The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8, 1908.

OUR MAJESTIC RULERS.

Two venerable bodies that occupy certain conspicuous places in our Government—the Senate and the Supreme Court—have great dislike of innovations, and naturally also of those persons who attempt them. Never mind abuses. What was good enough for our fathers remains good enough for us. To propose to correct or abate an abuse, or even a custom, which has existed from antique time is to attack the Constitution itself. President Roosevelt is extremely obnoxious to the ancient sensibilities of the Senate and of the Supreme Court. Hence the gray-beards of those bodies rebuke him whenever they can. They may make him President for another term.

The Senate and the Supreme Court have always been the defenders of the old order. Consequently they are obstacles, invariably, to the removal of heavy abuses that grow up under our Government, as under all others, in course of time. Customs, institutions, uses and abuses, claims of property and wealth and usages of business, insisting on freedom from control of law, find their strongholds in the Senate and in the Supreme Court. Methods of the early time, which, with the new and vast developments of our industrial and commercial life, have grown into enormous abuses and oppressions, are now defended as vested rights. Through the Senate and the Supreme Court our Government, since the vast growth of wealth, has taken on an aristocratic and plutocratic character. The plain people and the common people find the Senate and the Supreme Court standing as barriers against changes and reforms. Yet there is nothing new about this. It has been so from an early day. Monuments of these obstructions are planted along the whole highway of our National progress. The Dartmouth College case, which long was supposed to have established a theory of vested rights forever, was one; the Dred Scott case was another; others still were found in the difficulty of forcing the Senate to give up the defense of slavery and the support of the silver fallacy. Again, the Supreme Court became the citadel of the greenback delusion, and now it takes its stand against the justice of the effort to enforce a reasonable responsibility on employers for the protection and safety of the working people of the country. The old patricians and aristocrats of the Senate hate Roosevelt, as the old slaveholders and their apologists hated Lincoln. And the Supreme Court of today is anchored as firmly in its devotion to wealth and to the interests of the wealthy classes as it was in the days when all its authority was devoted to support of slavery and to the doctrine that the negro had no rights that the white man was bound to respect. Whether, in the long run, we shall still have a Senate and a Supreme Court will depend. These branches of the Government are now the rulers of the people, and recognize little or no responsibility to them.

President Roosevelt has repeatedly urged a reasonable law for enforcement of liability of employers for accidents to men in their employment. The movements of modern industrial life have become so complex and so vast that no man employed in these great services can take care altogether of himself. His life depends at every movement on the vigilance and fidelity of others. In his messages to Congress President Roosevelt has repeatedly presented this situation. He has urged that the Government, in all its own work, should provide limited but definite compensation to all workmen, within the scope of Federal power; and he has believed that the constitutional power of Congress to regulate commerce should be employed also for enforcement of reasonable measures of protection against accidents to such as may be engaged in these duties or services, and for reasonable compensation for accidents therein. A weak law to this effect now stands on the statute book; and the President in his latest message pointed out its inadequacy and urged that in justice to employes the law should be strengthened and made more effective. He cited the practice or usage in other countries in this class of cases; and said that "our practice of putting the entire burden of loss of limb or life upon the victim or the victim's family was a form of social injustice in which the United States stands in unenviable prominence."

But the Supreme Court now steps in to declare that this mode of protection to life and limb, and compensation for loss of the same, is not within the right of Congress under the constitutional power given it to regulate commerce among the states. Congress may indeed regulate commerce between the states, but not the relations between master and servant engaged in such commerce. The Senate, of course, will agree with this, but the people of the United States will not; nor will the House of Representatives, which does not feel itself so far beyond the reach of the people to ignore or defy them.

But it was only a bare majority of the Supreme Court that thus laid down the law to the people of the United States. Of nine justices four dissented. More will dissent, after a while; and the common sense and necessary doctrine that specific grant of a power carries with it the right and the power to do everything necessary to render it effective, will be enforced herein also.

