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Washington, D. C.—Ebbitt House, Pennsylvania avenue.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1906.

INDIFFERENCE TO REFERENDUM.

Results of the use of the referendum in the State of New York do not commend the method to the New York Sun. The reason is that the people cannot be induced to take an interest even in gravest questions. They will cast a full vote for candidates, but will let referendum questions go by default. Last November seven amendments to the constitution of the State of New York were submitted to the electors. They proposed important and even radical changes in the fundamental law of the state, and all were carried. Yet only 25 per cent of the voters of the state thought it worth while to indicate their wishes, one way of the other.

In 1904, says the Sun, "when a President was to be elected, 1,617,770 voters went to the polls in New York State. The plurality for Theodore Roosevelt was 175,552, or greater by 42,000 than the vote this year against the amendment which met the strongest opposition. Of the men who took sufficient interest to express their choice for President, 1,117,401 did not feel that the amendment of the constitution under which they live was of sufficient importance to call for an expression of their opinion." Even on a proposition to authorize the state to issue $50,000,000 of bonds for canal improvement less than one-half the number who had voted for Roosevelt voted on the question, aye or no.

Upon the referendum, then, as practiced in New York, the Sun offers this remark: "Popular indifference makes the success of any proposal practically assured, and produces the condition that is most foreign to our style of government—minority rule." There are those who believe that anything whatever that may be proposed in Oregon will be adopted; because every proposition will be supported by a certain body of interested or theoretical workers, and the indifference of others, who might oppose if they thought on the subject at all, will allow everything to pass without opposition.

PHILIPPINES AND SUGAR.

When they were debating the sugar question on Saturday in the House of Representatives, the relations of the Philippines to the United States, the justice of open trade between the islands and the United States, and the assertions came thick and fast that if sugar from the Philippines were allowed free entry the price would be so cut that our beet sugar factories would be injured or destroyed—when this debate was in progress, why didn't some member rise and inquire whether cheaper sugar for eighty millions of people would after all be so great a calamity, and why the sugar trust and beet sugar people should be allowed to insist that the laws of the United States should still be invoked for protection of the sugar trust, in combination with the beet sugar factories of the United States?

The Philippine Islands, same as Porto Rico and Hawaii, belong to the United States. We let in sugar free from Porto Rico and Hawaii; why not from the Philippines? Every objection resolves itself into this one statement: Sugar would become too cheap in the United States. Cheap sugar would cut off the graft of a protected interest. Well, why shouldn't it? Would it, then, be so dreadful if that part of the domain of the United States, known as the Philippine Islands, should turn a quantity of sugar into the United States and cut down the price to eighty millions of people, who now are "held up" and forced to pay extortionate prices, that a few sugar producers in Louisiana and a small number of beet-sugar manufacturers in other states should still be enabled, through law, to extort high prices?

There is one beet sugar factory in Oregon. To hold up the prices of sugar, so it may make a profit, the sugar trust has its spoon in every sugar bowl in the state, to the extent of one to two cents a pound. To get sugar at the proper market price the people of Oregon could well afford to buy out this factory and close it up. Thereby they would save enormous money every year. So as to the sugar factories throughout the United States. To "protect" small interests everybody is robbed; and the beneficiaries of these small interests are a few persons already rich.

The fact that the owners of land are little inclined to grow beets and say, as a rule, that they find little or no profit in it, is proof that they could grow other crops with equal advantage, or greater. It never pays to try to force crops beyond natural conditions of climate and soil. Since the Philippine Islands, adapted to growth of sugar, belong to the United States, why not allow sugar to be produced there and admit it into the United States? Would it be so injurious or disastrous if the American housewife could buy one hundred pounds of sugar for $4 instead of $6? Who gets the $2? Most of it goes to a trust.

On these principles the question ought to have been dealt with in the House of Representatives on Saturday. The time will come when they will be so dealt with in that body.

But the question of justice to the Philippine Islands is apart from all this. We should quit, and must quit, the Philippines, if we still refuse to grant them trade intercourse with the country that claims their allegiance.

AN EXPLANATION IS DUE.

If the Northern Pacific has any desire to secure the good will of the business interests of Portland, it might be well for the officials to come to the front with an explanation of the "queer" work in connection with the bids on oats for Manila. The Seattle contractor, who secured the contract, is undoubtedly a patriotic citizen, and would do his utmost to aid the Government, but when he sells the Government oats at from $2 to $3 per ton less than the figure which private citizens are willing to pay, some other motive than patriotic philanthropy must be considered. Portland bidders can buy oats in the Eastern market as cheaply as Seattle bidders, and they will handle them on as small a margin of profit as that exacted by their Northern competitors.

