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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1906.

IRREVOCABLE FRANCHISES.

In a very thoughtful letter Mr. Ralph R. Dunaway takes issue with The Oregonian upon what he understands to be an opinion that certain franchises are perpetual. The writer is not a lawyer, but he was written more to provoke thought in the reader than to express a fixed opinion. Whether such a thing as an irrevocable franchise exists or not is, as Mr. Dunaway says, a question to be decided by the courts; but whether such a thing ought to exist or not may be decided for himself by every man of sane intelligence. A franchise obtained by fraud has no standing in the forum of ethics. So much all fair-minded men must concede. Tainted with moral corruption in its origin, it is irrevocably marked for death. Property rights acquired by fraudulent persons under such franchises must, of course, be respected, but the franchise itself is another matter and stands on a footing entirely different. The fraudulent franchise is easily disposed of. How about the other?

A franchise is a partial delegation of sovereignty by the governing power to an individual or corporation, which is within the limits of his franchise the holder is clothed with the authority of the Government; he is a part of the Government. He enjoys the right of eminent domain; he has exclusive control of a portion of the public highways. His authority to fix the price of the necessities of life is an important one. Logically from authority to levy taxes, since it is exclusive, irrevocable, and cannot be eluded. We do not admit that a good title to other offices may be acquired by fraud; we ought not to admit that title to a franchise may be so acquired. For franchise-holding is a trade and very important one in a public office. For reasons good or bad we have not as yet placed it upon the same basis as other public offices and made it elective, but that distinction does not alter its real nature. Supplying light is just as much a social function as chief justice. Modern society is as much dependent upon one as upon the other, and those who perform these services are equally governmental agents, though gas magnates often think themselves superior to the power that created them and claim to rule by divine right.

The notion of an irrevocable franchise therefore involves at least two logical absurdities. It assumes first that a portion of our governmental machinery, and that a very important portion, has escaped forever from the control of the people. Like the English crown, it has become a frehold in certain divinely favored families, like the titles of hereditary nobility, it sets those families apart from the common herd by their perpetual endowment of a special privilege to absorb the earnings of other men. An irrevocable franchise implies, secondly, the inadmissible assumption that the legislative act of one City Council or Legislature can bind its successors forever. It is a contract legally made may perhaps bind forever; but the grant of a franchise is not a contract, it is a permission. By it the legislative body delegates a portion of its own power and such delegation must by its very nature be revocable. The Interstate Commerce Commission may reasonably claim to be independent of Congress as the gas company of the City Council. Both enjoy their powers by tenure whose natures are logically identical. A legislative body whose own power is surrendered periodically to the people from whom it emanates cannot create an artificial being whose powers are perpetual.

The common law abhorred a perpetuity as Nature abhors a vacuum, and for good reason. A franchise is the grant of a privilege whose value increases rapidly as the city develops. Its price should increase at the same rate, but this rate is wholly indeterminate. It may be guessed at for a few years ahead, but not for many years. Therefore, in justice a franchise should be valued anew at short intervals and for this purpose it should be granted or delegated, which is much the better word, for brief periods only. An irrevocable franchise would amount to an interminable annuity bestowed without compensation and would carry a presumption of fraud upon its face. It could never be obtained honestly, because its value could never be computed. Any person who lays claim to an

irrevocable franchise necessarily claims property for which he has not paid. Perpetual franchises. If they were admitted to exist, would deprive communities of the benefits of scientific discovery. They are the nature hostile to improvement, and their owners would never adopt a new invention unless under compulsion. Especially is this true where the franchise amounts to a monopoly, as it does in the street railway and gas business.

Free will disagree with Mr. Dunaway that the question of irrevocable franchises ought to be brought into court and definitely settled. Its importance is fundamental. Sound reason and sound ethics unite to condemn them, but the law sometimes displays a disconcerting independence of both reason and ethics. We know what it ought to say, but here is a long way from knowing what it will say.

HIGH SCHOOL FRATERNITIES.

Dr. Wise, addressing the Women's Club yesterday, made a bold attack upon High School fraternities. He spoke strongly, but none too strongly, for the evil of these societies is great and growing. Secrecy among young people of High School age means mischief. Education, manners, and parents unite in the opinion that the fraternities are wholly evil. They are a silly and vicious imitation of the worst traits of the worst element in American society. They combine the spirit of Town Topics, monkey dinners and boss politics in an unwholesome caricature of nature depravity.

