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THE POWER OF STATUTES.

Some very learned men argue that business conducted on enormous scale cannot be made subject to law.

"Statutes," says the President of Columbia college, "cannot put moral principles where they do not exist."

Maybe not. But there are some things that right statutes rigidly applied can do.

They can put some of the business violators of moral principles in jail.

Maybe statutes can't put moral principles in a man, but they can put the man without moral principles out of business.

It is quite probable that moral principles cannot be put in the big trust grafters by statute or any other means.

But if the statutes are properly enforced, the big trust grafters may cease grafting and do some plain living and hard thinking in a place provided by statute for that purpose.

This would be good for the general business, if not good for the big grafters.

It might not put moral principles in men, but it would put moral principle in future methods of doing big business.

Statutes in themselves can accomplish nothing. But rigidly enforced, they can make even the manipulator of millions humble and tractable.

Besides, it is well to remember that statutes direct and develop public opinion.

NO PREPARATION NEEDED.

Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, got endwise in congress Thursday and threw several individual and congressional fits because this country is not prepared for war, and wants a committee of three senators, three congressmen and three others to find out how much, where and why it is unprepared.

The scrappy congressman fails to realize what must be apparent to anyone who ever gives his thinker exercise that the nations of Europe have removed any reason, if there was any, for a state of preparedness for war. When they get through with each other it is fair to presume each and every one of them will have all the war its system requires for a dozen or so years. The need of men to rehabilitate the destroyed industries, to spread the wings of commerce to the winds, to cultivate the farms and rebuild the ruined cities will prevent the recruiting of vast armies; and besides, the toil of these same men will be needed to earn the money to pay off the vast debt the present war has saddled upon the labor of the world.

Preparedness for war did not delay or prevent war in Europe, but rather hastened and caused it. Each of the nations, with its big army, was like a boy with a new gun—unhappy until it was tried on something.

If there ever was a time when getting ready to scrap our neighbor was excusable, the present is not it. Our friends across the pond have made it absolutely unnecessary for us to even think about needing an army. As to the need of a navy, maybe if the time ever comes when one is needed, we can borrow England's or Germany's if we can provide a safe place to intern them.

Congressman Gardner needs to have the hindsight of his imagination fixed and a real new foresight attached to his muzzle, that is to say his mouth.

The Belgian government, like Noah's dove, is having difficulty in finding a resting place. It reminds one of our own war, when a certain Union cavalry general wrote a series of articles for Harpers, which were dated from "Headquarters in the Saddle." This caused some carping critic to remark that you "could not expect much from a general who kept his headquarters where his hindquarters should be."

The English government has instructed its citizens to get their women folks out of Turkey. This is about the same as saying Turkey is ready to join the Germans and Austrians.

The Oregonian is clucking over its China nest egg again and making itself generally ridiculous. It says Chinese do not eat eggs having some kind of superstition about them, and that such eggs as are not used in raising poultry are allowed to go to waste. It also says these eggs can be bought in China at three cents a dozen, and yet it tells its readers that a tariff of three cents would stop their importation. That such China eggs as are imported do not compete with the "made-in-Oregon" product is shown by the price, the China eggs, so the Oregonian says, selling at 20 cents a dozen and the Oregon product at 35 to 40 cents. As eggs are out of the reach of the working man at 35 cents, it would seem that the Oregonian has as its object the prevention of any but millionaires eating eggs. It is rotten politics instead of addled eggs that is worrying our big contemporary.

The deadliness of the present war has not yet been told, for the dispatches have never said a word about the hospitals other than their first aid to the wounded. The history of all wars shows the deaths from disease as far more numerous than from those due to battle, and while it is estimated the deaths in battle in the present war are above a quarter of a million for all the armies, it is probable this estimate is entirely too high. Yet if the killed in battle amounts to half that, the death list when the victims of disease are counted will be far above that number.

The Oregonian accuses Governor West of abusing about everything and everybody, in his speech at Portland Wednesday night. A careful perusal of his speech fails to show that he did much to the Oregonian except quote some of its editorials.

About the only thing Belgium had to do with getting into this war was that she got caught on the track just when a through limited claimed the right-of-way. The results are especially applicable to the comparison.

The Germans now have guns with a range of 25 miles. If this improvement in range can be carried much further, Germany can recall her armies and fight her battles from Berlin.

Food speculation is an ancient and dishonorable pursuit at which the world has connived until it has come to be considered respectable and all right.

Much has been said about preparing for war in time of peace, but it strikes us it is better in Europe just now to prepare for peace in time of war.

How can our Teddy refrain from taking part in the war with entirely new game in the shape of great Zeppelins and swift aeroplanes in sight for the wing shooters.

In England just now one would not have to take out a license to shoot Zeppelins. Besides, the open season will last until the war ends.

THE ROUND-UP

Albany and Corvallis prisoners have preferred a temporary organization and have signed a petition asking for a charter for the Albany-Corvallis Topographical union, from the lead organization.

There were 2,324 registered at Portland Wednesday, of whom 1,204 were women, and they outnumbered the men who only showed up to the number of 1020.

Baker City has just completed building a new pipe line for her water works, and made a saving of \$21,931 by doing the work herself instead of having it done by contract. The lowest bid was \$24,700 and the work cost \$32,735.89.

Hood River is holding its annual carnival, the fun beginning Wednesday night and it will be kept up until late Saturday night.

Baker county will have a surplus in its county treasury this year, and the tax levy next year it is thought will be five mills less than this.

The teachers institute held at Medford closed its three day session Wednesday with a resolution endorsing the normal schools at Ashland and Weston.

The Portland Railway Light and Power company will on or before next Monday pay the city of Portland \$90,542.25 for rental of city bridges during the year.

