

The Aurora Observer

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Geo. E. Knapp, Editor and Publisher



EDITORIAL
Opinions of the
Observer

The Nation's Safeguard

In commenting on the danger to national security resulting from constant agitation in congress for amendment to the United States Constitution permitting congress to override or otherwise interfere with the court's present status, Secretary of the navy Wilbur says such action would destroy the present American system of executive, judicial and legislative powers. Limitation of the power of the Court would require it to substitute voting power for logic, a change which would lead to political controversies over the selection of such judge.

An Unsound Policy

Agitation has been started in several states to force monopolistic state insurance in the casualty field covering workingmen's compensation insurance.

The theory of state workingmen's compensation laws which specify how much and when an injured workman shall be paid, if he is entitled to compensation, is generally accepted as a sound economic policy.

The same might be said of the various laws governing the state and national banking which specify restrictions and provisions for the protection of bank depositors, stockholders and officials. The fact that the state provides legislation for protecting and compensating an injured employe is no more an argument for creating a monopolistic state insurance department covering workingmen's compensation to the exclusion of all private companies than would be the argument that because we have state banking laws for the protection of the public, we should, therefore, establish state banks to the exclusion of private banks.

The only reason that the people or law makers listen to the arguments for state insurance monopolies is that they understand the business of insurance less than they do the business of banking or selling groceries.

It is a legitimate function of the state to provide laws for the protection of its people and see that these laws are enforced. It is not a legitimate function, however, under our system of government, for the state to set up monopolistic state enterprises to the exclusion of private initiative and endeavor.

The fight for monopolistic state casualty and workingmen's compensation insurance is an entering wedge for other lines of state endeavor along socialistic lines—Exchange.

Tr Build Experimental Lines to Oregon Farms.

Information recently compiled by Mountain States Power Company with headquarters at Albany, Ore. shows that considerable progress has been made by that company in extending service to the farming and fruit growing districts in the Willamette Valley and Coos Bay Districts of Oregon. The total number of rural customers supplied with electricity is now more than 1,000.

Plans of the management contemplate further co-operative effort with the state agricultural school authorities and the farmers towards the building of experimental lines to work out problems in the application of electricity to farm production, similar to the rural lines recently built by power companies in Minnesota and South Dakota.

We're Boosting

Farm Pointers.

A succession of cover sprays at about two weeks intervals is applied by southern Oregon apple growers to get best results in clean fruit. The practice is continued through the early summer months with cover sprays recommended in the experiment station spray program for Oregon.

Soils in the best physical condition and well supplied with plant food are essential to vegetables of good quality because they need to grow quickly. Where well composted stable manure cannot be had a commercial fertilizer made up of 3 per cent nitrogen, 7 to 8 per cent phosphoric acid and 3 per cent potash is recommended by the Oregon experiment station.

Anthraxnose canker and fruit rot are prevented by a single thorough application of bordeaux 4-4-50. Good economy is to put the bordeaux on with the July or August worm spray, says the O. A. C. experiment station.

A profitable crop rotation in Oregon contains a cash crop such as wheat, a legume crop, a cultivated manured crop and livestock feed crop, grouped to distribute farm labor as evenly as possible. The small grain is disked in following the new row crop, and followed by clover which may be turned under for the new row crop. This does away with plowing for two years and makes only two plowings in the four years to complete the rotation.—O. A. C. Bulletin.

Leacock Tells How to Help Son Get Lessons

The greatest nuisance of all to the schoolmaster is the parent who does his boy's home exercises and works his boy's sums. I suppose they mean well by it. But it is a disastrous thing to do for any child. Whenever I found myself correcting exercises that had obviously been done for the boys in their homes I used to say to them: "Paul tell your father that he must use the ablative after pro." "Yes, sir," says the boy. "And Edward, you tell your grandmother that her use of the dative case simply won't do. She's getting along nicely and I'm satisfied with the way she's doing, but I cannot have her using the dative right and left on every occasion. Tell her it won't do." "Yes, sir," says little Edward.