This is an iniquitous decision, as iniquitous as that in the Dred Scott case, and will have as profound an effect on the country. First, the people will resent anew this assumption of the Supreme Court that it is the absolute ruler of the country, above their power. Second, they will insist on justice for working people in employments necessarily dangerous, yet employments that are indispensable to the commerce, industry and welfare of the country. If anything could create a universal demand for Roosevelt for another term it is the attitude of the Senate and of the Supreme Court towards measures that he has urged for the welfare of the industrial workers of the country against the pretensions and assumptions of corporate wealth and power. Every old institution, that feels no responsibility to the people, is a supporter of every old abuse. It is universal history; verified again and again in our own history by the Senate and Supreme Court of the United States.

A GRATIFYING REPORT.

Patrons of the State University, and, indeed, the citizens of Oregon generally, will read with satisfaction the report of Dr. J. W. Harris, health officer of Eugene, covering the year 1907. It is shown that there were relatively few cases of contagious diseases in the locality covered during the year, while the death rate was but 5.03 to 1000 population.

The presence and menace of typhoid fever have hung heavily over Eugene for several years, owing to a contaminated water supply. Two years ago the disease was epidemic and many deaths resulted from it. This conditions of afairs bore heavily upon the attendance at the State University and caused the sorely beset faculty much concern. Together with leading citizens, however, the faculty faced the situation boldly. Students were advised and even enjoined to drink only the boiled water that was provided for their use and an earnest effort was made to purify the water supply in the reservoirs and mains. The result is shown in the constantly lessening number of cases of typhoid in Eugene during the past eighteen months and finally in the report of the health officer, which records but nine cases during the year covered. This, to be sure, is nine too many, and shows that typhoid germs still haunt the water supply—presumably that taken from wells, of which there is still a number in use in the city. But it shows a marked advance over the conditions two or three years ago, when there was a typhoid patient in almost every house in the principal residence streets.

RAILROAD DELINQUENCY.

The report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, transmitted to Congress Monday, is an interesting document, but it throws no light on and offers no encouragement concerning two features which are of vital interest to the Pacific Northwest. The advance in freight rates is one "which the Commission is wholly without power to prevent" under existing statutes, and the other is inadequate facilities for handling the business of the country. While making no suggestions for the relief of future freight congestion due to car shortage and inadequate trackage, the report admits that "if business undertakings proportionately increase during future years, the railroads of the country must add to their tracks, cars and other facilities to an extent difficult to estimate." With striking fitness for the Oregon situation the report continues:

> Manifestedly, it is an economic waste for the farm, the mine or the factory to put labor and capital into the production of commodities which cannot be transported to market with reasonable dispatch. If the present output cannot in many instances be transported except after ruinous delay it is not reasonable to presume that capital will readily seek investment in new undertakings. It may conservatively be stated that the inadequacy of transportation facilities is little less than alarming.

In so far as this part of the country is concerned, we have for the past two years been suffering all of the ills that have been pointed out by the Commission, and it is somewhat disappointing that the report contains no hopeful suggestion by which relief might be invited. The position of the railroads is not dissimilar from that of the individual in the story who could see no necessity for repairing his leaky roof in dry weather and was unable to make the needed repairs when it rained. For years the roads have been working up to the limit of their facilities and something in excess. This pleasing condition of affairs made it unnecessary to put forth any effort to secure business, and incidentally made it possible to maintain rates far in excess of what would prevail had the roads been obliged to encourage business. Enormous earnings were reflected in big dividends, and big dividends in turn encouraged stock speculation, which seemed a more alluring game than railroad building.

Why increase the facilities or repair the roof, when everything was running smoothly under a Summer sky? But now the pendulum is swinging the other way. The long sidings of many of the big railroads are crowded with cars, but they are no longer waiting for the over-worked motive power to move them on. They are laid up to await the return of better times. There are more cars available than are needed, and the decreased earnings of the roads have cut down the dividends and reduced the funds which might have been available for new construction. The rainy season has set in and repair of the roof at this time is too difficult a task to be attempted.

But so far as Central and Southeastern Oregon, the Coast regions, and other neglected parts of the state are concerned, there is aversion to dwelling under the leaky roof of existing facilities, and, if the Government can find no plan by which we can secure relief, it may be necessary to go back to first principals and from a small beginning work into a broad and comprehensive railroad system of our own. The domain of the railroad ends at tidewater, and all sections of Oregon are reasonably close to places where the ships come for Oregon products which are distributed throughout the world.

