

The Oregonian

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them. As the accusation can't be true, the production of weak and farcical testimony would overwhelm the accusers and bring just triumph to those who deserve vindication. Certainly the power the better. And the country never will be satisfied till these things are probed to the bottom of them.

THE LAW AND HOURS OF LABOR.

On April 17 the Supreme Court of the United States delivered an opinion which will surely cause comment, not in this Nation only, but throughout the civilized world. It is much to be regretted that the court was so substantially divided. Five Judges against four is not a satisfactory majority to establish without question the law of the land. But, as in so many previous decisions, the majority has laid down the rule to which all must bow. The statute of New York prohibited both employer and employed from exceeding sixty hours a week's labor in a bakery, and established a fine of \$50 on the master for breach of that regulation. One named Lockner was accordingly fined \$50 for permitting an excess over sixty hours' labor in a week. Recourse to the Court of Appeals of the State of New York resulted in the law being sustained, Judge Parker delivering the opinion. The point being raised that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution was in conflict with the state law, appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States has ended in the decision now in question. The familiar words of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution are:

OPEN GATEWAY FOR ALL.

The commercial interests of both coasts of the United States are receiving reinforcement in their demand that the Panama Railroad be kept in condition to handle all traffic that will be offered, pending completion of the canal. Several Central and South American ports on the west coast have, through their representatives, asked for abolition of the present monopoly in order that their business with American ports on the Atlantic coast may be facilitated. Our foreign neighbors, in submitting their claims to Secretary Taft, ask for reduction from the present rates, and that "ships of all nations and cargoes of all origins may have the same facilities of transit." In his report to the Government last January, Governor Davis, of the Canal Zone, recommended a reduction of 50 per cent in the present rail charges across the isthmus, and also charged that it was impossible for the United States to discontinue operation of the line as a commercial carrier.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Today! A correspondent forwards the following lines. He may possibly know what they mean; we don't: When the day has come and gone, And your work is done; When the clouds before the dawn Shut you from the sun; When your friends have proven false And your life is sad, Don't take to drink or drown your woes Or anything like that, But listen to the purring of The homeless Tommy cat. If the wife is cool and cross And the babies squall; If your sweetheart's love is true, You have no love at all— Don't sit down and get the blues; Don't take to drink or drown your woes Or anything like that, But listen to the purring of The homeless Tommy cat. If the price of coal is high And you are poor, If the snow is in the sky And the blizzards blow; Don't get take a dose of opium Or pawn your Sunday hat; Don't you lose your grip on hope Or anything like that, But listen to the purring of The homeless Tommy cat.

CANAL COMMISSIONS NEW HEAD.

Sketch of Theodore Perry Shonts, Roosevelt's "Hundred Thousand Dollar Man"—His Training and His Capabilities. H. B. Chamberlain in Boston Transcript. A man of the prairies is to dig a great waterway. A railroad president is to have charge of the greatest maritime project the world has known. A product of the inland West is to lead the work in which the genius of the Suez failed signally. Theodore Perry Shonts, through whose veins course the burning blood of Ireland, Scotland, France and Holland, is "the hundred thousand dollar man" for whom President Roosevelt has been looking. He hails from Chicago, but in the reply came and Nov. 10, when the President decided that he wanted him as digger-in-chief of the great ditch, his momentary address was at the White House, where, with Paul Morton, Secretary of the Navy, he was cruising in quest of rest and pleasure. And when the call came he was not at home, but even over his shoulder he put the cablegram in his pocket and wired back: "When I've finished my trip I'll come to Washington and talk it over." When Shonts reached the White House the President was the first to get into action. "I don't want to discuss this matter of appointment with you. You are the man for the job. I assume that you accept because you can do the work. We will now talk of the work that is to be done on the isthmus." And that was the end of the matter. The newspapers printed the news that Shonts had been appointed chairman of the Isthmian Commission at a salary of \$30,000 a year, a "hundred thousand dollar man" at a bargain price, as the President himself put it. Shonts is a hustler. He is of about the same degree of directness as the President, and his characteristics resemble those of physical characteristics. Taller than the President, he wears the same type of mustache. They both wear eyeglasses in the same way. They both have the same small squinty eyes that sometimes open suddenly and flash fire. In superb health, with a fine mental equipment and not at all afraid of his own "teddy," Shonts believes in himself and believes that he can dig the canal.

Little Sermons from Everyday Life.

Some people think churchgoing a slow amusement. Much depends upon the church to which one goes. In an Indiana church a few days ago a quiet argument over some point of procedure was going on, when a young lady slapped the preacher's face. This appears to have been a breach of church etiquette, for the preacher's wife clinched with the young lady and was successfully punching her head, when the young lady's gentleman friend went to his inamorata's assistance. This brought the gentleman preacher into the fray with a knife, which he inserted into the gentleman friend's back so far that the gentleman friend may croak as the result. Moral: Somethin' doin' all the time with the right people.

