

GRESHAM OUTLOOK

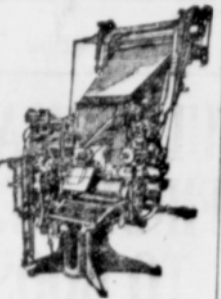
TWICE A WEEK

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Official paper of the Town of Gresham, Oregon.
Official paper of the Town of Fairview, Oregon.

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MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

Portland is about to wrestle with the problem of going into the municipal lighting business. It is going to be a hard fight that Commissioner Daly is to engage in, for he has large interests to oppose him, among which may be mentioned the two existing electric companies, the gas company and the Oregonian, with probably several more to hear from.

Without going into the matter of municipal ownership of any public utility it is pertinent to say that in the present instance the financial affairs of the Portland city government will furnish the main issue. If Mr. Daly can show the economy of his plan he can win easily, but it is going to be a hard game for him to play, and will require a steady hand, a sober mind and a resoluteness not to be questioned.

It is not a pleasant thing to think about, nor to write about, but it is a fact that the finances of Portland are in a bad way, and, what is more, will grow worse unless there is a tightening up, so to speak. But perhaps Mr. Daly can show that the way to make money is to spend it.

Portland has been going too fast under the commission form of government, not dishonestly, not mischievously or wilfully, but simply at a rate of money spending which the taxpayers think is not right and fair to themselves.

In a word the people believe their government is costing too much and there is a deep undercurrent in favor of a return to the old councilmanic form; they feel that there should be a counting up and a cutting down—rigid economy for awhile, with such positive retrenchment as may be consistent with the substantial needs and progress of the city. They will have to be shown.

TOO FEW DOCTORS.

A Texas physician declares that there are too few doctors today. He says this is one reason that the "quacks" succeed so well, and why there is always a strong sentiment in favor of allowing all sorts and conditions of men to practice medicine or any other curative science which they may profess to know.

All this will be new argument to those who are fond of saying that all the good the universities does is to turn out doctors and lawyers for which there is really no need. Here is an actual man who says we do need doctors and that we are going to need them worse than we do as time passes. On, rather, he implies it in saying that there are too few of them at present.

It may be that by looking around someone will be found to say that there are all too few lawyers—but that gentleman has not been found yet. And just now it is a reasonable assumption that no man will be found who will contend that there are too many farmers scattered over the country.

QUADRENNIAL.

The adjournment of the legislature was met with a great many sighs of relief. Tinkering with laws aids no one, particularly business. Were the legislature to meet every four years, more satisfaction would result, as then only necessary measures would be considered and mere tinkering would be minimized.

With the initiative and referendum as a part of the legislative system of the state, it really is unnecessary for the oft convening of the regular law-making bodies. The election of representatives every four years—as frequently as senators and state officers are elected—and their meeting but once during this time would result in much more good to the state as a whole. Emergency measures can always be added directly by the people. It would be appreciated by business men, lawyers and the people generally.—The Oregon Country.

The same idea has been advanced on many other occasions just after a session of the legislature—that it

should meet every four years, but this is the first time that we have noticed the argument that the initiative could do its work just as well. Quadrennial sessions would in some cases leave too wide a gap if some emergencies arose. That we have too many laws is true, but the people have power to invoke the referendum and could place a check upon the legislature if they felt so disposed. Such a course, however, would be very costly, calling for frequent elections, and then the legislature has power to do or undo the same laws on which the people have spoken. No other state has tried the four-year plan, so we should not be in too great a hurry to add to Oregon's reputation as the state of freak experiments.

We expect to see two deputy assessors out this way pretty soon again, and we hope they will be vigilant so that no citizen may dodge his obligation to the state. We hear it rumored that several persons in this town are each owners of one Irish potato, one egg and one onion. Wealth must pay the public burdens.

If the weather managers would only be reasonable and send us some of the precipitation we will need in July instead of making it up into imitation blizzards, at this time of the year, Multnomah county will come to the relief of the situation by pulling off a potato crop next fall that will make the very angels sing.

