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## PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1927.

**MR. ROOSEVELT AT INDIANAPOLIS.**  
 Except for some introductory comments to the members of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, President Roosevelt's Memorial Day speech at Indianapolis deals with the railroad question, and nothing else. It is pleasant to note, in passing, his apt tribute to Governor Oliver P. Morton, of Indiana, whose great services to his country are almost never remembered by this generation as they should be. The copperhead element was very strong in Indiana. Their organization, known as "Knights of the Golden Circle," paralyzed the state government for a time and controlled the Legislature. Bull Connor, who made his name by leading his personal credit, to supply his full quota of troops to the armies of the Union and was one of Lincoln's most constant allies and valued advisers.

Turning to the railroad question, the President remarks that there can be "no averting the course that has been marked out" in his messages and in the laws enacted during the last six years. "There will be no halt in the forward movement toward a full development of this policy." He asserts that every suit undertaken against the lawless corporations "will be met with the facts, with every law dealing with corporations or railroads that has been put upon the statute-books during the last six years has been a step in the right direction." He states boldly that these laws and the suits that have been brought under them are in the interest of the people, of the stockholders and of property in general; because such a course, being manifestly just and truly conservative, tends off destructive radicalism while it secures the rights of all. Therefore the Government will not "allow its efforts to be broken by the railroad-wreckers," like Mr. Hargravin, for example, "who by clever swindling devices robs investors, oppresses wage-workers and does injustice to the general public." The President's mind is so well made up on this point that he returns to it again and again in the course of the speech. "Wherever evil-doers can be, they shall be brought to justice; and no criminal, high or low, whom we can reach, will receive immunity." And again later on: "There will not be the slightest let-up in the effort to hunt down and punish every dishonest member of the class."

Mr. Roosevelt does not believe that this course will harm honest business in the least degree. On the contrary, he asserts that the enforcement of open and just management of the railroads is the only sure foundation for their lasting prosperity, and in this every man of sound sense must concur with him. The disclosure of railroad mismanagement and corruption may have lessened the value of some securities, "but those who complain should put the blame where it belongs—upon the misdeeds which are done in darkness and not upon the investigations which bring them to light. The administration is responsible for turning on the light, but not for what the light showed." It is better, is it not, to ferret out the evils and deal with them while they are remediable than to wait until the only possible remedy is revolution?

The President expressly repudiates all desire for National construction or operation of railroads, but he believes that the Federal Government must have "full power of supervision and control over the railroads down an interstate business." In his opinion "the movement to regulate railroads by law comes to stay." The people of this country have made up their minds to exercise a closer control over all kinds of public-service corporations." He advocates rules to prevent over-capitalization, and asks for valuation of their physical properties, supervision of rates, publication of accounts and wholesome regulation of the time and pay of workmen. In his remarks upon the valuation of the railroads Mr. Roosevelt does not make himself entirely clear to the reader. It is impossible to discern from his speech why he would have it done. The value of the road, he says, "is not an efficient measurement of a rate, and he seems to hold that it is only one element to be considered, while the earning power, franchises, original cost," are equally important.

To make the capitalized franchises of a corporation the measure of its rates is altogether wrong. This is the principle which Master Manton adopted in his report upon the gas rate in New York. It forces the public to pay interest upon the fraction of sovereignty which it has delegated to the corporation. The value of the franchise, whatever it may be, belongs to the public. The concession of its use to a corporation is a favor, and a very great one. To compel the public to pay interest upon its own property is nothing short of monstrous. Again, to make the earning power of a railroad the basis for rates is to reason in a circle, because the earning power depends upon the rates. The admission of this principle would forever preclude any reduction of rates. Below the standard which they had once reached, no matter how unjustly, they could never fall. It is equally absurd to make the original cost of a road the measure of rates. Nobody would dream of basing such a charge in any other business. The original cost may involve fraud, extravagance, theft. By gifts of public land or by bonuses from individuals and towns the original cost may have been reduced to nothing so far as the owners are concerned. Hence if they are permitted to charge a high rate, when the investment is extravagant, they ought to charge none at all where there was no investment.

In treating of over-capitalization Mr. Roosevelt makes another curious slip in his logic. He says that the water part of the National wealth "is important stock can create wealth, why stop it? The fact is, of course, that "water" never did and never can create wealth. It simply transfers wealth from those who create it to the juggler who issues the fictitious stock.