They are unable, however, to pay $8 per ton freight and sell the oats at the same price as the men who are secretly given a $5 per ton rate. This discrimination, made apparently for the exclusive purpose of diverting the business to Seattle, is not only unfair to the Portland business men, but it is also unfair to the farmers of the Pacific Northwest. The oats crop has moved out pretty rapidly this season, but there is still a considerable quantity in the hands of the farmers and interior buyers. Under normal conditions, and with normal rates from the East, these oats would be given the preference for the Philippine orders, but supplies are not so top-heavy that holders can meet the competition of a $5 rate from the East. If the Pacific Northwest were not more of an oats-producing than an oats-consuming country the low rate would be beneficial to consumers, but now, as in the past, the only beneficiaries by its brief appearance are the Government and the contractors who have the "stand in" with the railroads.

If the Northern Pacific can haul oats across the continent on a $5 rate for the Government, it should certainly be forced to make the same rate for private individuals. It might also be said that, if oats can be hauled from St. Paul to Seattle for $5 per ton, there is no valid reason for exacting $3.85 per ton from the Washington farmer for hauling oats only one-fifth as far. The Washington Railroad Commission may not be particular about investigating a grievance where rebating, discrimination or whatever it may be termed, is at the expense of Portland dealers; but, as some of the Washington farmers have also been injured by this transaction, an investigation would seem to be in order.

RAILROAD COMPETITION IS NOT DEAD.

Announcement of Mr. David H. Moffat that he will extend his Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railroad to Portland, closely approximates in importance the news that the Northern Pacific and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul would build to this city. It has added importance at this time, when there are rumors of Mr. Hill securing control of the Union Pacific, for it illustrates the impossibility of any one man or combination of capitalists monopolizing the transportation facilities of the rapidly-growing West. Mr. Moffat is a very wealthy railroad man, and his wealth and talent for railroading found no employment in the service of the great transcontinental lines. This forced him to start operations independent of the big lines, and he has built a road through one of the richest sections of Colorado and Utah, and is developing new traffic as rapidly as he can handle it.

There may be a retaliatory feature of the project, for the Union Pacific and the Denver & Rio Grande, regarding Mr. Moffat as an interloper on preserves which they had apparently allotted to themselves, have been quite active in working into the field which he has just opened up. For this activity in his new territory Mr. Moffat now seeks to punish the Harriman road by pushing west into Oregon's great timber belt, which produces more railroad traffic to the square mile than can be found anywhere else on earth. Hauling agricultural and stock products to market has made the "granger" roads of the Middle West wonderfully remunerative investments, and we are always crediting agriculture with being the one great industry on which the railroads, as well as all other industries, are dependent. Viewed in the aggregate, the product of the agricultural industry overshadows in volume and value that of all other lines of industrial effort. For good, steady traffic-producing qualities, however, both the coal and lumber industry are better assets for a railroad entering a new territory than the business that comes from the farms.

In the most favored land on earth, which in this case happens to be Oregon, there are some seasons when the outturn from the fields and farms will fall 50 per cent short of the best seasons. In less favored states this decline sometimes stretches away to total failure. Against such a shrinkage in the traffic the railroad can do but little in way of retrenchment of expenses. With coal and lumber the case is different. The vast deposits of coal lying underground are impervious to the climatic conditions that work havoc with grain crops, and the traffic can accordingly be gauged with almost perfect accuracy. In the lumber traffic, similar conditions exist. There will be no decrease in the amount available for transportation, even though there be a 50 per cent shortage in the wheat crop, and, as has previously been stated, a single acre of Oregon timberland will turn off more tons of freight for the railroads than an acre of wheat land would produce in more than sixty years.

This industry has been a powerful magnet in drawing railroads across the continent, and Mr. Moffat's lifetime of experience in railroads has undoubtedly taught him the value of the business from a railroad standpoint. Oregon timber resources remained practically untouched while those of Washington and British Columbia were being exploited almost to the limit; but they are now proving of inestimable value, not only in creation of new wealth, but in inducing railroads to come into our state, and in coming to aid a hundred other industries.

THE PUBLIC AND BANKS.

That the public has a right to know the financial condition of a banking institution which invites general deposits is the theory upon which is based the banking law enacted by the State of California in 1903 and amended in 1905. The law in that state is still imperfect, but it affords the public some protection and, when further improved, will be a good safeguard against mushroom banks.

