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CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND THE GOVERNOR.

TO THOSE who are opposed to capital punishment it is modestly suggested by the horse editor that now is the time to take up the fight against it, and make vigorous and continued war upon it. The horse editor, while not disposed to be bloodthirsty or especially revengeful, believes that there are some criminals for whom only the death penalty can solve the question of what to do with them. There are some men, degenerates, brutes, what you will in that direction so low in the scale of morality that their living is a crime against all the principles of nature, but this is outside the main contention.

It is suggested, though, that now is the time to take up the matter, for we can discuss the principle without deciding a case. We can argue the matter without bringing into it a special case with the lives of three or four, or more especial persons being injected into it. Hence it can be argued on its principles and talked of simply on its merits.

Let this be done, or the discussion dropped, until such time as it is again put up to the people to decide. It is, or was unfortunate that the matter assumed the shape it did, unless indeed, the execution of those men today operates as a preventive to others, and that they were, so to speak, martyrs to the cause of the abolition of capital punishment.

Governor West has been placed in an unusually trying position. On the one hand certain newspapers and a number of ministers insist upon the men being hanged. On the other side a strong pressure brought to bear in the hopes of saving them from the gallows. Delegations of tearful women, able lawyers, "excessive" humanitarians, pleadings, supplications, tears. Yet through it all Governor West has remained firm, and has taken the only course possible for him under the peculiar circumstances. He has been firm, not stubborn, for he has carried out the will of the people of the state of Oregon, when in doing so he violated his own beliefs, opinions and desires.

He stated, it is true, that there "would be no more hangings while he was governor." He no doubt meant exactly what he said, for he had a profound belief that once the people of the state could get a chance to pass upon the matter that they would abolish capital punishment. Believing so, he at the last election caused the matter to be voted upon, and he then found he was mistaken, that the majority of the people insisted upon the death penalty for murder—they believed in the teachings of the Old Testament rather than those of the New. Pending this election reprieve had been granted to certain condemned men, and they were given the chance to escape the noose if the people so desired. They were given this extra chance of an appeal to the court of highest resort—the people, and they lost. As the governor of the state, the representative of these voters, he was sworn to sustain and enforce the law. When he could no longer doubt the desire of the majority, when they had almost in so many words, told him they desired the men whom he had reprieved, hanged, there was but one thing he could do, and that was carry out the expressed will of the people—enforce the law.

wreaches a chance for their lives, and did not let them be hanged long ago. The noisy ones of the other side are beating their tom-toms and saying the governor is without honor because he having said there should be no hangings during his administration, permitted these executions even though a large majority of the people whose representative and agent he is, and through whom alone he has the right or power to reprieve or pardon, insisted that the death penalty be inflicted.

To the great intelligent mass of people, those who think without shouting, and see and understand without leaping into the glare of the calcium light, Governor West's course is the only sensible, straight-forward, honest, manly one possible, and this class (fortunately in a large majority in Oregon) heartily endorses his action, and admires his putting the will of the people above his own desires or opinions. The governor has been in a trying position and he has come out of it with credit to himself and with the hearty commendation of the sensible, thinking people of the state, regardless of their especial opinions or beliefs concerning capital punishment.

WHIPPING POST REMEDY.

ENGLISH legislation is always practical. Some years ago, when an organized gang of garrulous invaders London they re-established the whipping post, with the result that garrulous soon ceased. Now the house of commons has decided that when a person has been convicted of participation in white slavery the accused shall be soundly flogged. This was the old custom, and Macaulay declares that the brutal Jeffries used to augment the punishment by his manner of pronouncing a sentence. When an unfortunate was brought before him he used to dilate upon the flogging, saying: "This is a cold day for madam to strip in. Sheriff, see that you warm her up. Lay it on well. Flog her till the blood trickles down her back. Do not spare the lash, sheriff. Give it to her hard," and he added to it by chucking, rubbing his hands in glee, and gloating over the tears and cries of his victims.

SHOULD TRY THE "BETTER" WAY.

THE Willamette University is making a strong and apparently successful effort to increase its endowment and set upon a substantial footing. That it will be successful beyond its expectations in this way is the wish of all Salem people and thousands of others. At the same time it is to be regretted that no steps are being taken towards providing free scholarships. Assistance by the college to the poor but needy student struggling against adverse circumstances to acquire an education is as necessary to his well-being and success as is the endowment to the struggling college. Hence it is to be regretted that Willamette is not taking at least some initial steps towards doing to others as she would be done by. The proverb says "It is better to give than to receive" and if this is true it is to be hoped that so far as free scholarship are concerned that W. U. will soon see her way clear, while receiving her endowment gifts, to act the "better" part.

