

THE NEW AGE  
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EDITORIAL

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD  
COMPANY AND ITS DEFIANCE  
OF THE PUBLIC IN THE FOURTH  
STREET MATTER.

The franchise from the city of Portland to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company for its Fourth-street line expressly declares that it shall at all times provide proper means of safety to the public in its conveyance of trains on that highway. It is reasonable that such a provision should have been made, and it is reasonable that just such provision, once made, should be respected. This, however, the Southern Pacific Company has neglected to do and, although the attention of the authorities has been directed to this matter frequently, no action has been taken by the latter to compel the company to follow the specifications of its franchise. Having violated it so grossly, therefore, it has in reality forfeited it and all of the right it conveyed.

Speaking of The New Age's agitation of this matter on behalf of the public, a prominent city official said yesterday to a representative of this paper: "It is only a matter of time when the Southern Pacific Railroad Company will be compelled to put in the necessary safety-gates on the principal street crossings on Fourth street. It should be done immediately. The franchise provides for such means of safety on its Fourth street line as may be deemed by the proper authorities as necessary. The city council has full power to act in the matter, and the fact that it has so far refused or neglected to consider it has provoked a good deal of comment anent the cause for such glaring inaction. The need for the safety-gates is apparent every hour in the day. Portland, as The New Age has said, is no longer a country town. Privileges accorded to the company at its country way-stations can no longer be accorded to it in Portland with safety to the thousands of people who throng its streets daily. Why the city council should have so long disregarded this matter cannot well be conceived, unless we reflect that it may be possible that special privilege has been accorded, in defiance of the provisions of the franchise.

"But," continued the official, "the time is at hand when definite action should be taken. There is no excuse for longer delay. Nor will the people much longer tolerate it. It has become a serious matter. Why wait until people are killed on the streets before compelling the company to protect them from such danger, as it has agreed to do? At the next election of the city's legislative body the people will undoubtedly have something to say about this matter."

This man knew what he was talking about; and his suggestion that the people of the city at their next election of public servants will have something to say about this matter is both pertinent and timely. They certainly will.

The New Age interviewed many prominent persons about the matter and has received much correspondence from interested people concerning the Southern Pacific Railroad Company's negligence on Fourth street. They have finally awakened to the necessity of those safety-gates and are preparing to demand them. In addition to that, they are ready to make inquiry into the city council's negligence in the matter. It may be that the grand jury will yet be asked to determine for them the real situation in this affair. It cannot be delayed much longer, for the city is already receiving people who have come to prepare for business during the Lewis and Clark fair. No matter who they are or what they are or what they are here for, human life must be protected against unnecessary dangers.

Prominent people are clamoring for proper protection at the prominent crossings on the Southern Pacific Company's Fourth street line—and it must be provided. The company's right to use that important highway for railway traffic depends on it. It has flagrantly violated the contract with the city and, unless it shall im-

mediately comply with the conditions to which it agreed, its franchise should be declared forfeited. The city council should act at once. Otherwise, some one else may.

GOVERNOR MEAD AND OTHERS.

On Wednesday of this week Hon. Albert E. Mead assumed official responsibility as governor of the great state of Washington. His inaugural address, heard by the leading politicians and business men of the state, was replete with wise suggestions to the legislative body there assembled. It was received with hearty and frequent applause, as was also the farewell address of retiring Governor McBride. That Governor Mead will serve his state in a most competent and able manner is conceded by all—even by those who tried so desperately to defeat him. He is an able attorney of Bellingham Bay, an alert and active politician in behalf of popular interests and a man of much cultivation and refinement.

Lieutenant-Governor Chas. E. Coon

every line of business in which they were used, including the telephone slot-injamy. The state of Oregon should do the same thing. It has been made a felony in Washington to use the slot-machine; and the telephone companies, operating there were compelled to abandon that form of gambling. So, also, should it be in the state of Oregon. The legislature for this commonwealth is now in session. This is the opportune time to act. It is likely that a measure will be introduced to that effect during the present session of the legislature. Should it fail of passage it will be through the mischievous trick of the politician.

The Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Company, which has a monopoly of the telephone business in Portland, is treating the public outrageously. Offers have been made by reputable companies to enter this field, but their propositions have so far been spurned by the city council. Why? Operatives for the local company have petitioned the municipal legislative body of Portland to grant

vice. If it is gambling to put a nickel in the slot on a chance to win a cigar, then it is clearly a gamble to put a nickel in any slot-machine on an alleged business proposition. Therefore, why should the telephone company escape with its outrageous slot device?

