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STATED IN SIMPLEST FORM. It has been said by certain advocates of socialism that the Oregonian either does not understand what socialism means, or purposely misrepresents it.

It will not be denied, we suppose, that Karl Marx is the most authoritative leader and thinker of modern socialism. Though dead more than twenty years, he remains its prophet, priest and king.

Collectivism is only suggested by Marx as the future governing principle. It is not worked out by him in detailed application, but others have done so, from the principles he expounded.

At this time the Oregonian will not attempt any disquisition on the consequences of this system, in operation under direction of the state. The doctrine does not call for an equal division of property, but insists on a scheme under which no man may make money through employment of others.

It will be seen, of course, that in a little time private wealth would practically disappear and the general wealth would dwindle with it—unless some way can be devised to upset old human nature and induce men to exert themselves, though they know they are not to have the results or rewards.

A MIGHTY BUSINESS. It is estimated that there are 550,000 miles of railroad in the world, of which 210,000 miles, or nearly two-fifths, are in the United States. The gross earnings from operation of our railroads in the last fiscal year were \$1,900,000,000.

compensation paid last year to these employees was \$757,905,995, against \$677,900,000 thus paid in the fiscal year of 1930. In this interval of four years there was an increase of 30 per cent in the number employed and an increase of 11 per cent in the remuneration given.

It is a great thing to be President, with more power than an Emperor in any effete European monarchy; but it is a greater thing to be great enough to rise superior to the vexations and harassments and importunities that beset the position of a great man.

THE PRESIDENT TAKES CARE OF A DESERVING but unfortunate ex-Senator in Wisconsin by making him a Federal Judge, and the La Follette faction is unhappy. He promotes a Kohlhaas from the district bench in Illinois to the Circuit Federal bench, and the dissatisfied bar breaks into print to vent its wrath.

FROM THE "PROVINCES." Captain Seth Bullock has been giving his opinion of New York. It is something that hundreds of men have done before, and that hundreds will do again. Captain Bullock says that New York is "provincial," thereby endeavoring to turn New York's own damning epithet against itself.

One suspects that Captain Bullock, full of the patriotic providentialism of the plains, answered some New Yorker, momentarily curious as to the home of such a stranger, with the expression, to him so full of magic, "The West."

It is waste of time to call New York names. It is just New York, self-centered, satisfied, careless of criticism. France complains that Paris is interested in nothing that is not Parisian; New York is interested in little that goes on beyond its own limits.

With all its indifference, perhaps because of its indifference, New York is wooed by all Americans and many foreigners. Captain Bullock's irritation will pass away; he will realize that New York, like a pretty woman, most attracts when she is unconscious of it.

THE MAGNET OF PROSPERITY. Ten steamships landed 3388 immigrants at New York in the forty-eight hours ending March 12. The smallest number of passengers carried by any of these vessels was 250, and one German steamer returned with 1625 passengers in the steerage.

OF THE emigrant ships afloat for New York last Sunday, eight were coming from Italian ports, six from Germany, three each from Austria and Scotland, and one each from Scandinavia, Holland, Belgium and Portugal.

Neither side to the controversy will admit that it is in the wrong, and the nonunion laborer in the position of the "cards" showing evidence of good standing, cannot regard themselves as interlopers, or "scabs." They need the money, and they can render as equivalent therefor as good a day's work as the longshoremen.

Twenty persons have recently subscribed \$1,000,000 for increase of Harlan's Union. The sum is \$1,500,000 more. The sums mostly come from wealthy alumni.

Russia's private soldiers are paid three kopecks, or less than 2 cents, a day. If they get any more, little money that Ivan Ivanovitch makes a bad bargain for his life.

The Cear is on the hunt for a man who can command his armies, and win. It reminds one of the way in which the General of the Army of the Potomac was changed so often.

Smith in Portuguese. T. P.'s Weekly. A German resident in Portugal, whose patronymic is Schmitt, or Schmitz, English Smith, has been writing home to Cologne complaining of the spelling of his name adopted by various Portuguese correspondents.

can be diverted into the country, it will soon be producing something that will aid in the growth of both city and country.

Oregon and Washington last year brought into the two states 200 carloads of butter and eggs and more than 300 carloads of pork products, and the consumers here to pay for them fancy prices, which included the cost of the long freight haul across the continent.