I remember one case in particular of a parent who did not do the boy's exercise, but, after letting the boy do it himself, wrote across the face of it a withering comment addressed to me and reading: "From this exercise you can see that my boy, after six months of your teaching, is completely ignorant. How do you account for it?" I sent the exercise back to him with the added note: "I think it must be hereditary."—Stephen Leacock, in College Days.

Romantic Story of Old London Jacobite Bank

One of the most romantic stories in banking history is recalled by the announcement that the business of Messrs. Drummond of Charing Cross, the old-established private bankers, has many associations with the Jacobites. Indeed, its founder, Andrew Drummond, is believed to have been a Jacobite first and a banker afterward. It is at least certain that he walked from Edinburgh to London, with a price on his head, bearing funds to be used to secure the restoration of the Stuarts. The Malacca cane with a gold crutch handle which he carried with him on this adventurous journey still hangs, a treasured possession, in the bank parlor.

The old banker probably thought of this journey and of the risks he had run in taking it, when Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the "old fox" of the highlands, passed the bank on his way to the tower after the "forty-five." Lovat, whose gray hairs did not save him from the scaffold, had been on the books of the firm.

As he passed the bank windows Robert and Henry Drummond looked out to see him, but Andrew sat still at his desk. "I suppose you would run out to watch me if I was to be beheaded," he remarked, dryly.

An attempt to escape from the Oregon state prison was frustrated when J. W. Lilly, deputy warden, sent 14 men to solitary confinement. The men planned to escape through a 40-foot underground passageway leading from the center of a woodpile to a point outside the prison wall. Those implicated were declared among the most dangerous criminals in the prison and included five who made the daring escape over the wall several months ago. The plot to gain freedom was conceived several weeks ago, and had it been successful between 20 and 30 men would have left the prison, Deputy Lilly declared. The plan was to gain the outside of the wall under cover of darkness.

Husky Individuals in Days of the Georges

In an old London inn known as the Sign of the Coffee Mill Mr. E. V. Lucas found a pair of scales on which during a century and a half many notable men were weighed. Ever since the year 1765 records of illustrious and also of regal ponderosity have been kept at the place, which is in St. James street. If you want to know how much Charles Lamb weighed in 1814, writes Mr. Lucas in the "Romance of Old London," I can tell you that when he was thirty-nine years old he turned the scale in his boots at one hundred and twenty-nine pounds, much more than I was expecting. But his boots may have been heavy.

I discovered that Lord Byron, who we know was sensitive about his bulk, was weighed many times, first in 1806, when he was living at No. 8, only five doors away; then he weighed one hundred and ninety-four pounds in his boots. The realization must have distressed exceedingly one who lived in fear of embonpoint even to the extreme of drinking vinegar and generally mortifying the flesh. In 1811 in shoes only—he had got his weight down to one hundred and thirty-seven and a half pounds. Tom Moore seems similarly to have decreased, for in 1807 he was one hundred and forty-six pounds and in 1809 one hundred and twenty-five.

Another famous man, one who also could have had no wish to lose his figure and who will go down in history as much for his insolent question as to the identity of the prince regent—"Who's your fat friend?"—as for his fastidiousness in ties, was Beau Brummell. In 1798 Brummell stood at one hundred and seventy-two pounds in boots, in 1811 at one hundred and ninety-two pounds in boots and frock, and in 1815 at one hundred and seventy-eight pounds in shoes. In 1818 the Beau had to fly from his creditors to Calais. None the less there is still one more entry, in 1822, suggesting that he was able to visit the scenes of his old triumphs again; and then he was one hundred and fifty-three pounds in boots.

