

St. Helens Mist

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COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

WHY THIS OMISSION?

St. Helens has missed a mighty good opportunity for publicity in the neglect to have the city represented during the celebration incident to the opening of the Cello canal, which has riveted the attention of practically everybody in this state during the present week. From Portland to the sea on the Oregon shore there are two cities—St. Helens and Rainier.

The people of this city seemed wholly content to sit idly by and see the pageant pass down the Washington shore of the Columbia. So far as this town was concerned the triumphant passage of steamers from the heart of the Inland Empire to the sea was of no consequence whatever. Most cities along the way were represented in this history-making event by a number of representative citizens.

Perhaps the most effective representation any of them had was by means of some young lady native of the town. In the case of St. Helens there are a number of young ladies, whose lives have been spent here and whose births took place on the very shores of the mighty Columbia. Some one of these maidens should have represented the city in the ceremonials which have held the attention of the people the entire week.

The opening of the Columbia river to through navigation from Lewiston, Idaho, to the sea is of the greatest importance to the entire district traversed by that great waterway. The whole adjacent country will be benefited. Every town and hamlet should have been represented.

In this connection one of the crying needs of St. Helens is an effective commercial organization, one of the functions of which would be to see that the city was properly represented upon just such occasions as has taken place during the present week. One or two citizens should not be expected to bear the entire responsibility and expense of promoting and carrying out the matters of public concern which equally benefit everyone in the community.

The merchants of this city are just now undertaking to enlist the cooperation of the business and professional men of the community in just such a work as is outlined here. The matter has been taken under consideration and some plan will be devised within a very short time whereby, through the instrumentality of the merchants' organization, there may develop a strong commercial association, whose function would be to give attention to all matters pertaining to the public welfare.

PAID IN KIND

Probably no other word in the English language has suffered so much from the insinuations of bright people as the word goodness. Goodness has received so much patronage, has been the object of so much condescension and has been treated so gingerly by those who make a show of doing things that it would seem to have been put forever in the shade as a virile word. The very virility of the word, however, has saved it from extinction.

Goodness applied to farming means good farming. Goodness applied to shoes means good shoes. Goodness applied to schools means a good education. Goodness applied to the family perhaps means more than applied to anything else in this world. A good wife, a good husband, a good father, a good mother, a good brother, a good sister—a galaxy of persons than whom nothing more enviable can be found on earth.

Goodness is happiness and happiness is one of the chief ends of man, according to the Declaration of Independence—theologians and philosophers notwithstanding. Just so far as fun overleaps the boundary of goodness, just so far it leaves happiness behind. You simply take your choice.

But of all burdens heaped upon goodness, none are greater, none have come so near crushing the life out of goodness as has hypocrisy. Time out of mind, throughout all lands, among all peoples, have whited sepulchres appropriated the garments of goodness, casting odium and obloquy on the noblest word in the language, but the perennial life of the word reappears in sweetness and strength when a good neighbor appears on the

scene, when the Samaritan follows the priest and the Levite, when a man's word is as good as his bond, when even a good reputation counts big in the courts of law.

Goodness has its reward in the whirligig of time. Smartness has its day; goodness outlives that day. Revelry has its day; goodness outlives that day. "Take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry," and say to yourself: "Thou fool." This is not saying that goodness has its reward; so have other things their rewards just as surely. It is not simply a matter of morals, but a matter of mathematics as well. You are paid day by day in kind.

THE OREGON VOTER.

Volume one, number one, of the Oregon Voter, a brand new thirty-two page, double column magazine, published at Portland, has reached our exchange table. The man behind the gun on this new publication is C. C. Chapman, until early in this year manager of the Oregon Immigration Bureau, and one of the live wires of this state. By reason of the position Mr. Chapman had occupied for a good many years, in which he rubbed elbows with the very sinew of the state, he is possessed of an intimate knowledge of things, public and private, which enables him to deal some solar plexus blows to things wrong, which are not rare.

Mr. Chapman's Voter is a reflex of the man who makes it. It is the liveliest infant we have encountered for a long time, and its attitude in dealing with questions in which debt, public and private, are a factor, gets right down to the meat in the cocoon.

There has long been a field yawning for just such a publication, and Brother Chapman and his Voter are starting out in a manner to indicate that the position will be filled admirably.

One of the themes which the Voter devotes a great deal of attention to is that of bonded indebtedness, and the jolts it administers to that giant of folly are telling.

We hope the Voter keeps real busy along the lines it pursued in its first number.

ATTENTION WILL DO IT

The habit of work itself is a mental stimulus, no matter what that work is, when it is earnest, persistent and enthusiastic. It is to learn to look at a blank wall until the secret door opens; to look hard and long, to look intelligently and well, and the secret door will open.