**TURN-OVER ORACLES.**  
 Behold worthy oracles of the people, four years ago tracing up their hands in horror at the thought of altering the new charter, now boosting changes. Sixteen amendments are offered to the voters. They are in instrument Mr. J. N. Neal, Mr. A. L. Mills, Mr. C. E. S. Wood and patriots of their rank breathe fire and destruction on all who then denied that the charter was the final essence of political wisdom, enduring as the laws of Moses and the testament of Christ, even if they are boosting amendments. So much for the sanctity of 423 sections of city law, framed for the aggrandizement of "special interests," franchisee buccaneers and "first families."

Very cleverly disguised was the effort four years ago to have the charter enacted by the Legislature without change of letter or word, after framed by the Charter Board (chiefly Teal and Mills). The sanctified charter might then have been altered so as to allow the people complete control of public utilities, and to limit the rates of service. All this was carefully prevented. It was quite important that the charter be not touched by unhalloved hands, lest it be "split wide open" and the fruits thereof lost. That was the idea of the "first families," and they see their newspaper organ to harass members of the Legislature who would not promise to keep hands off.

But now, when these "interests" are to be served by amendment, they turn about and boost for it. More than \$5,000,000 bonds are to be sold for their traffic. The people will pay them 4 per cent interest, and the public will be paid while the people will get benefits, perhaps, they are loading themselves up with debt for the profit of the special interests and first families. One of the new debts will be \$1,000,000 for boulevards and parks, for the use of rich and middle classes. The other is a 4 per cent interest paid by the public.

There is change of heart, indeed. The buccaneers have got all that's coming to them out of the charter, and now are willing to have it changed so that they can get some more. Boost the amendments, gentlemen. And on the other side, you have a wood and drawers of water, behold what has changed the gentlemen from fighting charter changes to boosting them.

**PORTLAND'S COMMERCIAL SUPREMACY.**  
 With more than a month's business still to be recorded, the receipts at the Portland Custom-House have already passed the million-dollar mark, and the remainder of the fiscal year is made certain that all previous records will be broken by more than \$300,000. These figures speak eloquently of the commercial position held by Portland in the Pacific Northwest. The imports and exports handled at this port, with the exception of a very small percentage of "in transit" freight, all represent business actually transacted by the merchants of this city. Instead of passing from ship to car or from car to ship, the freight at Portland is received and warehoused to be distributed as it is needed throughout the Pacific Northwest.

This system is the same as has been followed here since Portland first became the commercial and financial metropolis of the Pacific Northwest. It is not at all disparaging to the other ports which have sprung up in the territory that they have not succeeded in distancing this city, for there is no other port in the entire Northwest so admirably situated for serving the largest and richest portion of the territory from which all North Pacific traffic is drained. While the figures for the fiscal year ending June 30 are far in excess of those for any corresponding period, it is now a certainty that the year will be exceeded in the coming year. Full returns on the other ports in the Northwest are not at hand, but the official figures for the first four months of 1927 make an interesting showing as to the relative importance of the ports. For these months the receipts at the Portland Custom-House reached a total of \$419,171.83, compared with \$371,948.11 at Seattle and \$103,319.04 at Tacoma and \$517,385.26 for Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Port Townsend, Bellingham, Blaine, Port Angeles, Anacortes and eight other ports. For the same period, the Portland's customs receipts for the first four months of 1927 were \$52,771 greater than those of Seattle for the same period, and were four times as large as those of Tacoma, and were less than 20 per cent smaller than the combined receipts of eighteen Washington ports. Census figures based on direct estimates may be misleading, and even the figures compiled by the Government on population of cities are not always accurate. But the twentieth century-business man does not walk up

to the Custom-House and pay duties on any greater amount of merchandise than he receives. Neither does he buy postage stamps except for use in his business. With Portland's postoffice receipts exceeding those of any other city in the Pacific Northwest, and her Custom-House receipts averaging nearly \$500 per day greater than those of her nearest competitor, it is not difficult to determine which is the greatest city in the Pacific Northwest.

