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FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK.

John Hall was in town Tuesday and argued a case before the supreme court. He has taken an appeal in his own case in connection with the land frauds for which Heney convicted him, and while that is pending he has a large practice in the courts at Portland and in the state at large. He was for a time very prominent in politics, and assisted Sam Hayden in the Magers' murder case. As a result of his vigilant prosecution, assisted by Hayden, who was then district attorney, Magers was convicted but secured a new trial at the hands of the supreme court. For the second time he was convicted of murder in the first degree, the only case of that kind on record in this district. Magers was said to have declared he wanted his freedom just one day and he would kill Hall. If he were alive to this day he would certainly have his revenge without shedding blood, for Hall himself has been the victim of a merciless prosecution.

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One phase of the Whitney Boise prosecution for mulcting the Hawthorne estate does not appear in the papers, and is of a social origin. It was considered by some of the family that the heir of the estate who married Collins did not help elevate the family standard socially and the report has it that the Collins did not move in the same social circle with the Boises, and that the Boises emphasized this to such an extent that the Collins swore vengeance and vengeance has come in the shape of the criminal prosecution. Such is life.

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Hon A. W. Orton of the Multnomah Printing company of Portland was in the city Monday, on his way home from camping on the McKenzie, and acknowledged that he is a candidate for speaker. He is the publisher of "Club Chat," a popular club publication at the metropolis, and a brother of Geo. M. Orton, the labor leader, who served twice in the legislature, and on whose strength and popularity the cousin now a member got many votes. The family name is a good one to conjure with, as are Smith or Jones, for the voters who don't know the particular Smith or Jones who happens to be running do know some member of that family who has good traits and so vote for him. Rep. Orton has been camping with the family of Consul-General Miller, Mrs. Miller and daughters of Eugene, and Judge Tanner, wife and son at Foley Springs. Mitchell's old law partner is recovering his health, and has been playing baseball with President Eakin of the Eugene First National bank. Mr. Orton is a strong champion of Statement No. 1, and cites the fact that a Democratic legislature in Kentucky last winter elected a Republican U. S. senator, and while there it may have been done in the interest of the "interests" in Oregon the Republicans are called upon to elect a Democrat in the interest of the people. He says the first bill he will introduce will be the Oklahoma banking law, and he thinks that the state needs this kind of act to protect the people. He does not think the state could elect a better man for President of the senate than Hon. Tom Kay of Salem, and hopes he will succeed whether he is elected speaker or not. He says Ike Bingham is backing Kay, and both are Statement No. 1 men, and he believes the statement members should control both houses. As a mater of fact both Selling and Kay are men of good records in the senate and either one of them would take pride in making a good president of the senate.

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The Railroad Commission is doing some small but satisfactory stunts these days. Oswald West has just gone over the Corvallis and Eeastern on foot, President Campbell has investigated some old boxcars that are doing service on another line in the valley for passenger depots, until the woodpeckers have made so many holes in them, they are not safe to hold chickens when they break out of the coops. A depot with 400 foot floor space is to be put in at Lyons, and two trains a day are now run over the Yaquina Bay line. Ben Jones made a fight on the antiquated cars they had for passengers and new cars are being used. Of course, the road will never be extended down to Newport so long as Harriman runs it and then there is no competition to force him to do it. But that is the way of the world. We don't any of us do very much unless competition drives us to it.

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Bohemia Sharp who took the part of the Chinese Emperor in the comic parade at the Cherry Fair has become the object of very ardent correspondence on the part of some Eastern typewriters and stenographers who have heard of his owning valuable mining claims, and one of them is pursuing him with almost daily epistles that increase in burning affection and volume. Her address is given as E. Emilie Smith, 6042 Woodlawn avenue, 3rd apartment, Chicago Ill. She seems to have some wealth and wants to lavish it on Bohemia but to this he objects, as he says he does not want her money but would like to invest it for her own benefit, not for in some really promising mining property that he alone knows the location of. This will close into a big financial transaction as Mr. Sharp is handling it with his usual business discretion. But it will be a sad blow to the hopes of some of the state house stenographers who have led him to believe that they were interested in Bohemia personally and not in his mines. Such trifling is always given its just deserts and the Chicago key-puncher is ahead in the race to get next to the old mining king's heart at last accounts, and we are glad of it.

