The Oregonian

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Or., as second-class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.
(By Mail or Express.)

Daily and Sunday, per year....................$9.00
Daily and Sunday, six months.................. 5.00
Daily and Sunday, three months................ 2.55
Daily and Sunday, per month................... .85
Daily without Sunday, per year................ 7.50
Daily without Sunday, six months.............. 3.90
Daily without Sunday, three months............ 1.95
Daily without Sunday, per month............... .65
Sunday per year............................... 2.00
Sunday, six months............................ 1.00
Sunday, three months.......................... .60

BY CARRIER.
Daily without Sunday, per week................ .15
Daily per week, Sunday included............... .20

THE WEEKLY OREGONIAN.
(Issued Every Thursday.)
Weekly, per year.............................. 1.50
Weekly, six months............................ .75
Weekly, three months.......................... .50

HOW TO REMIT—Send postoffice money order, express order or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at the sender's risk.

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The S. C. Beckwith Special Agency—New York; Rooms 43-50 Tribune building. Chicago; Rooms 510-512 Tribune building.

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1905.

"PUBLIC UTILITIES" IN PRACTICE.

Government undoubtedly can operate public transportation lines. In some countries it is doing so. In principle there is no difference between government control and operation of municipal tramways or street lines and control and operation of main railroad lines, by the same authority.

In many countries governments have extended their functions very far in these directions. In Italy, for example, government controls and operates nearly all the railroads. In Belgium and Hungary the conditions are similar; and so to an extent throughout Germany. In our country the policy is to begin with street-car lines; and many think it will be carried and ought to be carried into effect upon all the railroads of the country. The "set of the tide" is certainly in this direction now.

It is said to be favored largely by the farmers and other producers, and by the wage-workers of the country. How far this is true no one yet can say. The motives of these various classes will, however, be found to differ widely, and much revision and even reversal of opinion is likely to occur among one description and another of these people. The farmers may adhere to the idea, for the purpose of getting, as they hope and expect, low and uniform rates. Yet when they see that the whole nature and character of government would be changed by it, they may not.

It would follow as a leading and inevitable consequence of this arrangement that railroad men would be Government employes—not less so when a city "takes over" its carlines than if the higher Government should take control and operation of the greater railroads. Consequently what is doing now in Italy is the exact parallel of what was going on a year ago in Hungary. The railroad workers struck, or quit.

But the police and military forces are employed to keep them away from the roads, and to prevent them from interfering in any way with the roads, with the men, or with the operation of trains. All crowds of strikers or their sympathizers are dispersed by the military or police, often with bloodshed.

Upon the heat and flame of the exultation at Chicago over the victory for public ownership the Chicago Tribune essays to sprinkle a little cool and cautious counsel. It urges that the ownership of railroads by a government imposes upon it a greater measure of responsibility than if the roads belonged to private corporations; that it becomes the duty of the government, which it will perform, if efficient, to see that the roads are operated under all circumstances; that while a private company may plead a general strike as an excuse for its failure to move freight or passengers, a state, with its unlimited power, military as well as civil, cannot properly make such; that whatever interferes with operation of the roads of the state is a blow at its dignity and authority, and may be treated as treason.

All this the Belgian government, which owns most of the railways in the kingdom, understood when it used the army to quell a general strike on the roads. The same in Hungary a year ago. The same in Italy now.

"In Italy," the Tribune continues, "the employes on the roads owned by the state have begun a general strike, in the hope of compelling it to drop a pending bill prescribing the duties of the employes in a way which does not satisfy them. The army is to operate and protect the lines. The railway battalions will do one and the infantrymen and cavalrymen the other. The government will not permit itself to be intimidated by men in its employ. Their right to quit work if the conditions of employment do not suit them is not questioned, but if they leave there must be no interference with those who take their places. So, if the United States were to take over the steam roads, no interference with their operation by strikers would be permissible. If the old employes went out, the Government would have to hire new ones at once and protect them effectively. It would not negotiate or arbitrate. It would keep the trains moving."

In Chicago similarly. If the City of Chicago were to undertake the operation of street-car lines, and if by a strike or the threat of one employes should attempt to get higher wages or shorter hours, or to defeat an ordinance they were opposed to, no Council which respected itself and had popular respect would back down. It would be the duty of the city authorities, if there were a strike, to get new motormen—using policemen who knew the trade if necessary—and utilize the police force in all ways to keep the lines open. If there were not enough policemen it would be the duty of the authorities to apply to the Governor for assistance in suppressing the revolt against law and order.