**WILD ANIMAL LITERATURE.**  
 It is to be hoped that the impetuosity of our beloved President and the verbosity of Dr. Long will not carry the matter to a point where their great controversy will come within the sphere of the Hague tribunal. That preposterous organization is already fairly well provided with work, and the possibilities of a deadlock on the subject under discussion are great indeed. In no other pastime or calling on earth is there so much liability of a discrepancy in statements as among the sportsmen with rod and gun. The bear that chases a man up a tree or into camp is always enormously larger than the one that is brought in dead, and we are all familiar with the immense size of the fish that got away.

The sportsman who wanders through the trackless woods cannot tell the size of the animal that he has killed, that is so lacking in the environment of a city, and it is possible that this feeling works into the stories which he tells after he gets back into cramped quarters again. It seems to be quite plain that the bears, wolves and other "varmints" encountered by the sportsman are of a different strain, or breed, from those which met Dr. Long. At least this is the charitable way to look at the matter. On the other hand, these intelligent animals, on which Dr. Long has exercised his mind-reducing powers, are vastly different from those which made the acquaintance of Ernest Seton, Thompson, or Seton Thompson Ernest, or Thompson Ernest Seton. He has not yet announced his 1927 style of wearing his name.

With the kaleidoscopic changes which are constantly being made in all branches of literature as well as in life, why should the art of telling animal stories still linger in the same old rut? Imagine a twentieth-century animal story-teller attempting to palm off on his juvenile hearers such a tale as old Homer, with his lyre, used to sing to the ancient Greeks about that sagacious horse that stood so long without hitching just outside the gates of Troy. Even that story of more recent date regarding Daniel and the lions is now generally used with a Mary G. Baker Eddy interpretation, and as for Pegasus, almost any schoolboy in the primary grades will tell you that, like Dr. Long's mouse-killing voyage, "there was no such critter."

Unfortunately for both of the contestants in this case, there is but little in the history of animal life or lore that can prove or disprove all of the stories that are told. The fact is that the man in the downy East play, "It's so, and I could prove it if old Bill Jones was alive." In the case of many of these animal story controversies "old Bill Jones" has been dead a good many years.

**SENSE AND NONSENSE.**  
 A story which comes from Virginia produces reflection. It is a tale of a child nine days old which performed the feat of speaking English "with perfect articulation," and then died. The words spoken were the names of some of its near relations, and particularly "heaven." The incident is inherently foolish, and cannot be believed except upon better evidence than the report supplies; still, it may be true. An abnormally precocious development of the vocal organs is not by any means impossible. There are cases on record of premature activity of other parts of the body no less marvelous. But whether the story is true or not is of small consequence. The interesting feature of the account is the effect of the marvel upon the family and neighbors of the child. They evidently believed it to be true and took it for the miraculous sign of some impending calamity, perhaps the death of the world. According to the account, the child is in fear and trembling, and great excitement prevails in the community. Probably they are ignorant people; certainly they are foolish; but the chances are that one could find some fools of the same sort in every village in the country. There are plenty of people who are continually upon the watch for such tales. The plain, ordinary sequence of cause and effect does not satisfy them. They have a ravenous appetite for the occult, and when nothing of the sort actually occurs they seek for it from astrologers, mediums and clairvoyants.

One of the best measures of a person's civilization is his feeling toward events of this kind. If he seeks to explain them by known laws and admits that the apparent mystery is due to his own lack of information, we call him an enlightened man. If he interprets them as portents, something new, we say that he has only half emerged from savagery. The rational mind sees wonder in everything, magic in nothing.

**A DAY AND ITS MISSION.**  
 Memorial day is observed each year, not only without abatement of the exercises and observances that have grown out of the idea which it name signifies, but with increasing demonstration of its beauty and tenderness. It is not, of course, to all who participate in its ceremonies a day of mourning, or even of regret; nor does patriotism combine with gratitude to dedicate the day exclusively to the soldiers of the Nation who have answered the last bugle call. It comes instead close to the heart of humanity in the home. It is tendered with recollections of those who have gone out to return no more, whether at the country's call or the call of Nature for the accounting that she in time exacts of all. It is thus that the day, with its associations, touches the heart and heart and experience of every age. There are those, and their name is multitude, who approach the day in holiday spirit, making each for himself or herself a new interpretation of the name that attaches to it. To these it is day, dedicated to pleasure in the various forms that men pursue of that name. To some this interpretation rests; to others recreation; to yet others it means visiting and feasting; and to all it is a day of idleness, sanctioned by law and approved by custom. Why should the old soldier, whose memory runs back to the incidents of a war in which he was a factor, feel gratified at the man to whom this struggle is a mere matter of history because the latter does not turn his steps toward the cemetery on that day, but who prefers,

instead, to lend his ear to the sound of a pipe and his voice to a scene of revelry? The world is wide. The echoes of far-off battlefields cannot reach every one, nor is it desirable that they should. The minds of men differ concerning many things of weightier import than the manner of observing any single day in the year can ever be.

