

Daily Democrat

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1915

SHOULD PAPERS TELL TRUTH?

One of the best bills ever presented to the legislature of Oregon was killed on Monday.

Notwithstanding that Grand avenue's most eloquent orator introduced the bill, it deserved a better fate than indefinite postponement.

Its purpose was to make newspapers tell the truth. It will be readily admitted that a bill with such a noble design should have had a fair show for passage and should not have been handicapped with a sponsor like Senator Kellaher.

The suggestion that newspapers should be forced to tell the truth—even if it requires legislative action to do it—is highly meritorious. It proves that our legislators are working for better things—striving for loftier ideals. What thing could be better, what ideal loftier than truth, and what more beautiful achievement than introducing the handmaid of virtue to the daily press!

The opposition to this splendid bill reflects little credit on those who voted against it. Indeed, the arguments were pitifully weak and unconvincing. One notable senator arose and declared he was unalterably opposed to the measure because in requiring the newspapers to tell the truth it imposed a duty on them that was impossible of performance.

"Let us," he cried in a fine burst of eloquence, "let us not chain the mentality, shackle the minds, and enslave the imaginations of our great editors by forcing them to tell the truth. Gentlemen, life is sordid enough without compelling our brilliant journalists to confine themselves to its ignoble realities. Let us preserve to the press, our safeguard against oppression, or defender in time of need, the pure palladium of our holy liberties, the people's pulpit, pride, and preserver, its immemorial freedom from whatever would bind, bend, or break it. This infamous bill to hamper the newspapers by compelling them to tell the truth on any subject would be a deadly blow at the God-given right of free speech."

The oration in defense of the freedom of the press was greeted with a tremendous burst of applause. Senator Butler then rose to express his profound displeasure of the measure that was designed to force the people's vindicator, the press, to abandon its light and graceful flights of fiction for the cold, bald, uninteresting, and unconvincing facts. And, anyway, he declared with great earnestness and sincerity, even if the splendid body of senators, of which he was proud to be a member, thought in its wisdom that it was wise to pass this bill, and compel the editors to tell the truth, the law would be inoperative, "as it is impossible to make people moral and truthful by legislation."

And that is how the bill to make papers tell the truth was defeated.—Portland Speculator.

HARRISBURG ITEMS AND PERSONAL NEWS

Prof. Gooding, Superintendent of schools is beginning the erection of a residence on the lots bought of F. Dempsey north of the school house.

The lecture by Dr. Bertha Stuart, professor of physical training for girls at the University of Oregon, was attended by the W. C. T. U. women and others of the town and is highly spoken of.

Dr. Stuart also gave a short address in connection with a program of music and readings at the reception in the evening tendered the university young people who held meetings Saturday and Sunday for the purpose of interesting the young people of Harrisburg in church work.

Mrs. George J. Wilhelm entertained the Tuesday club on Tuesday afternoon. The members of the club were asked to represent a character in a book and to tell the story.

Mrs. E. E. Ujmeyer very sweetly told the "Exquisite Love Story," and perfectly represented the Little Old Lady in the Ladies Home Journal of December.

Mrs. J. B. Littler as Minnehaha told the story of "Hiawath's Wooing."

Mrs. Drake and Mrs. R. K. Burton

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had both chosen the same, not knowing what the other had and together told the story of "Priscilla" and much similarity of costume. Mrs. Robinson as "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" and Mrs. Dr. Clarke as "Miss Hazy" in "Lovey Mary" furnished the "contradiction to the 'classy' part of the program. Mrs. Wilhelm in a beautifully embroidered Japanese robe and so truly representing her character, her guests could scarcely believe she was receiving them in her contradictory English, was "Cho Cho San" in "Madame Butterfly," the Japanese story by John Luther Long, dramatized by Belasco and set to opera by Puccini, the first European story any composer ever set to music.

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ladies appeared at the front door and constituted themselves self-invited guests. The hostess served the ladies first according to previous plans, the gentlemen amusing themselves in the parlor meantime.

In the dining room Japanese decoration, with lights and candles twinkling softly back of parasols and screens. Chinese lilies and cyclamen flower decorations with shells from Japan, a Japanese lunch set and even Japanese cups to sip tea from, with incense sticks burning, the fragrance and refreshments combined required no great stretch of the imagination to make the enjoyment of it all an "Oriental" treat long to be remembered.

Evangelistic services at the M. E. church South, began Monday evening. Rev. Thomas, state evangelist, will be here next week.

NEW YORK MAY GET O. K. WALLOP SOON

By Hal Sheridan (Written for United Press) New York, Feb. 18.—New York as

Cameron's IS THE PLACE FOR ALL KINDS OF MILL WORK Both phones Foot Ferry St.

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Paid \$3,483.33 Cash to Samuel May, formerly of May & Senders, Harrisburg, Or. The policy was issued at age 59—a 15 year endowment—at age 74 it returned the insured all his premiums and more, besides the life insurance. Mr. May, in a letter dated Jan. 25, 1915, says: "The settlement was entirely satisfactory and I can cheerfully and conscientiously recommend the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company." H. N. COCKERLINE GENERAL AGENT PHONE 246-J 335 WEST 2ND

EYES OF ALL NATIONS ENGLAND furnishes the greater part of all glass used for spectacles and eyeglasses in this country. This great war has turned the attention of American manufacturers to the problem of manufacturing optical glass in the U. S. A. E. C. Meade, Optometrist

a boxing center is going to be handed a O. K. wallop in the near future if the plans of Havana promoters don't fall through.

Returning impresarios bring stories of how the natives down there are simply crazy about the glove game and are willing, yet anxious to throw their shelles through the box office window with astonishing regularity to see the boys perform. Added to the patronage of the natives, they say is that of a great many American sportsmen who spend their winters there.

Be that as it may, its a cinch if the promoters there keep offering the kind of money they have started out to, these United States are going to be barren of pugas as Cleveland is of ball-players.

In the Youngs-Abraham-Willie Lewis battle a few days ago, the first fistic struggle staged in the new campaign, each received \$2,000. If the promoters can pay this class of boxers \$2,000 per each and get away, what, oh what, would they pay a pair of champions or real contenders.

Western fighters are already beginning to prick up their ears. That two thousand noise listens awfully sweet to their battered ears and if the promoters keep it up Cuba is going to be as full of boxers and alleged boxers as Ban Johnson is of expletives against the Feds.

H. Connolly Pollack, whose chief aim in life seems to be keeping his champion, Freddie Welsh, from getting into a decision fight, is out with a new announcement. He says after Welsh and Willie Ritchie settle their little dispute at Madison Square Garden March 11, he is going to send Freddie Welsh against all comers in 20-round decision battles anywhere the promoters will offer enough kale. Promises and announcements to this effect have emanated from Welsh and his manager at regular intervals since the Welshman won his crown, but up to date they have managed to sidle step all encounters where there was a chance for the Britisher to drop his title.

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