Attention, thought, earnestness, persistence, enthusiasm—these old virtues will energize the mental faculties and put to shame the lassitude of growing years. The practical question is how you can teach boys and girls, teach everybody, to so concentrate their mental vision that mysteries will unfold one after another; that the mind will grow to meet the advancing years.

RURAL CREDITS

Notwithstanding the tendency of some individuals who have been active in attempts to establish rural credit systems to dogmatize on the subject, it is evidently still a problem filled with difficulties. It is the unanimous conclusion that short-term loans on farm land are too expensive. In addition to high interest charges and commissions for renewals there is the expense of frequent bringing of the abstract down to date. There is always hanging over the head of the borrower the fear that financial conditions will be such at the maturity of the mortgage that he cannot get a renewal at reasonable rates. There is apparently general agreement that some form of bonded indebtedness must be devised. It is urged, in illustration, that the public borrows money in this way and that our great industrial development would have been impossible without the sale of bonds.

But here the agreement ends. Some would have the national government or the state lend money to farmers at low interest rates. Others would use banks with capital supplied by state or nation. Some would exempt the capital of such banks from taxation. Others would exempt the bonds from taxation, using the familiar argument that the land is already taxed. Two speakers considered the problem before the Southern Commercial Congress at Muskogee recently, Myron T. Herrick, who has specialized on rural credits more than any other prominent American, and George Woodruff of Joliet, Ill., who has an intimate acquaintance with the workings of the Farm Mortgage Bank of that city. Both protested against state or national "subsidies of the farmer." Mr. Herrick criticized exemption from taxation on the ground of inequality. Taxes must be paid and he argues that farmers who are not borrowing money would join other classes of taxpayers in resisting what would be a gross discrimination. Mr. Woodruff would exempt the de-

venture bonds from taxation, using the general objection to "double taxation." The Joliet plan of amortization, by which twenty-year bonds are paid out in forty equal semi-annual payments, appears to have been a success. It reduces to the minimum one of the greatest dangers, that of over-valuation of the security, for with each semi-annual payment the security becomes stronger. Congress and the various legislatures have few more urgent problems before them. While immediate action is desirable, the devising of an equitable and workable plan is more important still.

JOY RIDING INTO DEBT.

(Oregon Voter)
In one county 71 per cent of the farmers who were delinquent in payment of 1913 and 1914 taxes were recent purchasers of automobiles.

A county official told this to me on a recent visit to Portland. He had checked over the tax roll and marked the names of delinquents who had bought machines within the last two or three years.

Nearly three of every four were letting their tax penalty pile up along with the expense of new tires, oil and gasoline.

A few years ago in Portland it became the fashion to mortgage the home in order to indulge in the pleasurable recreation of spinning in one's own car over the nice new pavements which cost \$10,000,000 of bonded indebtedness to provide.

The fashion has spread to the country. Perhaps the health, pleasure and fuller enjoyment of life more than compensate for the embarrassment and worry of debts overdue. Perhaps it would have been wiser to have waited just another year. Perhaps not. It is an individual problem.

When it comes to the community itself rushing pell mell into costly expenditures and hastily assuming bonded indebtedness, it is more than an individual problem. What's the matter with taking it a little easier? What's the matter with paying as we go? Sort of an old-fashioned doctrine, little heeded in these days, but ought we not to go just a bit slower for the sake of feeling surer of what we are doing.

KINGDOM OF BREADTH

While there may be a miserable kind of real manifested by narrowness, the real stimulus of life comes from breadth.

Exclusiveness is petty, mean, shriveling. The more costly its dress the plainer is its nature exhibited.

Nothing is more open than the provincialism of caste in education, than the provincialism of ethics in the professions, than the provincialism of luxury in club life.

He who enjoys the blue of the sky, the green of the grass, the sparkle of the dew drop, as well as he who is in tune with common childhood, with the comradeship of everyday life, has no need of foreign plasters on his grip.

Breadth is commonness; nothing more, nothing less. Specialism may point to brilliancy, but it spells narrowness the best you can make of it. The higher you get, the more pointed you are.

Common sympathies, common joys, common sorrows, common hopes, alone give breadth. The man of parts must pay a big price for his attainments. The statesman, the scholar, the philosopher, the poet, the captains of finance and industry—all have their reward—but all lack the breadth of humanity which is reserved for common folk.

Except ye become as one of these common folk, ye can not escape the bonds of narrowness, ye can not enter into the kingdom of breadth.

ERROR IN LAW.

By means of an error made by the last legislature the salary of John H. Lewis, state engineer, is doubled and if Mr. Lewis desires he will have a right to draw \$6000 annually.

