

PORTLAND JOURNAL.

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MISCHIEF IN THE INTERIM.

Politics is a thing to attend to all of the time, and in proportion as the solid citizenship of the state gives it constant heed will good results be attained. It is too much the tendency to discuss furiously during brief campaigns, when business and society are given an unhealed, and then forget that eternal vigilance is the price of the liberty of republics.

But a few weeks ago the people of Oregon were talking one thing—politics. Today no one is so low as to do reverence to the politician. Yet those same politicians are just now, with the people resting secure in their indifference, scheming and planning, and the real combinations are being put up that will show in the future.

Defeated professional politicians went to work the day after the recent election to lay the wires for the next contest. They began to gather about them elements of strength, to promise this and that, to determine certain acts that will affect the future status, so that when the conventions meet two years hence, the dear people will have a modicum only of influence in deciding what shall be done.

A Legislature is to meet to carry out the will of the people. It is to pass and repeal laws, elect a United States Senator, and do things that will have important bearing upon the future of the commonwealth. Yet no one is giving heed to what they shall do, excepting the interested politician, and no one ever charged him with negligence.

Who knows about the candidates for the United States Senatorship? Does anyone believe that there are no flurtings, no wire layings, no schemings, no promises to support this questionable measure if the member will vote for Mr. A, or Mr. B, for the upper National House? And yet the great body of the citizenship rests content to place in the hands of designing men weapons of power and potential danger, and pays not one whit of heed to the course in which State affairs are flowing.

THE FEW OR THE MANY.

C. E. S. Wood, in his Fourth of July address in Portland, discussed the tendency in this country for government to favor the few instead of the many. It was a fitting theme for the day upon which we celebrate the nation's birthday, the anniversary of the issuing of the Declaration of Independence. He took sound position in pleading that our citizenship strive that the course of our country's onward journey might be toward the ideals that were set up in the beginning.

Perhaps there is a popular misconception of the meaning of the Declaration of Independence, as to the fundamental proposition that is laid down therein. During later years there have been numerous questionings as to the truth or falsity of this—"All men are created free and equal beings." The very prime clause of the charter of liberties of the American Nation is thus brought in question as to its agreement with the constitution of all law that governs the universe. People are actually varying their political actions to some extent by the newly conceived notions regarding this problem of government.

Why there should be any difficulty in understanding what the writers of the Declaration meant is strange, indeed. "All men are created free and equal," not equal in all respects, but equal in that they should have the same rights before the law, the same opportunities, the same protection. It is not that they are equal in intellect, and therefore should receive equally from the efforts of society, according to the Socialist's idea of social formation; but equal in that every one has equal opportunity to strive and save and improve and rise in the scale of social success.

There is in some minds scorn of the intelligence of the masses' ability to decide great questions of national policy, and in this day there are leaders who believe that it is their duty to deceive the people as to the real meaning of given

public movements that appertain to government, for the reason that the people have not the average ability to know the wise thing.

It was faith in the average intelligence of the people that inspired the founders of the Republic. And in so far as the average man has been counseled and his counsel followed, has the Nation gone wisely.

It was no chimerical conception to refer these great questions to the average man, for there is much of truth in the old saying: "Vox populi, vox Dei." The American people have proven that when the people have understood a proposition they act wisely. Being an average between the pauper, for whom we build almshouses, and the rich, whose vision is not broad and never can be broad; being an average between these two extremes, he represents the safest source of power, and, therefore, were the founders of the Republic wise, and therefore did they build upon sure foundations.

The doctrine of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution of the United States need not yet be rejected, and the day is far in the distance when they will have been succeeded by anything in organic law that serves better than they.

WHAT SORT OF A MAN IS TRACY?

It is a maudlin sentiment that attributes to Tracy, the convict, supplier intellect, for that he succeeds in eluding the officers and performing acts that startle the law-abiding. One hears expressions of admiration for the man and there is almost a disposition to make him a hero, even by people who have no sympathy with those who belong to Tracy's class.

The mere fact that he eludes pursuing officers is not proof that he is superior to them mentally. A snake eludes his human pursuer and yet is of the lower order of animal development, with little of that which makes the horse or dog valuable—highly developed instinct. Even though he be accredited with instinctive powers, it does not elevate him in the scale of humanity, for brute creation has instinct with nothing of that which we denominate mentality.

Nor is he brave. He is desperate. And that accounts for his daring acts. He has all to gain, nothing to lose in a fight, as compared with capture. If he is captured, he will be killed by the machinery of the law, or hung to a limb by the populace. Hence, he fights and robs and does all sorts of daring things, in the limit of his desperation.