FANTASTIC JUSTICE.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Williamson case is one of those feats of judicial prestidigitation which make the cynic smile and the lover of his country weep. But smiles and tears are alike ineffectual to stay the consequences of this triumph of fantastic logic over commonsense, or to prevent similar social catastrophes in the future. The decision illustrates the truth which is gradually dawning upon the country that the Supreme Court is an absolute ruler, above public opinion, above all considerations of the common welfare, and subject solely to its own interpretation of what the law is or should be. No ruling body ever existed in any other country with a power so nearly unlimited as that of our Supreme Court. The Williamson decision naturally excites jubilation among those who have had a hand in the land frauds, but all other lawbreakers find encouragement and comfort in it. It strengthens the feeling which so many other recent judicial decisions have fostered that our courts of last resort may be depended upon to interpose every possible obstacle to the punishment of crime and make the administration of justice as intricate and expensive as they can.

The point of law upon which the Williamson verdict was reversed is one of those delicate scholastic subtleties which lawyers delight in and which the common mind detests. A person who wishes to acquire public land under the timber and stone act of 1878 must begin by "filing" upon the tract. Later he makes his "final proof." The statute forbids him to agree to sell the tract before he files upon it; but he is not forbidden by the timber and stone act to agree to sell it at any time between filing and final proof. When a man flies upon a tract he must swear that he has not previously agreed to sell it, and if he swears falsely he has committed perjury, because this oath is required by law. But when he makes final proof he can swear falsely that he has not agreed to sell the land and this will not be perjury because the latter oath is not required by law. It is required by a rule of the land office, but the land office cannot make laws. The courts draw a clear distinction between falsehood and perjury.

Now perpend. The Williamson indictment charged the defendant with conspiracy to suborn perjury. In other words, he was accused of hiring men to commit perjury. The indictment alleged that the perjury was committed by divers persons in swearing falsely, when they filed upon land under the timber and stone act, that they had not already agreed to sell it. If the evidence at the trial had been confined to this accusation all would have been well. Or, rather, all might have been well, though perhaps some loophole would have been discovered even then. To swear falsely at the time of filing, that no agreement to sell has been made, is perjury; and it was proved at the trial that certain persons had so sworn and that the defendant had hired them to do it. Hence he had actually suborned perjury. All this we say was proved. The charge made in the indictment was verified by the vidence, and if the prosecution had only stopped at that point the Supreme Court would have had to seek for some other logical evasion and perhaps none could have been discovered, though that is supposing a great deal.

But the prosecution did not stop at the psychological point. It went further. It called witnesses to prove that applicants for land had also sworn falsely when they made their final proof; and this was fatal. The dull brain of the layman naturally conceives that this ought to have strengthened the case. To prove that the applicants swore as many false oaths as they possibly could, swore falsely both in filing and in making final proof, would seem to make assurance doubly sure. But the Supreme Court is of a different opinion. This august tribunal holds that, no matter how much perjury you prove at the time of filing, if you go on to the time of final proof and show that falsehood was committed then, you vitiate all that you have accomplished. In other words the trial of a land-fraud case is a trick of legerdemain where it is vastly worse to do too much than it is to do too little. It is like the athlete in the vaudeville show who tries to grab a handkerchief in his mouth as he turns a summersault. If he grabs it all is well. If he touches it with his nose instead of his teeth he must try again.

Looked at somewhat otherwise, the Williamson case stands thus: Suppose a man is accused of twelve misdeeds. Eleven of them are crimes under the law of the land. One of them is not a crime, though it is an offense against the moral law. You make good your proof of the eleven crimes. You also make good your proof of the twelfth act, which is not a crime. Now in all reason, ough your proof of the twelfth act to annul and destroy your proof of the other eleven? The Supreme Court says it ought. The game must be played exactly so. The magic rites must be performed precisely according to the set formula. If there is a variation of one iota, then the ghosts will not walk and the incantation must be begun all over again. This is the sort of justice we enjoy in America. Is it any wonder that our record of crimes scandalizes the civilized world?