The legislature should take this matter up without delay. To do so would please a greater number of people than will many of the frivolous measures which have already been introduced.

The people of Portland have suffered much from this local telephone monopoly, and no one has more accurate knowledge of that fact than the city council. Why is it, then, that another company will not be permitted to enter this field? The people who elect public servants have a right to demand proper treatment from them, just as a farmer would expect and demand that the men whom he employs should do the work for which they are hired precisely as he desires

rest and conviction of the persons who lynched Rufus Lescure in Marengo county, March 13; Ed Avery of Walker county, March 20, and Will Robertson of Pickens county, July 6, all of these victims being Negroes.

No doubt this offering of rewards is a very proper proceeding, but a consideration of certain facts shows how farcical it is nevertheless. For almost all lynchings of which we get reports are public carnivals without any pretense of secrecy. At Cedartown, as we have seen, there were 2,000 people in the square at the time of the burning and a large crowd of men took the Negro from the posse which caught him, tied him to a tree and riddled him with bullets. At Statesboro the Negroes were dragged from a courtroom after a regular trial and sentence of death and hurried off by a mob numbering hundreds. The whole town was looking on, and the complacent militiamen, who gave up their arms after a sham struggle, had nothing to do but to observe and remember the leaders of the mob for the purpose of identification. No one believes, however, that they had this purpose in mind.

The truth is that the same public sentiment that makes the lynchings possible is an effective bar upon the giving of testimony. It commands the sympathy of the whites and appeals to the fears of the Negroes. If anyone should dare to turn informer out of the scores and hundreds and thousands of witnesses it might be considered necessary to extend operations and burn such a misguided person at the stake. Where Negroes are lynched for petty crimes, and sometimes upon mere suspicion, this enlightened step for the defense of the regulators would be natural and logical.

But there is never likely to be any testimony, and no plea for law and order seems to have any effect. The lynchings go on brutalizing themselves, giving the country a shocking reputation for barbarism, and inviting reprisals by their rightful lawlessness and excesses. It would not be at all surprising if such an intolerable situation should result finally in a real race war.

SEPARATION ISSUE IN FRANCE.

There is nothing particularly significant in the parliamentary victory won by Premier Combes in connection with the ministry's diplomatic quarrel with the Vatican. That his course would be sustained by the four dominant political groups constituting his majority—the famous "bloc"—was a foregone conclusion. Even those who are opposed to disestablishment and the abrogation of the century-old agreement with Rome have not approved the policy of the Vatican toward the French Republic, especially the militant protest against the visit of President Loubet to the Italian capital.

The rupture, the recall of Ambassador Nisard and the whole campaign against what Combes and his associates call clericalism have been endorsed by the chamber of deputies, the majority being larger than any the premier has recently counted upon. But does it follow that he is free to undertake the very difficult task of disestablishment? By no means. In principle the majority is doubtless for separation of church and state, but no plan for separation has been submitted by Combes, and his way of meeting the political, religious and economic questions involved in the radical enterprise may not commend itself to his more moderate supporters. The only plan before the chamber is that of a socialist deputy, and it is known that the radical group objects to some of its main features.

Moreover, according to M. Cornely, the well informed publicist and correspondent, the ministry may not live long enough to deal with the church-state issue. There are other bridges to be crossed, the Combes programme comprehending in addition to disestablishment, the two-year military service bill, the promised income tax and workmen's old-age pensions. It may be an exaggeration to say that any one of these projects would suffice for one season and one cabinet, but it is certain that the income tax has for some time threatened to spit and destroy the "bloc," the individualist groups believing it to be a dangerous assault on property and personal rights, and a mere sop to the socialists. The finance minister himself, who will introduce the income tax bill, is said to be distinctly opposed to it, though it is not easy to understand why he should remain in the cabinet under these circumstances.

Strangely enough while other groups are manifesting a desire for independence, the socialists, under Jaures's leadership continue to give Combes their firm and determined support. Perhaps this is due to the apprehension that there will be no specialist in the next parliamentary "bloc."

EVIL INFLUENCES AND CRIME.

A 14-year-old boy who was arrested for stealing from his employers explains that he was led astray through gambling, and his story is a most instructive portrayal of the amateur gambler's progress from a reputable business to his arraignment as a thief in the police courts.