Another feature that should be considered in connection with the present trouble is the rights of the man who is compelled to pay for this labor. Perhaps he prefers union sailors to union longshoremen, and, as we usually accord a man the privilege of spending his money as he sees fit, so long as he does not become a public nuisance, no objection should be made in a case where union labor happens to be flying at the throat of union instead of non-union labor.

New Orleans journals print accounts of the progress of the work of creating a thirty-five-foot channel through the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi, upon which the Government is expending six and a half million dollars. This pass is fifteen miles in length, and is being improved by the Eads methods, through which the South Pass was opened many years ago.

A delegation of Ute Indians has visited Washington to protest against the opening of their reservation to white settlers. The President declined to accede to their wishes, and, in reply to his refusal, one of the braves asked that he be permitted to locate in some forest reserve as far away from the plains as possible.

Editor Moorhead, of the Junction City Times, expresses hope that the present referendum agitation will bring about the repeal of the whole initiative and referendum scheme. Well may Editor Moorhead view with alarm the "Swiss innovation" to our constitution, as fifty terms it: Down with such dangerous importations from the decaying monarchies and imitation republics of Europe!

It has perhaps escaped general public attention that the recent Washington Legislature enacted a law for the transportation of insane persons, convicts and incorrigibles, designed to bring about the same reform that is under way in Oregon. The State Board of Control is to employ necessary persons to convey such charges from the various counties to the Penitentiary, Insane Asylum or the Reform School.

Portland bank clearings for the week ending last Saturday were \$4,961,000, a gain of nearly \$1,000,000 over any corresponding week in the history of the city. There were no unusual transactions, no padding by carrying over balances from day to day, including them as cash, but everything happened just as it should.

THE opportunity for union labor to get an accurate line on its own attitude toward the public, and the position of nonunion labor, is afforded in a most striking manner by the present clash between the Longshoremen's Union and the Sailors' Union. The work of loading lumber vessels does not require a high degree of skill, and each of the contending factions of unionism is in every way competent to handle the work.

As Iowa minister has been unreckoned for sharp practice in horseracing, and a Delaware member of the cloth has been suspended for a year for speculating in stocks. If the lines of religion are drawn much tighter, the church raffle will be about the only game of chance that is left for the ministers.

The Car will hardly be able to extract much comfort from knowing the grape-shot incident was due to a blunder instead of a conspiracy. Grape is just as deadly directed by a blunderer as by a knave.

Somehow the talk of an extra legislative session came to nothing. One session was enough, perhaps.

Alva Adams, quondam Governor of Colorado, achieved the prefix "ex" in record time.

Here's hoping the Washington will be as good a ship as the Oregon.

NOTE AND COMMENT. Seeing Portland.

"To the right is the lofty peak of Mount Hood. You could get a splendid view of it from here if that blue and yellow billboard was removed. Behind that ad for Sherry Soap flows the silver Willamette. While you see the purple cover on that empty house the first school in Portland was opened, Mount St. Helens might be seen in the distance 'if it wasn't for the billboard in between.'"

A baby weighing 11 1/2 pounds has been born at Ballard. The Washington stock must be an airship.

Dreyfus is still waiting for rehabilitation. What has he done for posterity that it should bother about his case? Morocco is France's Santo Domingo.

The Rev. S. Koster, of Orange City, Ia., has been freed from the church for "sharp practice in horseracing." If sharp practice is to be eliminated from horseracing, what's to be left?

Portland's "trousers thief" is not the only one. Booth Tarkington left his dress trousers in an Indianapolis hotel recently. It was discovered that a boy had stolen them and sold them for \$1. The trousers were finally located on a colored man at a prize hall, and the poor fellow was compelled to leave the dance and deliver up the stolen property. Presumably Tarkington hastened to buy another pair.

Advertisements are not abbreviated so much in this country as in England, and not so much in England as in Australia. Two ads from Sydney papers have been offered as samples. One reads: "Wanted resp. y. ladies for clothing and fy. dep. imp. and appa." The other is more intelligible: "Photog. y. lady wants pos. ust'd devel. and printing. Small ad."

Mention of the merit system still has a red-gar effect.