An appellate court in Texas has held that in a damage suit for injury on a railroad the defense should be allowed to show that the plaintiff is a Christian Scientist, for "if the plaintiff had such control of her feelings, or thought she had, as to render her insensible to pain, when she stepped on to the train, that circumstance should have been considered by the jury in determining the extent of her suffering." Then if railroad companies are to be less liable to Christian Scientists than to others, they should make special reduced rates in their behalf. And upon the same view of the responsibilities of a railroad, it will be permissible to show in defense that the train crew carried a good supply of ointments which the injured passengers would take, if they chose, to lessen their suffering. The more morphia a victim takes the less he will suffer and the less will be the amount of damages to which he will be entitled. And if he refuses drugs which will deaden the sense of pain, this may be shown in mitigation of damages. The liability of a railroad depends no more upon its negligence and the extent of the injury than upon the same view of the table of the victim to resort to remedies for relief. To bruise and cut a passenger in a wreck near a hospital is less costly than to do the same things twenty miles away. At least this seems to be the law in Texas.

The president of the Wisconsin Bar Association suggests that "rotten bones" like Delaware and Rhode Island should be annexed to other states. But what states would submit to the imposition? If Wisconsin were adjacent to Rhode Island, would that state consent to a consolidation? To annex Delaware to the adjacent State of Pennsylvania might not be so disproportionate from the standpoint of political morals, but it would create a state disproportionately geographically. The best solution is for Delaware and Rhode Island to annex Henry and Burns, who will reform some of their honored citizens and make the two states fairly respectable.

**Herr Muhlberg, Under-Secretary of State, representing the German government, in a speech at Berlin Wednesday denied that Germany is threatening the peace of the world. He asserted that the German army and navy were never mobilized, and that Germany is only striving for honest competition in the world's markets everywhere, but "whether in Asia or Africa, we have only one aim—the open door." There might be less talk of the German menace to peace if after once getting through some of these open doors, Germany had preferred to remain quiet in the face of other nations that were a little slower in their movements.**

Heppner has to date this season shipped more than 80,000 sheep and 2,500,000 pounds of wool. During the same period he shipped and sold about 200,000 bushels of wheat marketed at that point during the season now drawing to a close. This showing for one of our interior cities, and especially one that was practically wiped out of existence by the Japanese earthquake, is a remarkable one, and is additional testimony that Oregon is the greatest state in the union.

The fifteen city lawyers in the City Hall have fixed things up so that the people next Monday will vote them in. They are to receive \$25 a month each, or \$300 a year, or \$400 a year for the whole pack, to \$100 a month each, or \$1,000 a year for the bunch. Judged by the high opinion the pack has of the value of its services, \$18,000 a year is a trifle. That sum indeed is small compared with the \$100,000,000 in child-like, or other big heaps of money in various places.

The feverish haste displayed by the land-seekers to get hold of a piece of the Southern Pacific grant is certainly a high tribute to the value of the timber. If the railroad officials are justified in the complacency with which they regard this rush, they will undoubtedly mark value up as soon as the question of ownership is settled.

A Roanoke, Va., dispatch tells of a nine-days-old infant, which had been declared a miracle. A Virginian of any age who can talk "perfect" English must be lonesome. Perhaps that was why the nine-days-old infant passed on to a better world after tarrying but a fortnight in Virginia.

A glimpse of the same old flag in the hands of veterans, young and old, serves to dispel any pessimism engendered by thoughts of a war with Japan. This Nation has fighting blood in its veins and sacrifices in its wars were not made in vain.

They who fear that railroad retrenchment will hurt the country should take heart. The Northern Pacific has just bought 100,000 tons of steel rails. James J. Hill hasn't lost confidence in the producing capacity of the great Northwest.

John Barrett may be right in his guess that the Democratic ticket in 1928 will be Bryan and Chamberlain. It may not be thought worth while to bother about the seven electoral votes of the Mississippi River.

