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this change was produced by conditions common to all prohibition communities, conditions against which Carrie Nation made protest with her hatchet in the cities of Kansas, and which have prevailed in Maine from the early days of Neal Dow to the present time without disturbing the stubborn spirit with which prohibitionists maintain their contention in the face of the drunkenness that confutes it. That is to say, the law was enforced in communities where its enforcement was backed by sufficient local influence. In others, notably in the cities of Dover, Manchester and Portsmouth, it was violated more or less openly, its violators doing scant penance through periodical fines. All this has been left behind with the years, and, with a maximum license of \$1200, New Hampshire passes out of the column of prohibition states.

OUR MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE.
It is not surprising that the Civil Service Commissioners, in their altogether commendable purpose to introduce a merit system in Portland like those of other modern cities, should have encountered the strenuous and determined opposition of every one who is in office, and his multitudinous friends and sympathizers. The very general expectation of the outs to get in has never made any appreciable headway over the equally general disinclination of the ins to get out.

And if the Simon incumbents of various fire and police positions held to the view that the ostensible reform would mean the reality of a scheme to get Mitchell men in and then protect them against similar reverses, they assuredly had some justification, both in the popular expectation of that programme and also in the character of the new machine itself. At least one of the so-called Civil Service Commission has been gloried in as a "thoroughbred," who would stand heroically by to see that the "right kind" of policemen were put on the force.

One would need to be egregiously verdant in politics not to know that a good share of this protest against adoption of the merit system has been worked up through shrewd manipulation of the old machine and its adherents in the departments. It is a very exceptional business man who will put the abstract idea of efficiency in public life ahead of the other considerations of friends to "stand in" to help some clever fellow keep his place. A general scheme of reform appeals with vague force to the practical man, but the case of Jim or Joe, with zealous and active supporters, gets a hearing and usually assistance.

Therefore it has come about that the original programme of a merit system for the city of Portland has been modified so as to permit various other considerations of efficiency to offset certain shortcomings as to size and weight. Probably this might have been foreseen from the first. It is next to impossible to institute any such reform as this wholesale at a single stroke. Beginnings have been made, and progress will be easy, provided only that the plan is administered with the actual improvement of the service in view.

This progress, we should say, will not be facilitated by efforts of the commission to punish and humiliate every one who has hesitated to go the full length of the contemplated measures. It is gratifying, frequently, to put people in a hole; but they do not always relish it, and it is too deep. Their help may sometimes be needed for a more successful operation, where their persistent antagonism will obstruct.

It is not at all impossible that tact and moderation on the part of the Commissioners might have gained the cooperation of the departments and the insurance people as well. It is inconceivable, for example, that underwriters would deliberately set themselves against the success of the fire department. The Commissioners are entitled to a great deal of credit for their hard work and their resolution. It is a pity the same cannot be said for their diplomacy.

SPRING TRADE CONDITIONS.
The table of bank clearings, as compiled by Bradstreet, for the week ending April 2, shows Portland with a larger percentage of increase than is shown by any other large city in the United States. Even among the small cities, but two—Kalamazoo, with clearings of \$79,900, and an increase of 82 per cent, and Detroit, with clearings of \$17,000 and an increase of 100 per cent—are the only ones that exceed the percentage of gain shown by the Oregon metropolis. Of the Northwestern cities, Portland, with clearings of \$3,550,000, an increase of 67.4 per cent, and Tacoma, Wash., with clearings of \$1,835,000, an increase of 54 per cent, led among the cities where the balances are paid in cash. Seattle, which carries the balance over from day to day, even by this method of adding could make up clearings of but \$2,148,000, a decrease of 41 per cent, as compared with the corresponding week of last year.

The above figures, so far as Portland is concerned, reflect accurately the remarkable industrial activity so noticeable on every hand. The showing is all the more noteworthy from the fact that the movement of wheat, for many years the mainstay of Portland's commerce, was smaller in the closing days of March and the opening days of April than for any similar period since 1897. Business in all lines was building throughout last week. The building boom, which has been gathering force throughout the winter, is looming up greater than ever. This creates an immense demand for lumber, and even strike mutterings among the carpenters and painters, and the dryers, millmen, sawmillers and millmen, have not served to check the tremendous headway gained in these branches of industry.

