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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21, 1904.

THE RAILROAD PROBLEM. Whether Congress should empower the Interstate Commerce Commission to fix railroad rates in disputed cases...

When I see the opinion that at present it would be undesirable if it were not impracticable, finally to clothe the commission with general authority to fix railroad rates...

It is an exceedingly difficult matter to deal with; for the courts are not friendly to legislation that would take or tend to take judicial power out of their hands...

While I am of the opinion that at present it would be undesirable if it were not impracticable, finally to clothe the commission with general authority to fix railroad rates...

Washington is a ferment on this subject. Senator Hiram, chairman of the Senate committee on interstate commerce, and Mr. Hepburn, chairman of the House committee on interstate and foreign commerce, are making laborious investigations in regard to the construction of the proposed legislation...

And yet "regulation" must come, as it seems; for the railroads are as little disposed to comply with the popular demand as the popular demand is disposed to comply with the railroads...

RUSSIAN POLICE METHODS. Despite the extraordinary powers with which the Russian police is invested, its incapacity to cope with organized opposition is notorious...

The "Third Section" which has arrested material for so many melodramas and supplied plots for so many stories, does not now exist, in name at least, although the unrestrained powers of this secret service are still said to be retained by the department...

belief that they made some mistake in the matter, and in view of their responsibility through superior officers to the "Chief" himself, it is very probable that they convicted an innocent man behind closed doors...

THE VIRTUE OF SAVING. You will bring young men these days that "nobody ever gets rich by saving." The notion passes into the minds of young women, too; and the result is a condition unfavorable to faith in the old-fashioned and homely virtues of steady, careful and calculating industry...

THE GREEKS had a maxim that the beginning was half the whole work. It is now, pre-eminently, the matter of "making a fortune," as the phrase goes. The chances are immensely against the acquisition of great riches, by any one...

No question but the saving habit, conjoined with industry, if persisted in, will lead to independence. It is so because the operation of the moral laws is sure and certain. Man is not a fool to his own moral nature. The process may be a slow way to independence, and slower still to riches...

In mere miserliness there is no comfort nor good. But there is great virtue in saving, nevertheless. There is character in it, and a future in it. There is a something "Don't blow in" the little you have because you don't agree it too trifling to keep. Hold it and add to it, as you can...

WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS. Flour and wheat shipments from the United States for the first eleven months of the year show a remarkable decrease in comparison with those for the corresponding period in 1903...

Exports of both wheat and flour have been cut down because prices were so high at home that we could not compete with the sellers of other countries. The increased valuation of the crop marketed at home undoubtedly made the aggregate amount paid the farmers nearly as great as was received for the

1902 crop. Wheat for milling always commands higher prices than that paid for the cereal for export purposes as a raw product. For this reason it is gratifying to note that the decline in flour shipments was smaller proportionately than in wheat shipments...

The fear expressed a few years ago that our flour trade with the Orient would suffer by reason of the Japanese engaging in the milling business does not seem to have been well founded, for the exports of wheat to the Orient are much smaller than they have been for the past three years...

SCOPE OF THE FAIR. Announcement in The Oregonian yesterday that the Lewis and Clark Fair management would erect one additional structure marks the final consummation of the plans for the great Exposition. The limit has been reached. It is the definite purpose to go ahead with the enterprise along the lines now marked out...

Two thousand five hundred exhibitors. Twenty-five distinctive exhibit buildings. Twenty-five exhibits in the State buildings—Oregon, Washington, California, Massachusetts, New York and possibly Idaho...

The development of Government irrigation plans has brought great hardship, if not actual starvation, upon the Pima Indians, who are confined to a reservation in Arizona. Streams that watered and made these lands productive have been diverted from their course and the lands have in consequence literally dried up...

The State Board of Education has decided that the only kind of teacher contract that is legal is a written contract, and that a teacher cannot be heard to claim that she has a valid contract merely because she has begun work. The Board followed the statutory provision and was wise in so doing. The law is plain and is not unreasonably with a teacher's practice of not observing the formalities of law leads to confusion and litigation...

Commander Hibson was blown to fragments by a Russian projectile, and has been all but defied in Japan. Commander Yezoo approached the Sevastopol and fired a torpedo at her, and a Russian ball cut him in two. Now he's a hero, too, being dead. Hibson may have gained something in speculation by the outcome of his episode, but he has suffered a trifle otherwise...

Nan Patterson told the story of her life with an air of candor that probably will have much weight with the weaker sex in the jury-box. Anyway, the conclusion is likely to be reached that Young ought to have been shot, and Nan will be turned loose with no more questions asked...

NOTE AND COMMENT. New York News has an opportunity to see "A W. W. W. with a Smile" for the first time on the stage. It is a curious fact that when a civilized nation, that is to say, a nation with a big navy and well-armed soldiers, declines to be influenced by foreign ideas or customs, the action is commended as a manifestation of national spirit...