Announcement comes that the Southern Pacific will not pay damages to passengers who were in a recent wreck. Have all the California courts been "fixed"?

## REAPING A GREAT WHIRLWIND.

Hearst's Responsibility for the San Francisco Situation.

San Francisco sowed the wind, and the fates helped her to reap the whirlwind. That administration which Hearst and Ruff put on her shoulders in her careless years has become an Old Man of the Sea in this time of toil. No one who knows her politics doubts that the present series of strikes is due to Ruff, Schmitz and their associates. Cornered and desperate, they are trying to blackmail justice by trying up the city's industries one after another. Never was industrial hardship so difficult for a city, but she prepared her own trouble. In 1901 she permitted one Pierce, labor agitator, and one Hearst, editor, to stir up such a row between capitalist and the laborer as few American communities have known. Ruff, the man of the hour, discovered how to turn all this to his own advantage, and the city was harry-ridden when Heaven sent her great calamity.

Hearst has never received his due credit for things in San Francisco. When J. D. Pierce, professional labor agitator, struck San Francisco in 1901, the city had a reputation for industrial harmony. There had never been a serious labor strike. Pierce, backed by Hearst, and assisted by one Father York, changed all that. The San Francisco laboring men embraced the ultraunion propaganda with the zeal of new converts. By the summer of that year the whole San Francisco waterfront was on strike, and the wharf rats and wharf floaters were breaking with iron bars the wrists of scab teamsters. Hearst stood behind this policy covertly and sometimes openly. His newspaper, the "Examiner," printed Hearstian statistics to prove that there was no violence along the waterfront; later it backed a union-labor campaign, and the candidates pledged themselves from the platform not to give police protection in another strike. Without Hearst there would have been no Ruff, no Schmitz, and no job in California for Henry. Later, much later, Hearst's California political managers fell out with the union-labor administration. The "Examiner" at that time ran a public campaign declaring that he first discovered the blackness of Ruff's heart.

## EN TOUR WITH GENERAL KUROKI.

Railroad Man Tells of the Japanese War Hero's Personality.

Washington (C. C.) Herald.—Thomas R. Witt, the Chicago passenger agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, who brought the Kuroki-MacArthur party through from the Windy City to Washington, is full of interesting experience in his first of the past decade or so personally escorting distinguished guests of the United States, he having traveled with Prince Henry of Prussia, as well as many of lesser note. "I found General Kuroki as interesting as the most interesting," said Mr. Witt. "He is a most attractive, unassuming, and thoroughly democratic personage—bold in battle, but modest and civil in life. Captain Tanaka, his interpreter, also is very engaging, and, as he speaks English, was quite companionable on the trip. It was Captain Tanaka who arrested 'Dick Little,' the daring newspaper correspondent, following the battle of Mukden. Little, with the Russian army, was in at the death, and the Japanese reaction he might see too much, and he allowed to linger among them, blindfolded him when they marched him through the lines. 'I'm pinched,' said Little, in English, when Tanaka took charge of him. It was new slang to Tanaka, and it made an everlasting hit with him. 'Little was sent down to Tokio, and from there he came on home. The two did not meet again till the Japanese came through Chicago. There were a thousand or more Japanese and Americans at the train, and as Tanaka gazed from the rear platform out over the crowd, he saw a slender man head and shoulders above all others in the crowd, was bowing very gravely and waving his hand in answer to the salutes. Tanaka suddenly yelled out: 'Dick! Big tall, little Dick! I'm pinched! O, we is me!' The main public crowd gathered in child-like, and a regiment of Russian Cossacks could not have kept the two apart. They plowed through the crowd till they met little Japanese army about the little Jap, kissing him on each cheek—the Russian form of greeting."

"This made a hit with Kuroki, and he and the Japanese officers were overjoyed. Little dragged the captain off toward a lemonade stand or something of the sort and wouldn't let him go till the train was starting. 'I didn't know the real thing was fine,' said the captain, as he climbed aboard. "That's good enough to follow the flag anywhere with the Constitution, as that Sultan of Sulu says."

## Injunction Against Braying Jackass.

Baltimore News.

A neighbor has secured an injunction against Michael, a braying jackass, owned by W. P. Keefe, of Sioux City, Iowa, which kept the neighborhood awake nights.

## Rooster Mothers Chickens and Snake.

Boston Post.