The California law applies not only to corporations, but also to individuals receiving deposits. All banks must secure licenses from the Bank Commission before transacting business, and must have a capital stock varying in amount according to the population of the city in which it operates, with not less than half of the stock paid up. The bank must keep on hand not less than 20 per cent of the amount of its demand liabilities, if in San Francisco, and not less than 15 per cent if in other cities, but half of this reserve may be in the form of call deposits in other solvent banks. One of the most important features of the law is that governing reports. Upon request from the Bank Commission, and not less than three times a year, the bank must make a report to the Commission, showing its financial condition upon some previous date fixed by the Commission. That report must show:

The amount of the capital stock, the names of the directors and the number of shares held by each.

The stock paid in and the amount of the reserve fund.

The total amount due depositors.

The amount and character of other liabilities.

The amount and character of property owned or held as security by the bank, whether real estate, stocks, bonds, etc.

The amount of loans and the character of the security.

The amount of money on hand or deposited in other banks, and the place where deposited.

The information conveyed by this report shows in a general way the condition of the bank. The Commission is authorized at any time to make an examination of the bank's affairs, and if any bank is found insolvent the Attorney-General must be notified, and he must bring a suit to have a receiver appointed at once. The Commission has power to examine bank officials under oath, or to call witnesses and compel them to testify under oath. The use of the word "bank" or other word denoting the conduct of the business of banking is forbidden to all except those who have complied with the provisions of the law.

INDIRECT TAXES.

The Salem Journal recently referred to the bill drawn by the tax committee of the Willamette Valley Development League as the beginning of a movement for raising state revenue from indirect taxation. One or two candidates for state offices have also been discussing the corporation and inheritance tax plan in such a manner as to convey the idea that they have advocated something originating with themselves. Without detracting in the least from the credit due to any person for efforts that deserve commendation, a few words may not be inappropriate on the subject thus brought to attention.

It might be difficult to name the man who first proposed indirect taxation in Oregon, but the first man who brought it effectively before the public mind was Secretary of State F. I. Dunbar, who, in his report to the Legislature in 1901, urged the enactment of corporation license tax laws, inheritance tax laws, and laws for the taxation of Pullman-car companies and express, telephone and telegraph companies. That report set forth at some length the fees collected under such laws in other states. The Legislature of 1901 did not act upon Dunbar's recommendation, though the matter was considered by many members. During the next two years The Oregonian frequently discussed the subject and urged the enactment of such laws upon the Legislature of 1903, to which body Secretary Dunbar repeated his recommendations. At the session of 1903, B. L. Eddy prepared a corporation tax law and Dan J. Malarkey an inheritance tax law, and both measures, drawn with the assistance of Mr. Dunbar and the Taxpayers' League of Portland, were passed. It was thus that the policy of raising state revenue by indirect taxes had its origin in Oregon.

It is strange what simple questions must sometimes be settled by a Supreme Court. Several months ago, over in Union County, an electric light wire was blown down by a storm and hung over a fence in a farmer's field. A man working near by saw the blue flame sputtering where the wire came in contact with a rail and, going up close, put his hand out toward the wire, when he received a shock which knocked him down. He recovered his senses in a few moments and that evening related his adventure to the family. The next day a young man of 20 years, who heard the story told, hunted up the wire and pointed his finger at it to see what would happen. He didn't live to tell the story, for, when within eight inches of the wire, he received a shock that was more than his system would stand. His relatives could not see carelessness in his conduct and brought suit for damages. Perhaps even the decision of the Supreme Court, rendered last week, does not convince them that the young man was guilty of contributory negligence.

Says the Pendleton Tribune, a paper whose deepest sympathies go out towards Oregon statesmen in distress: "The Oregonian is worrying about the whereabouts of Congressman Hermann. Pity he failed to furnish the news editor with an itinerary of his travels." The Oregonian is not worrying. It leaves Brother Hermann to do the worrying—not forgetting, however, those who have been so distressed by the "persecution" of our Oregon statesmen, and who would like to pull President Roosevelt down for not stopping the persecution.

Boston has introduced 90-cent gas, and the rate will go yet lower. The Springfield (Mass.) Republican says: "The gas investigation in New York City now going on has established the fact, as did a previous legislative inquiry, that gas can be produced for the holder at 23 cents, and for 54 cents can be produced and delivered; and for 75 cents to consumers it will yield a reasonable return on the actual investment. Last Winter the New York Legislature, on the strength of the investigation then made, was asked to pass a bill fixing the maximum price of gas in New York City at 80 cents. But the measure was defeated through the efforts of the gas interests. This Winter the Legislature will be asked to make the price 75 cents, and there is good prospect that such a measure will be enacted."

