

The Oregonian.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter.
REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 By mail (postage prepaid in advance):
 Daily, with Sunday, per month, \$2.50
 Daily, with Sunday, per year, \$25.00
 Sunday, per month, \$1.00
 The Weekly, per year, \$10.00
 The Weekly, 3 months, \$3.00
 Daily, per week, delivered, Sunday included, \$1.00
 Foreign rates double.
POSTAGE EXTRA:
 United States, Canada and Mexico—
 10 to 14-page paper, \$2.00
 15 to 20-page paper, \$2.50
 21 to 24-page paper, \$3.00
 Foreign rates double.

EASTERN BUSINESS OFFICES.

(The S. C. Beckwith Special Agency—
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tionary War. His son, David, distinguished himself in the War of 1812-14, making a famous battle with a British squadron off Valparaiso. Admiral David D. Porter, of Civil War fame, was one of this family. The commander of the "Essex," and Major-General Pitt John Porter, of the Army of the Potomac, was his nephew. The Cravens are a family famous in the annals of our Navy, and among their ancestors are Commodore Truxton, who captured the French frigate *Insurgente* in 1799. There were two of the Craven family in our Navy during the Civil War. Captain Thomas Craven commanded the Brooklyn when Farragut forced the passage of the Mississippi, and Captain Tunis Craven lost his life in the battle of Mobile Bay. The Greenes, of Rhode Island, have been represented in the Army or Navy since the Revolutionary War, when General Nathaniel Greene and his cousin, Colonel Christopher, who was killed in battle, ensured the service of the colonel. Since the Revolutionary War the family has furnished nine officers to the regular Army and seven to the Navy.

The Mercers are another famous Army family that date back to General Hugh Mercer, of the Continental Army, who was killed in battle at Princeton. The family of Virginia, have been an Army family since the days of Light-Horse Harry, of the Revolution. Four generations of Caprons have been officers of the regular Army, and a fifth of the name has been appointed to the Military Academy. The Ords are a famous military family. Rodgers is a famous naval family. John Rodgers captured the frigate *Atlanta*, and George W. Rodgers was killed before Charleston. These illustrations might be increased considerably by reciting the history of the Méades, the Biddies and the Caseys in the Army and Navy, but enough has been written to show that there is no lack of fighting families in the annals of the United States.

CANADIAN COMPETITION IS SLIGHT.

It is strange how persistently the proposals for reciprocity with Canada return to vex the ears of producers on either side of the boundary. The thing is so palpably fraudulent in theory and so impossible in practice, that nothing can come of it. Like all reciprocity schemes, it proceeds upon the mutually exclusive propositions of free trade and protection, satisfies neither side of the tariff argument and in operation lasts no longer than the objections to it can be brought to bear upon the powers that be.

Why orphaned a thing reciprocity is may be inferred from the fact that while reciprocity is linked in the St. Louis platform with protection as "twin doctrines of the Republican party," the American Protective Tariff League is out with an official "warning" against it. This redoubtable body declares reciprocity in competitive products to be "unsound in principle, pernicious in practice and condemned by experience." It is "contrary alike to the National policy of protection and to the fair treatment of domestic producers."

The real objection to reciprocity, however, is not that it proposes to reduce duties, but that it is a dishonest, cumbersome and unworkable way of doing what should be done frankly and unconditionally as a matter of self-interest. To haggle with Canada over schedules for years, as we have done, is futile; but if we had the courage and breadth of mind to open certain markets to her on liberal terms, the result would be as advantageous to us as to her. The shallow character of the objections made to lower tariffs on Canadian products is thus hinted at by Governor Cummins, of Iowa:

"Which would you prefer to do, lose the market which would be created by our imports in Canada, or meet Canada in competition in the things which she produces? I assert confidently that in the sharp struggle with Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri you would never be able to discern the injury which we would suffer in cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, chickens, etc., etc., etc. It has probably never occurred to the average American farmer along our Northern border that he is competing with ten times the products in this country that Canada could send over the line. In wheat, for example, we raise some 600,000,000 bushels a year to Canada's 100,000,000, of which she consumes about 60,000,000 at home. It is obviously vain to tremble for the effect of this 40,000,000 exportable surplus of Canada upon our domestic total of 600,000,000, especially when we consider the fact that all the wheat in the world bears continuously upon the Liverpool and Chicago markets, and contemplate the awful possibility that Canada's wheat crop should be sold to Americans at a price lower than our own."