Tracy is a degenerate. He represents human nature depraved, degraded, lawless, criminal, selfish, animal, without self-control, and with absolute disregard of the rights of all others. He is not a "bright" man. He is not a brilliant desperado. He belongs not even to the class with the Jesse Jameses, or the Cole Youngers, who, with all of their crimes, possessed somewhat of mental strength and the capacity to secure and hold the regard of many of their fellows in the Middle West.

Maudlin sentiment only will attribute to Tracy aught but the lowest mentality, maudlin sentiment that moves emotional women to send flowers to murderers and to make heroes of men who outrage every worthy thing that exists.

SCIENCE AND YOUNGSTERS.

It will appall the younger generation to learn that love is a disease, caused by the attacks of a certain bacillus. The theory last offered to the world is that this bacillus floats in the air, in the water, lies in the soil, and, if there are any other elements of nature in which to live, this bacillus gets there.

Pity the youngster who has all along deluded himself with the fallacy that love is a divine blending of two souls into one whole, the melting of two lofty spirits into one blissful composition, the eternal union of what had been two separate spiritual entities!

This youngster must awaken to the truth that when he is in love he should go to the hospital, place himself under the care of a trained nurse, and thereby come into greater danger than that from which he was fleeing.

This is a contest as to correct phraseology between the poet and the scientist. The poet calls love the sipping of ambrosia brewed by the gods. The scientist defines it as a malignant poison, in the form of deadly bacillus, that, once lodged in the system, destroys all common sense and enthrones foolishness and silliness as twin monarchs to rule the mentality.

"Love should be kept under the control of a health board," say these scientists. Let youngsters pray to a just God that this innovation come not to this City of Roses, that Mayor Williams do not appoint a health board to that end, and that they be allowed to continue as their fathers and mothers, to delude themselves with the idea that love is something with at least a touch of the divine. These French scientists will find cold comfort from the youth, or even the aged, since the latter are said to be more susceptible to attack from the love bacillus than others of the human race.

EXERCISING POLICE POWER.

Bryce, who wrote correctly of the American form of government, saw in the New England town government the unit of the government of the country. And the New England town government was based upon the principle of local self-government.

In agreement with this, it is right that the affairs of the City of Portland

should be attended to by the city officials. Mayor Williams is doing no more than his duty when he takes hold of the matter of vice suppression and determines that a rational regime shall be inaugurated.

The County of Multnomah should not handle the affairs of the City of Portland until the City of Portland shall have exhausted its means for preserving peace and upholding law; after which follows in logical sequence, that when the county fails to preserve law, the State of Oregon must step in; and, then, if riot prevail, and the police power of the state fail, the Federal Government is in duty bound to call out troops to quell disturbances.

It is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States that the general Government shall exercise no police power. Police power is vested absolutely in the separate States. In turn, the State vests local control in the counties, and properly, the counties should vest control and leave it to the last extremity in the municipalities.

The Mayor of the city, representing the people of the city, and his system of government, should control vice. They should do this upon the principle of local self-government.

It is not properly the function of the county to take from the city its police powers, until it is evident that the city has exhausted its resources and then has failed.

The proposition is this—the mere fact that vice or crime is not controlled in a city is not strictly legal warrant for the county's interference. Such interference is warranted according to the theory of our government only when it is apparent that the city has tried and failed to enforce law and uphold the will of the people as expressed in enactments. There must be attempt first, not mere absence of attempt, and therefore failure to enforce.

Mayor Williams is correct in his position. It is his business, not that of the officials of the county.

President Roosevelt touched the truth when he said at Pittsburg, on the Fourth, that the most important department of our government is the Department of Justice. To the extent that it be less available for the poor and easier of access for the rich, is it dangerous. The technicalities of the law may stand aside for the upholding of this principle of absolute equality for the bar of justice. And yet how often is a court of justice a mockery, when a man stealing a sack of flour goes to prison for a year, while the man who steals thousands goes scot free.

Perhaps King Edward read the coronation poem of the English poet-laureate and decided that he must do something to prevent its issuance. But Austin was not to be thus squelched, and issued it anyway. England is in the main a marvelous, well-beloved nation, yet in that she permits the poet-laureate to live outside of the jail that ought to be built for such literary people, she is guilty of violating laws that should be sacredly kept wherever the mother tongue is spoken or written.