One of the encouraging features of the agricultural and horticultural conventions of the last few years is the absence of paper farmers from the programmes. A few years ago the speakers at these meetings were chiefly politicians and men who had little knowledge of their subjects from personal experience. Men who are seeking notoriety for political purposes and whose knowledge of agriculture or horticulture extends no further than necessary to enable them to voice glittering generalities, are being assigned to back seats, while the men who raise the crops are called upon to tell what they know. So far as anyone has observed, the farmers' conventions are no less interesting while they are much more instructive in the real essentials of the occupations they seek to promote.

It is no new thing. It has been common. Just so soon as it was announced that the Great Northern and Northern Pacific had undertaken to build a railroad along the north side of the Columbia all sorts of enterprising people with railroad projects—on paper—rushed forward to obstruct and "hold up" the right of way. The movers of these projects don't intend or expect to build any railroad—or they would have moved long ago—but, like highwaymen, they "need the money."

The immensity of the railroad business in the United States is reflected in the orders placed for rolling stock during the twelve months ending December 31. These orders called for delivery at the earliest possible period of 341,315 freight-cars, 3289 passenger-cars and 6265 locomotives. This is more than double the number ordered in 1904, and, when their millions of wheels begin moving over the American railroads, there should be less complaint over car shortage.

Portland Chinese are said to be on the eve of a periodical outbreak because a member of one of the "tongs" was delinquent in his lodge dues and sought to join another tong without paying up. These little diversions of the "tongs" are of course unpleasant, but they only break out occasionally, whereas we can hear the knocking of the "hammers" most any time. This is one of the cases where hammer and "tongs" work on different lines.

A Seattle dispatch states that, unless the Chinese boycott is removed within thirty days, the two largest flour mills in the State of Washington will be obliged to close. Reasoning from precedent, we may now expect a renewal of the reports from individuals who "have just got back from China" to the effect that the boycott is not assuming serious proportions, and will soon die out.

The City of New York will spend nearly $50,000,000 for public improvements this year, not including streets and pavements. Improvements made by private owners and corporations will exceed this sum many times. No city in the world grows as New York grows, and no four cities in America are expending so much for improvments as New York.

The Marion County jury which tried the Kellher land-fraud case was evidently very much impressed with the weight of the evidence which showed that some thirty land-sale certificates which had been forged found their way into the hands of the defendant. Strange. What conclusions a jury will draw, sometimes.

Bob Fitz's wife has become reconciled to him. Ah, Fitz! Ye always did have a winnin' way wid ye—till yer last battle in San Francisco. Even since then Mrs. Fitz resolves to "stand in." The one faithful friend a man has in this world, Bob, is a faithful wife—though she may get out of humor at times.

During the year 1905 Union Pacific shares were sold to nearly twenty times the whole amount outstanding. The stock has been carried up to an unprecedented figure. In Northern Pacific there has not been so much dealing, but the quotations also have run up to extraordinary prices.

Baker County, Oregon, now proposes a monument at Baker City to Senator Edward D. Baker, for whom the county was named. That is a sensible, just and patriotic undertaking, and a proper substitute for the dowry proposed for Miss Roosevelt.

The Philadelphia Press makes this statement, which may have proper application in other states than Pennsylvania: "Public men who gain an ill-fame in their lives are best served after their death by silence and forgetfulness."

It is an interesting and impressive metaphor, from "Maverick," of Baker City—this is: "That office-seekers in Baker County will be thicker than fleas on a dog during the next few months, there is no longer any doubt."

To kill off the hopelessly insane and diseased is the first step toward getting rid of all the unfit. And then how many of us would be left to do the pleasing work of selection and execution?

The Salem City Council has passed a stringent anti-gambling ordinance. What's the use? There is no one in Salem who would gamble, anyway.

Champ Clark seems to have transferred tariff discussion from the realm of the academic to the business end of 1906 affairs.

The Trap for Beveridge.

Albany Journal.

Senator Beveridge prides himself on his oratory. When Senator Pettus asked leave to interrupt the Indiana Senator the latter replied: "Nothing affords the Senator of Indiana more pleasure than to yield to the distinguished and able Senator from Alabama, who never makes a speech himself or interrupts the speech of another without adorning it with a brilliant radiance." Then Senator Pettus got up and said: "I move we adjourn"; and the Senate adjourned with the Beveridge speech incomplete.

THE PESSIMIST.

