

The Spokane Press.

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PITY FOR VENEZUELA.

We have allowed ourselves to become accustomed to look upon the Central and South American countries as "easy marks" for the cunning, cold-blooded concessionaires from the north.

We are apt to waste much sympathy upon poor Venezuela, imagining her to be impotent and helpless in the grasp of foreign capitalists who have surreptitiously gained control of her rich resources.

It is perfectly natural that we should take this view, from the fact that Venezuela, along with most of the other South and Central American countries, have furnished abundant proof of inability to properly promote their own financial and industrial affairs.

But the fact is that their development has been slow, not because of looseness of attention, but because of the strictness of demands made upon concessionaires. Venezuela, for instance, retards her progress, not by granting too much to foreign capital and exacting too little, but by granting too little and exacting too much.

The cunning from which these countries suffer is their own. They are victims of their own overcautiousness and greed. So the general sympathy is a misfit.

A summary of a concession recently granted by Venezuela for the construction of a railway line between Maracaibo and Paria illustrates the extreme jealous care with which the little republic guards her interests.

The concessionaires are required to also establish a steamship line between Maracaibo and Barranquilla. The grant is for 99 years, at the expiration of which time the railway, with all its rolling stock, warehouses and offices, shall become national property. The government also reserves the right to buy the road at any time. Mails are to be carried free. Government troops and baggage, as also government employes on service, are to be transported at half fare. The grant is not transferable except with consent of the national executive.

Pity for Venezuela "in the grasp of foreign capital" vanishes when these conditions of grants are contrasted with those in our own country.

Contrast it, for instance, with the Credit Mobilier scheme, by which this government, in the construction of the Union Pacific railroad, furnished three or four times as much money as the construction required and then left the completed road in the hands of a private corporation.

And the everyday method with us is not much better for the government and the people. We freely give railways terminal facilities, rights-of-way and special privileges uncounted and then wonder why we are imposed upon and marvel at the power that corporations possess and wield over us all from the highest legislative body in the land down to the poor widow who is refused compensation for her killed cow.

No, Venezuela is not suffering from northern cunning. She may be slow in development, but the facts in her case considered with the facts in our own experience indicate that when she finally does get railroads she will have them under control.

Her railroads and other great corporate interests will not be the government in disguise.

HE KISSED HIS MOTHER.

Sum up all there is in the world, and among it all can be found nothing that speaks better for a boy than the kiss he gives his mother.

A Chicago judge is somewhat of this same opinion. He judged two boys less from the evidence given by witnesses than from the evidence presented by themselves in their treatment of their mothers in court.

One boy whom the judge decided must go to the reformatory, tenderly kissed his mother goodbye, sinking his own misfortune in sympathy with the sorrow of his mother. The judge looked on, and instantly decided that there was enough good in that boy to enable him and his mother to work out his salvation.

At the same moment, another boy, whom the same judge had announced would probably go free, glanced mealy at his mother, who sat weeping, and started to walk out. That boy will go to the reformatory.

We hear much of the redeeming virtue of a boy's love for his mother. No one doubts it. It is recognized everywhere in principle, but seldom heeded in practice.

This judge has only applied common sense in interpretation of the law. Perhaps few judges take the trouble to do it. But it is worth while.

The boy against whom the evidence seemed conclusive, but in his extremity thought first of his mother's sorrow, has good stuff in him. In sending him back home with his mother the judge sent him to the best reformatory in the world.

It was no chance kiss. People do not do things by chance at crucial moments. It was then that all the elements in one's character became stimulated to the highest tension and the resultant act indicates the real character.

The kiss of his mother had become one of the most important things in that boy's life. When the crisis came he turned to it instinctively. The mother love, perhaps never fully realized before, opened to him as his first refuge.

Memories of lullabies, of midnight vigils, of toil and worry and sacrifice and unwavering devotion came upon that boy's mind and heart and soul in a flood.

He could no more resist that inclination to kiss his mother than he could at that moment remould his character.

Such a boy may yield to temptations. Bad companions may lead him into trouble. He may commit crimes and the evidence against him be conclusive. But so long as the love of mother remains his strongest emotional force there can be little pollution in his heart and must be much hope for his complete redemption.

BUT LITTLE WHEAT LEFT WITH FARMERS

Local flour mills state that of the estimated state wheat production of 25,000,000 bushels about 18,000,000 has been shipped to Puget sound, as has about 5,000,000 bushels of the Idaho crop. Of the six or seven millions remaining of the Washington crop, the bulk has been sold to rolling mills, a larger proportion than remains with the growers, so, with the possible exception of the Wenatchee valley, very little grain is held by the farmers.

Though the yield per acre has not been so heavy this year as some years previous, the acreage is larger. The quality is up to standard. In Idaho the yield has been about 10,000,000 bushels, Portland and Idaho mills taking half of it. Another year a still larger crop is expected, as the acreage in Idaho has been increased one-third.

