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MEDFORD, OREGON. Metropolis of Southern Oregon and Northern California.

PROF. REBEC URGES WOMEN TO BECOME CITY'S CONSCIENCE

It was an enthusiastic gathering of Medford women who greeted Professor George Rebec at the club rooms in the Public Library Monday afternoon.

In part Dr. Rebec said: "The eighteenth century launched into the world the dogmatism of letting things go, believing that if you let things go they will come out in the best fashion anyway."

"During the nineteenth century our education was primarily for individuals seeking their own good. In social and political and industrial life the idea was for each individual to go his own way. All had the right to come and get education."

"The twentieth century is characterized by the opposite thought. It is found that a free field and no favors does not work; there must be organization before all are on an equal footing; we cannot ignore home, surroundings, temperaments, etc.; we are transforming our education, our colleges, and our colleges are transforming their professors."

"I do not undervalue the individual cultured man, but with the new movement in education any man or woman who can sincerely profit by the college course should have the opportunity. Why, for instance, shouldn't they be admitted to the high school instead of those only who have first gone through the eight regular grades? If they have the necessary knowledge to be there, they should be admitted however they may have acquired that knowledge."

"The best education goes on in life, in and through life, and is for men and women out in the world. We are changing our methods in Oregon; we are changing our methods inside and we are going outside in an effort to help the commonwealth. We want to help men and women with their activities out in the world. With this in view we have our extension teaching and study work. We have worked out a so-called correspondence course and we are trying to be adaptable, recognizing the different needs of different people; if you do successful work you are entitled to university credits, and wherever there is a group who are intent upon a course of study, we send a member of our faculty to aid you; we want to hunt out the really intellectual who have never had educational advantages."

After pointing out that we were getting over the idea of people just educating themselves, Professor Rebec appealed to the ladies, and especially those who have organized themselves into a club, to realize the obligations devolving upon them as voters now. "You have a real job of equipping yourselves for voting; you must qualify yourselves. One of the finest services that you can do the state of Oregon is to study economic lines and sociological lines." He then exhorted the women to become the "city's conscience" giving their best efforts to the solution of all problems, public and moral.

PENSIONING EMPLOYEES.

THE payroll of the Pennsylvania railroad company, according to a Philadelphia newspaper, shows that there are on it 2,040 employes who have worked for it for forty years or more and who are still on the job, while there are 1,572 others who have worked more than forty years and who are now on the permanent pension rolls of the company. There are 489 men still on the roll who have been working for the company for fifty years, and the payroll carries one man who has a record of receiving pay for sixty-two years without any intermission.

The company has an admirable pension system. Among other things, there is a rule that on reaching the age of 70 years each employe must retire, and this goes with each one in the system. He does not go out in the cold world, however, but receives for the rest of his life a substantial share of the pay which he was receiving at the time when he passed his seventieth birthday.

The Philadelphia paper which records this fact says that its pay and pension system is largely responsible for the splendid results which the company is able to get out of its force, and has enabled it always to get good and able men to work for it, because it takes care of them.

That is one contributing cause to the building up of that system, but there are others. It has a practical civil service system of its own. All of the high officials of the company have worked with it all of their lives, commencing at the bottom and working up, as they showed their abilities.

Another is that the stock of the company is widely distributed throughout the entire region which it serves, and has been the favorite investment for the savings of its own employes. The men who work on the road are stockholders, and the people who furnish the bulk of the business of the road are likewise heavy stockholders in it. It is an ideal condition for the building up of a great transportation system.

Taft's Farm Loan Proposition

If any number of farmers want to start co-operative banks with the intention of loaning money at lower rates of interest than existing banks charge, why should there be any need of action by the president or congress to make it possible for them to do so? President Taft has suddenly discovered that such banks are necessary and hastens to suggest that some governmental action be taken to authorize their creation.

This is nothing more nor less than an admission that existing laws are keeping out of the banking business, persons who would otherwise embark therein. Such laws must tend to create a banking monopoly and become a support of a money trust. Nothing more is needed to enable farmers or any other class to establish co-operative banks, if such banks are wanted, than the unconditional repeal of all restrictive legislation. But that method would evidently not please some beneficiaries of restricted competition. Perhaps this explains why Taft does not recommend it, or possibly he has become so accustomed to needless legal restrictions that he can not conceive the notion of dispensing with it.