Just suppose the army worm should come again this year in devastating numbers! If we should really see those radiant creatures we want it understood that we of Oregon must protect our reputation for sobriety and clearness of vision even though the supplies from California may not be exhausted.

We are told that \$1,000,000,000 can be added to the country's paper circulation. Now, if we could be told that one billion subscribers could be added to the country paper's circulation we would believe one story about as quickly as the other.

The Methodist Temperance Bulletin says: "When this prohibition fight is over, above John Barleycorn's grave we are going to put a monument which bears the words, 'Here lies John Barleycorn; and he always did lie.'"

When the Oregon Country magazine speaks of "quadriennially" it probably meant once in four years, as applied to the legislature. But it might mean having the legislature on the square once every year.

If Congressman Sinnott ever gets the rabbit fur hat industry under good headway there will still remain the skins to be disposed of. We would like to suggest that they be used for sausage casings.

Portland people are trying to book Billy Sunday for a revival. Perhaps Portland needs some assistance in such matters before the city election campaign gets beyond the boiling temperature.

That bone-dry law passed by congress has created an unbarred zone in every prohibition state, with the accent on the bar.

If the war can hold on for another four years perhaps a good republican can get the juicy job of ambassador to Berlin.

"Our school teachers are marrying too much," asserts a Michigan writer. How much can a teacher marry, anyhow?

If the United States should break with Austria-Hungary Uncle Sam could lay claim to a new pair of breeches.

Tom and Jerry seem to be getting a fifty-fifty treatment at the hands of congress in the matter of prohibition.

The "Old Oaken Bucket" should become the national song when all the states are bone dry.

HILLSVIEW

It was necessary to postpone the basket social, on account of bad weather and illness of some of the children. Notice of the date will appear later.

Mr. and Mrs. Doan have moved back to their home in Sunshine valley neighborhood.

Mrs. Pete Johnson's baby is quite sick from the effects of whooping cough.

School closed Thursday, so the children could attend the lecture on moles at Gresham.

It is reported that L. Walsh has fallen heir to about fifteen thousand dollars. A truck load of new furniture was taken to his home one day last week.

Will Clee took a business trip to Portland, Monday.
Mrs. A. E. Forsyth has been quite ill for the last week or so.

The Absolute Mastery

RALPH DE MONTFOS, Ph. D.

In presenting a series of articles on current religious topics, I wish my readers to bear in mind that my object is not to generate controversy, but rather to present the facts themselves, and, if possible to create a sincere desire to investigate the foundations on which our faith rests.

Faith in God, in the Bible, in Jesus Christ, and in the life beyond. There is a natural tendency in all men to cling tenaciously to the traditions of the past, whether in forms of government or religious doctrine, and it behooves us to weigh carefully the evidence presented, and the reasons suggested why we should change our belief on any subject whatever. On the other hand, we must not close our minds to evidence vouched for by competent authority, even though its acceptance means the destruction of cherished beliefs. The reluctance to change our beliefs, especially those we have heretofore recognized as basic and fundamental when overwhelming evidence is presented to us, implies either a lack of interest in matters of serious import, or a mental indolence which has been lulled to inactivity by the credulity with which we have accepted most of our cherished beliefs.

We are living in a wonderful age, an age of great achievements and discoveries, so much so that we daily anticipate other marvelous revelations of man's genius that will verify the declaration of a recent writer, that, "we are living in an age of miracles." A review of man's achievements of the past fifty years will verify the statement of the writer referred to, if we have a correct definition of a miracle. I would define a miracle as "the operation of a law unknown to us," this I think will apply to every correctly attested miracle on record.

The wonderful activities of man, in the physical, mental and moral realms, objectified in wonderful inventions, in scientific discoveries and appliances, and in the awakening of the moral conscience to the great truths that form the real bases of character.

