

CAPITAL JOURNAL'S EDITORIAL PAGE...

OFER BROS., Publishers and Proprietors

THE JOURNAL STANDS FOR PROGRESS, DEVELOPMENT, GOOD GOVERNMENT, AND NO DEGRADED LABOR.

WHEN POLLY PLAYED.

When Polly played for dancing, her slender fingers flew across the flashing ivory keys as if they winked at you. The music bubbled under the magic of her hand. The very notes were mad to join the festive band.

When Polly struck the measure of two-step or of waltz, the oldest there grew young again and laughed at time's assaults; the lovely Sweet and Twenty and happy Sweet Sixteen, the floating light as it whistled down the merry staves between.

When Polly played the lancers you should have seen us bow, and wave the figures out and in; would we were dancing now. With Polly playing bravely, and all the old set there, who'd believe 'twas midnight by the clock upon the stair.

When Polly played as gayly as the youngest heart can feel, and had and lass we danced again the blithe Virginia reel. Cupid sped his arrows, he sure his aim was true, and Polly played for dancing, and the hours fairly flew.

—Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster.

SPRING POETRY.

Next in mental bravado to the daring persons who apostrophize "beautiful snow," stand those courageous souls that produce early spring poetry.

Somehow we cannot dissociate these precious revival rhymes from the things that attach to early asparagus, new potatoes, or the first radishes. **THEY HAVE THE DISTINCT VEGETABLE QUALITIES OF CRISPNESS, TENDERNESS AND BRITTLE IMMATURITY.**

Coming upon the market before there is general demand, spring poems are a neglected existence in the literary market-places, resembling the such luxuries as green peas before their season. Probably to show what the Oregon climate can produce the Eugene Register for February 24 has a poem on spring, made up of all parts of "twittering swallows," "pussy-willow whispers," "blue-bells," and concludes:

"Come, wander forth, with me into the glory
That Springtime spreads on mountain, vale and mead—
I'll whisper in your ear the world-old story
Beloved dare I hope that you will heed!"

It were right certain it was not some literary college professor in studies who wrote that poem on spring we should be tempted to be up and "wander forth."

NO EVIDENCE OF FRAUD.

While it was irregular, and unusual, the way the normal school appointments were passed by the lower house, there was no element of fraud in the proceeding.

The rulings of Speaker Davey, the correction of his announcement of evening before, based as it was on the information from the chief clerk, **WAS ALL OPEN AND ABOVE BOARD.**

Mr. King's humorous speech on changing his vote all went to show the house considered it as a kind of joke, that they intended ultimately to pass the bill anyway.

This is the most pleasant way to pass it off, and indeed the only way for the circumstances. The legislature was **ORGANIZED FROM THE BEGINNING TO PASS THE NORMAL SCHOOL BILLS.**

Mr. Wawter had been made speaker they would surely have got a deal more money than they did. To get the speakership Mr. Davey had to ensure their consideration at the hands of his organization. The higher educational institutions played a sure-thing game either on the organization. They came very near getting left in the senate organization but **WERE STRONG IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THAT BODY.**

It is probably best to consider the incident closed, pay the bill and let the governor's vetoes, and then the people have still left the problem. The members who did the voting will have to face the primary.

DEBATE ON THE BANKING BILL.

In the house of representatives Mr. Freeman attacked the bill as having been drawn up by the bankers. In cities of 50,000 inhabitants this required banks to keep 25 per cent of its deposits as a reserve. In other places only 15 per cent was required on cash deposits and 10 per cent on time deposits. The smaller banks of Portland would be required under this act. There should be no discrimination. If anything banks in smaller towns should keep a larger surplus. Barrett of Washington said there was great need for a banking act. The people had protection against any firm that could come along and buy a little money. Wawter said banks could now be started without capital. The law did not go into effect for 18 months so far as securities go. It was imperfect in any form. Some private banks would suffer a great deal under this act. There were some banks in the state with narrow holdings in real estate and this law required them to dispose of it in five years.

Mr. Davey said all the friends of this bill apologized for it and said it was the best they could offer. It was going to discriminate against small banks and he could not support it. Mr. Driscoll said that in the presence with the senate committee they were told that no amendments would be accepted. If the house would not pass it as it stood, the senate would kill it. He was against it. Mr. Jewell said the bill tried to please too many people. If it passed 75 per cent of the people in the banking business it ought to pass. On the roll call those representing heavy business interests voted unanimously against it. The bill passed. It is not believed the governor will veto the bill, nor that it will drive anyone out of the banking business.

IMMIGRANTS FOR THE COUNTRY.

(Daily Portland Journal.)

They think that Reverend Dr. Hills is right when he says that the Pacific coast needs **A LARGE NUMBER OF FOREIGN IMMIGRANTS OF THE RIGHT KIND**, industrious, thrifty people, who would be willing to live in the country and make productive farms out of wild land, and who, not owning or being able to improve land themselves, would be willing to work for moderate wages for neighbors who needed help in clearing and cultivating their lands and harvesting their crops.

It would be of immense benefit if thousands of such homeseekers would come into this region from Russia, Austria-Hungary, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and other European countries. The United States received last year a round million of immigrants from New York, **BUT THE MAJORITY OF THEM STAY IN THE CITIES.** Those returned to the country in their fatherlands, came west as far as Oregon, Wisconsin, Minnesota and other middle west states,

and went into the rural districts, but few of them crossed the Rocky mountains to seek homes in the great northwest region.

