neighbor during last act of tragedy)—Eh, mister, but them 'Amlets 'ad a deal o' trouble in their family!—London Punch.

This English proverb proves the truth of the saying—'Practice makes perfect.'—London Punch.

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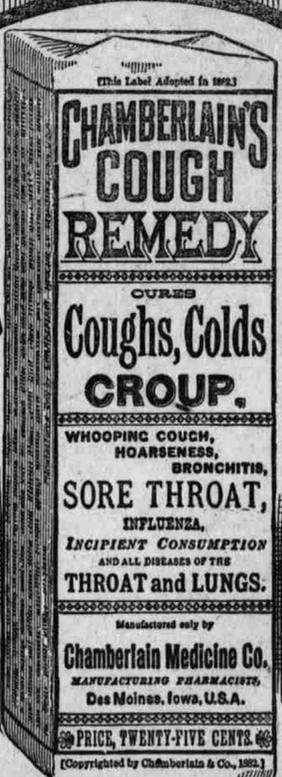
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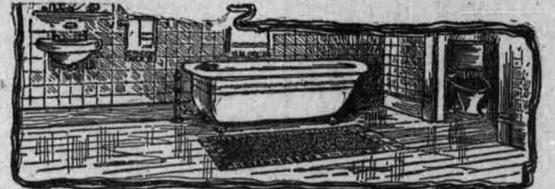
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