The mistake occurred through the hasty methods employed during the closing hours of the legislature in passing the bill consolidating the offices of state highway engineer with that of the state engineer.

In jamming the measure through before adjournment a clause was inserted to the effect that wherever in any law the name of the state highway engineer appeared, the name "state engineer" should be placed. No exception was made to the provision in the old highway commission act which places the salary of the state highway engineer at \$3000 a year.

Attorneys say this section fixing the highway engineer's salary was not repealed and therefore if the other provision of the new law is followed changing the name of state highway engineer to state engineer, Mr. Lewis would be entitled to draw this additional salary.

In the consolidation bill provision is made that the deputy engineer to be appointed, who is now Cantine, shall receive \$2000 annually.

CURRENT COMMENT

Rheumatics also fly northward with the wild geese.

A monument is proposed to Truth. Why, it isn't dead, is it?

Those "daughter" societies aren't much for peace. No wars, no daughters.

When we consider how easily radishes are raised they have no excuse to be hollow.

The laziest man has had his front yard covered with gravel and sold his lawn mower.

Put French dressing on it and you'll never know what the salad is composed of.

The consensus of Cuban opinion is that prize fighting has bull fighting skinned a mile.

Bubonic plague is again in Havana. More enthusiasm for rat fights and less for bull fights.

Don't believe more than half you hear, and if it is from Mexico don't believe any of it.

Could one but run as fast as men do in the movie films one could make a fortune at footracing.

We don't believe Nietzsche is the cause of the war. Everybody is still arguing over what he means.

Turkey continues to wonder what is the matter with her. Did she ever consider abolishing the harem?

We'd rather somebody else should stamp out typhus fever than run the risk of typhus fever stamping us out.

Old Scouts do not think of organizing, but they may have to. Everybody's rights are in more or less peril.

Turtle soup is the kind we're in when our automobile turns turtle. This kind three for a nickel, but one is enough.

Signed arguments about the war sent to people's columns tend to become markedly similar both in tone and substance.

Colonel Roosevelt wants to come back. There's room for all in the fold, even those who fly off the handle occasionally.

An altruistic baseball manager would fence in his ball park with lumber containing at least 842 knots. Why knot?

Having read that Judge Taft and Colonel Roosevelt shook hands, we might suspect each is having his right hand treated for frost-bite.

Antiseptic screens for kissing are now advocated. Judging by experience, in twenty years from now there will be a law compelling that kind.

Mr. Seidel, who was mayor of Milwaukee, says "socialism is a cure for poverty." We'd like to see a little tried at some experiment station first.

A curfew law for the boys that embraces summer night when the moon is full is nothing less than cruelty. Want to crush out all boyish romance?

If they really are going to partition Austria, Germany by rights is entitled to much of the north central portion, bringing Pan-Germanism to its realization.

Shall men wear cotton suits in summer? That's for the laundries to say; and, incidentally, the street car companies, who may or may not scrub the car seats.

Those 2000 Americans who have worried it through for four years in the City of Mexico will do all the re-unioning and "reminiscing" for forty years after the revolution is over.

It is to be feared that in some backyard soils the pictured envelope which is stuck in the end of the row after the seed in it is planted will be the prettiest thing ever seen there.

One interesting feature about the story of the French officer who was acquitted of killing his wife because she persisted on accompanying him to the front is that maybe it isn't so.

Why not make the man who is just learning to run his automobile carry a red flag? But, on second thought, it isn't necessary. Anybody will notice half a mile away what is the matter.

Men eat most of the pies; women know they are not good for the complexion. A St. Helens matron says "pie-eating being America's besetting vice, it might be a good thing to dispense with it altogether." Truly, But it's the old story of Eve and the apple. Who invented pie? Certainly not man. "The woman tempted me, and I did eat."

AMERICAN-MADE DYES.

Score of Plants Begin Manufacture on Large Scale.

More than a score of American firms are establishing new color works or enlarging the output of existing plants to meet the demands of the textile industries and other allied branches of manufacture for dyestuffs, the supply of which formerly came almost exclusively from Germany, and which has been cut off since Great Britain's embargo against German commerce. The department of commerce has announced it was devoting much attention to the progress in American dyestuff manufacture, and had found a noteworthy advance.

One company has provided for additional byproducts ovens at an outlay of \$1,000,000. Plants at Johnston, Pa.; Gary, Ind.; Youngstown, Ohio; Inland Harbor, Ind.; Buffalo, N. Y.; Woodward, Ala., and another in the south, all are increasing or establishing facilities for benzol production. A plant at Marcus Hook, Pa., is nearly completed for the manufacture of intermediates on a large scale.

It is hoped these works will produce most of the aniline oil and salts required by American color works.

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