The Trans-Missouri Dry Farming Congress will hold its second annual session at Salt Lake, January 22 to 26. Dry farming holds a place separate and distinct from irrigation farming, and the Trans-Missouri organization is engaged in promoting plans for bringing under cultivation vast areas of land remote from water courses and unavailable for irrigation work. Scientific soil culture and the saving of the moisture which falls in the form of snow have demonstrated that there are great possibilities for dry farming, and the time is coming in the not far distant future when reclamation of lands available for irrigation will have reached a point where dry farming will become a necessity for those who are no longer able to secure good locations either naturally or artificially irrigated. Both Oregon and Washington have much land that will some day be devoted to dry farming, and for that reason the efforts of the Trans-Missourians will be appreciated.

Four of the largest diamond and jewelry firms in New York have been forced into bankruptcy on account of the unprecedented falling off in the demand for high-priced gems. This liquidation calls attention to but one of the many forms of suffering that the rich have been obliged to endure since the financial stringency began. Not only are they unable to buy diamonds for favors at their card parties, etc., but, in many cases, they have been so hard hit that entire families are unable to live in New York City and have fled in despair to European Winter resorts, where the standard of expenditure needed to keep up appearances is much lower than in New York. Dollars are scarcer in Manhattan Island than they were last Summer, but it is consoling to know that there will also be a shrinkage in the number of cads made snobbish through wealth.

The Port of Portland has for the past three years been singularly free from the sailor abuses which gave this port such a hard name throughout the world. There have been occasional complaints of minor offenses, but they have been speedily corrected by the boarding-house men who have at all times been under the watchful eye of Captain Hoben of the Boarding-house Commission. A number of ex-prizefighters are now endeavoring to secure a license to engage in the business. The competition thus engendered might result advantageously to some of the ship captains, but not to the shipowner, and the port would hardly gain anything by the numerous rows that would result from two sets of boarding-house men pulling and hauling at "Poor Jack." There is some merit in the rule of letting well enough alone.

The British ship Port Patrick, finding insufficient room on the Pacific Ocean for herself and the Columbia River lightship, collided with the latter, which was stationary, and could not get out of the way. As a result, the Port Patrick has limped into Esquimalt, British Columbia, with head gear damaged, plates sprung and cargo damp with sea water. Viewed on its merits, this is a plain case of disaster due to poor navigation and for which no port can be held responsible. But the able seamen who conduct underwriting establishments in Europe will charge the trouble up against the Columbia bar, and their time-honored course in the matter will, of course, be approved by one or two Puget Sound newspapers, which never miss making opportunities for saying something unpleasant about the Columbia River.

A committee of schoolgirls at Pendleton, engaged in the study of literature, and wishing to know about the writers of Oregon, are to have "An Oregon Day" on or about February 7. They request the editor of The Oregonian to give them some information about his life and writings, for use on that occasion. His life has been too uninteresting and uneventful for particular mention. As to his writings, during the past forty-three years he has done something on the editorial page of The Oregonian and has sent sundry articles, on request, to various magazines. His other works haven't amounted to much,—just a few such productions as Gray's Elegy, Bunyan's Pilgrims' Progress, Goldsmith's Deserted Village, and a few novels, such as The Vicar of Wakefield, Tom Jones and The Last of the Barons.

A special committee of the New York School Board, after due investigation, has decided that the rod judiciously wielded is not only a good but a necessary adjunct to school discipline. This decision is based upon opinions that represent the experience of hundreds of teachers in the public schools of the larger cities of the United States. This is a return, under proper restrictions, to the old methods by which unruly boys were molded into law-abiding men.

Says a San Francisco dispatch concerning the California Safe Deposit & Trust Company: "Investigation by the grand jury revealed a course of frenzied finance and reckless banking almost without a parallel." Probably the members of the grand jury had heard of the Title Bank in Portland, therefore qualified their report by inserting the word "almost."

The nomination of "Chris" Schuebel to be United States Attorney for Oregon is a fine joke—a joke on three-fourths of the delegation in Congress and the entire Republican party of Oregon. Moreover, it almost equals the joke on Schneider.

There are some Republicans who will complain that President Roosevelt listened to Senator Bourne in the Schuebel matter. If they didn't expect the President to listen to Bourne, why did they send Bourne there to be listened to?

Let the unholy carpers at Law-Giver U'Ren understand once for all that he is the real thing. He is running the state, including the so-called Republican party. Ask Schuebel.

Treasurer Steel and Secretary Benson are going to put out Superintendent Looney, of the State Reform School, to make room for one of their friends. Brother Ross, perhaps.