Man today is coming into his birthright, the potentialities in man are beginning to reveal themselves after centuries of dormancy. He is just beginning to think the thoughts of God after him. In the Genesis account of creation we are told that the "Elohim created man in His own image" the nature of this image is clearly revealed in the 8th Psalm. It is the image of control, of dominion, the absolute mastery of the four great elements; Earth, Air, Fire and Water. "Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands, thou hast put all things under his feet." Man has already traveled far from the lowlands since he began his journey; he has passed the bogs, the marshes, plateau after plateau has been reached until today he stands on the uplands and gazes longingly to the hills before him, and the mighty peaks of the towering mountains whose summits reach the heavens.

The journey of man is from the houseless Eden to the mansions of Paradise, from animalhood to angelhood; from humanity to divinity. How long the journey has taken, how many ages or eons, as we measure time, we may never know. Our fathers, following Usher's chronology, believe that 6000 years ago God created the heavens, the earth, plants, animals, fishes, and man; on the other hand scientists and students generally claim the earth has existed for untold ages, studying the old ocean beds, the rock strata, the immense coal and other fossil beds, together with the unearthing of skeletons of animals extinct ages ago—these together with other data clearly indicate that the earth is not of recent origin.

But while the study of the origin of the earth and the vast changes it has undergone during past eons is of interest to the scientist and antiquarian, we are more vitally interested in those studies that concern the present and future of our individual lives.

We are living in a world, we are on a journey, it is not so vital to us from whence we came, as to whither we are wending. Wherever we look, above us, beneath us, around us, within us, we are confronted with facts innumerable, concrete facts, material and mental facts, we live, move, and are conscious of our existence, we are overwhelmed with the vastness of it all. Millions of similar beings exist, and other myriads of beings differing from us, life everywhere,—what is the meaning of it all? Where shall we find an explanation of life's mystery? Pondering over these things a short time ago, I stood by the brink of a river, with towering cliffs on either side, old

Mt. Hood plainly visible, when there came to me the words of Moses "Lord thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God."

Here was aspiration, here was inspiration, here was revelation.

The questions therefore of vital importance to every human being, and which are being asked universally are the following, and which I hope to discuss weekly articles in the Outlook: Does God speak to us? if so when and how? Is the Bible a revelation from God? Has He spoken to us by inspired men? What is inspiration? What is revelation? Is Jesus Christ the son of man? Is He also the son of God? From whence came He? Does man live after death? How may we know? Is the resurrection true? When does it take place? Is heaven a reality, where pain, sorrow and death are unknown? Am I body only? or body and soul? or body and soul and spirit? Which? if the latter which theory is true as to the spirit's origin.

1 Creationism which teaches that God creates every spirit and sends it to occupy a body at birth or prior to birth.

2 Traducianism which advocates the theory that the spirit like the body is from father and mother.

3 Reincarnation or transmigration which teaches that a disembodied spirit seeks to re-enter a material body and thus by a volition of its own is born into the world.

These themes are interesting because they touch life at all points. After years of devout study on these and kindred subjects I will conclude this my introductory paper by the statement that life's chief business is to know ourselves that we may know God. Our life may be compared to a coin bearing on the obverse side the image of man enthroned with the word Goodness engraved thereon, on the reverse side man aspiring with the word Knowledge engraved beneath.

Subject for next issue, "The Bible, is it God's Revelation?"

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Notice to Creditors.
In the Matter of the Estate of Joseph A. Frakes, Deceased.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Mattie P. Frakes, has been appointed Administratrix of the estate of Joseph A. Frakes, deceased, by the county court of the state of Oregon, for the county of Multnomah, and has qualified. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to me at the law office of Milo C. King, Gresham, Oregon, with vouchers duly verified within six months from the date hereof.

Dated and first publication February 20, 1917.
MATTIE P. FRAKES, Administratrix.

MILO C. KING, Attorney.

Thrifty Geese.
The solar geese are so fond of collecting materials for their nests that they do not desist from the habit even when they are about to abandon their nests for the winter migration. Off the coast of Scotland one day patches of straw bedding were seen floating, and, although the birds were on the eve of departure, they gathered on every wisp, as though they had their nests to build, and in the same place they were seen collecting seaweed every day.

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