The Wheeler Reporter tells of the exploit of Smith Elliott, who recently killed a 2-year-old bear with a club, as it was coming down the trunk of a tree. One blow did the business.

The Medford council has decided to discontinue the appropriation for soap and towels for fire department use. The Mail Tribune ironically observes that the saving will insure a lower tax levy.

The Showwood News Sheet has entered its fourth year, and Editor Shepherd says: "It means that there has been three years of battle. Despite our adversities, we have never failed to get out an issue. We are in new quarters. Where the bank was we are."

The federal reclamation service at Hermiston is to cover the entire project with a telephone system, in order that ditch riders may be kept in close touch with headquarters. The Herald suggests that project settlers would do well to get in on the new system.

J. W. White, of John Day, the Canyon City Eagle reports, is trying to ar-

Wasted Men

The war goes on, there is no sign of peace; no one can say when gory strife shall cease; no gifted prophet, in his spangled robe, can send a dove around guns still roar, the weary globe; the captains march and slay, men's lives, like threshed out chaff, are thrown away. The young men die in battle, siege and rout; who knows what genius has been blotted out? Perhaps a Shakespeare lies among the slain, born to the bays, and born, alas, in vain! Full many a youth, with bright resplendent dreams, gives his warm blood to swell the crimson streams which moisten Europe, till his misty rise, and spread a veil of red across the skies. The youth and sibs of the warring lands, with foolish weapons in their artist hands, are carving flesh, who should be carving stone, are yielding swords, when brushes are their own. Alas, what waste, what sinful waste of men, to prove the sword is mightier than the pen!



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SEATTLE GETS BANKERS.

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 16.—Culminating a stubborn fight between Seattle, San Diego, San Francisco, Milwaukee and other cities, Seattle was awarded the next convention of the American Bankers' association, to be held in 1915, by the convention which closed last night at Richmond, Va.

The association is the largest of its kind in the world. It is expected 3,000 delegates will be in attendance.

range a reunion of old soldiers of the world fails to see any glory worth the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the close of the war. There are about 25 of the old soldiers, of north and south. The idea of a reunion is meeting much encouragement.

Neighboring sentiment inspires the Baker Herald, which says: "Haines has the hustling habit more than ever in trying to secure a \$10,000 race track. Every person who wishes the country to grow will wish that busy city the best of success."

County School Superintendent E. J. Moore reports 415 teachers employed in Lane county and a salary roll of \$181,533. The great majority of these teachers have had college training and nearly all have had special pedagogical work.

Late Yesterday

At Los Angeles.—The police commission ordered the destruction by fire of opium, worth \$35,000 confiscated in Chinatown.

At Los Angeles.—A. B. Kallmeyer was excused from jury duty after he had proved to the court by a succession of sneezes that he had hay fever.

At Los Angeles.—The play ground commission instructed its representatives to learn whether it is possible to receive the 1916 Olympic games for Los Angeles.

At Los Angeles.—A resolution protesting against state-wide prohibition was adopted by the directors of the Los Angeles Saengerfest, representing 50,000 German-American citizens.

At San Francisco.—The Rev. E. E. Robbins, formerly of the Methodist church at Sallinas, was sentenced to three years in the McNeil's Island Federal prison for writing an improper letter to Miss Edna Rogers.

At Richmond, Va.—After deciding to meet next year at Seattle, electing W. A. Law of Philadelphia president, and choosing other officers, the American Bankers' convention ended its fourth annual convention.

At Boston.—Addressing the Business Women's club, President Emeritus Eliot of Harvard university declared America would have to help the European allies if they should become exhausted in their war with Germany.

At San Bernardino, Cal.—A coroner's jury returned, without comment, a verdict to the effect that Benjamin Emerson "came to death of a gunshot wound at the hands of R. E. Davis," managing editor of the San Bernardino Index.

OPEN FORUM

WATER FRONT MEASURES DANGEROUS

To the Editor:

With the absolute certainty that the "Water Front" constitutional amendment No. 328 and its companion bill, No. 330 on the ballot, proposed for adoption at the next state election, will deprive the state of authority to sell any tide lands or any submerged lands on the navigable streams and bays of Oregon, the state is confronted with the prospect that all industrial development requiring access to the water will speedily come to an end. This is the opinion of practically every attorney who has made a careful examination of the proposed amendment and bill.

Well known lawyers in Portland and other cities in the state have pointed out that the proposed amendment contains a provision that tide lands may be leased by the state only as sites on which to build docks. This means that the state land board will not be permitted to grant any permit to dig or reclaim any overflow lands or tide lands, or any right to utilize tide lands for boating purposes, fishery purposes or as sites for industries or for any other industrial development purpose.

In an address recently delivered in Portland by ex-Senator F. W. Mulkey, who with C. S. Jackson of the Journal proposed the amendment and the bill, Mr. Mulkey used this expression: "Unsold tide lands and foreshore of navigable streams will remain the property of the state. They will be analogous to timber lands in the national forest reserves. They will be a heritage for future generations."

These who have made a study of the amendment and the bill give Mr. Mulkey credit, since he is one of the authors of the measure, with knowing what they mean and when he says that the unsold tide lands and foreshore can only be leased for dock purposes, it becomes perfectly clear that the vast logging interests, fishing interests and other industries that require access to the water in their operations are to be practically put out of the game so far as future development is concerned if these measures become laws.

Another serious objection to both of these measures, which is urged by a great many people in all sections of the state, is the fact that the school fund which now derives considerable revenue from the sale of tide lands and the foreshore of the navigable waters of the state will be depleted of a very large sum of money that is now badly needed for the maintenance of the public school system of Oregon.

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