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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1905.

IS IT A QUESTION OF CONSCIENCE?

A friend asks The Oregonian for a statement of its opinion on the question whether the American Board of Foreign Missions ought to have accepted the Rockefeller money, and moreover its opinion on the debate that has been held on the subject—in other words, which side, in its opinion, has had the better of it.

What ever may be said against Rockefeller's methods, it is certain that he didn't accumulate all his wealth through unfair, oppressive or other questionable means. He has command of some honest money, certainly. But it is not possible, nor is it necessary, to enter into inquiry into the general tenor of his life, in order to ascertain and decide whether the money he may offer for a public purpose ought to be accepted, or not.

Mr. Rockefeller and others like him must settle their own account, at the bar of universal justice. Meanwhile, if they offer money that can be put to good use, it is not our business to refuse it. It is our business to see that it is put to good use, and that it is not squandered on the ordinary forces of life and affairs; that it is not used for the benefit of the man who has cornered the oil or the flour market, or from the man who has accumulated a fortune by the manufacture and sale of beer.

TRoublesome to Define.

Mr. Parker wants a conservative Democracy; Mr. Bryan wants a radical Democracy. Both speak on "Jefferson day." Parker protests that the principles of the party cannot be "a collection of facts," and that property rights must be held inviolate.

Mr. Bryan insists that the sphere of government should be extended and enlarged, so as to embrace and include whatever government can do for "the people." The earth, in his philosophy, belongs to each successive generation that inhabits it; the corollary of which is that no person should be permitted to take anything by inheritance, but that "the earth" belongs to all equally.

A preceding generation has no right to mortgage the earth beyond its own occupancy of it, which means that no debts should be left for posterity to pay—though posterity is to have the benefits of the works for which the debts were created.

Meantime Attorney William Travers Jerome, of New York, Democratic spellbinder, says the great Thomas Jefferson was a "hacker." It is a term of very wide meaning of application, and it would certainly fit Jefferson on several sides of him.

HONEST CONTRACTORS AND THE CITY.

The cheerful picture of delinquent contractors sitting around the City Hall, amiably listening to discussion of their shortcomings, is not the newest contrivance of the city engineers. Here is a paragraph from The Oregonian of yesterday:

The contractors sat about the room with an indifferent air, and answered no question that they had not fulfilled their contract. They were variously engaged in reading the newspaper, or in talking to the men who were waiting outside. One of the men who were waiting outside, and more than two months in arrears, was talking to the men who were waiting outside.

LIMITATIONS OF A MONOPOLY.

Within the past thirty days Portland firms have chartered four extra steamers to load flour at this port on Puget Sound for the Orient. The freight rate paid these steamers was \$4 per ton, compared with \$5 per ton charged by the regular liners.

THE BEARS KNOCKED 2 CENTS PER BUSHEL OFF THE PRICE OF MAY WHEAT IN CHICAGO YESTERDAY.

The bears knocked 2 cents per bushel off the price of May wheat in Chicago yesterday, but the maximum decline in the July option was three-eighths of a cent per bushel.

THE HEART BELOW THE STAR.

Except to that part of the public which recognizes a fly cop as readily as a harness bull, the policeman is to all appearances an automaton. He paces the street with measured tread, admonishes a hawker to move on, or tells a bewildered visitor, which car passes nearest to the corner.

Portland's patrolmen work in three shifts. The men report on and off duty at the following hours: Day patrol, 8:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.; first relief, 5:30 P. M. to 1:15 A. M.; second relief, 1:15 A. M. to 8:45 A. M.

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Santo Domingo is in the position of the boy who thinks he is too big to be whipped and who yet has not the decency to behave himself. Venezuela is not far from the same condition. Old-fashioned patriots recognized this condition early in its development and did not often permit it to reach an acute stage.

NEW NATIONAL BANKS.

On March 11, 1905, our National banking act was amended to permit the organization of National banks with a minimum capital of \$25,000 instead of \$50,000.

ON THE WING.

5:29 A. M.—President yawns. 5:28 A. M.—President stretches himself. 5:26 A. M.—President gets out of bed. 5:21 A. M.—Grizzlies try to pull holes in after them.

BRITISH POLITICS.

If, as seems all but certain, the Balfour and Chamberlain sections of the Unionist party come together again, the resetting of the Balfour Ministry on firm ground will be a new departure. The give and take of the necessary leave matters about as they were when Mr. Chamberlain left the Ministry.

CONFERENCE WITH THE COLONIES.

Conferences with the colonies on colonial preferences are not to be pressed for immediate action. The question of whether new preferential arrangements with the colonies shall be sanctioned in advance by the British people, and then the results of the conference submitted again to popular vote for confirmation, is to stand open for the present.

NOTICE OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION AT PORTLAND.

The Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition at Portland is observed in all the important newspapers of the United States. It is the beginning of a doubt that the event would not be advertised, such doubt has been completely dispelled.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Let one boast be ours; never have we heralded Easter with anything that rhymed sonnet and bonnet.

Why all this talk about the Beef Trust?

There is far more talk about a sausage. Collier's Weekly has a full-page illustration of one of Stevenson's poems. It is so good that at first sight one thinks it is an advertisement of something.

'Vast Heaving.

Speaking of politicians, District Attorney Jerome says: "You can take them by the throat and shake them until their teeth rattle if you only have the nerve." Far better policy, however, to shake them for the drinks.

Rather a good poem entitled "A Mood"

is printed in the New York Evening Post. One stanza reads: Nocturne is slowly passing on to evening. Slowly the shades are stretching out to East. Low lie the hay-swaths where the mowers rested.

"Uncle Sam to Dam John Day," says the Forest Journal.

Money makes the mare go; also the candidate. Election cards enliven the billboards considerably just now, and the wayfarer may learn what public-spirited citizens are ready to serve Portland.

There is no need to send a deputation

to the President to invite him to the Fair. Just telegraph the simple word, "Cougars," and he will be here right away.

"Heavy Firing in the Distance."

We thought that the liar who lied from Chefoo would never offend us more. But what the speaker intended do do But bustle to Singapore!

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ROJESTVENSKY, THE "SILENT ADMIRAL"

Career of Man Who Commands Russia's Last Hope Upon the Sea—His Habits and Beliefs.

From an Exchange. Rear-Admiral Z. P. Rojestvensky is a comparatively young man. He was born near Moscow in 1848, and after getting the theoretical, impractical education of a Russian naval officer, blossomed out suddenly as a hero.

Rojestvensky is a typical Russian and a typical naval officer. His men call him "Admiral Malchichiv." The silent Admiral, and tactfully goes well with the reserved expression and manner of the Russian aristocrat.

Rojestvensky, nevertheless, has his human side. Neatness of person, almost unobtainable in the case of a man so important as gunnery and seamanship. His own appearance is not distinguished, though his features are regular, and he has a lifelong wariness of the nose which makes him look like a man who has been in the habit of sniffing out the truth.

Rojestvensky did not think that the command of the Baltic fleet was enough, and appointed, he never wavered in his belief that it should be set out. The terrible onset which accompanied his departure has probably set his feet on the path of a hero. When St. Petersburg vacillated about the dispatch of the squadron, on the ground that a fleet without torped-

A BUSY EMPEROR.

London Outlook. There is hardly a role on the diplomatic stage that he has not essayed. He dedicates a cathedral in Berlin as the champion of Continental Protestantism. He is the guardian patron of Islam in the Balkans, in the Near East, and now, it would seem, in Morocco. It was wonderful that we did not discover him installed in Thibet as the apostle of Buddhism.

Veracity such as this is one of the privileges of a nation that dispenses its honors in gold, such as it exists in literature. Germany raises loans for Russia, supplies her with ships, arranges for the coaling of her fleet and hunts down nihilists at her request; yet Count von Buloz is able to flaunt in the Reichstag an assurance of Japanese satisfaction with German neutrality.

Mr. Gilbert's Reply. Sporting and Dramatic News. Mr. W. S. Gilbert was lately requested by an Australian amateur composer to furnish the libretto of an opera on the old Savoy lines. His score, the amateur remarked, was perfectly certain to be a success.

Apologies of State.

Kansas City Star. Down in Pierce City one night recently Richard Badger, a young man kissing his sweetheart and arrested him. When the judge learned the facts in the case next morning he discharged the prisoner and said: "Go back and start in where you left off. If there was another one coming to you when the officer butted in and got it. And take with you the humble apologies of the State of Missouri."

To Richard Badger.

(The publisher of innumerable books of verses.) Bernice E. Newell in Tacoma Ledger. I, Richard Badger, do hereby certify that I have written verse, long. Pretty verses, filled with yearning. After all the time I have spent in the study of the sciences, I have turned to the study of the sciences. I have turned to the study of the sciences.

Duty of a Gentleman.

London Express. On another occasion, having returned from playing golf yesterday afternoon, my grandfather said: "When a man is hard up he should borrow; but he must devote his energies to paying back and restoring the equal of the man from whom he has borrowed. If he cannot pay back, let him be frank about it; for it is better to steal than to cheat."

Forebearance of Kansas Editor.

Topeka Capital. It is noted that the Concordia Blade absolutely refuses to be drawn into a quarrel with the "cowardly whelp," the "Chilmanian," the "it" who conducts the "despised contemporary" over the way.

Done Him a Service.

Sydney (N. S. W.) Bulletin. A man called on a Kew (Victoria) parson, the other day, to arrange about getting a man married, and said he wasn't particular about the fee. "You buried my first wife for me for nothing," he explained; "so I shan't be mean about it."