PROHIBITION THAT IS IMPROVED

Unlike South, Sober by Law, 25,000 Railroad Men Sign Pledge.

New York Tribune.

While in Alabama, Georgia and Oklahoma officers of the law were pouring untold gallons of spirits into the gutters on New Year's Eve, a very different sort of prohibition campaign was moving toward its culmination in the North. It is reported that 25,000 employes of the Northwestern Railroad Company have signed the total abstinence pledge, a monster copy of which, with the 25,000 signatures affixed, is on its way to the president of the corporation. The reason for this wholesale resolution is said to be found in the rule adopted by the railway officials in reducing their forces to the usual Winter basis. All total abstainers, according to this rule, were retained; only drinking men were stricken from the payrolls. When those accustomed to indulge in alsoholic stimulants learned of this policy they took thought among themselves, and the earnestness of their self-searching is reflected in the great New Year's resolution.

Of these two prohibition campaigns we prefer the Northern one. Its advantages appear both in the efficacy of its tactics and in its freedom from any suspicion of injustice. Prohibition by statute is difficult to obtain, even in outward form, because abstainers and nonabstainers are equally concerned in the enactment of laws. And the enforcement of law-made prohibition is still more arduous because citizens of different proclivities and habits are found among the police, on the juries and on the bench. But when an employer, seeing the greater efficiency of abstainers, decrees that the permanent jobs in his business shall go to such men abstinence acquires a new motive and attractiveness. The drinking man cannot complain that his rights are being trampled upon by this office rule, as he plausibly may under a prohibition law. The employer simply asserts his right to pick the men whom he thinks best fitted for his business. If he fancied that vegetarians were the best bookkeepers no carnivorous accountant could well protest. If applicants for places resent the rule they are free to seek employment where drinking is not supposed to be detrimental. The fact that many railroads and other large industrial corporations have adopted policies much like that of the Northwestern may have more important consequences than all the prohibition laws ever enacted.

NEW YORK'S SKYSCRAPER AREA

Each New Building Erected Brings Business to the Others.

Chicago Record-Herald.

In an account of the recent addition to the skyscrapers in a small area just above the Battery in New York there is a list which includes one building 41 stories high, one 32 stories, one 28 stories, two 23 stories, two 22 stories, one 21 stories and three 20 stories. The lowest of these buildings would rank with the tallest in Chicago and, of course, they have added enormously to the city's office space. But it is said that there is a demand for the new offices as soon as the buildings are completed, and there must be a steady encouragement to builders since the tendency apparently is to cover all the available lots with skyscrapers, and there are several under construction in addition to those that have been recently completed.

The theory of a possible oversupply is met by a writer for the New York Evening Post with the declaration that in that particular section of the city building cannot be overdone, and the further assertion that each new building actually brings business to the others. He then justifies his belief as follows:

> When the writer sold the Lord's Court building for John T. Williams, he recalled the fact that he originally built it 15 stories high, with plans accepted for four stories more, but never had it filled until the Broad-Exchange building was erected, adjoining, which immediately increased the demand for space in both buildings to such an extent that it was found necessary to add the four stories, and the 19 stories were thereafter fully rented.
>
> Birds of a feather flock together in office buildings, as elsewhere, and tenants naturally bring tenants, because as the occupants increase the building gains in reputation as a business center. This is noticeable in Chicago, as well as in New York, and there is the necessary condition here for building activity in a vigorous growth. The downtown district, which is very small, in comparison with the area of the city and the business needs of the population, must be largely rebuilt to provide the accommodations that will be required in the near future.

Senator Knox Resembles Grandson.

Pittsburg Dispatch in New York World.

Senator P. C. Knox, who has Presidential aspirations, has just seen for the first time Philander Chase Knox 3d, his grandson, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Reed Knox. The baby is 3 weeks old. The Senator was holding it gingerly on his lap when Judge James Young, who accompanied him, declared enthusiastically:

"Senator, that child is the very image of you."

Senator Knox blushed proudly, gazed at the baby and said:

"Yes, we do resemble each other about the head."

There isn't a hair on the top of the head of either.

The Oldest Peer.

Kansas City Journal.