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Salem has 19 saloons and drug-stores that pay city licenses in amount of $11,800 a year to help run the city. Three days of the Cherry Fair carnival passed by and only one arrest that caused by the confetti craze late Saturday night. An ex-convict was arrested for being drunk on Sunday when the saloons are closed tight. Police Judge Moores can justly claim that this is the most orderly city in the world.

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Such a fact as the above does not appeal to the theoretical Prohibitionist. He is not interested in a little matter like $12,000 a year of revenue that goes to relieve the taxpayer, and causes the city almost no expense in return. He is not interested in such bagatelles as the disorder that would result from Salem becoming a dry town with illicit sales, blind pigs, bootlegging and bottle houses running in violation of all law and order. What does the professional Proh. agitator care for property that is made worthless and hopyards that have to be plowed up, and a large state industry ruined. He wants to try his theory of running a dry town with compulsory abstinence. He is not satisfied to convert men by moral suasion and education and religious influence. He wants to compel the unconverted man, the uneducated man, the irreligious man to put on the virtues and live the life of the man who has been made over new by the influences of the highest Christian civilization. He would bring this about by legislation, and he may be right but there are many who cannot see it that way. They beg leave to differ with him and say the present system of regulation and control and compromise with the drinking habits of the people is better than his theory of absolute Prohibition. There are those who do not believe in the justice of putting upon the city a policy of disorder, a policy of destroying industry and property values and driving the supply of the liquor traffic into secret channels and forcing thousands to become secretly criminals. While there are large numbers who believe in the use of liquor as beverages and who believe in its use as medicine and in prescriptions and patent medicines containing alcohol, they will find ways to get their needs supplied so long as the belief lasts, and if the city does not see fit to license and regulate for the purposes of getting revenues, they will get it unlicensed.

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The efforts to get the radical Prohibitionist advocates upon some basis of agreement with the advocates of license and regulation will fail. But out of the effort good may come. Radicalism on either side of the liquor question will accomplish agitation, and agitation in the end educates. Education of the citizen as to his rights in the long run accomplishes the only lasting result. The Prohibition and Temperance advocates never accomplish all they aim at but they always leave public sentiment against the drink habits and the drink traffic a notch higher. For this the people owe them thanks. The demand for the reconstructed saloon, where there is an open glass front, where there are no boxes or hiding places for the loafer, the bum, the drunkard and the criminal, where women and minors are not permitted, where gambling and carousing, fighting and prostitution of any sort are banished, is what the respectable property owner welcomes and good citizenship demands. We have reached that point where we are ready to admit that in country communities, in smaller towns and cities, where there is a large majority honestly in favor of shutting out the liquor traffic, it can be made a reasonable success. But that cities of any size, or communities where public sentiment is about evenly divided can be conducted orderly on the Prohibition plan, we deny. We deny that Salem would be as orderly without saloons as with them if they are properly conducted. It was to get such facts before the people that the meeting Saturday night was called. The radical on both sides does not like these moderate and conservative statements of fact and truth. He prefers absolute Prohibition or the unregulated lawless saloon. The business man prefers good order and good business methods to any theory. The theorist sacrifices good order, is willing to destroy property and industry, and destroy public revenues without accomplishing any good result whatever.