A whitebantam rooster, owned by Mrs. Otto Overmiller of Winthrop, Conn., is mothering 20 chicks and a small snake. He drives away other poultry and clucks like a hen.

## Deaver's Fifteen National Conventions.

Chicago Record-Herald.

There are to be 15 National conventions in Denver this Summer. And Denver is so far from the sources of supplies, as far as bottled goods are concerned, too.

**Is Carried in a Bag to Prison.**  
 Baltimore News.  
 "Barney" Bogan, sentenced in Camden, N. J., to two years for assault on a woman, was carried in a bag and had to be carried to State Prison in a bag.

**Ballad of Our Cooks.**  
 Puck.  
 Selenia's specialty was brooms  
 And scrubbing and adjusting,  
 Daily she cleaned the kitchen,  
 Industrious dusting,  
 With her ice-box door staid tight  
 And milk-stains washed as fast as they came.  
 We really loved Selenia,  
 But could not stand her temper.  
 Carlotta's voice was soft and low—  
 Most pacific creature;  
 A plus goodness seemed to show  
 Her countenance and bearing,  
 And clever, too, we never had  
 To see her make a mistake;  
 She's cruel to be obliged to add  
 She stole our silver tea-things.  
 Jennina—bless her—loudly scorned  
 Her own pretensions,  
 Her lightest moments were adorned  
 With Biblical quotations,  
 We liked Jennina—'I'll be bound  
 I sometimes think we would have  
 Kissed her fervor, but we found  
 She drank more than she should have.

## ALL MEN ARE NATURE FAKERS.

Some Instinct Leads Us to Invent Fish and Animal Yarns.

New York Tribune.  
 When the love of Nature was invented at the beginning of the last century nobody supposed it would prove as fertile in quarrels as theology, but here we have in the present day two schools of Nature-lovers hacking away at each other for all the world like orthodox and heterodox, or nominalists and realists, or any other famous protagonists of the past—hating each other for the love of Nature as their predecessors hated each other for the love of God. It is a sad end for an improving doctrine; if we were Nature fakery ourselves we should say that the animals were having a laugh at man or her.

The fact is, we suspect that this Nature faking is a very old device. The man who said, "Go to the ant, thou slug-gard," had probably been told by his father before him, and his grandfather, too, of the wisdom, virtue, prudence and thrift of the animals, and the belief in such marvels had become so widespread among the men of Nature that when his famous adoration nobody rose up and smote him as a Nature faker. Many a man whose soul has since revolted at that proverb has wished that he stood face to face with Nature and that Nature had been made against the Nature faker. It would have spared us much if our ancestors had fought out this battle a thousand generations ago, but that's all wrong; the ants and those ancestors visited upon us even unto this generation.

The wolf that suckled Romulus and Remus testifies to the old habit of Nature faking. The general belief that Nature so without rebuke from conscientious historians. They had Nature faking reduced to a religion in ancient Egypt. Herodotus tells us that the priests of Egypt related to him doubts by the veracious priests of that country, which clearly entitled the Father of History to be called the Father of Natural History too. Natural history has not been improved upon since his day in the scope of its imaginative quality, though much in detail. Aesop also was a peerless Nature faker. He has handed down to us a compendium of classic Nature faking.

But Nature faking does not require the inspiring influence of classic examples. He has handed down to us a compendium of these ancient personages or any of their modern followers to come back from a week's fishing excursion to a thoroughly equipped Nature faker. Nature herself made us all Nature fakery. Only civilization, self-restraint, respect for our reputations, a disciplined imagination and bridled tongue keep us within bounds.

## South Is After Panama Trade.

Panama Star and Herald.

Whether the Isthmus will ever come into note as a health resort may be a mooted question, but it stands ready to lack of visitors from the States, who come to inspect the canal work, and maybe to "study the country" with a view to exploiting business opportunities. There have been so many Congressmen here that they no longer make the people stare, and of commercial men there has been a glut. Briefly it may be said that the Isthmus is a health resort. It will be remembered that we lately published a cable dispatch from New Orleans stating that a movement was on foot in several towns of the South for establishing a line of steamers to ply between Colon and New Orleans, by means of which the exchange of commodities and the carrying of passengers would be facilitated. Briefly it may be shown that the proximity of the latter port, as compared with New York, should give it a decided advantage. The time element is of great account with merchants, and where consignments of perishable nature are concerned a saving of 48 to 60 hours in transit is a big item. In addition, to which freight rates to New Orleans should be lower than to New York, and this is one sound reason why the tendency of local trade should be gravitate to the Southern port.