The United States is densely populated with politicians and others possessed of excessively busy brains, and working at their trade of "reform," in season and out of season, with an almost "quadrumanous activity"—to borrow a term from a great writer—who are anxious to get all "public utilities" into municipal or state or national ownership, in the name of the people.

Of course, these gentlemen wish to "boss the job," and they think they have great prospect of success. Perhaps their claim ought not to be disputed; and yet in view of what has taken place in Belgium and Hungary, and of what is taking place now in Italy, the noble cause of government ownership may not get at last the enthusiastic support from our workingmen that has been expected.

Labor and capital under our present system are equal before the law; but as capital becomes synonymous with government, labor's only right is obedience. The doctrine of public utilities in practice may not be so charming. The "machine," when it starts, will be kept going, and nobody will be allowed to obstruct it. So perhaps we shall all yet hail it and bless it, as a beneficent despotism.

YEAST.

We are loaded up with all sorts of "modern guff"—contrary to experience, contrary to common sense, which we have to swallow.

It seems that our ancestors knew little or nothing. They were "a poor lot." They supposed they had received something from their ancestors, which also is merely fallacious. At last, under the spirit that illuminates the modern world, we learn that all that our ancestors taught us, all they had received from their ancestors, all the settled ideas of the relations of the individual to society and government, and all conceptions of government itself, are nothing but useless and exploded and antiquated fashion.

Hence in this modern world the individual is nothing; he can do nothing for himself. Government and society must do it all. There is a modern jargon that deals with the terms of society and government and public utilities, that includes the whole duties of man—even includes his final salvation.

Society and government are organizing on this new basis. Protest is useless. Attempt to recall the general mind to old ideals would be useless. Individualism is lost—except among those who can command great wealth; and they preach a doctrine or pretense of a special regard for the people, that they may rule them further. Pregnant with changes is this time we live in.

SOME DETAILS OF THE WAR.

In his "Outlook" papers Mr. George Kennan, the well-known traveler, who has no superior as an authority on the conditions of the war in Manchuria, presents a great deal of matter of high interest and value. He states, apparently on personal knowledge, that the grand strategy of the Japanese for the first campaign included operations against Vladivostok. "It was the intention," he says, "to send a strong expeditionary force by sea to some point north or south of Vladivostok, and to isolate that city by cutting the railroad and establishing a line of investment on the land side, while the combined fleet blockaded the approaches to the harbor by water." He mentions this plan as the main reason why General Nogi made the heroic but unsuccessful effort last August to capture Port Arthur by storm—an effort that was continued during five days and that cost the Japanese about 15,000 men—General Nogi wishing to make it possible for Admiral Togo to go to Vladivostok.

Mr. Kennan states also that "an army of nearly 40,000 men was held in Northern Japan all Summer for the Vladivostok expedition, and it was not withdrawn from there until it became evident that Port Arthur would not fall in time to make operations in the north practicable."

This may account for the whereabouts all last year of a northern Japanese army, about which there was long time much conjecture. It has since probably been sent to Marshal Oyama.

Mr. Kennan also has a number of interesting statements about the siege of Port Arthur. He says General Nogi did not have four hundred heavy guns there, as reported.

"Exclusive of machine guns and quick-firers, which are not of much use in siege operations, I should think," he says, "that two hundred guns would be much nearer the mark." Of the terrible 11-inch howitzers there were only sixteen. Each one of these, however, was set up to do its best work. Mr. Kennan also makes an interesting report as to the relative Japanese and Russian strength. General Nogi had about 60,000 men, he says, while General Stoessel's force "must have been at least 35,000." As these 35,000 men were in immensely strong fortifications, with ammunition that held out until the surrender, most judges would say that the odds were decidedly on the Russian side. One of the points in the siege that Mr. Kennan has "never been able to understand" is how the Japanese managed to hold the positions gained by them. "Twice the (Japanese) defensive works in the Panlungshan forts were almost completely destroyed by heavy shells; half a dozen times the Russians attempted to retake them by night assaults; and for many weeks the soldiers who defended them lived with camphor-saturated cloths tied over their faces on account of the terrible stench of the unburied bodies that lay all around on the slopes of the hills."