Supposing the inaugural ball were not given at all, would the inauguration be constitutional, or would the whole thing have to be gone through over again? When one sees some of the gorgeously-befathered roosters and hens that take prizes nowadays, it seems an awful desecration for such creatures to lay eggs for humble human beings to eat at breakfast...

Holiday Joys. Scene—A Portland office. Time—Any forenoon. Business Man at his desk. Enter Persuasive Young Man. P. Y. M.—Here's a programme of the annual entertainment of the Doughnut Punchers' Association—twenty dollars a page—how many pages do you want?—best advertising medium in the city—give you the back page free...

Enter Second P. Y. M.—This is what you want—yearly report of the Society for the Prevention of Indignities to Cooks—roaches—you'll take the whole front page—well, I'll put you down for half— Enter Third P. Y. M.—You want to advertise in a newspaper—cut out those programmes and posters—here's the dummy for Vol. 1. No. 1 of the Monthly Aeronauts' Review—circulates among an influential class...

Enter Fourth P. Y. M.—Here's an advertising scheme for you—I use quite a number of cards in my business, and for \$15.00 a hundred I'll put a two-line ad for you on the back—no—well, tell you what I'll do— Enter Fifth P. Y. M.—Want to show your great advertising scheme for the holidays— Enter Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth P. Y. M.— Exit Business Man pursued by the pack.

Kingdon Gould should be severely reprimanded for shooting at Columbia University fellow-students who attempted to haze him. His only valid excuse for such action would have been to hit those he aimed at. The Salem Statesman asks, "Why doesn't Smoot Reed between the lines and give it up? Why should he? It's the Senate that's trying to Reed Smoot."

The latest thing is a Pike party. Day-earl Maxine Appleton attempted one last evening, and found that her thin women guests dressed as Esquimaux, while the latter ones dared something on the Igorrothe fashion, says the Atchison Globe. We reprint this for the benefit of any Portland woman that may want to be beforehand with a Trail party. Appearances indicate that Esquimaux guests would not be numerous in Portland...

Canada is about to build a navy. That will be handy for some other nation that feels like taking a few ships. Poets have been worried for a long time over the scarcity of rhymes for "lover," a word that is much used in poetry. "Above her"—the bright stars above her, or something of that kind—is about the only one that can be used. "Shove" rhymes with "above," but it is not a poetical word, and its only use in poetry, so far as we remember, is in the graceful lines about the Ark...

The gas was leaking or something was wrong in the millionaire's mansion, and the plumber sent his man to see about it. After putting in two or three hours on the job, the man put his tools in his bag and was about to depart. On his way out he met the owner of the mansion in the spacious hall, where many beautiful paintings were displayed. In rapid admiration the plumber stood before one of them as the owner of the house came in. Said the owner: "Do you think that a fine picture?"

"Indeed I do," the plumber answered. "And it must have cost you quite a little sum." "It did indeed," proudly answered the owner of the house. "I paid \$7,000 for that painting in Italy." "Humph!" said the plumber, "is that so? Plumbin' ain't paid half enough."

Wasted Accomplishment. Atchison Globe. An Atchison maid maid made bread this week and gave it to at least a president of a railroad when she was 18. Achievement. Melville Henry Cain, in Leslie's Monthly. A thing of beauty and a joy forever, that shall keep its beauty in how she can fall to charm a boy I can't see. Incomparably sweet her air, Her years just trembling over twenty, With wit and tenderness to spare. Ah! pray.

Too human far to be a saint— No saint could do things quite so handsome! My! she can sketch and golf and sing And dance some! Her heart which some day can't be won, Is quite in keeping with her beauty. (It's in my) heaping. This is on The Q. T. C.

And is the future gaily hued? Am I an optimist? Well, rather. Last night I utterly subdued My father. Stains. Theodora Garrison in Scribner's. The three ghosts of the loneliness road Spoke each to one another, "When came that blood upon your mouth No lifted hand may cover it." "From eating of forbidden fruit." "Brother, my brother."

THE HERETIC WHO IS NO HERETIC. Dr. Samuel T. Carter and the Presbyterian Church. The bars are down in the Presbyterian Church, without a doubt, says the Springfield (Mass.) Republican. When the Presbytery of Nassau has invited Dr. Samuel T. Carter to remain in the church, notwithstanding his complete avowal of faith, expressed in his letter of resignation...

Dr. Carter's statement of his position was very definite, and surprising in many respects, seeing that he is none of those "heretics" who might be supposed to stray "by every wind of doctrine" but one of the fathers of the church of our day, reasoned in Presbyterianianism, an old-fashioned, and it follows, one whose convictions are matured by a lifetime of constant study. He said that "if Calvin were living, I should like to hear his expostulations upon his Unitarianism, and I think he would be general remark: 'Burn them, and let me write another.' If Calvin were living today, he would be chairman of the revision committee."

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