## Smokers' Rights on Trolley Cars.

MOUNTABOR, Or., May 28.—(The Editor.)—In your issue of today one signing himself F. A. T. has made some remarks about those opposing smoking on car platforms. Presumably F. A. T. is a smoker, and maybe a chewer. If he uses "chew" as his writer on did he is probably not F. A. T., but quite another fellow. However, this writer is as averse to tobacco now as any who have never used it, and has many times suffered from severe headaches caused by untimely inhalations of second-hand pipe-stink, and this not on car platforms, but emanating from those on car platforms, front and rear, when the writer was as near as possible to the middle of the car. In closing I will remark that if F. A. T. could be made to smell himself, as others have so often done, he would not blame any one for feeling like annihilating him wherever and whenever they would find him smoking on any part of a car.

## ONE WHO IS NOT F. A. T.

Telephoning Doesn't Injure Hearing.

The question of whether the continual use of the telephone is injurious to the hearing has been the subject of an exhaustive investigation by a scientist at Copenhagen. An examination of 27 hello girls leads him to believe that continual telephoning does not damage the hearing. On the contrary, some deaf people are declared to have had their hearing materially improved owing to the practice of talking over the telephone. The following words from those incidental to telephone work.

## You are Probably a 50-Foot Statesman.

Dalles Optimist.

The Coos Bay Harbor newspaper, calls Fulton "a tricky piffling and crafty trimmer," because he says a 30-foot channel is enough for Coos Bay. And the same paper says H. M. Cole is a "brilliant statesman and a far-seeing diplomat," because he thinks they should have a 40-foot channel. We argue that they should have a 50-foot channel, so where do we come in?

## IN THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN TOMORROW

**TAKING "LITTLE BROTHER" TO SCHOOL.**  
 Full-page illustration in colors of a familiar scene.

**WHEN BIG AMERICANS GO A-FISHING.**  
 Kingly sport that is ineradicably among men of affairs.

**JUDGE GEORGE GRAY, EMINENT DEMOCRAT.**  
 Will residence in Delaware bar him from the Presidency?

**MODERN TRAGEDY AT THE COLONIAL.**  
 Another of Dr. Furnival's fascinating detective stories.

**FIFTY YEARS WITH THE SAME TWO WIVES.**  
 Golden wedding of a Mormon trio still living happily.

**GROVER CLEVELAND AT THE AGE OF SEVENTY.**  
 Full-page picture of the ex-President and his family.

**STRANGE ROMANCE OF ELEN TERRY.**  
 A bride at 17; now a grandmother, and once more a bride.

**THE GREAT WHITE CITY OF AFRICA.**  
 Frank G. Carpenter writes of Cosmopolitan Tunis.

**BROWNIE CLOWN IN BROWNITOWN.**  
 Palmer Cox's original conceit paints some caricatures.

**THE ROOSEVELT BEARS RETURN HOME.**  
 Last of Eaton's clever jingles and Culver's pictures.

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## IS SOCIALISM ON THE DECLINE?

As It Spreads Out, It Seems Also to Be Getting Thinner.

Chicago Chronicle.  
 Organized labor is to make a novel demonstration on July 4 in Chicago. Having observed how fond the capitalists were of entertaining statements at their banquets, the Building Trades Council at a recent meeting projected a similar banquet in the interest of labor. What is more, it was intimated that one object was to show the world that the laboring men are "not all socialists and union-busters."

This was an intimation, of course, that the number of socialists in the labor unions was much smaller than is generally supposed and if this were not the fact it would not have been safe to make the intimation. Moreover, it recalls a statement made recently by Palmer Cox, the cartoonist, that he had been informed by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor that within the last 12 years the number of socialists in labor unions had decreased from 33 per cent to 8 per cent.

These incidents raise the question whether or not socialism is declining in the country, and the answer must be both yes and no. It is said that when an old man takes on fat he is going to die, and there is a kind of expansion in religious and other movements which indicates decay and approaching extinction. There was an old Methodist preacher in this locality a few years ago who, in expressing abhorrence of the higher criticism and the broad church, said he had