"Old Glory" waved over Sunday's baseball game, but not from the peak of the staff; that place was reserved for the streamer of a local wholesale firm and the National banner was beneath. The baseball crowd must have been in a tolerant mood, else it would have pulled the advertising ensign down and set the starry emblem there. As a plea of abatement for quashing the indictment the defendants have set up that "instructions were given to fly the advertising sign only; and it is also a fact that the pole was originally erected for this purpose and is not and never has been the property of the baseball company, and belongs to a down-town business man."

ANOTHER DEAL THAT FAILED.

Drastic liquidation in the Chicago wheat market apparently finished its course yesterday, when the May option, after a violent break of more than 7 cents a bushel, closed weak and wobbly at 92¾ cents, a decline of about 30 cents a bushel from the high mark scored a few weeks ago. July wheat, resting on a more legitimate basis, lost 2 cents, in sympathy with the weakness in May.

Now that the smoke of the battle is clearing away and the price of the cereal is sinking to a legitimate figure, warranted by natural conditions, the extended manipulation in prices of the last nine months can be more clearly understood. On August 1, 1904, the May option appeared on the boards at 93⅛ cents, a slight premium over September wheat. It ran along for a few days without attracting much attention, and then, under the skillful nursing of the bullish speculators, aided by the unreliable and misleading Government crop reports, started on an upward flight that was without parallel in the history of the market, and not until yesterday, nearly nine months after its appearance in the market, did it return to the figure from which it started.

Alarmist crop reports of August sent it flying up to $1.15¾ by the middle of the month, but the September "shaking out" process set it back to $1.08, from which figure it again rebounded to $1.18. Since September the price has ranged from $1.08 to $1.22 per bushel, the high point being reached late in February. With such remarkably high prices for May wheat, other options and cash wheat were sympathetically affected, and nearly all of the American crop passed out of first hands at the highest average prices that have prevailed since 1891.

With the Government reports persistently bullish and the carefully "cooked" and juggled reports of crop experts mystifying the true situation, the big operators behind the deal cleverly concealed their intentions until well on toward the turn of the year. In December the abnormal "spread" of 10 cents per bushel between May and July wheat was increased to nearly 15 cents. In January it was 20 cents, and in February 30 cents.

Under strictly legitimate conditions July wheat should have commanded a slight premium over May. When the differential became too great, the speculators were forced to buy enormous quantities to support the topheavy market which they had created. Collapse could be the one end of this kind of speculation. Leiter, Hutchinson, Dresbach, Phillips and all of the fallen timber of the past had failed. Gates and his friends have established no precedent in this kind of speculation, although they are probably out less money than they are accused of losing.

The short crop of 1904 was the strongest factor in the remarkable deal that has just culminated in a crash, but it was far from being short enough to justify such high prices as were made by the speculators. The work of these philanthropists has resulted in adding millions to the bank accounts of the American farmers, but it has incidentally demoralized the export flour trade of the country, taught Europe to depend on other countries for wheat and flour, and left our markets in a nervous condition, from which they will be slow in recovering.

JOE JEFFERSON'S DRAMATIC POWER.

Joseph Jefferson's fame spread beyond his native land and won laurels in the Old World as well as in the New. The general affection in which Joseph Jefferson was held is strong testimony to the worth of the man as well as to admiration of the actor. To the widespread knowledge of his character the publication of his autobiography but a few years ago contributed. It is a most natural self-revelation.

At the end of the book, in summing up his notes on his art, he refers to the many suggestions with which unknown admirers favored him, in the way of realistic additions to the scenes so well known to his admirers, but which he rejected, saying that the actor must not be natural, but must always appear to be so. In other words, the actor must stay faithfully by the ancient maxim, the highest art lies in concealing art.

As Jefferson's scenes pass before memory that seems the dominant feature of them all; not only the exceeding naturalness, but the reticence, the lack of exaggeration in the leading part. True, for many years Joseph Jefferson did not create a new part. His repertoire was small. But the public never tired of "Bob Acres," and, above all, of "Rip Van Winkle." The latter he absolutely created. In the former part he stood comparison with many famous actors of the past.

A great gift Jefferson had in the art of setting the key to the whole piece, in playing in that key, in holding in reserve through the earlier scenes the dramatic power needed for the climax. In comedy he had the rare power of compelling laughter, but of never stepping over the border line between fun and absurdity. One laughed with him, but never at him.