Decided to accept the invitation of Detroit and Toledo; that surveys were being made for the extension of the road to both points from South Bend, Ind., and that the Michigan Central and Lake Shore roads were to be paralleled. The game was being well played.

Suddenly Mr. Morton was invited to visit New York. He went. He had a conference with certain financial interests. Then he sent a telegram to the friends of the Toledo, St. Louis and Western Railroad, with the reply came and Nov. 10, when the President decided that he wanted him as digger-in-chief of the great ditch, his momentary address was at the White House, where, with Paul Morton, Secretary of the Navy, he was cruising in quest of rest and pleasure. And when the call came he was not at home, but even over his shoulder he put the cablegram in his pocket and wired back: "When I've finished my trip I'll come to Washington and talk it over." When Shonts reached the White House the President was the first to get into action. "I don't want to discuss this matter of appointment with you. You are the man for the job. I assume that you accept because you can do the work. We will now talk of the work that is to be done on the isthmus." And that was the end of the matter. The newspapers printed the news that Shonts had been appointed chairman of the Isthmian Commission at a salary of \$30,000 a year, a "hundred thousand dollar man" at a bargain price, as the President himself put it. Shonts is a hustler. He is of about the same degree of directness as the President, and his characteristics resemble those of physical characteristics. Taller than the President, he wears the same type of mustache. They both wear eyeglasses in the same way. They both have the same small squinty eyes that sometimes open suddenly and flash fire. In superb health, with a fine mental equipment and not at all afraid of his own "teddy," Shonts believes in himself and believes that he can dig the canal.

EASTERN BUSINESS OFFICE.

The S. C. Beckwith Special Agency—New York Rooms 612, Tribune building, Chicago; Rooms 610-612 Tribune building. The Oregonian does not buy poems or stories from individuals and cannot undertake to return any material which is without solicitation. No stamps should be enclosed for this purpose. KEPT ON SALE. Chicago—Auradour Annex, Postoffice News Co., 178 Dearborn street. Dallas, Tex.—Globe News Dept, 260 Main street. Oakland—Julius Black, Hamilton & Kendrick, 905-912 Seventeenth street, and Frumkin Bros., 603 Eleventh street. Des Moines, Ia.—Mosco Jacobs, 205 Fifth street. Goldfield, Nev.—C. Malena. Kansas City, Mo.—Ricksacker Cigar Co., Ninth and Walnut. Los Angeles—Harry Draxler; B. E. Amos, 614 West Seventh street. Minneapolis—J. J. Karvanough, 50 South Third; L. Regelsberger, 217 First avenue South. New York City—L. Jones & Co., Aster House. Oakland, Cal.—W. H. Johnston, Fourteenth and Franklin streets. Ogden—F. R. Goddard and Meyers & Harrop, D. L. Boyles. Omaha—Barkalow Bros., 1612 Farnham; Bicknell Brothers, 419 Farnham; McLaughlin Bros., 246 South 14th. Phoenix, Ariz.—The Berryhill News Co., Sacramento, Cal.—Sacramento News Co., 428 K street. Salt Lake—Salt Lake News Co., 77 West Second street, Cal.—S. Smith. San Diego, Cal.—J. Dillard. San Francisco—J. K. Cooper & Co., 146 Market street; Foster & O'Connell, Ferry Street East; Goldsmith Bros., 256 Fulton; L. E. Lee, Palace Hotel News Stand; F. W. Pitts, 1005 Market; Frank Scott, 30 Ellis; N. C. Wheatley, 83 Stevenson; Hotel St. Francis News Stand. St. Louis, Mo.—E. T. Jett Book & News Company, 896 Olive street. Washington, D. C.—Ebbitt House News Stand.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1905.

THE SOONER THE BETTER.

Some months ago Senator Mitchell issued his solemn denial in the United States Senate of the charges preferred against him in the United States Court for the District of Oregon; and he accentuated and emphasized this solemn denial with force and defiance of his accusers.

This seemed to the Oregonian to put Senator Mitchell's accusers in serious and grave situation. It said so. It said: "A very grave responsibility rests upon Mr. Heney, the prosecutor, and upon his official superiors, his prompters, backers and guides in this undertaking. The accusation comes from them. They have proceeded with slow deliberation; they have pursued their purpose for months and still are pursuing it; the inquisition at this moment is active in Portland and throughout Oregon. Through the investigation urged by Mr. Heney, under direction of the Secretary of the Interior, the Attorney-General and the President himself, not only Senator Mitchell and Representatives Hermann and Williamson, but other well-known men, are accused of these months and still are gravest ever presented in the State of Oregon, and in some ways the gravest ever presented in the history of our National Government."