The business of the fraternities is idle title-tattle, the cultivation of senseless vanity and the weaving of pernicious intrigues. Their members cultivate the manners of base society when the girls ought to be toying with hoops and skipping ropes and the boys ought to be learning to wrestle. The atmosphere which pervades fraternities is that of the yellow-back society novel. They are morbid and precocious. They kill the joy and glory of youth and replace it with the sickly ambitions of sophisticated age. The fraternity hero is the boy who can sneer at female virtue and smoke the most cigarettes at 40 cents per bushel. The heroines are the girls who can imitate most closely the style of divorce court beauties. The thing is utterly vicious. It grows out of our modern craze for unworthy social distinction as poisonous fungi spring from corpses. If unchecked it involves the ruin of public education, for the fraternities deny their teachers and make life unbearable to their fellow-students while they destroy the intellectual and moral character of their members.

The fraternities poison the life of the Nation at its source. How can they be abolished? Teachers alone cannot do it. These societies meet outside of school hours. Teachers and parents must co-operate. Parents must realize the depraving effects of such secret association of young people. They must realize that fraternities are a symptom of moral and intellectual disease and set resolutely about the cure. The remedy is for parents to assume proper care of their children, to know where they are and what they are doing. The folly of the young is partly a reflection of similar folly in their elders, partly the result of parental neglect of duty. We shall hear the last of it when fathers and mothers learn to govern their families.

THE BEST WHEAT MARKET.

The Eastern Washington farmers who have been beguiled into shipping their wheat to Puget Sound under the impression that the cereal would command higher prices there than at Portland will view with interest the present quotations in the two markets. No. 1 club, or Walla Walla, was quoted on Wednesday and Thursday at Tacoma at 64 cents per bushel, and at Seattle at 65 1/2 cents per bushel for export, with milling price 1 cent per bushel higher. The same grade of wheat was quoted at Portland at 67 cents for export, with some actual sales made as high as 68 cents. This proved quite conclusively that wheat was worth 4 cents per bushel more in Portland than in Tacoma, and 4 cents more than in Seattle. This is a little wider margin than usually exists in Portland's favor; in fact, there are times when the differential is temporarily wiped out entirely, and occasionally the Tacoma price has been higher than was bid on the same day at Portland.

The figures, however, which are taken from the market columns of the Tacoma Ledger and the Seattle Post-Intelligence, and also from the Associated Press report, amply sustain the contention that The Oregonian has always made that there was ordinarily no difference of consequence in prices at the two ports, and, when there was a difference, it was in favor of Puget Sound. These differences in Portland's favor have existed at numerous periods throughout the year. Portland's flour-shippers have repeatedly been obliged to turn down flour orders because they could not pay the Portland price for wheat, and well flour as low as it was offered by the Tacoma millers, who were paying less for their wheat. The explanation of the present differential against the grower who ships his wheat to Tacoma or Seattle is easy. Incidentally it exposes the fallacy of the belief that it is in the power of the joint-rate makers to increase prices in any portion of the wheat territory in the Pacific Northwest.

There was an early harvest and a short crop through a considerable portion of the O. R. & N. territory in Oregon and Washington, especially in the competitive districts reached by both railroad lines. The yield in territory tributary exclusively to Puget Sound was by far the largest on record, but it came on the market so much later than the crop south of Snake River that, in order to take care of early flour contracts, Tacoma and Seattle millers invaded the competitive territory and paid prices far in excess of the market value of the cereal. This extravagant buying was not of large proportions, but undue noise was made about it, and resulted in such a general impression that Tacoma was a better wheat market than Portland that a large amount of the cereal was diverted from O. R. & N. territory to the lines of the Northern Pacific.

After the Puget Sound millers had paid for their experience in accepting early flour orders at too low a figure, prices began to sag back to an export basis, and, except at rare intervals, there has been no difference for many months in prices paid at Seattle, Tacoma and Portland. That they should be lower now at Tacoma than at Portland is due to the enormous stocks still held in territory tributary to Puget Sound, but not tributary to Portland. It is simply a case of supply and de-

mand, and the prices will continue to be governed by conditions which are ever changing. A joint rate on wheat would be an excellent thing for the millers. When wheat was scarce and firmly held in one section, instead of bidding up for it they could go to another locality where it was plentiful and thus beat down prices where it was scarce. This explains why the Puget Sound millers are so anxious for a joint rate on wheat, but it does not explain why the farmers are asking for the same thing. There is no explanation for the attitude of the farmers.