A final "h" has been restored to the name of Pittsburgh by the Pennsylvania Railroad, although, as Harper's Weekly observes, the name will continue to be denoted on hotel registers by the letters, "Pis," or "Ptag." This starts the San Francisco Post off on a column philippic against the "unouth Goth" who speaks of San Francisco as "Frisco."

Instead of a "charter rush" the planting of an enormous yellow C on the hillside will commemorate Charter day at the University of California. Two professors have protested, on the ground that the monument will disgrace the hillside. What has that got to do with it? The students may well ask.

A French newspaper says: "The chief feature of the stay of the Baltic fleet at Nossi Be has been a rise of no less than 70 per cent in the price of champagne in Madagascar." This looks bad for the first fisherman Rojstevsky butts into.

"More Than Regal." London Saturday Review. No man in his position can help contemplating with envy the free hand allowed a British Minister in the manipulation of foreign affairs, but if not Mr. Roosevelt, then some early minister will find himself no less generously trusted with the National interests of the United States.

The dangers and difficulties inherent in attempts to conduct complicated negotiations through representative bodies may any day appear aggressively insistent even to the average American. A business man will quickly appreciate the most business-like way of conducting public affairs. Heretofore the existing framework has sufficiently served public requirements.

Disraeli's Peculiarities. A contemporary of Disraeli in his memoirs records the impression that famous dandy's personal appearance: Usually he wore a slate-colored velvet coat, lined with satin; purple trousers, with a gold braid down the outside seam; a sariet waistcoat, long lace ruffles falling down to the tips of his fingers; white gloves, with brilliant rings outside them, and long black rapiers rippling down over his shoulders.

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COST OF LIVING LESS

Range of Prices of Commodities During Forty-Five Years—Americans Are Better Housed, Better Clothed and Very Much Better Fed.

NEW YORK, March 29.—According to Statistics compiled by the New York Herald there is scarcely the difference of \$1 a year in the per capita cost of commodities this year and in the year 1891, at a certain period, although even then the Civil War had an appreciable effect.

One of the means of arriving at this conclusion is through the comparative tables of the Dun Index, which represent the analyses of experts. These tables are compiled on the ratios of various commodities which each person in the country consumes in the course of a year.

The figures, of course, are based upon the cost of commodities in the first market of the year. Wholesale prices, as it is impossible to make any exact calculations on retail prices. The profit of the retailer is a variable quantity, but it must be in the neighborhood of 25 per cent gross in order to permit him to cover his expenses. The Dun tables represent, however, the relative cost of living with great accuracy. Multiplying the per capita allowance by five will give a fair indication of the expenses of the average American family.

The figures show the amount spent by an individual each year for the given necessities of life:

Table with columns: Year, Breadstuffs, Meats, Dairy, Other, Clothing, Metals, Miscellaneous, Total. Rows range from 1850 to 1935.

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Mr. Wacheno Asserts His Rights. William Cor. McMinnville Reporter. The police court has been quite busy lately. Dr. Wacheno was tried and fined \$5, but refused to pay it, so laid it out in jail.

Setting a Good Example. Lyle Corr. Goldendale Sentinel. Mrs. E. F. Hale has got the front of her store painted; it is quite an improvement. Lyle is progressing.

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Alarming Prophecy About Weather. W. Cor. Aurora Borealis. March 16.—The weather we are having at present is very fine, but we do not think it will last long.

Yamhill and Education. It is not that the people of Yamhill County are opposed to education; the contrary is true. No county in the state provides more liberally for her public schools nor has better schools than does Yamhill. In addition to this, we have two colleges whose work compares favorably with that of state schools, and they do not receive one cent of aid from the state.

She Got Off Easy. Boston Transcript. Fuddy—You know that Miss Bonney threatened to bring suit for breach of promise against Tom Lettard, and that they finally agreed to leave it to arbitration? Duddy—Yes, I did hear something of the sort. How did it come out? Fuddy—The arbitrators have unanimously decided that Miss Bonney ought to give Tom \$20,000 for breaking his promise.

One Would Say So. Louisville Times. When Mr. and Mrs. George F. Dunne, of Yankton, S. D., arrive with their nine-year-old son, Lettard, and that they visit Mr. Roosevelt, the President will be company for Doc Oler, who is miserable because he spoke.