He tells of an interview with Mrs. Stowe, at her request, after she had seen "Rip Van Winkle." She remarked on the parallel with "King Lear," and asked why he had never been tempted to essay that drama—the test of a great actor's art. Jefferson says he replied that he should never think of such a trial. And yet there was hardly inconsequence in the novelist's suggestion. Jefferson saw, and made his audiences feel, the tragedy in meaner lives.

One other gift he had, and that a rare one—of rising superior to all setting of vulgarity and commonness in the grade and tier of life in which his characters were set. The humanity, as he showed it, common to us all, made his theater world kin with Caleb Plummer and Asa Trenchard, and no less with poor old Rip.

Some who read these lines have seen him in all these parts. Some in but one. Be it many or one, the recollection is surely kindly as it is admiring. His stage career lasted long and he took part in the great development of the American stage—an art in which our leading actors of today fear no comparison with those on the other side of the Atlantic who inherit and practice the traditions of 300 years.

Little argument is needed to support the assertion, made a few days ago by the Oregon Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. H. Ackerman, that the Oregon system of state uniformity in the selection of public-school text-books is better than the Washington system of county uniformity. In Oregon the same books are used throughout the state. In Washington each county selects its own books. Families frequently move from one county to another; also teachers. In such cases the value of the uniform system is apparent, for the child or the teacher finds in the new county the same books he used in his former place of abode; besides, the courses of study are the same, and there is no waste of time in getting in touch with new surroundings. An Oregon teacher may feel at home in any school in the state.

Many housewives will buy fish from soiled hands, but not lace; sauerkraut, but not flowers; cabbage, but not millinery. Many will take food from filthy markets, but fly at the hired girl for not keeping clean the kitchen sink. Many will purchase sausage from men fresh from the fields, with greasy clothes and be insulted if a clerk wearing a flyspeck tries to sell them ribbon. Many will patronize markets which have no hot water for cleaning up and excoriate the cook lady at home for using cold dishwater. But these inconsistencies are now to be shown forth. The School of Domestic Science has secured appointment of a market inspector. Success be with her. Portland has needed her a long time. Let all the housewives listen. They will hear much to learn.

A labor era in which absence of strikes and lockouts is promised has opened in New York City. The benefits of the adjustment thus far are in sight only to members of the building trades. Shades of Sam Parks, the building trades boodler, and of the big white horse that bore him, while under conviction for sins against labor, at the head of a monster labor parade in New York some two years ago! Who would have thought that harmony would have come out of inharmony and conciliation out of stubbornness so soon? The early settlement of the differences between contractors and laborers after the demise of the arch agitator and boodler seems to disprove the statement that "the evil that men do lives after them."

"Deeds, not bones, should be cherished," says a correspondent in yesterday's Oregonian, in commenting on the gruesome search for the remains of John Paul Jones and their transfer overseas. But so strong is the delusion that the human body bereft of life does contain more than senseless clay that men and women will never lose reverence, perhaps, for the inanimate dust. The deeds of John Paul Jones will be honored while the Nation for which he valiantly fought endures; they will not be honored the less because of the desire to identify his body and to return the handful of crumbling bones to this country for final sepulture. The act is intended to honor not "his bones," but the "deeds done in the body."

A point is made of the fact that the jury in the Nan Patterson murder trial is composed, with but two exceptions, of married men. It is further said that Miss Patterson is highly pleased with the personnel of the jury, and reference is made to the fact that in her two previous trials married men largely predominated among the talesmen. These statements, if they mean anything, beyond a vague insinuation, are gross imputations upon the loyalty of American husbands. They contain, on the contrary, a suggestion that is little less than an insult to this class of men. They are, in this respect, on a par with the request of the uxorious Johann Hoch that he be tried before a jury of his own countrymen.

Delcasse, at the head of the Foreign Office, is the only member of the French Ministry whose name is familiar to English-speaking people. He has directed French policy during a very difficult period. While France's ally has been engaged in a terrible war, Delcasse has preserved French neutrality without serious offense to either combatant. He has brought about good feeling between France and Britain, and has guided his country through the Moroccan crisis without bluster or loss of prestige. Delcasse appears to be at once a strong man and a diplomat, and his determination to stay in office is of European moment.

The Puritanical zealot objected to "bear baiting," not because it was cruelty to the bear, but because it was sport for the onlookers. By a parallel line of reasoning, numerous papers are congratulating Augustus Heinze on his victory in the Minnie Healy case. They are pleased that Heinze won—not because they know or care whether or not he was in the right, but because by his winning, Standard Oil received a very severe jolt.