It is the same with other crops. It is impossible that Minnesota corn, for example, would be seriously affected by Canadian competition, relatively small as it is, when we remember the competition they already encounter with the creameries of the Dakotas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and other states. Wherever you find tar-

iffs, the duty is maintained for no other purpose than to reduce the farmer into supporting a continuation of protection for the great manufacturing corporations. Trainloads of eggs go East from California some days, and trainloads of eggs come into California from the East other days. This ready interchange of products back and forth as occasion demands is better for consumer and producer alike. To stop it at the Canadian boundary impedes prosperity on both sides of the line and confers no real benefit on any one. When the farmers of both countries see what chaff the protected interests are feeding them on, they will demand tariff reform of Congress and the Dominion Parliament, and they will get it.

The new-old story of mine disaster, big with horror and shadowed by the destitution and suffering of women and children, comes again from a coal mine in Pennsylvania. There are no new features in the recital. Something like the usual number of men were caught by an explosion of gas or fire and the mine was sealed up. A light shone the night following in every cottage in the little hamlet above the pit's mouth, telling of the sleepless vigil that anxious watchers were keeping for the return of the imprisoned miners. Bitter cold kept the frantic women and horrified children indoors; water turning as it ran into sheets of ice met the flames that leaped from the shaft without checking them; rescue owing to fire, flood and deadly after-damp, was impossible. Along these old lines news of the calamity was written, and as if in mockery of the grim and awful facts portrayed, the mine inspector declared

that he had "never considered the mine dangerous." Old as the history of coal mining—new as the chronicles of yesterday—the record of this latest happening is added to the long chapter of mine disaster.

MUST BE IMPROVED OR ABANDONED.

The statistical bureau of the Department of Agriculture has for years been recognized by the commercial world as an institution provided with facilities for accomplishing much good, but apparently being incapable of using these facilities to the best advantage, or, in fact, to any advantage whatever. So long as the misinformation distributed by this bureau had no serious effects on the prices of the different commodities on which it purported to give accurate information, it was tolerated with a mild degree of indifference. Within the past year or two, however, the errors of the bureau have become so glaring and the department has expressed such indifference to the complaints that the mild murmur of disapproval has developed into a roar and the movement started against it may result in the abolishment of the bureau entirely. It has been explained in these columns how the misleading report of the department was the pre-eminent factor which enabled the cotton speculators to bring their great corner to a successful termination, incidentally closing many cotton mills, throwing thousands of laborers out of employment, curtailing the demand and increasing the efforts of European cotton consumers to find another source of supply.

Equally disastrous to the trade was the grotesque figures on the 1907 wheat crop. The Agricultural Department's estimates on this crop were as much too high as their figures on the cotton crop were too low. With the belief that there was the usual large surplus of wheat in the world, early sellers relinquished their holdings at much lower prices than were warranted by the actual position of the cereal. The livestock men have a similar complaint, and the salmon industry has not escaped unhurt from the Government's "official figures." The wool trade now trails in with a complaint. According to the American Wool Reporter, a journal of unquestionable accuracy, the clip of last year was less than 300,000,000 pounds, although the figures of the Agricultural Department place it at 350,000,000 pounds.