The oldest British peer is Lord Gwydyr, aged 97. He was 5 years old at the time of the battle of Waterloo and enjoys the distinction, probably unique, of being the only person now living who was present at the coronation of four monarchs. It is related of this venerable individual that when a boy 10 years old he went from the gardens of Gwydyr House, Whitehall, to the Speaker's steps at Westminster in his grandfather's state barge, manned by liveried oarsmen, and was present in Westminster Abbey when the crown was placed on the head of George IV, acting as page to his grandfather, Lord Gwydyr.

Jilted, but She Doesn't Cry.

Washington (Pa.) Dispatch in New York World.

Charles Davis failed to appear at his intended wedding. His bride-to-be, Elizabeth Clark, was ready, and nearly 200 guests were at the residence of Mrs. A. H. Bover, Miss Clark's stepmother. Instead of breaking down and crying, Miss Clark, when informed that the wedding must be postponed indefinitely, told the guests she was glad she had discovered "Charlie is a quitter" before it was too late.

The Dawn of Peace.

Selected.

Put off, put off your mail, O Kings,
And beat your brands to dust!
Your hands must learn a surer grasp,
Your hearts a better trust.

Oh, bend aback the lance's point,
And break the helmet bar;
A noise is in the morning wind
But not the note of war.

Upon the grassy mountain paths
The glittering hosts increase—
They come! They come! How fair their feet!
They come who publish peace.

And victory, fair victory,
Our enemies are ours!
For all the clouds are clasped in light,
And all the earth with flowers.

Aye, still depressed and dim with dew;
But wait a little while,
And with the radiant, deathless rose
The wilderness shall smile.

WHITELAW REID AS DIPLOMAT

Newspaper Editor's Success as Speechmaker at London Embassy.

Washington (D. C.) Star.

The presence of Whitelaw Reid in the country on leave makes it timely and agreeable to refer to the distinguished success with which he is meeting the obligations of the most important of our diplomatic posts. We have for years sent of our best to represent us in England, and their services have largely contributed to the establishment of the very cordial and desirable relations that now exist between the two great English-speaking nations. In 50 years our commission has been in the hands of Adams, the publicist and statesman; Lowell, the poet and critic; Welch, the great merchant; Phelps and Choate, leaders of the bar; Bayard, the political leader, and John Hay, the poet, journalist and man of wide and general accomplishments. The list is a source of pride to all Americans.

Mr. Reid, in all that he has done in England, has fully justified the choice which added his name to this roll of honor. His course in office has been careful, and his part in both the diplomatic and the social life of London played with the ease and finish of a trained man of affairs, thoroughly grounded in both the history and the conventions of the times. The American embassy in London during his occupancy has been representative of our best estate, and our best feelings toward our British cousins.

The British public has grown to expect, and apparently to enjoy, addresses from our representatives, and it calls upon them in circumstances demanding their best powers of response. Mr. Reid has met this obligation quite as felicitously as he has any of the others. His addresses have been marked by taste and wide reading, and a gift of expression which years ago won him a place in the front rank of American journalism. Mr. Reid is certain to receive during his visit on this side many evidences of the high appreciation in which he is held by his countrymen.

TELLS ABOUT HIS "JACK-POT."

Mr. Johns Says He Doesn't Want to Get Into Another.

BAKER CITY, Or., Jan. 7.—(To the Editor.)—I have been patiently waiting for one of my associates to give The Oregonian the desired information as to what is meant by "jack pot."

Under the facts stated by him, I do not think Dr. Moore makes a correct use of the term. He is quoted as saying that all the fees paid to the State Medical Board are placed in a "jack pot" and divided equally among its members. This must be sui generis with the Medical Board. It is certainly an exception to the rule to have an equal division of the funds in a "jack pot."

I am at a loss to know why The Oregonian should refer this question to Eastern Oregon. Judging from the past, it is very apparent that people in Eastern Oregon have but little knowledge about "jack pots."

Personally, my own knowledge has been limited and very expensive. According to my understanding of the term, about two years ago I got into a "jack pot" with my friend Mr. Withycombe, Mr. Geer, Mr. Schelbrede and the late lamented Harvey Brown. I have always thought that "pot" was mine until Brown came in and that then both Mr. Withycombe and Mr. Geer, etc., run out on me.

