

The Silvertown Journal

Published every Friday morning at Silvertown, Oregon, by
J. E. HOSMER, Editor.



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This paper stands for freedom of thought, freedom of the press, freedom of speech, equality of opportunity and the religion of righteousness. It is radically opposed to every form of superstition and tyranny, or licensing or permitting any form of evil.

THE SALT OF THE EARTH

The theory of the fanatic is that you must believe as he does or you will surely go to hell. A fanatic really believes this. He is a narrow-minded fool and makes much trouble in the world. If he only knew enough he would suffer all kinds of torture here because of the awful, imaginary lost condition of everybody but himself and a very few friends of his particular faith. But the wise old Jesus requires you to believe from altogether a different standpoint. He does not believe what he pretends to believe when talking with the common "scrubs" outside of the "inner circle." He is a hypocrite and wants the good people to be faithful to the cause, have no doubts and do as the church commands.

We, the people, will know the truth some day, and the truth will make us free, but the fanatic who condemns everyone who doubts his dogmas, to everlasting damnation, and the Jesuit, and his imitators in all denominations, can never be the happy messengers to bring the glad tidings of great joy. Fanaticism and Jesuitism (deceit) are the worst of devils. These are what we want to get after. They have kept us at war and made us slaves. Let's have ideas of our own; let's express them freely; let's invite everyone to do the same, and soon the world will be saved. Trying to force people to believe is the old Roman Catholic plan. It has bred deceit, lust, poverty, slavery, prostitution and war. It is the very seed of hell itself, and whosoever is deceived thereby, is not wise. No one should be condemned for his honest belief, but he should not be allowed to damn everybody else. Force should only be used to oppose force. Reason, research, science, discussion, education, love, truth—all these can be built on the foundation of liberty; they in turn will bring us a greater degree of liberty; and so we build on and on toward human perfectibility. To this end build more modern district schools; look into the union school plan; don't forget to investigate the traveling teacher idea; be working for a better library, public and private; be liberal with the Normal Schools; be proud to support the State University (it has a sneaking Jesuit foe); stick up for free speech, and as to a free press—learn to use it. Long has the great majority of State prison convicts been brought to ruin through the saloon evil. If the Legislature desires evidence, we are ready to supply witnesses. Think of it, 70 per cent of the men assert that rum caused their downfall. Think of the wrecked homes, broken-hearted mothers, wives and sisters.

"This is a solar-plexus blow at the liquor evil so long nourished by our Government, yet men even dare to say, in the face of all this, that there's money in it."

The voters of Oregon will have the opportunity next November to crush the serpent's head that has bitten so many of our strongest and best citizens. Bayard Taylor said that "opportunity is rare, and a wise man will never let it go by him," and Shakespeare's immortal saying applies to every man and woman in our great state: "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries; and we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures."

VOTERS, TAKE THE CURRENT WHEN IT SERVES

Whatever gives men and women an excuse to do wrong and fixes their brain so it will act wrong is certainly a menace to the public and should be prohibited by law. There are two things which are exceedingly of this character. One is the belief that through a priest one may get his sins forgiven by paying the price and the other is the stultification of the brain by the use of strong drink. Both of these swindling games should be prohibited at once. The first one mentioned is surely as bad as the spirit medium and fortune telling fakes which have been exposed in our large cities and prohibited; and as to the liquor traffic we will let a large number of its victims speak. Here is a petition that should wake the white and gray matter in every head in America:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly Met:

Your petitioners, representing the major part of the inmates of the Eastern State Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, respectfully aver:

That they believe fully 70 per cent of crime within the State is directly attributable to the excessive use of intoxicating liquors, and

That many of them have a personal knowledge of its debasing influence as exemplified in their own lives, and

That, believing if the sale of intoxicating liquors was prohibited by the enactment of laws by your honorable body, the effect would be to reduce crime at least 50 per cent, if not more, they therefore

Respectfully pray that you will favorably consider the introduction of our measure having for its object the curtailment of the sale of intoxicating liquors and use the great power with which you are clothed to obtain the passage of an act to prohibit the sale of such intoxicating liquor anywhere within the bounds of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We further pray that you will give due consideration to this petition, coming to you as a voluntary deed of a body of earnest men and women, acting entirely on their own initiative, without suggestion from others.