Nothing could do more to create a bad impression of the Fair in the minds of visitors than the group of liquor shops licensed about its main entrance. It is a serious mistake. The Common Council ought to revoke these licenses and refund the money.

The Equitable's general agents seem determined to stay with the Alexander faction until Hyde comes off his lofty perch. The tales that go with this particular Hyde are not pleasant reading for the policy-holders.

Matches and petroleum are the principal articles mentioned for an increased war tax in Russia. This opens up possibilities for a revival of the old jokes about the hired girl and the kitchen fire.

The public mind has been loaded up with claptraps about "public utilities," till now a great lot of people are going to get them as they think and say has been promised them.

It's too bad that dog-hating Mr. Samuel is absent in New York, else the dog-eating Igorrotes might be persuaded to tarry and help Portland's rose gardens.

Any unknown port on the Asiatic coast would find it an advertising scheme to invite Rojestvensky to make his headquarters there.

Nature's kindliness is shown by the fact that she made wheat an article of food as well as of speculation.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Exit Joseph Jefferson.

If we were in the habit of answering matrimonial or patent medicine advertisements, we should never fail to avoid those saying "all communications will be regarded as sacredly confidential."

In another day or two the "heavy firing" zone will have been broadened to Chefoo.

An effort to follow Rojestvensky's course supplies a painless way of learning what the small boy calls jography.

Nan Patterson fainted in court yesterday. She is as nervous as a Russian Admiral.

Earthquakes have recently alarmed India, Ecuador and England, but the people are shaking down again.

We confess that we never could understand fully the attitude of Henry James, who recently passed through Portland without saying that Mount Hood was a nice mountain. In the Booklover's Magazine, however, James Douglas has made the whole thing clear. "Chilled by a sense of alienation," he says, "Mr. Henry James darkens the windows of his soul with filmy arabesques of frosty ambiguity." We have ordered a set of filmy arabesques of frosty ambiguity for our soul windows. They must be great things in hot weather.

One can almost hear the half-opened rosebud say to its sister, "is it hot enough for you?"

Washington's ball team is managed by a man named Stahl, and the team has been named the "Stahlwarts." The Indianapolis Star remarks that before the season is over the team may be known as the "Stahl-warts."

Correspondents in the Orient are justly indignant that Togo and Rojestvensky will not disclose the locality of their rendezvous.

Castro of Venezuela says he challenges fate. He should learn that fate does not fight duels, but stabs in the back.

Some ingenious writer declares the reason golf players do not swear is that the golfing vocabulary is enough of itself to work off any amount of spleen. Niblick and brassy, foozle and stimie, he holds equivalent to a dozen words that the modest editor must represent by dashes. The reasoning is based on false premises, we fear; the writer states that golfers do not swear, merely to display his ingenuity in supplying an explanation.

One and a half million dollars is all that a Milwaukee banker was able to get away with. Still a man must have practice to get his hand in—even into other people's pockets.

The greenest things in town at present are the telegraph poles, which look something like Gargantuan asparagus.

Who owns
The bones
Of John Paul Jones?

It is about time that some member of the Jones family came forward to claim the alcohol-preserved remains of the illustrious "pirate."

Dr. Chapman thinks that Shakespeare missed a whole lot by not waiting to be born in the Roosevelt regime, so that a real hero could have been put into the Shakespearean drama. On the whole, our opinion is that Shakespeare was wise in being born when he was. He managed to pick up a few passable heroes, as things were, and he escaped having to read a lot of balderdash about boxing-lessons and bear hunts.

Sun shining on the hills and strawberries shining on the bill-of-fare—who wouldn't be contented?

A Chicago woman, it was brought out in divorce proceedings, used to call her husband "Schnickelfritz." To unaccustomed ears Schnickelfritz sounds more like an endearing term that young lovers would use than an expression of the less fervid love of mature and married life.

Northern British Columbia Indians are now reported to be affected by the religious revival which swept north (in a Pullman) from Portland. No matter how ardent the religious Indians may become, there is yet one insuperable obstacle in the way of their conducting a revival on the approved modern method—in their villages there are no red-light districts into which the church members and Sunday school pupils may parade.

Will it be known in history as the Roosevelt era?

WEX J.

ODD BITS OF OREGON LIFE.