It is generally supposed that Professor Garner is the first man to study what has come to be called the speech of monkeys. As a matter of fact, the honor belongs to Sir Richard Burton, the famous Orientalist who translated the "Thousand and One Nights." Lady Burton tells in her biography of her distinguished husband that Sir Richard believed firmly in monkey speech, that he had 40 apes continually with him for several years, and that he had written down a monkey vocabulary of 60 words. This vocabulary, unfortunately, was lost. Professor Garner can make a strange monkey drink by saying a certain word, and with another word he can make it eat, and with another word he can frighten it. But Sir Richard Burton could do all these things too. His vocabulary, furthermore, was larger than Professor Garner's. Ernst Haeckel, the great German scientist, is in hearty sympathy with the study of the monkey language. He says he believes firmly that such language exists.—Argonaut.

This explodes the theory that animals cannot think. If it does not do that, it confirms the theory prevalent in high-toned circles that it is not necessary to think in order to talk.

* * *

The following from the Argonaut shows how the common people enjoy themselves on the streets in San Francisco. The best families were too drunk to come out:

We are a joyous people. Our hilarity is unconfined when we get a chance to expand. But we do it decorously. We are an example to the rest of the world which celebrates sadly, seriously, and with effort. A beautiful instance of our light-hearted American festivity was the New Year's just past. There's where we enjoyed ourselves.

The history of that happy season is written large on our records. Men got drunk, and were locked up. Others got robbed. Jovial souls went driving, and were run away with by fiery livery horses. Good fellows celebrated in automobiles, and were patched up in the hospitals. Friends, in jesting emulation, licked friends to a pulp. Strangers took the gay freedom of licking strangers. Others were clubbed by cops, and got shut up in the tanks with other revelers. Lively souls on Market street daubed the faces of passers-by with mud, stuck feather dusters into the faces of other men's wives, and, tossed confetti into the ears and mouths of other men's sweethearts.

We had a bully time.

Wouldn't a man from Mars envy us? Aren't we real gents in our pleasures?

* * *

The following editorial, clipped from a local religious paper, not only bears out the contention of the article which it criticises, but the writer also demonstrates the truth of his own conclusion that there is a difference between being funny and being foolish:

The writer of alleged witticisms for the editorial page of The Oregonian made an excursion into the field of historical theology last Saturday morning. "According to John Fiske, the historian," he says, "the doctrine of the Trinity was first introduced by Sabellius (A. D. 250-260)." Fiske was a sad liar if he made that assertion. Before Sabellius emerged from the obscurity of the Lybian Pentapolis, Tertullian had written of the "Trinites unius divinitatis, Pater et Filius et spiritus sanctus." Sabellius did not believe in the Trinity at all. Moral: There is a difference between being funny and being foolish.

It would seem that some one had made a fearful mistake. It is evident that the brother who wrote the above was excited. When he calms down he will see that his statement that "Sabellius did not believe in the Trinity at all" kicked the wrong way, because it supports my contention by adding still another distinguished churchman to the list of those who doubted if Jesus and God were one.

This is what got the brother in such a rage:

The pastor of a New York Church, in an attempt to take a fall out of Goldwin Smith, said, among other things:

"Christianity is based on the divine fact, essentially dogmatic. that on Christmas day there came into the world the Incarnate God, Jesus Christ, having a divine and a human nature, but only one, a divine personality. This is the dogma that lies behind the sermon on the Mount and gives it value. Without that preceding and fundamental dogma, the sermon on the Mount would be only the discourse of a mere philosopher like Aristotle or Plato."

At first glance, it would seem that what the Christ said was of very little importance. However, I am inclined to think that that was not what he meant. He probably had in mind that the word of Jesus was infallibly true, because it was God who said it.

Be that as it may, there was a time in the history of the Christian Church when there was considerable doubt as to whether or not Jesus and God were one.

According to John Fiske, the historian, the doctrine of the Trinity was first introduced by Sabellius (A. D. 250-260). It was formally condemned as heretical. The Council of Antioch "solemnly declared that the Son was NOT consubstantial with the Father." Later, at the Council of Nicaea, it was solemnly declared that he WAS. There was considerable argument after that, but the matter was finally settled after a hundred years or so had passed.

It has been said that at one time the question was discussed so freely that a learned bishop was kicked to death.

The following is what John Fiske said:

"When the doctrine of the Trinity was first announced by Sabellius (A. D. 250-260), it was formally condemned as heretical, the church being not quite prepared to receive it. In 269 the Council of Antioch solemnly declared that the Son was not consubstantial with the Father—a declaration which, within sixty years, the council was destined as solemnly to contradict. The Trinitarian Christology struggled long for acceptance, and did not finally win the victory until the end of the fourth century."—"Unseen World," page 127.

If Sabellius did not believe in the Trinity, it would be interesting to know what he did believe.

* * *

M. B. WELLS.

Last Free Ride for Congress?

Washington Dispatch of December 30 to the Chicago Daily News.