Money is more plentiful than ever in the Pacific Northwest, but Eastern advice for the greater part of the week report quite a stringency, especially in call money. The situation eased a little toward the close of the week, but Eastern financiers do not expect a great surplus of cheap money for several months—not, in fact, until foreign gold begins flowing into the country to pay for American crops that are not yet grown. It is not so very many years ago that the West was almost wholly dependent on the big money centers of the East for finances needed in moving the crops. Conditions have improved rapidly in the last few years, and the West is now in a more equal financial position than ever before. Locally, or to speak more generally, in Oregon and Washington, this comparative sudden rise in wealth is due to a large influx of newcomers, who have brought money here and invested it.

The class of immigration that has come into the state within the past year is the best that has reached here since the pioneer era. The newcomers have not only put in circulation large sums of money in the purchase of farms and timber lands, but they have actively engaged in creating wealth in the new material so plentiful in all directions. The output of lumber in the state this year will break all previous records, and the prices paid for the labor and raw material used in this industry are higher than ever before. The weather has been quite favorable for farm work, and, all things considered, general trade conditions throughout the Pacific Northwest were never brighter than at the present time. Nature has been unusually kind to Oregonians, and now that they are showing a greater disposition than ever before to make use of her bountiful gifts, there can be but one result—a period of unparalleled prosperity in all branches of industry throughout the state and the Northwest.

of the working class and aid the workers in their struggle against capitalism? If it does, the Socialist party is for it; if it does not, the Socialist party is against it.

From the standpoint of practical politics, the Socialists made the mistake of forgetting that the wage-earners of the First District have never had any difficulties with their employers, and do not feel the oppressive yoke of "wage slavery." There are few large employers in that section of the state, and every one who wants to work has employment at reasonable compensation. The enmity between labor and capital which often exists in large cities is entirely absent in the First Congressional District, where a large majority of the people are farmers or are directly dependent upon agriculture for success of their business. Instead of appealing to wage-earners, the Socialist convention should have stood upon a broad platform of principles, and thus made a bid for the votes of all the people, regardless of class. No movement based upon an appeal to class prejudice has ever been successful.

There is attractiveness enough in Socialism to stand upon the essential principles alone, to gain the support of a very considerable number of people. But in order to draw to their ranks a membership which carries with it political strength, Socialists must refrain from ranting and maintain a dignity becoming to a party that aspires to frame a National policy. Without having on a list of the delegates to the Socialist convention, one or more men, after reading the platform, that the dominant spirits were men who have been disappointed in other political parties and with little assistance to any party with which they might affiliate. The convention was evidently not controlled by careful, thinking men who proceed in a deliberate manner to discuss important subjects.

How much stronger the position of the Socialists would have been if they had declared in favor of the ultimate Government ownership of the great material instruments of production and the immediate ownership of such enterprises as the telegraph and coal mines, together with immediate legislation for the control of trusts. This is not the Socialist ideal, but it is a step in that direction, and many people are ready to give their indorsement to these features of Socialism. In view of the National importance of the coal strike last fall, people would have looked with considerable favor upon a candidate who stood for Government ownership of coal mines. All the people could be interested in a project to make the telegraph a part of the postoffice system, and even so radical a measure as Government ownership of railroads would have swayed the vote for the Socialist candidate among the farmers.

Events of the last three years in the direction of consolidation of large enterprises have given Socialism a tremendous impetus. If Oregon Socialists had been wise, they would not have missed an opportunity to strengthen themselves politically when the campaign is to be fought out on lines of National policy alone. The people of the Willamette Valley and Southern Oregon are in no mood to listen to a harangue on the rights of the oppressed wage-earner, but they are ripe for a discussion of the rights of all the people against the trusts and monopolies.

The Missouri Presbyterians have placed the bet on football on the ground that the sport is too brutal. With the church opposing the football game, whose victims last year outnumbered those of the prize ring in the ratio of nearly four to one, it is only a question of time until the law will place it in the same category with prize-fighting. Then we shall expect to see football exhibitions for points, conducted under the head of eighteen-handed sparring matches, where all weapons but feet, hands, heads and artificial nose pads are barred. Then, instead of two short-haired contestants parading our streets with brindle bull-dog companions before the match is pulled off, he shall have the seekers for gore and glory going up and down our streets in squads of nine. There is another feature to be considered when football reaches its proper place alongside of prize-fighting, and that is the pugilistic world. 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