As for the "fat friend," later George IV, he evidently earned the epithet. In 1791 he weighed two hundred and forty-two pounds in boots, in 1798 two hundred and twenty-four pounds "after gout," in 1800 two hundred and forty-seven pounds in hat and boots, and later that year two hundred and twenty-nine pounds "after gout." In 1803 "with gout" he weighed two hundred and eighteen pounds.

The figures help us to picture those solid men of a century ago. We can see them trotting or mincing or promading with an air, small and large, down the sunny side of St. James street to weigh themselves before dinner.—Youth's Companion.

Going Too Far

Mike and his family are blessed with lively imaginations, which is a good thing, since, what with a large brood of children, doctors' bills and things, they are not able to indulge in many luxuries.

"I saw a mighty foine sedan this afternoon, Nora," remarked Mike the other evening, "an I'm thinkin' I'll buy it next week. It's only \$5,000!"

"I'm thinkin' ye'll have to wait a couple o' weeks, Mike darlint, for the rint's due nixt week."

"I'm goin' to sit on the front seat with dad!" piped up young Denny.

"No, sir, that's my place!" put in Terry, his twin, and in another moment they were deciding the question with their fists and feet.

"Here, here!" cried Nora, seizing them by their collars and shaking them vigorously. "You young roughnecks will have that sedan all scuffed up, kickin' around in it that way!"—Indianapolis Star.

Demise Not Unexpected

A little girl of Woodruff place was the owner of two goldfish, which were her most prized possessions. Several weeks ago she went out of town, but before leaving she entrusted her fish to the neighbor next door, who promised to look after them carefully. Unfortunately during the owner's absence, one of the fish died, much to the embarrassment of the neighbor.

When the family returned and the little girl learned of the death of her pet, she could hardly keep from crying. "Well, I guess it couldn't be helped; one of them was looking awfully bad when I left," she said.—Detroit News.

Veteran Razor Wielder

Abial B. Anthony, a Burlington (Vt.) barber, has been serving customers for sixty-seven years, of which sixty have been spent in Burlington. He is now eighty-five years old, and this colored barber is believed to be the oldest one in Vermont. Among his customers have been P. T. Barnum and Grover Cleveland. When he began his tonsorial career he received \$3 a week, while his customers paid 6 cents for a shave and 18 cents for a haircut. During the Civil war hair dyeing was a profitable side line, most of his customers being women.

That Much Settled

A man with a little asthmatic trouble was thinking of spending a vacation in a high altitude. But first he went to consult a famous specialist. The latter heard his story, thumped his chest a few times and then said: "I don't think I'd go." "How much do I owe you?" asked the patient. "Two hundred dollars." "Here you are, doc. Now I know I can't go."

FACTS OF INTEREST TO ALL AMERICANS

Publication by Government Gives Much Information.

"Know America First" should be a maxim of wide appeal to Americans in these days, and a government publication just issued affords notable contributions to the general knowledge of some features of our national domain and history. This publication is entitled "Boundaries, Areas, Geographic Centers and Altitudes of the United States and of the Several States, with a Brief Record of Important Changes in Their Territory," by E. M. Douglas, and has been issued by the Department of the Interior as Bulletin 689 of the geological survey. The report is sold by the superintendent of documents, Washington, at a nominal cost.

The book gives numerous little-known facts relating to the organization of the original thirteen colonies and of the states after the Revolution. For example, how many know that the colony of Virginia once included the Bermuda islands and also the country westward to the Pacific ocean, then called the South sea—so christened by Balboa in 1513, because at the place where he first saw it the shore line runs nearly east and west—or that the area now called Vermont once belonged to New York and that Massachusetts controlled the area now included in Maine.

The reasons for the peculiar irregularities and jogs in some of the boundary lines are explained. For example, the "nose" projecting into Canada at the Lake of the Woods, on the Minnesota boundary, is due to the use of inaccurate maps by the makers of the treaties by which this area became United States territory. The "pan-handle" at the southern corner of Missouri is said to be the result of efforts of a prominent property owner to have his plantation included in the new state.