Members of Congress whose board bill between now and Thursday next will amount to less than their railroad fare from home to Washington are pouring into the capital at this unusually early date. Every train is bringing them, and the reason is that they have been informed that their passes which took them home will not be honored after Sunday night at midnight, when the new rule of the railroads against issuing passes goes into effect. If present indications count for anything a large majority of Congress up to this time has traveled on passes.

Every Day a Good Newspaper.

North Yakima Republic.

Editor Scott, of The Oregonian, wrote a long and able editorial on the first of the year on his newspaper; but it will be admitted that he had an inspiring subject. The Oregonian is a magnificent newspaper every day in the year. According to Mr. Scott, it is prospering. We are glad it is. The people of the Northwest country all ought to be glad, for in The Oregonian they have something in the way of a newspaper which is not found in every section. We wish The Oregonian and its editor, the grand old man of Pacific Coast journalism, a happy New Year, and hope they will both be with us on the first days of many years to come.

Perfect Lady.

Chicago Tribune.

"Raise your chin just a little," said the photographer.

"This is as high as I choose to raise it," was the austere response of Mrs. Vick-Senn. "If the effect is not to your liking you can lower your machine."

FOR INSURANCE REFORM

From Governor Higgins' Message to New York Legislature.

That large amounts ought, for the safety of the insured as well as for the good of the community, to be invested in bonds secured by mortgages on real estate at a conservative valuation.

That deposits with or loans to moneyed corporations should be subject to suitable restrictions.

That the control of subsidiary companies should not be permitted.

That insurance directors should have no conflicting business connections.

That investments in corporate bonds should be regulated so as to prevent speculation and loss from an attempt to float doubtful enterprises.

That policies should be of standard forms, so that the abuses arising from ambiguity, complexity and incompleteness of contract may be eradicated and the contract made definite in form and substance.

That a uniform system of audits and accounts should be prescribed by the Insurance Department.

That full publicity to policy-holders should be assured.

That deferred dividend policies should be prohibited or greatly restricted.

That policies should be further safeguarded from forfeiture.

That an equitable distribution of the gains of the company to the policy-holders entitled thereto should be required.

That policy-holders should have an effective voice in the government of the companies, and that the discretion of the directors should be subject to judicial or administrative review.

PLOW OF U. S. SWORDS.

Placed in Hall Where Treaty Between States Was Signed.

Geneva Correspondent New York World.

A plow made of swords used in the American Civil War has been placed in the hall in this city in which the treaty was signed regulating the indemnities. The plow was made in America 25 years ago, but it is only recently that it was presented to this city for the purpose of having it placed in the historical hall which saw the last treaty signed.

The emblem of peace and war is composed of ten different blades, so arranged together as to make not only the working part of the plow, but also the handles. An inscription attached to the wall of the historical hall tells the history of the plow, which is the object of much curiosity from visitors.

Luck in the Game of Draw Seats.

From a letter by the Hon. Champ Clark, of Missouri.

Some people do not believe in luck. This is my sixth Congress. Seats are drawn by lot. In two Congresses I was the first Democrat to draw a seat. In three I drew early enough to secure a favorable location. In this, the sixth, I was one of the last Democrats to draw. Through the kindness of Mr. Weisse, of Wisconsin, who urged an exchange, I got a good one, and then, through the kindness of Mr. Wood, of Missouri, who also urged an exchange, I secured one of the best in the House. Of course, I am deeply grateful to those kind friends. The astronomer Proctor once figured it out that a man will hold, on the doctrine of chance, only one straight flush at draw poker in a million hands. On the same theory I would not be again the first Democrat to draw a seat in more than a hundred Congresses. The lottery for seats is an intensely interesting performance and of a good deal of importance. Of course, those who have most to do in transacting the business of the House ought to be where they can easily attract the attention of the Speaker, and where they can easily make themselves heard. I do not mean by that the making of set speeches, which, contrary to the common belief, is really a small part of the House proceedings. Any man can borrow a good place from which to make a set speech if he have not a choice place of his own, but the business of the House is mostly transacted by interlocutory performances in which there is no effort at speechmaking; hence the necessity that the participants have seats from which they can be heard. As a rule, they get them. If they do not draw them to begin with, others swap with them, an unselfish sort of performance on the part of those who yield the better seats.

After all, this is a pretty good sort of a world to live in.

Suggestion for Bequests.

London Globe.

The action of George Catt, an American millionaire, in bequeathing his body to be dissected for the benefit of science indicates a line of investigation which might do much for the advance of medicine. The deceased gentleman had suffered long from some obscure malady which baffled the skill of his physicians. And every year a number of people die of strange diseases which doctors have been unable to diagnose. If post-mortem examinations could be held on such persons, the actual disease might be compared with the symptoms observed during life, and thus a step would be taken toward the discovery of a remedy.