He seems that he met one of the worthless human cattle who hang about the "clubs," that the two were introduced by a common friend or acquaintance, and that the fascinating stranger dazzled the youth with get-rich quick visions. All he had to do was to put up money as the stranger directed, and as he hadn't any money he borrowed some jewelry from the house for which he was working just to make a start. This looks very much like stealing to one who wasn't dazzled with roulette ethics, but the boy would not have accepted Pistol's milder word, "convey." He intended merely to store the article in a pawnshop for a few hours, make his winning on the proceeds, get the article back and restore it to its proper place. The fascinating stranger, now became chief confidant and adviser, was to act as agent, and did, but that was as far as the programme carried. The boy lost, then stole something more, so as to make a big enough winning to cover his loss. He lost again and again, and kept on stealing, always with the same highly honorable object in view, until finally the theft of \$150 ring resulted in the discovery of the thief and the distressing close of a brief career in low finance. At the same time the sage and helpful confidant was deprived of his liberty on the charge that he was a receiver of stolen property.

Comment on the conditions under which evil influences produce such crimes is unnecessary.

LEE LOOK'S NOVEL POINT.

A Chinaman named Lee Look is under sentence of death in a California jail. He was tried for murder and duly convicted, and there does not appear to be any doubt of his guilt. His victim was a fellow Chinese, not a white man, and this circumstance is responsible for one of the most ingenious and remarkable points ever made a ground for appeal in a criminal case.

Lee Look had his case carried up to the United States Supreme Court, setting up the objection to the conviction and sentence that in the original indictment it was not averred that the victim of the alleged murder was a human being, and that there was nothing to show that he was not a dog. Of course, the name of the murdered Chinaman was given in the indictment, but in the opinion of Lee Look and his attorney it was not a name which necessarily excluded the possibility mentioned.

The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal the other day for want of jurisdiction; that is, the point was not one that could properly be raised under any provision of the federal constitution. The effect of this ruling is to affirm the death sentence, and the merit, technically speaking, of Lee Look's curious ground for reversal may never be determined. On the part of the prosecution in the case the omission of the averment that the victim was a human being was an extraordinary one.

Among the most poular names mentioned as those of possible candidates for mayor of Portland at next June's election is that of ex-State Senator J. E. Hazeltine, one of the most prominent business men in the city and a man of unusual executive ability. Senator Hazeltine possesses extensive properties in Portland and vicinity and is one of the heavy taxpayers of Multnomah county. He is a man of irreproachable character in every walk of life and of business ability far beyond the average.

It is being said on the political Ri-alto that City Treasurer Werlein is a candidate for the nomination for the office of mayor of the city of Portland. It is hardly believable, for there are people who are still inquiring as to whether or not Werlein has even made a good city treasurer. But, then, developments may come that will discourage Mr. Werlein's ambition.

As The New Age predicted, Senator Kuykendall was made president of the senate and A. L. Mills speaker of the house. The honor came naturally to Senator Kuykendall, but it could never have reached Mills other than through a political deal in which Multnomah county predominated. The general fear is that Mills will prove a "frost." He had no more claim on that position than Carter had on the presidency of the senate. Neither had any.

The Lewis and Clark Fair and Oriental Exposition is developing into a gigantic affair. Space for exhibits is asked for from sources unexpected and the commission is busy at the work of acquiring more territory for the purpose of accommodating all who want to make an exhibit. It will undoubtedly be the greatest world's fair enterprise ever undertaken.

This seems to be a day of pot-house politicians, anyway. The election of the president of the Oregon senate seems to be an exception, however.

THE FINANCIERS.

The Linnet Club of ladies had been listening to a lecture in which economics and sociology were subtly blended. "It was very able," young Mrs. Tenney said, judicially, "but I don't entirely agree with Mr. Hope in what he said about women's slipshod business ways. I think the average woman is as good a financier as the average man."

"So do I," said Mrs. Pell, emphatically. "I don't spend half the money Mr. Pell does for shifes and newspapers and things."

"She is every bit as discriminating in savings and expenditures as he is," continued Mrs. Tenney, returning to the abstract.

"Besides, she doesn't smoke," supplemented Mrs. Pell, dropping back to the concrete.

"Do you know?" Mrs. Stedman began, thoughtfully. "I don't believe I've ever saved a penny in my life."

"Not on anything? Not even bargains?" demanded Mrs. Pell, excitedly.

"No," said Mrs. Stedman, shamefacedly. "I'm out and out extravagant."

"Why don't you start a bank account? It might help you," said Mrs. Tenney, kindly.