The Raiffeisen banks of Germany were formed without government aid and flourished for many years without it. There is a Raiffeisen guild in successful operation in this country at Arden, Delaware. It gets along without any public aid or supervision whatever. Possibly because it is a small institution and its field of operation necessarily restricted so that it does not make its competition felt by ordinary banks, is why no one has yet dug up some useless law to suppress it.

Co-operative banks under govern-

ment supervision would be a strong weapon for vested interests. This is the experience of France with the Credit Foncier. French reformers find it continually necessary to stay needless and senseless scares, which agents of predatory interests throw into the small stockholders of this institution, whenever they wish to secure a hearing for needed reforms. Any one who has been through the campaign of 1896 in this country can well imagine what one Mark Hanna would have made of an institution like that.

Under the plan proposed by Taft, these banks would only be permitted to loan to land owners. They would consequently be no help at all to the 37 per cent of American farmers who own no land, and but little if any to the 21 per cent who own under mortgage. An advantage would thus be given to the 42 per cent of unnumbered owners over their already less fortunate co-workers. It would become harder than before for tenants to become owners for the new special privilege thus conferred on landowners would necessarily cause land values to increase. Increased land values mean increased rents, which is surely not an alluring prospect for tenants.

The Raiffeisen guild at Arden, not having been formed in accordance with President Taft's ideas, does not limit its loans to landowners. If it did, it would do very little business for the land in that community is not owned individually. Every one of its loans is made to a leaseholder and the security is not land, but labor products. Such a method would clearly suit neither President Taft nor the interest which have guided the policy of his administration.

SAN FRANCISCO MAY YET SEE LIBERTY BELL

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 3.—Mayor Blankenburg of Philadelphia is seriously considering today the plea of Mayor James Rolph of San Francisco to allow the liberty bell to be brought to California during the 1913 exposition. Mayor Rolph made a special trip from New York to confer with Mayor Blankenburg. The bell is the property of the city, and to be taken out of Philadelphia it is necessary for the council to adopt a special ordinance.

STANDS BEFORE FIRE WITH DYNAMITE CAP; HAND HURT

A serious and unique accident happened Monday afternoon at the Egan ranch, a few miles from Medford, when a giant powder cap exploded which Clyde Stevens, an employe on the ranch, held in his left hand. Stevens had just returned from his work of blasting stumps and was standing in front of the fireplace with the cap in his hand. It is supposed that he thoughtlessly got the explosive too close to the fire, thus causing it to go off. The hand was very badly torn, causing two fingers and the thumb to be removed. He was removed to the Sacred Heart hospital and at last reports he was resting fine.

Medford Printing company carry a full line of legal blanks.

FRUIT MEN TO TRY AND GET TOGETHER

That renewed efforts will be made by the fruitgrowers of the northwest to secure a permanent co-operative selling and distributing organization and that a meeting to further that end will soon be held in Medford and later in Spokane, were two facts brought back by Reginald H. Parsons, president of the Rogue River Valley Fruit & Produce association, yesterday when he returned from a three weeks' tour of the northwest. Mr. Parsons attended the Spokane apple show and was present at the dinner given the fruit growers when preparatory efforts were made to have a get-together meeting.

It was decided to have such a meeting in Spokane on December 15, and previous to that meeting there will be a gathering of orchardists, bankers, business and professional men in Medford, at which time J. S. Crutchfield of Pittsburg, Pa., largest individual stockholder in the Northwestern Fruit Exchange, which is now handling the local association crop, will speak, and matters of vital interest to local members of the organization will be discussed.

John A. Perl Undertaker 28 S. BARTLETT Phones M. 471 and 473 Ambulance Service Deputy Coroner

Hangman for Fifteen Refuses to Hang Another

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 3.—Frank H. Curtis, who recently resigned as superintendent of the state penitentiary, in an interview in the Capital Journal, says:

"I will never 'pull the string' on another poor devil as long as I live; I don't believe in this proposition of hanging a man and sending him 'over the river.'"