Trial Begins Monday.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 14—The trial of former City Prosecutor Guy Eddie, charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, is scheduled to begin here next Monday. It is reported that an effort will be made to secure another postponement.

NEVED BILLS ARE UP TO THE LEGISLATURE

Governor West declares that with the 63 vetoed bills left over from the last legislature he will have nothing more to do. He will not recommend the passage of any of the bills nor attempt to defeat any effort to pass them over his veto. The bills are to be printed within the next few days and distributed to all of the members of the new legislature.

Switzerland Elect.
(UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE)
Bern, Switzerland, Dec. 13.—Edward Muller, at present chief of the military department is elected today president of the Swiss confederation. M. Hoffman was elected vice-president.

Talks on the Canal at Panama

The president has fixed Panama canal tolls in accordance with the advice of Prof. Johnson, who has been guided in his judgment by commercial considerations. The rate is almost the same as that via Suez, but that is largely accidental. The competition between the two routes is one of freight rates, rather than of canal tolls, and the tolls is only one factor of the rate. The rate fixed is not a cut-throat rate, for the purpose of diverting traffic from the Suez route, for the professor finds that policy unjust. The rate adopted is proportioned to the cost of building and operating the canal, and with the intent to provide for economy in movement by that route, rather than by a transcontinental route. Even according to these reasonable principles the professor says that the result rests "mainly upon conjecture." Nobody really knows what commerce will prefer the canal, and therefore nobody really knows what the toll will amount to. The expectation is that after 10 or 20 years they will provide something toward repaying the cost of the canal. In that case just so much of the national investment will be released either for a similar use or for the reduction of taxation. That is good business either way. It is plain that there is a limit to the extent to which even the United States can use taxation for the construction of such public works, but there is no limit if the works are administered in a method not to burden the taxpayers, and to recover the capital sunk.

There are two important variations from the practice on the Suez canal. No toll will be collected from passenger vessels via Panama. The professor's argument is that the passenger tolls are included in the tonnage toll, and that a separate passenger toll is a double toll. Also warships are charged differently from the tonnage toll on merchant vessels. The professor says that they are fighting machine, and have no tonnage for profit. Therefore warships are charged for their displacement, at a rate nominally lower than merchant vessels, but totaling higher, and regardless of commercial considerations. In the professor's words, "The United States is not called upon to make the Panama canal tolls low for the purpose of lightening the naval burdens of foreign countries." All that the United States is required to do is to deal equitably with all users of the canal for like purposes. All warships pay via Suez, because that is a private enterprise, and there is no excuse for exempting any. The discrimination would be too blatant. In some respects there is cause for regret that the Panama canal was not built by the United States through a corporation, in the manner in which capitalists keep their interests distinct, and keep track of their financial operations. The steel trust, for example, although owning its subsidiaries, would not allow them to take freely from anything the steel trust owned. Strict account is kept of all intercompany operations, but the United States keeps no account of interdepartment operations. Thus it happens that nobody really knows what the franking privilege costs, or the real deficit in the post-office, which claims a surplus.

There would be no real discrimination if the United States should fail to collect tolls on its warships, or even if it should rebate them. But there would be ground for a suggestion of avoiding the letter of the treaty, even though complying with its spirit. The exemption of the coastwise marine is a similar case, which hardly could have occurred if it had been resolved to keep the canal accounts in a strict manner. If the canal had been required to support itself there never could have been an argument that rebates to the coastwise trade would not be a burden to taxpayers for private profit. The professor is not responsible for this. His entire statement of his action is contrary to it. The troubles which will result from departure from the professor's principles are not yet apparent, but are coming to a head.

To Compel Voters to Cast Vote

M. Poincare has secured proportionate representation for France in the chamber deputies. But a very large proportion of French citizens it seems have never formed the habit of voting. Compulsory voting is now suggested. The special cable dispatches from Paris to the Sunday Times tell of two bills introduced by radical senators designed to compel the people to vote. One provides for a fine whenever a citizen of voting age neglects his duty at the polls, while the other is still more severe, and provides for the omission of the neglectful voter's name from the lists after his first offense, and the permanent withdrawal of his right of suffrage if he persistently refuses to vote.