"Yes, why don't you?" Mrs. Pell said. "I've had one for years—long before I was married."

"Of course you have one?" Mrs. Stedman asked Mrs. Tenney.

"Oh, yes; it is so much less bother to pay with checks. So much more businesslike, too, you know," Mrs. Tenney replied.

"I've always thought it might be hard to keep straight in one's accounts," said Mrs. Stedman, timidly; "it seemed simple to ask for money, or have things charged. But I'm going to have an account. What is your bank, Mrs. Tenney?"

Mrs. Tenney reflected briefly. "I use the same one that my husband does," she answered, discreetly.

"Has it a name—or anything?" Mrs. Stedman asked. "I'd like to have my money where somebody I know has an account."

"Oh, try my bank!" urged Mrs. Pell. "I've been there for years, as I said. When I was married Mr. Pell spoke of his bank, but I said, 'No; where father kept his money is good enough for me, and I've been going there ever since. It is a perfectly splendid bank, with a special room for women.'

"What's the name of it?" Mrs. Stedman asked, hopefully.

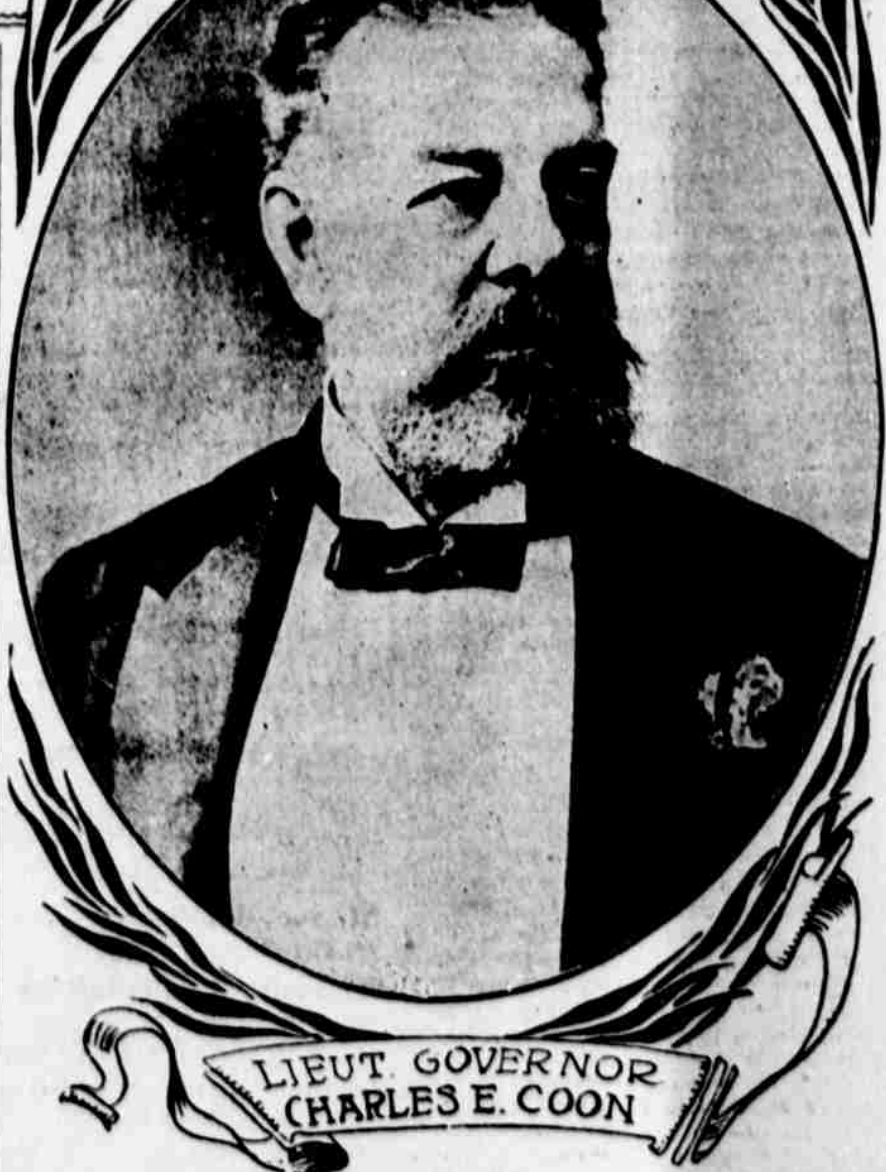
"The name?" repeated Mrs. Pell. "Oh, that doesn't matter at all. I'll tell you where it is, and when you go there they'll give you a book of blank checks and do all that sort of thing for you. It's right between that hat shop and Dressler's—there couldn't be a better place for a bank, right in the heart of everything."