Don't Be Stuck Up, Ves.

Freewater Times.

Ves White bought a brand new team, harness and wagon the other day, and now he won't speak to anybody. The whole layout is a fine one, though, and he almost has a reason for not noticing any one, but millionaires and editors.

Maybe He's Been There.

Irrigon Irrigator.

Over in Prineville there is a lady named Prose running a restaurant. Her doughnuts are said to equal blank verse and her hash is a poem. We'd like to meter.

Let's Hope They're End-Seat Hogs.

Enterprise Chieftain.

Two fat hogs were missed from a hogpen recently in Paradise. Somebody had better look out, there are breakers ahead.

None Left to Chloroform.

Pittsburg Post.

"Shall we chloroform the old folks of the next generation?" asked the sage of Plunkville.

"If cigarettes an' tight lacin' keep their present holts on the respective sexes," retorted the Pohick philosopher, "there ain't goin' to be no old folks in the next generation."

Partial Believer.

Chicago News.

"Do you believe the teachings of the Scriptures?" asked the good woman, as she handed the tramp a generous hunk of home-grown pie.

"Yes, ma'am," answered the hobo, "all but dat part what sez a feller earnin' his bread by de sweat of his brow."

One More Great Conflict.

Boston Globe.

To Admiral Lord Charles Beresford it seems altogether probable that the Jap-Russ conflict will be the last of the big wars. Apparently he has not looked over the Venezuelan scheme to invade the United States by way of New Orleans and the Mississippi Valley.

ROOSEVELT AND HENRY C. FRICK

Why the Great Organizer Has Been Suggested for Secretary of the Treasury—The President's Attitude Towards Him.

"Holland" in Philadelphia Press.

New York.—When there came last Summer strong intimation that the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Shaw, even though he were renominated for that office by President Roosevelt, would not remain in the Treasury Department more than 12 months, it was thought worth while by some of the President's friends in this city to ask him whether it might not be wise to nominate Henry C. Frick as Secretary Shaw's successor. Probably some kind of intimation reached the President that Mr. Frick's name had been mentioned by many high financiers in this city in such connection with the succession as would enable the President to feel assured that Mr. Frick's nomination would be warmly approved.

Six months after there was that spontaneous, although semi-confidential, suggestion of Mr. Frick in connection with that office, there comes a report from Washington and another from Pittsburg that justify the impression that the President had heard of this view and had, through personal acquaintance and through knowledge of Mr. Frick's career, looked upon the suggestion as a most expedient one. There was only one criticism ventured here, and that was one which President Roosevelt probably would not have heeded. A more timid President than he would certainly have regarded the criticism as sufficient. It arose from Mr. Frick's identification with the greatest of American industrial trusts, although by no means as yet a monopoly, the United States Steel Corporation.

* * *

Those here who know Mr. Frick best feel sure that he could not be coaxed by any kind of temptation to enter public life, although no other office than that of Secretary of the Treasury would probably in the slightest appeal to him. He undoubtedly knows what many Wall Street bankers are not aware of, what Mr. Morgan has persisted in being ignorant of, namely, that the truly successful Secretary of the Treasury in the broader sense must be an expert politician. He need not be a managing political tactician. He need not know how to organize caucuses or to direct campaign committees in the technique of party organizations. But he must understand the relation of Government financing, national banks, the tariff and internal taxation to that higher politics which is not of a partisan character. John Sherman understood that, and so at an earlier time did Albert Gallatin and Hamilton. It has been one of the best of the achievements of Secretary Shaw that he, too, knew of that relation, unacknowledged in any statute, but which still may make or unmake parties so far as national successes are concerned.

It is said of Mr. Frick that had he chosen to enter politics he would have become a masterly organizer, matching the technical successes of Governor Tilden or of Mark Hanna, but that he never could have become a supreme persuader through the pure force of personal influence, a moral persuader as Thurlow Weed was.

For very much the same gift of organization, the same power to build up a machine that works perfectly in all its parts and is controlled to obedience by a single mind, is necessary in politics, as it is in building up corporate industrial organizations, or which is so finely exemplified in the wonderfully detailed and yet supremely simple organization of the bank of which Mr. Stillman is president, and especially of the Treasury Department, as that machinery was organized by Alexander Hamilton.