ON THE SCORE OF MERIT.

The National Educational Association recently in session in Louisville, Ky., considered at length plans whereby the salaries of teachers in the public schools of the country could be raised to a remunerative or, at least, dignified, the importance and exacting nature of their work. A feature of the plan was the arrangement for the promotion of teachers, carrying with it increased pay up to the maximum, on the score of merit. As everybody knows, there are teachers and teachers; teachers good, bad and indifferent; teachers who are in the vocation because of natural adaptability and love for the work; teachers who are in it solely for the pay that they get and to whom the most welcome hour of the day is that in which they turn their backs on the schoolhouse. There is a wide margin for an applicant to stand in these differences, and, if it would find in these its opportunity, the public schools and the cause of education would be greatly benefited by its application to the teaching force.

But the wise men have not yet found a way to secure the equitable adjustment of teachers' salaries on the basis of merit. To rule in the appointment of teachers, would find abundant chance to increase its power under any system yet devised under the name of the merit system. It is plain, however, that until some standard of efficiency more dependable and just than that which is comprehended in the ability to answer a series of pertinent catch questions at a teachers' examination is set up, a merit test as applied to teachers' work can alone determine their fitness to teach and fix the wage schedule justly.

A system which in effect would weed out the utterly incompetent teachers and decimate the ranks of the fairly competent would be a public benefaction. It would, moreover, in time become the lever by which the wages of teachers could be and would be raised, since teaching would then be confined to the ranks of those who had chosen the profession because of their love for teaching, and who had with painstaking study fitted themselves for the proper discharge of its duties. Such teachers could command the question of wages in their own interest, instead of, as now, bringing their talents to the public mart and entering them in competition with those who were not born to teach, have not been educated to teach, except in the most qualified twenty-four young ladies of wealth and fashion, presumably members of his church, having consumed thirty-six bottles of champagne at a party, the good doctor asked himself "How many times would he subject to it? This would be a fine example in mental arithmetic for the boys and girls of the sixth grade in our public schools to tackle. When they have the answer, let them try this one: If fifteen of the same girls smoked seven dozen cigarettes, how many would that be per girl? Concrete problems like these, but what is more important, prepare them for the duties and responsibilities of fashionable life. If a girl is to be called upon as part of her duty to society to drink a bottle of champagne and a half of champagne and smoke five and three-fifths cigarettes of an evening, she ought to know it betimes, and begin early to practice.

A PERPLEXING CASE.

Acase most perplexing to the authorities of Chehalis, Wash., has been that of Tom Brown, a boy some months ago shot and killed his father in the treatment of some horses. The lad is one of a multitude of his type who are born in bitterness and nurtured in domestic convulsion. His father and mother lived in separate houses on the ranch, and the children had scant respect for either parent. The mother failed to be a mother, and the father was being tried for his life, and, partly through the disclosures of his wretched home life and partly because of his youth, the jury failed to convict him of murder. He was, however, said to be insane, and his detention in the asylum was ordered as provided by law in such cases. He was subsequently released, and has since been behaving in the unruly manner that frequently follows the acquittal of a criminal charge. Recently, upon warning of what would follow further exhibition of lawlessness upon his part, he disappeared, and his whereabouts are at present unknown.

A case of this kind tests the patience of society and the wits of jurists and jurists to the utmost. The curative or restraining process has in such a case been too long delayed to promise any good results from its application. This boy represents a problem in criminology that is difficult if not impossible to solve by ordinary methods. To rid the curative nature of the juvenile court, too young for the harsher punishments provided by law for responsible criminals to be inflicted without certainty of making him worse; a menace to society when at large, a reproach to humanity when in prison, he has simply to be recognized and dealt with as one of the misfits of creation, to be eliminated upon without hope of more than temporary restraint.

SMALL POTATOES.

A prominent Willamette Valley produce merchant voices a vigorous protest against the practice of using cul potatoes for seed. His is a timely attack upon an unwise and ruinous practice that has prevailed not only in Oregon, but in nearly every section of the United States for many years. In a few localities the farmers have realized that good seed is a pre-requisite to good crops, but in general it is the custom to select the small, knobby, scrubby potatoes, which cannot be marketed or used upon the home table, for seed for the next year's crop. Such a practice is almost beyond understanding, but every man who was reared on a farm knows that it has existed.