That was a good stroke of policy on the part of the striking engineers on the boats, when they consented to waive the strike rule so as to take out the excursion steamers on the Fourth. They said they did not wish to disappoint the people, against whom they had no grievance, hence would not spoil their holiday pleasures by enforcing the strike rule on that day.

At exactly 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the Fourth there was to be an onslaught on the weather bureau officials. The sun came out from beneath the heavy pull of rain clouds that had obscured it for many days; the moisture remained in the mists of the sky, and the lives of those weather officials were thereby saved.

Sentiment and business pleaded for the restoration of the health of the King of England. Sentiment, in that all would have sorrowed profoundly had His Majesty died; and business, in that his death would have wrought serious changes in the conditions governing all departments of commerce and finance.

Control of the trusts is mooted from one end of the country to the other. First of all, the essential to the correct solution of the problem is a sincere desire to control the trusts. Given this sincere desire, the solution will be worked out by the best brain in the world—that of the American nation.

Did Tracy wish to prove false the alleged lack of life in Portland, and did he go to Seattle to show that, after all, perhaps there was mostly talk in the claims of superior activity in the Washington metropolis? The question is, did he prove or disprove the allegation?

ODDS OF INFORMATION.

Thirty-eight per cent of the habitual drunkards in England are women. Watchdogs are to be purchased and trained to accompany the police on their nightly rounds at Schaerbeck, near Brussels.

Budapest's postmaster has invented an apparatus by which it is possible to send and receive wireless telephone messages at stations four miles apart. Don't put butter in your refrigerator with the wrappings on.

Some men are too busy to make friends, and others are too lazy to make enemies.

HINTS TO WOMEN

CARE OF THE TEETH. All acids are more or less injurious to the teeth. Medicine in which there is acid should be taken through a glass tube and the mouth rinsed with a little borax and water.

THE TAFFETA PETTICOAT. Taffeta petticoats have almost entirely taken the place of the white cambric and embroidery underskirts. The evening petticoats are most elaborate, some being made of peau de soie trimmed with lace and insertions, while the cut is quite as important as that of the outer skirt. The taffeta petticoat is an inexpensive luxury, especially for the evening, when we can wear pale shades many times without their getting soiled.

RECIPE FOR CLARET CUP. Two bottles claret, two bottles soda-water, two bottles lemonade, one glass brandy, a sprig of borage, a peach, two lemons, one-quarter of a pound sugar. Cut the peach in transverse slices, place it at the bottom of the bowl, add the sugar, rasp on the lemon rinds, and the sprig of borage; pour the brandy over it and let it stand closely covered for two hours. Just before using add the claret and other ingredients with a few lumps of ice.

TAKE PLENTY OF FRESH AIR. A great many people suffer from indigestion, women in particular, and the cause of the suffering is in five cases out of seven, lack of fresh air.

Fresh air purifies the blood, stimulates circulation, and prevents indigestion. A large number of sufferers work in badly ventilated rooms or stores, or in stuffy offices. They sleep in equally badly ventilated rooms, and they seldom think of a cold sponge bath in the morning.

THE PROPER SHOE. The first element of beauty in the foot is proportion. It should not be too short for the height of its possessor. It should be slender and flexible, not broad or thick, and the instep should form an arch. Given the perfect foot it should be well

The JOURNAL SHORT STORY

Mr. James Caswell's wife had been dead six months, and Mr. Caswell had worn a weed on his hat, and kept his handkerchief in his eyes, whenever the dear departed was mentioned, with the most exemplary propriety.

At the end of six months he considered that he had done his duty by the first Mrs. Caswell, and felt himself at liberty to be looking around for the second lady of the same name.

He needed a housekeeper, and his five little children needed the care of a mother. He had fixed his eyes on the Widow Biggins, and all things considered, perhaps he could not have made a better choice. She was about his age—forty-two; she was good looking, had about three thousands dollars' worth of property, and had just been jilted by Jeremiah Jenkins. And a woman who has just been jilted is generally all ready to heal her broken heart with another specimen of the same faithless sex.

Mr. Caswell broke the ice by sending the widow a squash. He raised a large quantity of squashes, and the bugs devoured all the widow's string. Mrs. Biggins responded by sending him a mince pie with her compliments. And the next Sunday night Mr. Caswell bought a new buggy, and ordered a new pair of boots.

"Make 'em fit close, Mr. Laster," said he to the busy little shoemaker. "Seems to me I ought to wear eight instead of nine's."

The boots were finished and sent home on Saturday night, and on Sunday Mr. Caswell had engaged to drive the widow over to Stilton Four Corners to church in the new buggy, and with the new boots on.

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