Where to Get All the News.

Lewiston Teller.

While not so large as former New Year editions, Monday's Portland Oregonian gives a splendid review of railroad developments in Oregon in 1905, and the operations already begun or proposed for 1906. The Oregonian, as it with rightful pride remarks of itself, has truly kept pace with the development of the Pacific Northwest, and still continues as the one paper to which the people must look for all the news, even here in Idaho.

The Monster Drydock Dewey.

Boston Herald.

500 feet long.
134 feet wide.
Cost $1,200,000.
Height of side walls, 63½ feet.
Holds a 24,447-ton warship.
Each hawser used in towing stretches 1200 feet, and weighs 27 tons.

Standing Room Only.

Washington Post.

You can't take your skates with you on the water wagon.

The Little Black Sheep.

Unidentified.

For lil brack sheep, don strayed away,
Don los in win an' de rain;
And de Shepherd, he say, "O hirelin,
Go, find my sheep again."
But the hirelin frown—"O Shepherd,
Dat sheep am brack an' bad."
But de Shepherd, he smile like de lil brack sheep
Wuz the onliest lamb he had.

An' he say, "O hirelin, hasten,
For de win and de rain am col:
And dat lil brack sheep am lonesom,
Out dar so far from de fol."
De hirelin frown, "O Shepherd,
Dat sheep am ol' and gray."
But de Shepherd, he smile, like de lil brack sheep
Wuz fair as de break ob day!

An' he smile, "O hirelin hasten,
Lo, here am de ninety-an-nine,
But dar, way off from de sheep-fol,
Is dat lil brack sheep of mine."
An' de hirelin frown, "O Shepherd,
De res ob de sheep am here."
But de Shepherd, he smile, like de lil brack sheep
He hol it de mostest dear!

An' de Shepherd go out in de darkness,
Where de night was col and bleak;
An' dat lil brack sheep, he find it,
An' lay it agains' his cheek.
An' de hirelin frown, "O Shepherd,
Don bring dat sheep to me."
But de Shepherd, he smile, and he hol it close,
An'—dat lil brack sheep—wuz—me!

AFTER TWENTY-SIX YEARS

New York Sun.

Twenty-six years ago today (January 1) the United States resumed specie payments. On that day began the most marked era of progress in the history of our country, an era which still continues and will continue just so long as we tread in safe economic paths, putting country above party and honesty above selfishness. It was about one year before the full beneficial force of specie resumption was felt, consequently a comparison between the things of 1880 and the things of 1905 will be fair:

	1880.	1905.
Population	50,155,783	96,000,000
Money in circulat'n	$973,000,000	$2,670,000,000
Gold coin	227,000,000	648,000,000
Gold certificates	8,000,000	477,000,000
Standard silver dollars	5,000,000	83,000,000
Subsidiary silver	68,000,000	108,000,000
U. S. notes......	327,000,000	343,000,000
Silver certificates	413,000	471,000,000
Nat. bank notes	337,000,000	521,000,000
Increase in circulation	....	$1,697,000,000
Exports	835,000,000	1,600,000,000
Imports	667,000,000	1,200,000,000
Total foreign commerce	1,502,000,000	2,800,000,000
Increase foreign commerce	....	1,298,000,000
Total Nat. wealth	42,000,000,000	110,000,000,000
Increase National wealth	....	68,000,000,000
Gold coined.......	62,000,000	233,000,000
Inc. gold coined.	....	171,000,000
National banks...	2,076	5,858
Inc. Nat. banks.	....	3,782
Capital Nat. banks	$456,000,000	$812,000,000
Increase capital.	....	356,000,000
Deposits Nat. b'nks	833,000,000	3,500,000,000
Increase deposits	....	2,667,000,000
Deposits savings banks	819,000,000	3,200,000,000
Increase deposits	....	2,381,000,000
Farms, value.....	12,000,000,000	22,000,000,000
Farm products, y'r.	2,212,000,000	6,415,000,000
Increase farm products	....	4,203,000,000
Governm't revenue.	333,000,000	544,000,000
Increase revenue	....	211,000,000
Factory products, year	5,369,000,000	16,000,000,000
Increase factory products	....	10,631,000,000
Postal receipts ...	33,000,000	153,000,000
Increase postal receipts	....	120,000,000
Schoolteacher' salaries	37,000,000	175,000,000
Increase salaries	....	138,000,000
Production of gold	36,000,000	84,000,000
Increase gold production	....	48,000,000
Production of silver	39,000,000	69,000,000
Increase silver production	....	30,000,000
Immigrants	457,000	1,025,000
Increase immig'ts	....	568,000
Soo Canal tonnage	1,734,890	44,270,680
Increase tonnage	....	42,535,790
Coal product'n tons	63,000,000	325,000,000
Increase production	....	262,000,000
Pig iron production, tons......	3,800,000	18,500,000
Increase pig iron production ...	....	12,700,000
Cotton used by mills, bales	1,795,000	4,200,000
Increase cotton..	....	2,405,000
ONLY DECREASES.		
Interest - bearing debt	$1,724,000,000	$895,000,000
Decrease debt...	....	829,000,000
Annual int'st, debt	95,000,000	25,000,000
Decrease interest	....	70,000,000
Foreign trade tonnage built......	....	None