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The Saturday night meeting was adjourned to Friday evening of this week, but promises to result in nothing. The radical prohibition element that is controlled by the pulpit orators do not want to hear but one side. To them there is but one side and that is of an emotional and sentimental character. They mean well, and are to be considered sincere unless they advocate the use of alcohol as medicine and the use of patent medicine substitutes for saloon drinks. If they believe in alcohol as medicine or employ patent medicines containg alcohol they are inconsistent, but that is not so bad as deliberate choice of an evil for its own sake. The people these days who choose vice and evil for its own sake are a very small number and hardly worth mentioning. But it should be said that any plan of Prohibition that aims to shut off the laboring man or the poorer class of people from getting liquor, but would leave the rich man to have liquors in his home and at his clubs would prove a fraud and creator of social disturbance. It would produce the spirit of anarchy and lawlessness among the masses of the people. There is serious danger of making men anarchists if they are forced to do things in violation of laws which seem perfectly natural and right for them to do. Let us give credit to the churches and temperance organizations for their good work in helping to bring about better ideals of good citizenship. Let us raise higher the standards of personal conduct and responsibility for good order and at the same time let us not sanction disorder and destruction of property values and industries even though they are demanded in the name of religion and orthodoxy. Hops are but one small item of the products that are used for the manufacture of the world's beverages and Oregon is not the only sinner.

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It seems strange that the time of the city council and the mayor and other city officials should be taken up for hours over the petty details of whether bicycles should be shut off from using the sidewalks on one side of a certain block when the city council could help the whole city by giving the Salem and Stayton electric line a good lift. If the council had taken up the matter and passed a resolution endorsing the plan for raising the $100,000 bond subscription, and the 15 members thereof had each taken an $100 bond, they would have immortalized themselves as one public body that was animated by public sprit. One alderman, Elliott of the seventh, voluntarily came to the committee and put down his name for $100 stock subscription. The city council could do more for the city by boosting for the Salem and Stayton electric in 15 minutes than by spending any amount of time on bicycle ordinances.

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But the council and mayor are not alone to blame for not being enthusiastic over the Salem and Stayton electric. We are all too cold-blooded about such matters. We are too close and tight and calculating to build this city rapidly. One merchant hit it right when he signed for $500 of the electric bonds, saying he would borrow the money at the bank and pay eight per cent, and as the bonds pay him six per cent he would be out two per cent a year for five years. He says he can make more than $10 per year when that electric line is built above what he is making now, and make it ten times over. That is the spirit of Alderman Stockton, and it is the right spirit and the spirit that wins and makes big men and big towns, and it is time we were all getting rid of our skinning habits and narrow contracted ideas of helping no public enterprise.

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I want to call attention again to the shameful neglect of South Commercial street. Let it be admitted that the contractors did a poor job and did not build the street according to specifications. Let it be admitted that the street is not as well constructed as the Liberty road, and yet there is no excuse to let the street go to ruin. At present it is strewn over with sharp pieces of rock that ruin a driving horse's feet and cut auto tires to pieces as effectually as though the street were strewn with broken plate glass. Is there no remedy for this? Indeed there is. The street should be cleaned, which has not been done in two years. The three blocks of Court street that are paved are cleaned several times a week, and sprinkled daily several times. By what authority does the city government care for the one street and neglect the other? The people who own property on South Commercial street paid out about $12,000 for that street improvement. If they paid that sum for a beautiful and much-needed public building and had presented it to the city, would not the city care for it, keep it clean, paint it, and see that it did not go to ruin? The argument is parallel, and the city has no right to spend all its funds on one street to the neglect of another street. The South Commercial street improvement is well worth caring for. It is our finest thoroughfare leading to the cemeteries and to the fruit country beyond. It is the main travelled road for autos going north and south. An auto going over it now raises a cloud of dust that covers the residences for several blocks. The street should be sprinkled between four and five in the morning after it has been raked off clean and clear of the sharp splinters of rock, and then with the water on, it the surface would become as smooth as cement pavement. If we cannot do these things right, what is the use of paving streets? We are new at these things, but there is no encouragement to make street improvements if they are not cared for.

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