An exchange commenting on this unique petition says:

"Out of a total of 1,478 prisoners here confined, 1,008 signed this petition. Their action was wholly voluntary. Warden McKenty said of the document:

It is the most unique and the most manly document ever sent from a penal institution. It is an appeal to decent men serving in the Legislature to come to the aid of unfortunates confined in this institution. Seventy per cent of the prisoners claim that their downfall is due to rum. It is certainly a wonderful argument against the liquor traffic.

"A prison paper, called the 'Umpire,' started the agitation and letters from prisoners, telling pitiful stories of their downfall because of drink, began to flow in. The editor, a prisoner, started the petition with his own name. He says:

"I am greatly pleased with results. It proves, and conclusively, too, that the great majority of State prison convicts were brought to ruin through the saloon evil. If the Legislature desires evidence, we are ready to supply witnesses. Think of it, 70 per cent of the men assert that rum caused their downfall. Think of the wrecked homes, broken-hearted mothers, wives and sisters."

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MARION COUNTY SOCIALIST TICKET

Representatives: E. W. Ross, Silvertown; Fred Haa k, Marion; L. D. Ratliff, Salem; Allen Hutcheon, Salem, F. J. Von Behren, Aumsville.

Sheriff—J. E. Blazer, Silvertown. Clerk—T. Y. McClellan, Turner. Recorder—Lyth M. Cannon, Salem. Treasurer—R. R. Ryan, Salem. Commissioner—F. C. Ramp, Brooks. Coroner—Bernard Pehr, Salem. Surveyor—Jean B. Hoss, Salem.

THE UNITED STATES AND ITS MISSION

In the lowest form of life, each individual looks out for himself the best he can. A compound form is a long step up the scale of union, and, as these forms develop, mother love, the family idea, and finally tribes and nations arrive, and we even now conceive the federation of nations and the brotherhood of man.

The United States of America is a country of vast, resourceful extent. It is large enough for the amalgamation of all nationalities. This is now taking place and happily with the elimination, in a fair degree, of the dross which must be cast aside or assimilated with our American ideas or the Americanized ideas, from other parts of the world. However, there is great danger, and now as never before is eternal vigilance the price of liberty. But we will be vigilant, we will eliminate the dross that can not be assimilated and made into good metal, and we will make Columbia really and truly the gem of the ocean, the home of the brave and the free.

And how can this be done? It can be done by having faith in the principles of true democracy for which our flag stands, by believing that America has a mission—the unification of the peoples of the world into a more perfect union so as to establish justice and secure the blessings of liberty to every human being on this planet, and living a life of a true patriot, studying our history and comparing it with that of other countries, by supporting her democratic institutions and by standing firm against the destructive foes, who, while having sworn allegiance to a foreign and tyrannical potentate, act as traitorous spies to deliver us into the hands of the destroyer.

O, scions of noble sires, and you adopted sons of a noble family, our blood-bought country has a great mission among the nations of earth, but you alone, can, by your life, practical working, faith remove the mountains that block the world's passage to the promised land of brotherhood.

WAR CLIPPINGS

"A Japanese may believe in a heaven for him who dies in defense of his country, but the steady, elevating power of civilization destroys such illusions and should overcome evil with good.

"Nothing is gained by fighting, but much is lost.

"Peace is the promise and reward of rightness. Governments have no right to engraft into civilization the burlesque of uncivil economies. War is in itself evil, barbarous, devilish. Victory in error is defeat in truth. War is not in the domain of good; war weakens power and must finally fall, pierced by its own sword.

"The principle of all power is God, and God is love. Whatever brings in to human thought or action an element opposed to love, is never requisite, never a necessity, and is not sanctioned by the law of God, the law of love. The founder of Christianity said: 'My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you.' Mary Baker Eddy.

"This war will mean the greatest impulse for Socialism that history records," declares former United States Senator Chauncey M. Depew, who represented the express companies and big business generally while in Congress. "It will mean an end to all kings with real powers and an end to all bullying bureaucracies." Depew is said to be a close friend of the kaiser.

The United States today is the only first-class power of the white race in the world which is not engaged in war.

Naturally, this country is congratulating itself on this fact. But few Americans realize, however, that their country is on the precipice and may be forced over into the worldwide conflict at any moment.

There are many possibilities of international friction to which this country is exposed as a result of the European struggle.

Greatest of all is the danger which will be run in the carrying of contraband after a merchant marine is obtained. Danger also lurks in the proposed amendment to the registry laws.

Almost equally great is the danger in the Orient, where the United States must police Asia against the aggressions of the Japanese.