No farmer would select his poorest crows or mares for breeding purposes. Every farmer screens his wheat and uses only the best for seed. The best ears of corn and the best beans for seed purposes are carefully kept the winter. The best eggs from the best hens are selected for setting, and in every department of agriculture, or livestock husbandry the best of the species are used for reproduction. Why, then, should an exception be made in the case of the potato, which is one of the most valuable of our farm-products and which forms such an important part of the world's food supply? Such a policy should be abandoned and the opposite course pursued. Before any man plants potatoes he should test the seed by using some of it upon his own table, in order to ascertain whether the potatoes are of good quality. Then he should select only the fair-sized, smooth, clean potatoes of uniform shape, for seed. With good seed planted in proper soil and given

fair cultivation, the Willamette Valley and other parts of Oregon should raise potatoes that will bring the top prices in any market. Now is the time to improve the soil upon the farmers of Oregon, for soon they will be planting their potato fields for the coming crop. The Agricultural College, the newspapers, the Grange and the farmers' institutes should take up the subject and conduct a campaign of education that will put a stop to a practice that has caused deterioration in the quality of potatoes produced.

While the prisoners at work on the rockpile, very probably do as little real work as possible and are in many vexatious ways trying to the patience of their overseers, there is no excuse for treating them in a brutal manner because of these delinquencies. They are human beings, more or less degraded, who are doing penance for violation of the law. Beating and otherwise mistreating them should not be tolerated. Such treatment is no part of the sentence imposed upon them, and its tendency is to foster crime by inciting a desire to revenge themselves upon those who abuse the temporary power they have that conditions furnish. When a prisoner doing penance becomes obstreperous, unruly and abusive, he must, of course, be dealt with sternly and, if necessary, severely. But loitering at work and failing to "hurry up" when called upon to do so, while vexatious to the boss, can scarcely justify him in striking a man on the face, tying him to a post and beating him with his fists and pouring upon him a volley of profane and indecent language. If J. F. Johnson, prison labor boss at the city rockpile, has done these things, he is in no sense fit for the position he holds, and should lose his job as soon as alleged facts against him are proven.

A local magazine prints an illustrated article on the Valencia wreck and modestly explains in the heading that it is "the first complete account published of the recent disaster off the west coast of Vancouver Island." Wherever the daily newspapers of the Pacific coast print a story of the wreck, it is fairly straight story of the wreck, but where he attempted to "complete" it with nothing but his imagination, the attempt was a dismal failure. Among the queer statements in this "first complete account" is one which says that "great planks were then being washed off the hull and sides of the Valencia," and that the planks were made from steel plates, it is not quite clear to the average reader where these great planks came from. Similar grotesque statements appear throughout the article, proving quite conclusively that it is always necessary for a writer to know a little something about his subject—especially if he intends to label it the "first complete account published."

The Rev. Madison Peters, of New York dropped into mathematics in the course of a lecture the other night. Twenty-four young ladies of wealth and fashion, presumably members of his church, having consumed thirty-six bottles of champagne at a party, the good doctor asked himself "How many times would he subject to it? This would be a fine example in mental arithmetic for the boys and girls of the sixth grade in our public schools to tackle. When they have the answer, let them try this one: If fifteen of the same girls smoked seven dozen cigarettes, how many would that be per girl? Concrete problems like these, but what is more important, prepare them for the duties and responsibilities of fashionable life. If a girl is to be called upon as part of her duty to society to drink a bottle of champagne and a half of champagne and smoke five and three-fifths cigarettes of an evening, she ought to know it betimes, and begin early to practice.

No one has failed to observe the constant and faithful efforts of the organ of Portland to twist the testimony delivered against the gas company into excuse or defense of the gas company at every possible point. This is not mentioned as a surprising fact; rather it would be surprising had it been otherwise, for that journal's purpose of promoting and protecting the jobs of these people in the City of Portland and throughout Oregon. The people at large now well understand how it is that a few persons in Portland through operations like those carried through under these franchises, for which the city has not received a cent of return, have become so enormously and insolently rich. They have been engrossers of property produced by the efforts of the whole public, and of course they must have one organ for further promotion and defense.