A plan to compel voting has been suggested in this county, under which a majority of votes of all the registered voters would be exacted for any measure submitted to the people or any candidate for office. In case the majority was lacking the measure would be held over until the next election, while the incumbent of the office would hold his place until the people saw fit to go to the polls in large enough numbers to comply with the law. If the referendum is to become a recognized part of our governmental machinery it is desirable that it should clearly reflect the will of the people. Comparatively few have hitherto cast their votes for or against constitutional amendments or any other measure submitted to the people at the polls.

It is doubtful, however, if plans to compel people to vote when they do not care to vote are not infringements of the rights of citizens. In France it is said, the number of men who refrain from voting increases every year. But it is hoped that under M. Poincare's system of proportional representation the apathy of voters will soon be remedied, without the enforcement of any dubious law to compel voting.

A STITCH IN TIME.

Salem People Should Not Neglect Their Kidneys.

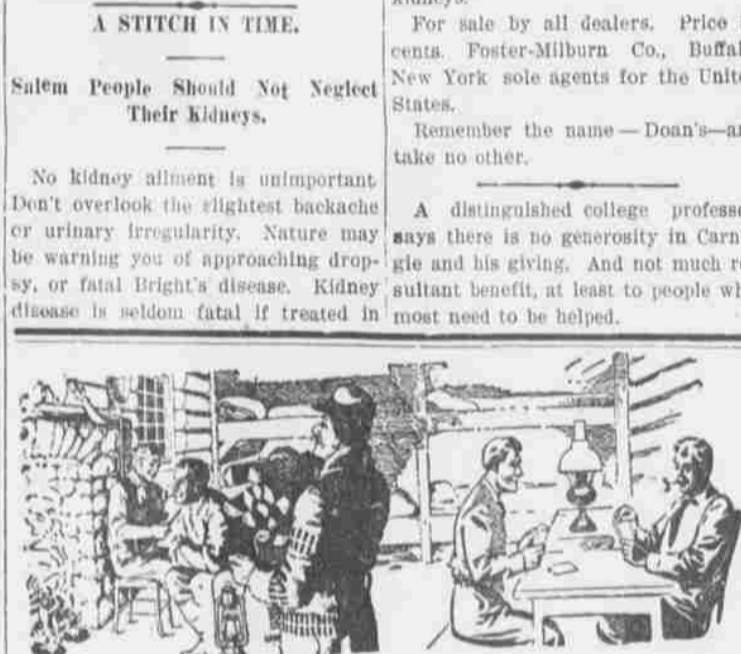
No kidney ailment is unimportant. Don't overlook the slightest backache or urinary irregularity. Nature may be warning you of approaching dropsy, or fatal Bright's disease. Kidney disease is seldom fatal if treated in time, but neglect paves the way for serious kidney troubles. Don't neglect a lame or aching back another day. Don't ignore dizzy spells, irregular or discolored urine, headaches, weariness or depression. Begin treating the kidneys with the reliable, time-tried remedy, Doan's Kidney Pills. For 75 years, Doan's have been curing sick kidneys and curing permanently. Endorsed by grateful people.

Mrs. Mary J. Platt, 320 Sixth street Corvallis, Oregon, says: "I have used Doan's Kidney Pills and have found them to be a good kidney medicine. They gave me great relief and I consider them unequalled for backache and other troubles caused by inactive kidneys."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

A distinguished college professor says there is no generosity in Carnegie and his giving. And not much resultant benefit, at least to people who most need to be helped.



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All this season's goods, new style coats, to close out the line at \$5.00 each.

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time, but neglect paves the way for serious kidney troubles. Don't neglect a lame or aching back another day. Don't ignore dizzy spells, irregular or discolored urine, headaches, weariness or depression. Begin treating the kidneys with the reliable, time-tried remedy, Doan's Kidney Pills. For 75 years, Doan's have been curing sick kidneys and curing permanently. Endorsed by grateful people.

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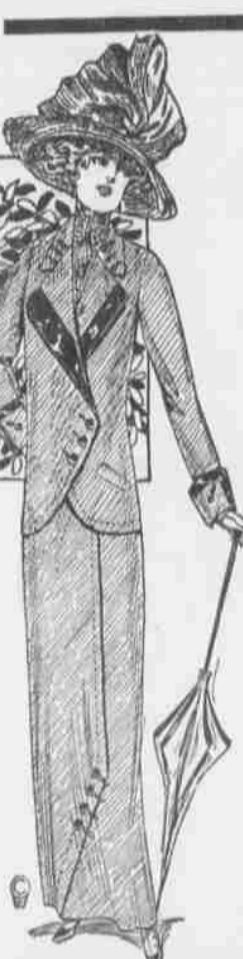
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and
\$12.50

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