The foregoing is not by any means a complete showing of our material gains in the past quarter of a century, but it will suffice to impress on our minds what our country can do when we are at peace among ourselves and when we pay in gold instead of unsecured paper. During that period we have had occasional temporary drawbacks, all, or nearly all, of which can be traced to overspeculation or departure from safe economic principles. Those can be counted as monitors for our guidance in the future.

THINGS DOING IN THE COUNTRY

The Wind and the Shorn Lothario.

St. Johns Corr. Vancouver Columbian.

The wind of last Saturday proved too strong for Pete, as it seems to have blown off his mustache. Although it improves his appearance, the girls are all sorry, of course. Ha! ha!

Some Go to Dance, Others to Get Busy

Wolfer Prairie Corr. Aurora Borealis.

The Oddfellows' dance was a big success, but there should have been a checkroom in the hall, for there are a few parties who attend dances for no other purpose than to steal coats, caps, lanterns and rubbers.

Fatal Fall of Faithful Jack.

Tillamook Headlight.

Grandpa Jenkins' Jack broke his neck by falling over an embankment, and is dead. It was a faithful animal, and how old no one appears to know, but it was the old stand-by family horse for about 25 years.

What He Got for Working on Sunday.

Vale Gazette.

Master Andy Rose, while attempting to persuade a "fool cow" that she wanted some water last Sabbath, got his pedal extremity in the spot where the beast wanted to step. The cow's hoof was sharp, and as a natural consequence Andy is limping around, looking cheerfully sad, with his foot well bandaged. It was a deep gash, so he says.

His Maiden Speech.

Tit-Bits.

Very few persons acquit themselves nobly in their maiden speech. At a wedding feast recently the bridegroom was called upon, as usual, to respond to the given toast, in spite of the fact that he had previously pleaded to be excused.

Blushing to the roots of his hair, he rose to his feet. He intended to imply that he was unprepared for speech-making, but, unfortunately, placed his hand upon the bride's shoulder, and looked down at her as he stammered out his opening (and concluding) words: "This—er—thing has been thrust upon me."

Suit Styles in Oregon.

Charleston News and Courier.

We do not see why so much comment has followed the appearance of Oregon's new Senator in a sack suit. Most of Oregon's Senators and Congressmen lean to blouses with vertical stripes that are very striking and peculiar.

NEWSPAPER WAIFS.

Stewdeus—"I hear that you had a rough voyage coming over." Miss Highfli—"Oh, frightfully so! It was such a relief to set foot once more on vice versa!"—Judge.

An Offer—"I have no home——" began the beggar. "Sorry, old man," said the brisk pedestrian, "but I have only one. However, if you'll pay my Christmas bills, I'll give you that."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Towne—"You've got a new typewriter girl, I see." Browne—"Yes." Towne—"Is she bright?" Browne—"Well, I don't know whether it's intentional, but she seems to be a female Josh Billings."—Philadelphia Press.

"Do you know anything about palmistry?" she asked. "I should think I did," he replied, forgetting for the moment that he was in select society; "I worked as a waiter to pay my way through college."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Lawyer—"Were you present when the trouble began between the prisoner and his wife?" Witness—"Yes, sir. It was two years ago." Lawyer—"What happened then?" Witness—"I attended their wedding."—Cleveland Leader.

Sapleigh—"Each night before retiring I write down me thoughts in a little notebook, doncher know." Miss Cutting—"Indeed! And how long have you been doing that?" Sapleigh—"About three yeahs." Miss Cutting—"Then you must have the first page nearly filled by this time."—Chicago Daily News.

"It is upon the farmer that the greatness of this country really depends," said the persuasive statesman. "Yes," answered Farmer Corntossel, "but sometimes I think I'd like to be one of the fellers that didn't have so much dependin' on 'em, so's I could have time to wear good clothes and go to a few parties."—Washington Star.