The indefiniteness of some of the early boundary lines is illustrated by a quotation from Rufus Choate, who in the boundary dispute between Massachusetts and Rhode Island said before the Massachusetts legislature: "The commissioners might as well have decided that the line between the states was bounded on the north by a bramble bush, on the south by a blue jay, on the west by a hive of bees in swarming time, and on the east by 500 foxes with firebrands tied to their tails."

The state of California has within its boundaries the highest and the lowest points of dry land in the United States proper, and Alaska has the highest mountain peak in the possessions of the United States. Colorado is the state having the greatest average altitude; Delaware has the least.

The bulletin describes the outlying possessions of the United States and tells when and how they were acquired. Of the newly added possessions (Alaska, bought in 1867, not included), the 7,000 or more islands comprising the Philippine group, cover the greatest area. The Virgin Islands are the most recent acquisition and also the most costly. To obtain sovereignty over these islands, which have a combined land area of a trifle less than 133 square miles, the United States paid nearly \$300 an acre. For Alaska, which has been an important source of revenue, the United States paid less than 2 cents an acre.

It is generally supposed that the United States has never relinquished territory once acquired, but this is not the case. The United States gave up more than 20,000 square miles of western land when it purchased Florida from Spain by the treaty of 1819.

The bulletin contains a facsimile reproduction of a map of the British and French possessions in America as they were known in 1755. A copy of that map was used in the preparation of the treaty with Great Britain in 1782, when the United States was first recognized as an independent nation. The book also contains numerous other maps illustrating the growth of the United States and the changes in its boundaries from early colonial days up to the present time.

No "Artificial Silk"

What is widely known as "artificial silk" is not artificial silk at all in the eyes of the National Retail Dry Goods association, and an effort is being made to find a scientific name for this synthetic product which is a silk substitute. For a time the term "gloss" was adopted and it seemed as if the name would take hold, but it has failed to register properly. The new synthetic product has no more relation to silk than it has to wool or cotton, and for this reason a scientific trade name is sought.

Quality O. K.

When three years old, Carl, whose sisters were named Mabel, Josephine and Rena, was sent to visit an aunt. Soon after his arrival, the aunt noticed the bright gingham blouse he was wearing and said to him:

"Why, Carl, what a pretty new blouse you have!"

"No, it ain't new, neither," answered Carl. "Mabel wore it, Josie wore it, Emile wore it and now I'm wearin' it."

Appearances Deceiving

Grocer (proudly producing can)—Here's the spaghetti you want, Mrs. Johnson. It's the very best grade. Mrs. Johnson—Huh! In that short can? You're mistaken. What I want is the regular, real long kind of spaghetti.—Progressive Grocer.

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Final Notice of Executrix

To whom it may concern:

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Sarah W. Mann, has this day filed, in the County Court for Marion County, Oregon, her final account as executrix of the last will and testament and estate of James D. Mann, deceased, and that said court has fixed and appointed Tuesday, July 15, 1924, at the hour of ten o'clock a. m. of said day, in the county court room, in the county court house, in said county and state, as the time and place for the hearing of objections to such final account and for the settlement thereof.

SARAH W. MANN.

Executrix of the last will and testament and estate of James D. Mann, deceased.

Carey F. Martin, attorney for estate, 413 Masonic Temple Building, Salem, Ore. June 12-July 10

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC	
NORTH BOUND	
No. 22 (on Flag).....	5:44 a. m.
No. 16 (on Flag).....	7:38 a. m.
No. 62 (Stop).....	10:19 a. m.
No. 18 (Stop).....	2:16 p. m.
No. 24 (on Flag).....	7:00 p. m.
SOUTH BOUND	
No. 17 (Stop).....	9:43 a. m.
No. 61 (on flag).....	2:08 p. m.
No. 23 (Stop).....	4:53 p. m.
No. 21 (on Flag).....	9:09 p. m.

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