Burnt Wood and Leather and Celluloid Goods are the Fads of Xmas Shoppers.

"The burnt wood and leather was the eastern fad three years ago. Last year the fad in the east was the imitation Indian basket. This year the fad is being repeated, and also making headway in Spokane.

"Spokane's fad last Christmas ran very much to celluloid goods. The country people who are shopping in the city are purchasing toilet cases and their tastes are running to celluloid goods. The Spokane shoppers are more skeptical, having had access to the displays in the various windows their minds are usually made up before entering the store. The country people who spent \$1.50 for a celluloid collar box last year are paying \$10 and \$15 today for their presents. This shows the country's prosperity. "The Spokane people who are purchasing articles are taking nothing but the high-priced goods. There is always some particular object which will sway the majority of the people

and especially at a Christmas time, when the purchase of one person influences the purchases of others. This year the fad is of a higher order than usual. Spokane people have turned to art and leather. "This morning all burnt wood and leather or 'applied art' goods, as they are called, are reported as being very scarce. There has been an unusual demand for the burnt goods and nearly every article we have had in stock has been taken," says a department store manager. "And," he continued, "nearly every article of art, including the burnt goods, is produced by Spokane talent." "It is impossible to sell cheap goods this year. People have the money and they want to spend it for high-priced goods," he continued. "The first three days we had a general run on the cheap articles by the farmers and city people. Our clerks made out more cash slips which

amounted to less in return than in any previous year. But all of a sudden the epidemic for expensive goods fell upon us and we are unable to supply the demand for the high-priced goods. "Our two heaviest days are yet to come, and, taking a hurried glance through the store, it will undoubtedly run 35 per cent better than the total receipts of last year."

"The closing days of the holidays' trade of Spokane will mark an advance of nearly 50 per cent over last year's purchases. The reasons for the jump is explained by the change in the tastes of the people to the highest-priced articles and the general prosperity of the city.

Several of the large establishments have planned to remember their employes on Christmas day and also be as lenient as possible in regard to their hours between Christmas and New Years.

O. R. & N. Xmas Present to Employees.

The following circular has been received here at the offices of the O. R. & N. Co.:

"Office of the President, Portland, December 25.—General Notice.—On January 1, 1902, the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company will establish a pension system and provide the necessary fund for the same the benefits of which will accrue to those employees who have been 20 years continuously in the company's service and who have reached an age necessitating retirement therefrom. The amount of pension to be paid any employee will depend upon the length of his continuous service with the company, and his average monthly salary during the last 10 years thereof. Full particulars of this plan will

be announced in due time. By authority of the board of directors."

"The inauguration of the pension system is in pursuit of the policy of the Harriman syndicate lines to retire the old men in the service who desire to quit and to reward them in accordance with the length and continuity of their service for the company.

It is optional with a man to quit work on the O. R. & N. in any department, if he has reached the age of 60 and if he has been on the pay-rolls for 20 years he will be given a pension on a basis of his average monthly salary for 10 years of that length of time. An employee at the age of 60 does not have to retire from the active life, but may continue to work for the company.

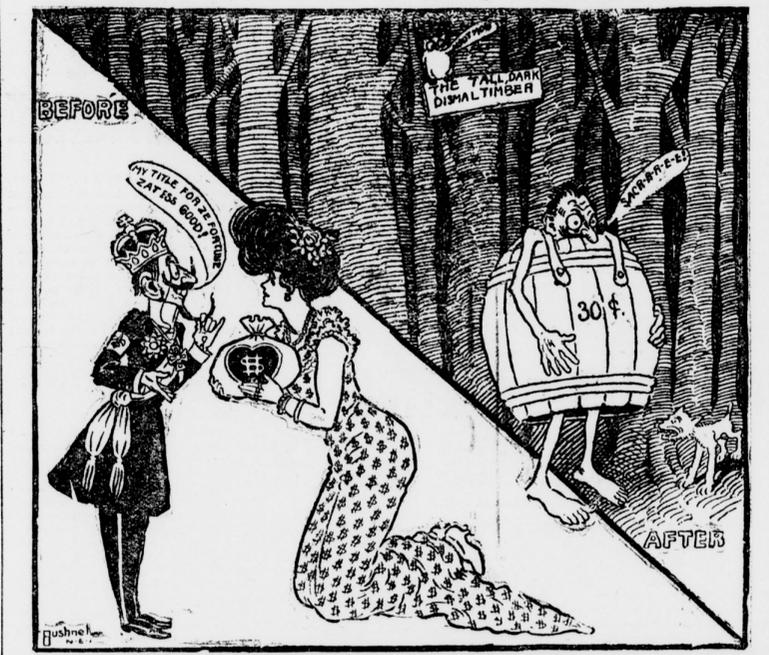
A satisfactory and generous conces-

sion on the part of the company is to the effect that an employe having retired from the service of the corporation can go to work for any other institution or railway company and at the same time receive his pension just the same.