There is to be a sequel to the Mizner romance. Sequels never rival the original stories in excitement. It would not be in the least surprising if Mrs. Mizner and her husband were to get together again as mere commonplace married people without any more adventures to make them interesting.

We learn from Salem that, if the anti-poll tax bill becomes a law, state officers must pay their fares and the taxpayer must foot the bill. The state can very easily avoid trouble and expense by electing all the candidates from Salem.

Many Portlanders view with indifference the signs of Spring in budding trees and shrubs, and in budding forth leaves. But it will be another matter when the official schedule of the Pacific Coast League is published.

The Rev. R. P. Johnston, Rockefeller's New York pastor, thinks it is foolish to imitate Jesus. Mr. Rockefeller thinks so, too. How sweet it is to behold such unanimity among Christians.

Residents of Vancouver, Wash., would be quite willing to see the new rail road built through the city, but they even cross the Willamette River into this city by a bacule draw.

A Chicago lawyer has married an heiress for whom he won a \$2,000,000 will contest. She can never justly accuse him of having married her for her money.

The stenographic report of the testimony of Mr. Scott at the gas investigation, announced for publication this morning, will appear tomorrow.

Well, there are 600 Moros completely pacified.

THE SILVER LINING.

By A. H. Ballard.

Instructions to Her Maid.

Put my stocking on the fender. Throw my shirt-waist on the floor. Lace my corsets so I'm slender. Mind, you mustn't lock the door. For I'm going to get up early in the morning.

Put the rouge where I can find it. Just lay out clean underwear. Sleep, yourself and I'll not mind it. This is wholly my affair; Sure, I'm going to get up early in the morning.

Charlie's coming for his honey. He'll arrive at half-past seven. He is bringing lots of money. And I'm in the seventh heaven; You bet I'll get up early in the morning.

Have my shoes cleaned bright and neat. Put the clock upon the stand. Raise the window, shut the heat. That's the hat—oh, I'll look grand. For I'm going to get up early in the morning.

I think I'll wear that accordion skirt. My pocket with his picture in it. His present when he called me flirt. Oh, I can hardly wait a minute; For I'm going to get up early in the morning.

Put up the covers, dear, good girl. Tuck me in, and I'll sleep tight. My hair will never stay in curl; I'll dream of him; and, now, goodnight. For I'm going to get up early in the morning.

Catch your car, but don't think you can ride forever for 5 cents. Do you notice how many people are making large sums in the real estate business in this town? The market is vulgarly healthy. And it is likely to continue so.

Do You Feel It? How we suffer no one knows; Summer heat, thick underclothes.

Definitions.

PLUTOCRAT—From Plutus (pertaining to Hades), and Crassus (thick or obtuse); is a pig-headed individual from the infernal regions.

RICH MAN—One who cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

GAS—Any material that makes trouble. It is very elastic and has an elastic price; it is likely to explode both ways, making trouble for the users, as well as the makers of it. It has a bad record in many cities, and is making an entirely new and flamboyant one in the city of Portland. It is usually dealt in and manufactured by plutocrats, the significance of whom is above described.

FOOLHARDY—Anyone who displays energy. A brainy soldier is foolhardy. William R. Hearst is foolhardy. U. S. Grant was foolhardy. Any daring, original person of electric temperament and brilliant imagination is always foolhardy. That's the reason why he, or she, does things that make the world progress.

FASHIONABLE—When the present Queen of England had a ball on her neck and covered it up with a necklace, necklaces were immediately worn by all leading imitators of royalty. Necklaces, therefore, became what is called fashionable. Fashions are set usually in this manner: A rich man has a withered arm and holds his opera hat askew as he passes into the theater. Immediately it is fashionable to hold your hat on the bias with your wrist crimped up in a bow knot. These are examples of the fundamental origin of fashionable matters.

American statistics on public benefactions of the Carnegie kind for the last five years show:

1901 \$122,588,000 1904 \$4,298,000 1902 \$7,287,000 1905 \$10,588,000 1903 \$6,621,000

Of the sum bestowed last year \$62,000,000 was by the living and the remainder bequests. The record is still held by the year 1901, when four years of McKinley prosperity had been realized on by our public-spirited men and women, and when Mr. Carnegie was setting a terrific pace for the philanthropists.