A vastly greater discrepancy is noticeable in the figures on sheep in the country, the department's estimate placing the number at 64,000,000, while the Reporter gives the figures at about 40,000,000. The figures of the paper are compiled from data furnished by the trade, and by the trade from the Government figures, as is the case with cotton, wheat and other commodities, are to a large extent estimates based on "percentage" figures, which have for a basis census reports, which are taken but once every ten years. This method is especially when the estimating is conducted by men appointed as a reward for political services instead of for their ability in this special field—often savors much of the ancient rule, "A pint's a pound, the world around."

There are buyers and sellers in all lines of industry, and naturally what is favorable to prices for one is generally unfavorable to the other. This offers no comfort, however, to the legitimate trader, who may be buyers this year and sellers the next. What the trade desires, and what is most valuable to the producers of the country, is more accuracy in determining the dimensions of the output of agricultural products. The Government has made a flat failure in supplying this information, and unless it can introduce some reform methods into its system, it should withdraw from the market. As a substitute it might undertake the work of disseminating the statistics which are furnished by the trade. There is, of course, certain special information for which business men pay high prices and naturally would not care to give out for the benefit of their less enterprising rivals.

There is a vast amount of authentic information collected by the trade, however, which it would be for the general good to have compiled and made available to the public. The Government if it would cease the circulation of this misleading statistics. In wheat and cotton especially the only use made of the Government figures for the past two years has been by speculators, who used them to injure, and not to facilitate, legitimate trade.

ENFORCE THE LAWS.

Suggestive, among other things of vital importance to the safety and welfare of the community, is the necessity that exists for the enforcement of the statute laws as developed by the investigation of the Iroquois Theater fire. Every mining disaster suggests, to some degree, the same necessity. To come down to the every-day occurrences of life in any community, we find the same disregard of official duty. Little boys with pinched, sallow faces, and slender, stunted figures, showing that cigarettes are doing them harm, which they can only procure through violation of law, are met at every turn. Minors are found hanging round saloons contrary to law, and not infrequently drinking to intoxication, and young girls are used as lures by which deeds of vice are made to flourish, in defiance of law which, if evoked, would close these houses and banish them from the community.

It is not the fault of law, and from the lack of law, that these and other flagrant crimes of omission and commission menace human life and confound the morals of the community. The fault lies with those who are charged with the sacred duty of the law's enforcement, and these do not all by any means belong to the official family of one suppose, for example, that any liquor dealer would dare sell a minor intoxicating drink if the boy's father was known to be an upright, sturdy man who would not be trifled with in this way? Or that the tobacco dealer would hand out cigarettes in exchange for the small boy's pennies if the child's father was of a character to be reckoned with? Or that the habitual drunkard would come seeking and reeling to his home night after night if his wife were to be known to the liquor-seller in whose place her husband spent his time the fact in plain, determined words that this man must not be supplied with drink?

There is plenty of law behind all of these abuses which, if earnestly evoked, would correct them. Most of these laws, indeed all of them, were urged upon legislators as of vast importance to the moral welfare of the community, and of prime necessity for the protection of the weak from influ-

ences that they were not able to withstand. Yet they sleep upon the statute-books year after year, their power unevoked, their penalties undreaded. Clearly, the fault lies not with the laws, but with those whose duty it is to enforce the law's intent and who do not take the trouble to do so.

Minor examples of the non-enforcement of the law we have constantly with us. To use a common expression, we are used to them. When, however, a great disaster like that of the Iroquois Theater fire looms up luridly before the public, investigation is demanded and the not surprising discovery is made that the law, which provides for the safety of audiences in playhouses, churches and other assemblies, is persistently and habitually ignored. The laws of the State of Illinois, supplemented by the ordinances of the City of Chicago, specify carefully what precautions shall be taken to prevent a calamity by fire in such buildings. Inquiry has shown that these laws were flagrantly violated, not only by the owners and managers of the building, but by the building inspector, the building commissioner, the fire marshal and the electrician in charge of the lights, and at the head of these delinquents to duty stands the Mayor of a great city!