And the Oregonian continued: "What further? Here is a case out of which something is to happen. If the prosecutors, if the Administration at Washington and its representatives in Oregon, fail to do their duty, there will be louder outcry against them than ever has been against those whom they prosecute. It may be supposed they are weighing this well. Most shortsighted are they if they have not done so already. This and more was written by The Oregonian, in sympathy with the defendants; for it could not see, with the testimony then before it, that the prosecution had ground for its proceedings. There have been additional particulars, which yet remain to be sifted and cleared; and the prosecution declares itself ready to proceed. Such things must be formal, the preliminary and introductory proceedings must be orderly and regular; the course usual in the courts must be pursued. Hence the arraignment and the call on the defendants for their preliminary plea. It is to be regretted that the defendants, one and all, evince no disposition to meet the charges openly, but interpose technical objections and pleas in abatement, allegations of prejudice and motions to quash. These things are within their legal rights; but, as they wish, naturally, to stand before the country as men incapable of the offenses with which they are charged, it would seem that the clear and open way would be to challenge directly the truth of the indictments presented by their accusers, join the issue at once, and call straightaway for the testimony. Technical objections in such matters are merely a waste of time. The plain people would suppose the accused would seize the very first opportunity to learn what the accusers have to say against

DEFINITIONS ARE DEADLY.

Facts, as Dr. Holmes has observed, are great foes to fancy, and every one knows the man who enters a conversation with a couple of facts trailing after him like a brace of truculent bulldogs, ready to maul any unquicky quarry of imagination. Yet the fatal influence of facts upon conversation is as nothing to the murderous effect of definitions upon political campaigning. A single definition is enough to wreck the career of the most promising and promise-full candidate. For this reason the wise office-seeker, when adjured by some Armado to "define, define, well-educated infant," defines haste to educate, to hem and haw, to speak of his record, in short, to do anything but be guilty of giving the public a definition.

What is apparently to be the issue in the forthcoming city election? The question of the "open" or the "closed" town. Some candidates are proclaiming themselves in favor of an open, other in favor of a closed town. But approach any of these free-spoken men with a "define, define, well-educated infant," and what is the result? An assertion that an open town is an open town, or that a closed town is, well, a closed town, as the case may be. Both classes of candidates would enforce the laws, they say; that is, the laws in general. To specify the particular laws which would be honored in the breach would be another way of defining the meaning of an open or of a closed town, and is therefore to be avoided by the careful candidate, who would tickle the ears of one party without too harshly tickling the ears of the other. The candidate favors a closed town, say. In the event of his election will he close saloons and theaters on Sundays? Yes, or no would answer this question; but such action involves so many other

WOMEN AT THE CITY COUNCIL.

The attitude assumed by certain members of the Common Council toward the women who, representing the School of Domestic Science, called at the City Hall, Monday, to urge attention to the unsanitary conditions they had found to exist in the markets of the city was, to say the least, discourteous. There is no reason why the politics as represented in the city's Council Chambers, why the women of the city should be treated as meddlers when they seek to urge upon the authorities the necessity of a measure that they believe will correct conditions that make our markets a stench to the nostrils of decency and a menace to the public health.

These women and others of equally honest intent visited a number of places in the city, from which found goods direct to our tables, and found there a state of filth and rotteness that was appalling to them as housewives and alarming to them as intelligent sanitarians. They have their own view as to the cause of these conditions may be correct. These views may or may not be sound, but the women have a perfect right to present them to the proper committee of the City Council, and this committee is only doing its duty when it listens attentively and courteously to what they have to say.

Now, if the conditions that prevail in the markets of this city and in the slaughter-houses and commission-houses that supply them are not the business of the women of the city, they are nobody's business. If intelligent women cannot, after visiting these markets, present their findings to the men in whose hands remedial measures are supposed to lie without being treated as meddlesome children, something is wrong. Do these guardians of the city's interests chafe at the suggestion of conditions that have existed in the city openly, but without their knowledge, for no one knows how long? Or are they, in view of the near approach of the first Monday in June,

ATTORNEY JOSEPH B. LINDSEY.

There is quietly at work in this country a more effective agency for the elimination of drunkenness than all of the temperance societies that can be organized. The increased competition which labor is forced to meet has resulted in the tippler being placed at such a decided disadvantage that he can no longer secure employment on even terms with the man who does not indulge in spirituous liquors. Last Saturday 4000 employes of the Union Railway Company, at St. Louis, were notified as holding the opinion that the rates for the temporary society that can be organized. The increased competition which labor is forced to meet has resulted in the tippler being placed at such a decided disadvantage that he can no longer secure employment on even terms with the man who does not indulge in spirituous liquors. Last Saturday 4000 employes of the Union Railway Company, at St. Louis, were notified as holding the opinion that the rates for the temporary society that can be organized. 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