It would be well if more of this kind of immigration could be attracted hither.

Not only would such immigrants help to swell the productive population and put a large aggregate area of land in cultivation themselves, but **THEY WOULD BE A BOON TO FARMERS WHO EVERY YEAR ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE PROBLEM OF HELP TO HARVEST THEIR CROPS.**

While most of these foreigners make good citizens, whether living in towns or in the country, the towns do not need them so much; enough of them will find towns where there is profitable employment for them; but the country needs such laborers, is calling loudly for them, and greater and **MORE SYSTEMATIC EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO INVITE THEM TO COME.**

Oregon, Washington and Idaho could make room for and welcome 100,000 industrious, adult homeseekers from foreign lands within a year if they could be induced to come.

POLITICIANS ALL DODGING.

The noticeable fact about the efforts to abolish some of the normal schools is that the politicians all dodge, and they try to throw the responsibility upon some one else.

The Smith bill that was vetoed was perhaps the squarest attempt at settlement of the matter that has been reached at this session.

The bills passed for appropriations for the four schools were all put through with the intention of forcing the governor to make the final selection.

All the talk in the newspapers is to this end that the governor is to be forced to incur the political enmity of several counties by abolishing two schools which the legislature dodged.

GESNER IS GIVEN OVATION

Master of Violin Assisted in a Splendid Concert by Other Attractive Oregon Talent

LeRoy Gesner was given an ovation last night.

No young artist could wish for a better, brighter or more enthusiastic home coming than that accorded this talented young master of the violin at the Grand opera house last evening.

Aside from the reception given a Salem boy by old friends and neighbors it was a gathering of enthusiastic music lovers to hear a master of the violin in his superb work.

Mr. Gesner, who from early youth, displayed much promise in his love of music, after innumerable struggles and some hardships, went to Europe and put in four years of very hard work under the greatest living violinists and made good. He grew and broadened and the talent he so early showed in interpretations and color improved.

Mr. Gesner is a good violinist. The narrator of this event has no desire to "slopover" in telling of this and has no intention of following the unwritten journalistic law to always praise home talent. It will not work in this case because Mr. Gesner's playing is too good for him to remain in this city permanently. He has a bigger and broader field and will no doubt accomplish things in the world of music that will cause Salem people to be proud of him.

Mr. Gesner has not reached the top. No one claims that he plays with the exquisite finish of Paderewski or with that masterful technique that characterized Ole Bull's efforts, but Mr. Gesner is no mere tyro by any means. He surprised the best of them last night.

Mr. Gesner was assisted in the concert last night by Mrs. Walter Reed, who has the most charming contralto voice in Oregon and who was at her best last evening; Mrs. D. F. Carnes and Mrs. S. H. Soule, accompanists, and by Professor Arthur von Jessen, the pianist, par excellence of Salem.

A LARGE INCOME

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companists, and by Professor Arthur von Jessen, the pianist, par excellence of Salem.

The audience was a little different from the common run. In one sense of the word it was a society event and in another it was not. One thing certain it was not made a show place for brilliant mid-Lent millinery.

Lots of the most cultured women in Salem were there and they wore their second best hats. It was not a mere show off show. Besides LeRoy Gesner's personal following who came to see a boy they knew and liked in by gone days, the audience for the most part was made up of people who were music lovers, and who know good music when they hear it. All of these were pleased.

The most cultured people in Salem sat almost breathless through most of Gesner's playing and what young virtuoso could ask for or get a higher compliment.

Of course there were things about the concert that the writer would have changed. Mrs. Reed sang two songs in German and two in French. There were only four of the audience who fully understood the French songs. This critic was accompanied to the show by a native born and educated Frenchman and he said that Mrs. Reed speaks English better than she does French. This is perfectly natural as this estimable lady was born, reared and educated in the United States.

A German song would be very appropriate in Aurora or even at Mt. Angel but there were few people from the German speaking suburbs at the concert. English words have been written to so much good foreign music that it seems a pity. Then Mr. Gesner wore his hair like Paderewski. But this Circassian beauty-like coiffure goes with professional violin playing just as the smell of gasoline is attached to a motor car. It seems a part of the treatment. Oh, well. Who cares?

The program was short. Mr. Gesner displayed admirable taste in arranging it so. However, from the time he first touched the horse hair to the strings, he caught the crowd and kept it and they not only asked for encores but they demanded them. Mr. Gesner as well as Mrs. Reed and Mr. von Jessen were good natured and liberal and never refused to come back again and again.

Mr. von Jessen played a rhapsody by Litz and he did it so well that he was made to play another selection. This critic does not know what he played the second time, only he did it well. And the same remark is applicable to the next encore.

The selections chosen by Mrs. Reed showed the exquisite qualities of her remarkable voice to splendid advantage. But Mrs. Reed charms most when one catches her unawares and when at informal functions she is persuaded to sing rhythmic melodies. Last night she touched the hearts of the audience when she sang "Annie Laurie" in response to an enthusiastic call. She can bring tears to the eyes of the most hardened slaver by her sweet singing of old melodies, but she wouldn't care. She would go home and laugh about it.

Mrs. Soule, whom Mrs. Reed brought with her as accompanist, is a splendid one, but not one better than our own Mrs. Carnes.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Gesner will do this again, early and often. The house was well filled and the gate receipts came up to Mr. Gesner's anticipations.

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