"I'm sure it must be a good bank," said Mrs. Stedman, warmly. "I simply adore Dressler's cafe mousae. Thank you very much, Mrs. Pell."

**Life's Superfluous Things.**  
An English writer has been devoting his attention to the elimination of unnecessary things, and has succeeded in presenting a tentative list of articles which mankind does not need. Like many other propagandists of a new cult he goes to extremes in certain instances, but, on the whole, makes out a pretty good case. He holds, to begin with, that the resident of a city does not require a watch. He goes so far as to say that an umbrella is not indispensable, and cited Lord Beaconsfield, who never carried an umbrella, as an illustrious example. "When it rained he took refuge under the umbrella of the prettiest woman he could see."

The silk hat is tabooed by this iconoclast. In his inventory of superfluous things he finds the flap that covers the keyhole of the front door, which often sadly interferes with the entrance of the belated, and perhaps bibulous, householder. "It is redeemed from absolute futility by its power of occasional annoyance." He inquires as to the use of the tassel on the new umbrella. "Nobody in his senses wants a tassel on an umbrella."

Why are there two buttons, or even one, on the sleeve of a coat? The writer took a census of his buttons and found that sixty of them were unnecessary. He is particularly anxious as to the two buttons behind on a frock coat. Taking a survey of the whole human family, he finds that there are 800,000,000 buttons worn, all of them useless. No one has discovered the necessity for fourteen or sixteen pockets concealed in men's clothes. This is the limit of superfluousness.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.



LIEUT. GOVERNOR CHARLES E. COON

was also inducted into office amid the applause of admiring hosts. He is popular among the leaders of his party—and is a leader himself. He is a prominent merchant of Port Townsend, of which city he was twice elected mayor.

Lieutenant-Governor Coon has been in public life continuously since the close of the civil war, in which he served as a volunteer. He entered the treasury department as a clerk in 1865 and gradually rose until he became assistant secretary under President Arthur. He held this position for a few months under President Cleveland, resigning in 1885, after 20 years continuous service. Afterwards he was Republican candidate for congress in New York city, but was defeated by General Dan Sickles. In 1894 he removed to Port Townsend, Washington, and entered the mercantile business. He has taken a very prominent part in the commercial development of the state and was for five years president of the Port Townsend chamber of commerce.

Hon. Geo. G. Mills succeeded C. W. Maynard as treasurer of the state. Treasurer Mills has for years been a prominent merchant of Thurston county and a man of much popularity with all who knew him. His business integrity, his uprightness in dealing with the public and his every-day geniality with everybody have made him one of the most popular men in public life in the state of Washington.

Altogether, the new administration of the Evergreen state opens most auspiciously. With such men as Governor Mead, Lieutenant-Governor Coon and State Treasurer Mills in the principal offices of that great commonwealth, the people may reasonably hope for a full realization of all they desire in the matter of state government.

THE TELEPHONE OUTRAGE.

The state of Washington has by law abolished the slot-machine form of gambling, not only in the various devices of the "sporting clubs," but in

the requested franchise to another company, merely as a competitor, but the council, so far, has ignored the petition. What is the matter with our present city council, anyway? Two or three members of that body aspire to the mayoralty of the city and want to be elected to that exalted position at the next municipal election, which will occur next June. Is it possible that the people have already begun to suspect that these ambitious politicians have already begun to collect their campaign fund? And yet, such things have before happened in Portland. Public opinion is generally right—and it may be so in this case.

The telephone slot-machine is an outrage and, as in the state of Washington, it ought to be declared to be so in Oregon. The local company is, beyond doubt, amassing a vast fortune through this slot-machine de-

vice. Sometimes, when the people are grievously mistreated, they resort to the assistance of the grand jury. Shall it be so in this case?

LYNCHINGS AS PUBLIC CARNIVALS.

Since two Negroes were burned to death by a mob at Statesboro, Ga., there has been a report of the finding of the dead body of another Negro who was shot near that place, and yesterday's paper contained an account of a lynching at Cedartown, Ga. The Negro who was killed in this case was charged with assaulting a young girl. He was shot to death, and then his body was taken to a public square and burned in the presence of 2,000 people. Dispatches of the same day tell also of the offer of rewards by the Governor of Alabama for the ar-