How many men in the various departments of the O. R. & N. system will be listed as qualified to receive the benefits of the pension system is not known yet. The information, President Mohler states, is being made up in the auditing department, and will be forthcoming in due time. He states that the rule of length of service of the company applies to all allied branches of the Union Pacific system. This is to say that if a man began work for the Oregon Short Line or Union Pacific and then later worked for the O. R. & N., his service on any branch of the system is taken into account and is duly accredited.

It is optional with a man after reaching 60 years of age to labor 10 years longer, but at 70 railroad corporations have universally come to the conclusion that he has worked long enough and should quit and rest.

ALL IS LOST SAVE HONOR.



"PARIS.—DEPUTY FOURNIER INTRODUCED A BILL IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PROVIDING FOR THE ABOLITION OF FRENCH TITLES OF NOBILITY."—NEWS ITEM.

Pretty Girl Fights Druggist to Obtain Opium.

A big lump of brownish, pungent-smelling substance lay on a marble slab on a down-town druggist's counter.

The clerk was gravely slicing off an inch of it while the operation was acutely watched by a woman, probably past 30, handsomely gowned, daintily to her glove tips and with a face that would bear a second inspection.

Besides her beauty the face was a notable one for the languor of the large eyes when they turned from watching the clerk. The inch of brown stuff that resembled in looks a badly managed quid of navy plug was neatly boxed and wrapped and handed over to the beautiful customer, who hurried out.

"What was that stuff?" asked the Press man. "Raw opium," was the whisper. "Wait a bit I'll tell you about it," and the clerk hurried to the waiting group at the nearby counter.

"When the crowd save a couple of ladies whose prescriptions were being filled, had gone the clerk came back. "That who amnyou saw is one of the worst opium fiends in the west." "Why do I sell it to her? If you had been here when I first refused her you would know. "It was past midnight about a year ago when it happened, just about this time of the year. The snow was deep outside and falling heavily. I had an 'exam' coming and was look-

ing up my pharmacopoeia back on the prescription counter. I was alone and glad of it, because I had some hard studying before me.

"I thought I heard the door softly open and I peered through the red glass there that protects the prescription man from the curious, but I could see no one. I was convinced that the door had been opened and I stepped around the counter to see.

"I saw her then and knew why I had not seen her first. She was leaning over the counter between the cases behind me. Her face was hidden in her hands and at first I did not recognize her as the person to whom I had vowed not to sell more of the stuff.

"What may I do for you? I asked as severely as possible, though much shaken by the woman's appearance.

"She appeared dazed at first and began to tell of some little event, rattling on, sometimes laughing, then almost tearfully, as though the trivial occurrence were of utmost importance. Tiring suddenly, she was silent a moment and then said: "Give me a dollar's worth, please," and so moved was I that I could do no more than shake my head.

"With a half run and a little leap she was at my side behind the counter. "You won't? In the name of good Christ you must," she screamed. "I've been every place and they don't know me, but you do and I'll kill you unless I get it." "She meant every word she said, but of course had no weapon to carry out her threat, and I remained

oblate while her grasp upon my wrist tightened. "I tried to get near the push button to awaken the errand boy, sleeping in the rear room, but she saw my purpose and then came a storm of tears, coaxings, pleadings, more than once on her knees, as she told of her pitiable condition, only too obvious.

"I have given myself much credit since then for my determination in that case in spite of my final yielding. I have never since opposed her buy, but when I'm here alone I try to talk with her about her doom if she does not break off. I am always met with the same sad smile and the ecstatic languor of the eyes as she inhales the fumes of the parcel hugged close to her bosom.

"Then there are the women morphia fiends. "I declare," said the clerk with an air of despair, "if I don't believe that more of that stuff is sold than any other narcotic on the market. And they use it in every way possible.

"A dozen women I know of carry daily the little red marks on their arms that show where the needles have entered. And some others who have no outward marks to indicate its use I know from their repeated purchases and their eyes that they eat it. "You sh!" repeated the clerk thoughtfully. "No, that can't be purchased at a drug store. It is the ashes from the opium pipe and is eaten. It is black and very little goes a long way. I understand that some women are taking to using that here,"

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7:45 A. M.	EAST—To and from Coeur d'Alene district, Farmington, Gardiner, Colfax, Pullman, Moscow, Pomeroy, Waiilatpu, Dayton, Walla Walla, Pendleton, Baker City, and all points EAST.	6:25 P. M.
3:45 P. M.	EXPRESS—For Farmington, Colfax, Pullman, Lewiston, Portland, San Francisco, Baker City all points EAST.	9:50 A. M.
	EXPRESS—From all points EAST, Baker City, San Francisco, Portland, Colfax, Gardiner and Farmington.	

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