It seems to be an unwritten law, probably because of the political relation of the Treasury Department to the people, that no active New York banker shall be called to the Treasury Department. It is true that Daniel Manning was Cleveland's first and General Fairchild his second Secretary of the Treasury. But Mr. Manning was a rural banker until after his service as Secretary of the Treasury, and General Fairchild had been Attorney-General of New York, an able and often brilliant chief legal officer of the state, not having much to do with finance, excepting incidentally, until after he entered the Treasury Department.

Mr. Frick is now in a considerable sense a New York banker, and it was due in part to the sagacious counsel, the often marvelous foresight, his peculiar sensitiveness to financial temperature so that he seemed to be able to foretell coming squalls in storm, that led to the earnest suggestion of him as probably the best selection President Roosevelt could make when the time came for him to name a successor to Secretary Shaw.

Mr. Frick is one of those who understands that even within the time of the present generation the United States will pass more speedily from a billion-dollar to a two billion-dollar country than it did from a half-billion budget to the day when Speaker Reed said proudly, "This is a billion-dollar country." Many men are strangely moved by great figures. Mr. Frick, in his intercourse with business men of New York, has often made it clear that he looks upon figures as purely relative. The mere statement that the United States Steel Corporation is a billion-dollar trust, so-called, is a stupendous aggregation of figures to the average man. Not so to Mr. Frick. He has often pointed out that there is nothing more amazing, because of swiftness of aggrandizement, than the growth of the United States as a whole. The swift development of fixed capital, that is, the capital that produces and therefore is wealth-creating, is spoken of by him as far outmatching the increase in currency, even in gold, which has been both absolutely and relatively of enormous proportions in the past ten years. To men in New York who have met him he seems to have something of the fabled power of the alchemist, for he often points out where latent resources are and how they can be best developed. That gift is in reality that for which at an earlier time there was superstitious searching, so that it is often said that Mr. Frick is one of those who knows where to find the true philosopher's stone.

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President Roosevelt, who, many think, is the 20th century's answer to Shakespeare's Hamlet, was especially impressed, first of all, with Mr. Frick's knowledge, both general and detailed; secondly, with his almost intuitive processes of reasoning, resembling in that respect somewhat Roosevelt's own intellectual processes, and especially with Mr. Frick's ability to secure results. Results and the action that secure them—these are to a man of Roosevelt's temperament and intellect the chief thing, provided this activity be tempered by the moral sense.

But the President is not to have Mr. Frick in his Cabinet, although there is no doubt that he may at any time have such advantage as comes from private or even confidential communication with him upon subjects of which Mr. Frick has knowledge. To many here this seems a pity. These two men with Mr. Hay would typify the modern spirit of the United States. They would represent that prodigious growth which has already made New York the second city of the world in international trade, exporting today even more than London exports.

FOLK CLOSES SUNDAY SALOONS

Saloons in St. Louis and Kansas City were closed last Sunday.

Chicago Tribune.

Governor Folk, of Missouri, believes laws ought to be either enforced or repealed. Missouri has a law requiring saloons to be closed on Sunday. Consequently, on orders from the Governor, the Police Commissioners have ordered the saloons of St. Louis to keep closed. Missouri has laws forbidding unnecessary labor on Sunday. People can bathe, get shines and shaves, buy newspapers and cigars, and lay in supplies of food Saturday night. Consequently, bathrooms, shoe shining "parlors," barber shops, news stands, cigar stands, grocery stores and restaurants must not be open on Sunday. If past experience in American cities signifies, enforcement will end speedily. All Governor Folk's resources will scarcely suffice to keep the city in the narrow path.

That laws ought to be either enforced or repealed sounds well. But there are laws which cannot be repealed and cannot be enforced. The Sunday law cannot be repealed. The people of the rural districts of Missouri, who are the majority, will not permit a word of the law forbidding Sunday labor to be changed. Most of them are sincerely in favor of the old-fashioned, church-going Sunday. The people of the cities, on the other hand, are well night a unit against putting in operation a law which, if enforced, as its framers 50 or more years ago intended it should be, would interfere with their habits and comfort, and they cannot be made to obey for more than one or two Sundays.

There is an irrepressible conflict between the law of the state and the public sentiment of the cities, and neither will yield to the other. So what does it avail for Governor Folk to say to the St. Louis Police Commissioners that they should enforce to the letter, without discrimination, the law which forbids Sunday work "other than the household offices of daily necessity and other works of necessity and mercy" until it shall have been repealed?