There is a disposition now shown in Chicago to hold these delinquents to a strict accountability for the lives lost through their neglect. It is doubtful, however, whether conclusions will be pushed to penalty in any of these cases. The law's delay is proverbial, and a calamity shrinks in magnitude as it recedes from memory. It will be well, however, if it should in this instance prove otherwise. A lesson the people of which would land these officials in the city jail in prison for manslaughter would be a lesson of great value. Criminal intent was lacking in every case, it is true, but this is a consideration that should not outweigh the fact that nearly 600 human lives were sacrificed to their negligence. "Easy-going ways, a good-natured desire to extend favors, a careless indifference in the discharge of a public duty, the feeling that no harm can come of it, the easy-going life of the Montana Record," are responsible for most of the appalling calamities, that shock the public and bring horror and sorrow into so many homes. And it may be added that there was never a better time than the present to show by the application of penalty that these negative virtues of humanity may readily effect become of the distinctly criminal order.

A blue book, just issued, makes an interesting statement of the naval expenditure and mercantile marine of the nations. The naval expenditure of the United States in 1902-03 is put at \$31,019,580 and her mercantile marine engaged in overseas traffic at \$23,535 tons. Russia spends \$25,000,000 on her navy, has an overseas tonnage of 664,303 tons, and her mercantile marine annually on her seagoing naval force and her tonnage engaged in overseas traffic is 2,093,033 tons. France's navy costs her \$22,000,000 yearly and her mercantile marine has 1,217,614 tons. Japan, which now attracts much attention, spends yearly on her navy \$14,500,000 and her mercantile marine has a tonnage of 917,579 tons. The figures here given are small, however, in comparison with those of the United Kingdom, which spends annually on its navy \$175,000,000 and has to protect a mercantile marine of 10,074,475 tons. In addition, India spends \$2,320,465 yearly on a navy. Of the colonies, Australia contributes yearly to the British navy \$748,105; New Zealand, \$107,615; Cape Colony, \$10,000; Newfoundland, \$165; and Natal, \$60,000. Canada does nothing for the British navy.

"Colonel" Hofer's effort to show that the Indian War veterans were men who led lives of enjoyment while accumulating wealth through gold discoveries is not a very creditable undertaking. The story of the hardships endured by men who left family, friends and freedom to defend our country is fresh in the minds of the people, though half a century has passed. Men who fearlessly incurred the greatest dangers, subsisted upon food not always good in quality nor sufficient in quantity, and stood guard in scanty clothing through wintry storms of snow and sleet, have earned the gratitude of two great nations. The years roll on and the appreciation will not wane, nor can it be lessened by the heartless vaporing of one who came in years of peace to make his home and build his fortunes in a beautiful land prepared for him by the valor and perseverance of the veterans of the Indian wars.

If the Sultan of Morocco is correctly quoted, he contributed \$50,000 to the St. Louis Fair for the purpose of shutting off the begging letters of President Francis. Thus has been established a precedent that ordinarily would be productive of very unpleasant results. Could the book agent or life insurance solicitor encounter a more shining mark than the individual who would "cough up" in order to make the applicant "let up" and yet the far-away Sultan might be the precedent if some of the American typographers called should be attracted in that direction by the story regarding the St. Louis Fair appropriation. The practice of begging objectionable characters in oil has been abolished in Morocco, but there are other forms of diversion by which the end accomplished is the same.

The death of Whitaker Wright almost at the moment upon which sentence was pronounced upon him for fraud was a tragic ending of a sensational career which would otherwise have ended in deeper disgrace. It is human nature to review in kindness the misdeeds of a man upon whose existence death has set his seal, and softened by this feeling, the charges against Whitaker Wright will lose the rancor with which even the most just of men are weighted. Even the most just of men, that he compassed his own death to avoid the penalty which was passed upon him will not abate the sympathy which death engenders for the evildoer. Whether the act under the circumstances was cowardly or brave will remain a matter of personal opinion.