A Directory for the Unsaved.

"Send me a list of unsaved men and women of Louisville, Ky." This message was lately received by Postmaster T. H. Baker from a man at Rutland, Vt., who said he had heard of the wickedness in Louisville and desired to do missionary work there. Postmaster Baker forwarded a city directory with a letter saying that the directory contained 250,000 names, and he was certain that this plan would afford everybody in Louisville a square deal.

Early Training.

Lippincott's "First Male Teacher"—That newly appointed School Commissioner says he thinks every school should have a woman principal.

The Real Talk.

Chicago Tribune. (It is announced that the Japanese, who have shown their admiration for American methods in many ways, will now adopt our language also.)

"We've come in' rightness. No matter what it is. You bet theses ut, goodanstrom. They gotta have the dope to hand. The same as you're aamine. The kind 'at folks canneratant. They gattatinlike. No wastin'! 'It's the stuf! Some bastards may be. Frayedup tub rattle plain enough. But not for youams. They gotta have the collabrag. They gotta have the good's am machines. An' talk that cuts the time in half. But lets just waittimsams.

Well, watchyap's today? These days you gotta watchyap curves. Dressed some fellows forewars. 'I'd attinto ye never. These Japs is Johnnywhopost; Your business stinks up a bit. An' learn the game, I tell you. These Japs is attintinlike!

You betches! 'Ispen you er me Has got some speech tub shod-'W'y wonezzat, can't, yub ash. Yuh know Jap wotzy wotzy? These Japs is next tub waitright. They gotta dipout out! Secoy! They gotta talk as well as fight—They gattatinlike!

Well, there are 600 Moros completely pacified.

CHECKING FAST GAS METERS

Chicago Record-Herald, March 2.

Biennial municipal inspection of every gas meter in Chicago and official examination of every new meter installed in future are features of an ordinance that will accompany a message from Mayor Dunne to be read before the City Council this evening. The results of recent city inspections of meters represented by consumers as too fast are cited by the Mayor as emphasizing the necessity for a more comprehensive inspection ordinance than the one now in effect.

Other important features in Mayor Dunne's ordinance are a proposal for the reduction of the inspection fee from \$2.50 to the present figure, and the requirement that all meters removed for repairs shall be inspected and marked with the city's certificate of inspection before being returned. Where a meter is found to be too fast, it is regular procedure to fasten a defective for six months preceding the inspection, and a rebate allowed the consumer for that period, based on the percentage of error found.

Under the present ordinance a consumer may procure a city inspection of his gas meter by depositing the fee of \$2.50, and if it is found too fast the fee is returned and the cost charged against the gas company. If the meter be correct, the deposit is retained by the city. The present ordinance is imperative with respect to rebates and in other features as to be altogether unsatisfactory, in the opinion of Mayor Dunne, even though the necessity for regular inspections has been the requests of consumers, and not become so imperative.

"The city's gas inspector, Mr. Dederick, has informed me that there were 78 meters inspected last month," said Mayor Dunne yesterday, "and that 45 per cent of the meters were found to be registering too fast. This, and the defects of the present ordinance, have convinced me that the necessity for a new meter inspection ordinance is imperative. It is about time that the people of Chicago should have protection, and the proposed ordinance has been framed for the purpose of affording such protection to the people. My findings defective registered on the average 3 per cent too fast."

"The present fee for inspection is \$2.50. This is as much as the average city bill of the small householder, and accordingly there is little inducement for any one to pay for an inspection. However, there was a great increase in the number of inspections asked over February of last year, when only three meters were submitted for examination. I attribute this to the fact that the public is better informed about the conditions, on account of the recent agitation on the question of the proper price to be charged for gas. The biennial inspection of meters will require a great deal of work, of course, but the expense will have to be borne by the gas companies."

The Fellowship of Dogs.

R. H. Bell, in the Culturist. I have seen a few wretches in my day; but I never saw one so utterly lost to decency that he could not be flattered by the friendly attentions of a strange dog.

There is some hope for the man who is capable of feeling ashamed in the presence of an honorable dog. That man has been a sinner, but he is not a scoundrel. His soul is still fit for expansion. His brain is something more than a dried nut. His heart has not turned entirely into a mass of rubber and varnish. If I am a noble dog show him marked favor he becomes "stuck up" almost immediately. If several dogs should display great respect for me, I might be tempted to associate with men. Contrariwise, should dogs generally be contemptuous of me, I should one bite him, he would not feel himself good enough to associate with snakes, but would forthwith get himself locked up as a victim of hysterical rabies; and the biennial inspection of meters will require a great deal of work, of course, but the expense will have to be borne by the gas companies."