The Panama Canal may force the United States into international disputes if the warships of two or more of the warring nations meet near it and those of one attempt to escape from the other through the canal.

Possibly the greatest danger will follow after the war closes. If one power emerges triumphant over the others in such a degree that it will be looked upon as the world's foremost fighting nation, undoubtedly it will turn its attention to South America. The Monroe doctrine is facing its severest test.

Italy, a neutral nation, might with propriety consider foodstuffs as not contraband. She will then become the haven for the United States trade in wheat and other foodstuffs.

Then if England stopped this trade—that is, between the United States and Italy—she, in a way, would be interfering with the trade between two neutral nations, one of which could be the United States. This almost surely would cause friction between the governments concerned.

Suppose a German ship were being chased by a Japanese ship and it were captured close under the forts of the Pacific entrance of the canal and the forts sunk it. What would be the result if the Japanese claimed that they were not within the three-mile limit?

Suppose a tension existed in the relations between the United States and Japan, and a Japanese warship requested a passage through the Panama canal. It would have to be given it. Suppose that while going through a lock the forward magazine of the ship exploded, by accident, of course, and put twenty tons of scrap iron and steel into the lock, blowing out one gate in addition. Chicago Tribune.

GLORIOUS VICTORY

By Oscar Ameringer

"A glorious victory has been won by the Belgian forces," says a report from London.

"Alsace is invaded and our troops gained a glorious victory at Muelhausen." Such is the news from Paris.

"Liege has fallen and the German army made a victorious entry into the city." So says a cable from Berlin.

Ah! We are all victorious these days. We Germans, we English, we Russians and we Austrians.

"Our heroic soldiers have mowed down the enemy by the thousands. The fields of mines exploded with wonderful precision. Battalions of infantry soared in the sky, and for minutes after it rained hands and feet, bleeding trunks and crimson gore.

"The machine guns cut wide swaths into the attacking cavalry, even as the reaper cuts through the golden grain. For three days the dead laid unburied in the field."

Happy dead. Your broken eyes no longer saw the comrade crawling toward the sheltering ditch, his entrails dragging in the bloody mire.

Your ears heard not the dying prayers, the cry of pain, the moans and curses, the ravings of the fever-tortured, the shrieks of maniacs around the field of carnage.

You did not feel the worms that bore in festering wounds. You did not smell the sickening reek that rose from the battle ground.

You won a glorious victory, indeed.

"Our East Sea squadron sunk a German submarine."

A huge cylinder sinks slowly in the deep and frantic men tear their nails on iron walls. Darker and darker grows the watery night. Faster and faster come the gasps for air. The vessel settles in the slime. The creatures of the deep return and stare with greedy eyes at the silent prey behind the little plate glass window. Have patience, denizens of the deep, prosperity is coming.

Victoria, a British cruiser, struck a floating mine and sunk with man and mouse.

Go to it, brothers of the finny tribe. This blonde haired boy made fishhooks in a Sheffield shop. The fellow bobbing over there wove nets to snare our kind. Our turn has come at last. The fingers, toes and ears are for the little ones. The limbs and trunks belong to us, the sharks, and may the crawlers clean the bony frames.

A glorious victory. The enemy lost 40,000 men. Our own losses are trifling, only 10,000.

A million mothers kneel in prayer. A million rosaries tremble in faded hands. A million hearts cry up to heaven. O God, not mine, not mine.

Fool mother, forget yourself, your sorrow and your boy. The organ peals forth the Te Deum. The chimes ring out the victory. Your son died for God, for kaiser, for vaterland, for king and glory. The buzzards tear the cheeks you kissed, two bleeding stumps are where the hands were that you fondled. The crows are picking the glassy eyes in whose blue depths you once beheld the joys of heaven.

To me there is no victory. I see not Germans, Frenchmen, Russians or Britons. I see but men and brothers. My side is losing; my side—humanity. And all that's vile and low and brutish is coming back to curse the world anew.

The beasts we thought we had buried long ago, the tigers, sharks, apes and the hyenas again make their abode in human breasts.

I see the best that mankind has accomplished, the acquisition of the 10,000 years, lost in this thrice cursed war.

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Study the Principles he Advocates.

I see no victory in the selfish carnage of blood and iron, this saturnalia of greed and stupidity, and I have but one hope and that is that war itself may bleed to death and be buried with every crowned head of Europe under an avalanche of bayonets.

Until then let buzzards, crows and earthworms cry, "Victoria."

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