The dramatic eminence of Ibsen is well represented in the entrancing and powerful play of "Ghosts" at a local theater. One gets a forcible idea here in this tale of relentless law how unchangeable and at bottom beneficent are the purposes of Nature. There is no truer or more necessary lesson in life than the misery that wrongdoing entails upon the guilty and through heredity upon the innocent. Then is the ancient drama informed with the conclusions of modern science.

SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS.

Not Too Optimistic.

Aurora Borealis.
 Friends of Governor Chamberlain are said to be making an effort to bring him before the next Democratic National Convention, and endeavoring to say that his chances of becoming President are fully as good as those of Grover Cleveland and W. J. Bryan.

Steadily Up the Ladder.

Independence Enterprise.
 Governor Chamberlain is a good editor and all-around newspaper man. If he did wait until after he was Governor of Oregon to take up the work, But readers of his paper need not miss what he might have written, for the Governor is running a column of happenings and comments of 50 years ago.

Notice the Poetry.

Eugene Register.
 While California is dry, the bone and the East is frozen stiff, our gentle rains from heaven fall like dew upon the earth and chase away all vestige of the wintry season. The poet is so unfurled that he whispered earward from the unseen world, or floating softly from the fleece-lined cloud, dropped lightly down to be dead Nature's shroud.

Question and Answer.

Bend Bulletin.
 Our rising young impresario again gallops gaily out on the green and vomits as follows:
 "A chicken rancher's character is worth \$20,000 and a samurai's employer's worth \$10,000, what is a United States Commissioner's character worth?"

That's an easy one. It is worth as much as the cheap snail, with state's prison antecedents in Wisconsin and penitentiary prospects in Oregon, can appraise it. He cannot come within a thousand miles of touching it.

Not So Small Now, Colonel.

Winston's Weekly.
 "The superiority of Lincoln equally eludes 'explanation on lines of heredity, and so does the superiority of Patrick Henry, Alexander Hamilton and Henry Clay.'"

Patrick Henry's mother was Sarah Winston. Colonel William Byrd, of Westover, speaks of her as a woman of remarkable attainments. She was the sister of William Winston, who William Byrd, in his life of Patrick Henry, declares was the most eloquent man in the colonies. The Indians called him "Langaloo," which means "great speaker."

If it be true, as The Oregonian argues, that as a general rule there is nobody better than great men, it is not true of the Winston family. That family is an exception. It goes bigger as you go back.

Calls for Arbitration.

Long Creek Ranger.
 When a merchant goes so hard up for sales to report that he has to falsely report a sale of firearms to a law-abiding citizen, he must be not only a lawbreaker, but a lawbreaker. W. O. Harryman, in the presence of two witnesses, said that J. A. Moore made such a report to him. The inference was that the reporter was going to use the weapon in an unlawful manner, the carrying of which would be a misdemeanor. We will say, for the benefit of our friends and those papers which have written anything about a "gun" editor with a gun, that the editor of the Ranger does not feel that he would be justified in the expense of spoiling a good article to rid the world of such a pious head as runs the libelous opposition sheet, and has never owned a "gun" in Oregon.

Hofer Whacks Indian War Veterans.

Salem Journal.
 How easily the sympathies of the Republican party can be worked upon by Populist sentiment was evinced only lately when they gave \$100,000 to the Indian War veterans. These veterans are old pioneers who mostly got a square mile of virgin territory in the heart of Western Oregon. They led an enjoyable life hunting big game that now only falls to the lot of millionaires and presidents. Indian ponies went begging for any old trinket, and they had all the excitement of participating in the gold discoveries and all the opportunities for 40 years to share in the advantages accruing in the development of a new commonwealth. And just as the Government at Washington was about to pay all their claims and give them all a pension the Republican party gave them a "square mile of virgin territory" in the heart of Western Oregon. They led an enjoyable life hunting big game that now only falls to the lot of millionaires and presidents. 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