TREATING EGYPT FOR FINANCIAL FRAMES.

London, March 9. I have been writing from Cairo details the political and financial complications that arose in Egypt over the Suez Canal and the Egyptian government's course to straighten them out.

THE ROOSEVELT BEARS AT NIAGARA FALLS

Tomorrow, the many thousands of children in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, who are following Teddy Bear, will have had no less a bear than the Roosevelt bears at Niagara Falls. They took their departure thence for Boston.

RE-ALIGNMENT IN PARTIES PREDICTED BY STEFFENS

Are the political parties of the day facing a re-alignment? asks Lucian Steffens. He will answer the question in his Washington correspondence to The Oregonian tomorrow. This expert investigator has already thrown new light on the political situation in Washington, and has demonstrated much that was already known to careful observers of national tendencies with his caustic satire. The reform wave that has been sweeping the country has not missed Washington, and the men who are lining up in the reform column and those who are the opponents of the reform will be pointed out by Mr. Steffens tomorrow.

WHAT THE OREGONIANS' GUESTS WILL SEE THIS SUMMER

Twenty-four young women will be taken on a memorable trip this summer as guests of The Oregonian. The trip will not only include a complete tour of Yellowstone Park, but delightful side trips will also be made to Boise and Salt Lake City. Tomorrow two full pages will be devoted to the details of the trip, and the standing of the contestants.

MUSIC, SOCIETY AND DRAMATIC REVIEWS

Society in Lent will be the theme of the social department of The Sunday Oregonian. Such is the daily gathering of guests that are looming up on the social horizon, wedding and items of a personal nature will make up the greater part of this department. Reviews of the week's theatrical attractions, announcements of coming attractions, small talk of the stage will be found on the dramatic page. Musical events of approaching concerts, and gossip of music and musicians will be covered in the music department.

REAL ESTATE AND BUILDING REVIEW

The Sunday Oregonian is devoting a page to the review of the week in real estate and building circles. Real estate in San Angelo is one who came to New York and dined with a well-known corporation lawyer, but as he afterward confessed, did not know exactly how to tell his hostess that he liked the dinner. "I thought and thought," he said, "but as last I got it. 'Madame,' I said to her, 'I have a fine fine dinner, but I just like eating a whole menu page out of the Ladies' Home Journal.'"

TWO PAGES OF SPORTING NEWS

Herbert W. Kerrigan will continue to write for the sporting pages of The Sunday Oregonian. He will leave soon for New York to join the Athens team, and during his trip abroad will write a series of articles, which will cover not only the Olympic games, but also the athletics of foreign countries. All the news of the world in sports will be found on the sporting pages.

SOME THINGS IN THE OREGONIAN TOMORROW

First and best, the most comprehensive telegraphic news service by the Associated Press, and special correspondents of any Pacific Coast newspaper; then the customs department, and the best features, that can be brought.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Commencing Sunday, March 18, George Ade, America's most popular humorist, will write for The Sunday Oregonian a series of 12 letters from Europe. Mr. Ade's reputation for his already famous writer.

ROOSEVELT'S "YOUNG MAN" AT ALBANY

Dealer Marshall contributes a very readable article on James W. Wadsworth, Jr., Speaker of the New York Assembly, who will have much to do with shipping insurance legislation in the coming year. A Yale man, practical farmer, sportsman, soldier, and shrewd politician he has become famous.

MOST PROMINENT COUPLE IN THE WORLD

King Edward and Queen Alexandra were married 43 years ago today. Mr. Warwick James Price writes of the prominent personality. Not the least interesting portion of his letter is a quotation giving their own opinion of their character.

CLUB TO PROMOTE AERIAL NAVIGATION

Plans and purposes of America's Aero Club, which has for its object of securing to the United States the honor of turning out the first practical airship; illustrated with pictures of the club's activities in its ships that navigate the air.

SIMPLY FOR MENTAL AMUSEMENT

One page of matter in lighter vein including the first of a series of John Henry stories in slang by Hugh McHugh, and a series of articles