"It is a mighty hard proposition for the warden of a prison to pull off a hanging stunt. After a man has been convicted of murder and sentenced to hang, the courts refuse to stop grinding. The prisoner is brought to us for safe-keeping. We associate with him for two years or more and not knowing every detail of his case and impressed with his conduct, which is always good in the prison, we form a sort of friendship with the condemned man which, notwithstanding he is a murderer, is bound to have effect due to the prisoner's good points being displayed while confined and the majority of the bad features suppressed. After, practically speaking, living with this man two years, he having profound respect for you on account of the warden being about his only friend in the prison, accustomed by frequent visits and kindly treatment, you must perform the duty which will send the prisoner to hell or heaven. It don't take nerve to hang a man but the principle of the work gets to any man. You would not think so much of killing a man who had committed a crime and resist arrest, but to strap, blindfold,

and then slide a noose around a helpless guy's neck and deliberately kill him after you have had every advantage in the world over him, is just a little too rough."

Has Hanged Fifteen "I have hanged fifteen men since I have been at the penitentiary. The first one I pulled the string on I didn't feel so backward or nervous, but the more I hanged the more I disliked the proposition and today I rebel to the extent that I refuse to again pull that or any other strap."

When asked to explain why actually did the hanging of the Oregon penitentiary, Mr. Curtis said:

"The warden does the hanging. There are no such things as buttons or automatic levers so located that no one knows who springs the trap. I have walked behind fifteen men who were standing on the death trap and pulled that platform from under them with my own hands as I was expected to do according to the rules of the prison. The warden should do the hanging. Of course, you could compel a convict to do the job or an under deputy, but that would be a most unfair deal in my own mind."

Wants Electric Chair "What this state needs is an electric chair as soon as possible," said Mr. Curtis. "There is not a physician or any one else who can assure a prison official that a drop will be safe. You can't tell a thing about it at all owing to the many deceptive cases coming before those who do

the hanging. Take for instance Newton Harrel, the man who killed two sheep herders in southern Oregon, and whose neck was torn from ear to ear when he was hung last year. Now Harrel was a big-necked, big-boned, husky man. He had every appearance of a man who could stand at least a five feet six inch drop. What did it do. It not only broke his neck but broke the flesh and all but tore his head from the body. Before this man was hung we weighed him time and again, measured him repeatedly, had physicians examine his muscle and general build and took every precaution any prison could take to prevent an accident, but it developed later that he was an old-time saloon man, and that although he appeared strong and hearty, his frame was nothing but an imitation, so to speak."

Grotesque Features "The Oregon prison death chamber is not the only one which has been the scene of grotesque features during hangings. Other prisons have literally belated condemned men, due to misjudgment to leave men dangling by the neck for an hour before they are pronounced dead. I would not dare to give any assurance whatever when the time comes to hang those men in our prison this month, because you cannot possibly tell what will result when they shoot through the hole. I am mighty glad I don't have to officiate December 13 and, in fact, I would not on any consideration. I don't intend to have another thing to do with executions."



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Gold Dust does better work than soap or any other cleanser—and does it in half the time.

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Evangelistic Services by Rev. Wm. Parsons, D. D. of Eugene, Oregon at First Presbyterian Church Medford MONDAY, DEC. 2 TO SUNDAY, DEC. 15 Inclusive Every Evening at 7:30 Good Choral and Orchestra Music EVERYBODY INVITED

WHERE TO GO TONIGHT

STAR THEATRE

We lead, others follow.

TODAY AND TOMORROW December 2nd and 3rd

The Tremendous Masterpiece "SOULS IN TORTURE"

With Maragoni, Amiel, Nelson, Quaranta and other popular artists supported by a cast of one hundred players. Produced by the makers of the famous

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"HAD PETE'S GRATITUDE" A Western Thriller

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Duet "SINCE YOU CALLED ME DEARIE" Sung by SATHER and FORREST

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A startling semi-western three reel feature. Dairing and dare-devil horsemanship, diving horses, full of thrills.

Matinees Daily 2 to 5 p. m.

ADMISSION, 5c AND 10c

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3—BIG PHOTOPLAYS—3

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Prices Always the Same, 5c and 10c.