Relics Bring High Prices.

New York Times, April 17.

One of the highest prices ever brought by an autograph letter of Abraham Lincoln was paid yesterday at the Anderson auction-rooms, at 5 West Twenty-ninth street. The letter was purchased for $310 by the old bookdealer, George D. Smith. The letter was written on July 25, 1861, to a soldier who had deserted and asked President Lincoln for a pardon. Lincoln writes that he will grant it if the Colonel of the regiment will take the deserter back in the ranks.

The original oil portrait of the poet John Keats, painted by Joseph Severn, one of his most intimate friends, occasioned spirited bidding. George D. Smith got it for $700. The portrait was incased in an old gilt frame. Severn painted it for George Keats, a brother of the poet, and George Keats brought it to this country in 1818. The portrait was owned by John Gilmer Speed about 30 years ago. It is from this little painting that most of the engravings of Keats have been made.

All the Same, However.

Washington Post.

"Mr. Bryan is the bright lodestar that leads us on," said an orator in St. Louis, and the intelligent compositor on the Globe-Democrat, who was imbued with the political principles of the paper, promptly made it "lobster" instead of lodestar."

The Iowa Democrats.

Cedar Rapids Gazette.

Bryan need not make a great specialty of hunting for Parker Democrats in Iowa unless, as a scientist, he desires to preserve a specimen of the vanishing species. He would never make a living by hunting them as a matter of commerce.

RELIGION AS BAR TO MARRIAGE

New York Sun.

Even the rabbi of the relatively liberal Fifth-Avenue Temple Emanu-El discountenances "the intermarriage of races," or of Jews with Christians. "A divided house on religion invites disaster," he said in his last Sunday's sermon; but the preservation of the race purity of the Jews seemed to be uppermost in his mind.

Relatively such intermarriages are few in this country at the present time, much fewer apparently than when the number of Jews was small. The only country from which we have statistics showing a large percentage of Jewish intermarriages at the present time is New South Wales, where the Jewish population is relative small and where many innovations, social and political, have taken place. In all the countries where the Jews are many, including, besides the United States, Russia and Austria, mixed marriages are rare, and in New York they are fewer proportionately now when the Jewish population is 750,000 than they were when its number was not a tenth as great.

The Roman Catholic Church discountenances marriages between its members and the disciples of any other religious faith, and when they are permitted its priests exact a stipulation that children born of the union shall be reared in its religion; but mere race difference is no disqualification in its eyes. In the Episcopal Church, in Canada more especially, there was started not long ago a movement, on religious grounds purely, against intermarriages, or marriages with members of other denominations of Christians. The Westminster Confession expressed the same sentiment in admonishing Christians of their duty to "marry only in the Lord," not to marry "infidels, papists, or other idolators," or "with such as are notoriously wicked in their life or maintain damnable heresies."

Dr. Silverman takes the ground that harmony in religion and not "romantic love" merely should be the basis of marriage. "If two intend to marry," he says, "and there is a difference of religion between them, there is only one thing to do—to lay aside the romantic aspect of the case and agree on the religion they shall follow after their marriage." That, as we have suggested, is the Roman Catholic doctrine, and practically it was originally the doctrine of the old Protestantism; as expressed in the Westminster Confession, marriage should be only with "such as profess the true reformed religion." If it was obeyed the unbaptized half of the population of the United States would be restricted to marriage between themselves.

The question of a diversity of religion, however, does not enter into the proposed marriage to which so much Jewish opposition is expressed, and on which particularly Dr. Silverman founded his sermon of last Sunday, for both the man and the woman protest that they are in complete harmony religiously. It is therefore only the intermixture of races which meets with disfavor, and at present that sentiment is as strong and general among Christians as among Jews.

The marriage question, therefore, is taking on a new phase now that the Jewish population of this country is becoming numerous, and promises to be eventually the greatest aggregation of that race in the world.

Very Much Like Byron.

It is related in the life of Lord Byron that he once made a present of a Bible to his publisher, the first John Murray. The recipient was proud of the gift, as proceeding from so famous a man, and used to show it to his friends, until one day some one more curious than the others turned the pages of the book and discovered that Byron had altered the words, "Now Barabbas was a robber" to "Now Barabbas was a publisher." The story is recalled in a little volume of "A Publisher's Confessions," which contains a number of heartfelt papers contributed not long since by one of the profession to the Boston Transcript.