In my judgment, when a Republican becomes a candidate for a primary nomination to a state office, he will get into a "jack pot," especially if he is an Eastern Oregon man. While I thank The Oregonian and my other friends for honorable mention as a candidate for Congress, I have no desire at this time to get into another "jack pot"—and prefer to practice law and live in Baker City.

CHARLES A. JOHNS.

King Edward as a Farmer.

Westminster Gazette.

The rich crop of prizes which the King's cattle and sheep have won at the Bingley Hall show, Birmingham, is the latest demonstration of His Majesty's success as a farmer, of which he is so deservedly proud. When the King began breeding, nearly 40 years ago the Sandringham farm lands were in an almost hopeless condition, barren and barely capable of cultivation. Today, according to Rider Haggard, "It is a wonderful farm, for nowhere is so much high-bred stock to be seen on the same area." But probably nowhere will you find such an array of plates and cups won at shows as that which Sandringham boasts. At a single exhibition His Majesty once won no fewer than 14 first prizes. In 1903 he captured five first prizes and cups, in addition to numerous seconds and thirds; in 1904 his prizes numbered 20, in 1905 he won a champion plate, a challenge cup and 18 other prizes, including four firsts, while last year he took at the Smithfield show ten firsts, nine "breed" cups and plates, six other prizes and several "highly commended," and every prize winner he has bred himself.

Too Little Money for Him.

Prineville Review.

"In order to become rich," says Life, "it is necessary merely to follow the perfectly simple procedure of any king of finance. Thus: Borrow all the money you can upon the property you already own. With the money buy more property. Combine the two properties, float a loan, and with the money buy a third property. Merge the three properties, use the merger for security for a loan, and with the money buy another large property. Consolidate this with the others, select a board of directors, and authorize yourself to float twice as much stock as there already is. Sell this stock and with the money buy five or six more properties." Yes; and if the sucker crop fails and there is a crash, you can always claim there isn't enough money in the country.

New Books Received.

Chicago Journal.

"How to Use a Pitchfork"—By Senator Benjamin R. Hillman. A handy guide on the use of sharp sentences and speeches. Very pointed. For sale at all agricultural supply stores.

"Colored Vocabulary"—By Bob Evans. Gives the reader an insight into the use of variously colored words, mostly purple. On sail around the Horn.

"How to Become Famous"—By Gee Bernard Pschaw. Tells how to artistically knock newspapers and how to use the pronoun "I." Author admits it is a good book. For sale wherever it is kept.

"Me, Me, Me"—By Elbertus Hubbard. A story of the author by himself. Begins with "I" and ends with "Me." Makes the reader feel like a period. Very Hayloftie. All tin shops.

The Zany.

London Outlook.

I remember when a circus clown was spoken of as a "zany"—a word found only in colored alphabets for children, disinterred from the dictionary to meet the exigencies of the letter Z. This is, I think, a beautiful word. It is, of course, the soft Venetian form of Giovanni, as SS. Giovanni e Paolo is "Zanipolo" in the speech of the gondoliers.

Fastidious Burglar's Critical Taste.

Washington (D. C.) Dispatch.

A thief who robbed the house of J. Edward Hurlock, of Millington, Md., left a note saying: "I have called again, and hoped to get money and a dress for my wife. Don't care for your silverware."

"No Silk Hat," Says Speaker Cannon.

Baltimore News.

Speaker Cannon has never worn a silk hat, and says he would not wear one should he become President.

POTPOURI

BY NANCY LEE.

One of the best-known Captains in the Navy, who for years has been identified with California, was originally from the Blue Grass State, and holds an enviable record for the apparent ease with which he consumes unlimited quantities of alcoholic beverages.

After the San Francisco fire many officers and their wives were stationed temporarily at the Mare Island Navy Yard and in the adjoining portion of the town, Vallejo. In the latter burg the accommodations were extremely poor and a gaudily furnished apartment over a saloon fell to the lot of Captain and Mrs. Y. Here a wife of a brother officer called one afternoon, and in the course of the conversation condoned with Mrs. Y., owing to the fact that she was forced to live over a saloon.

"Oh," said the Captain's wife, amiably, "you wouldn't mind it in the least, after having lived with one for 20 years."

* * *

When a woman has a will of her own, she also has a monopoly on wont's.

* * *

Evolution of one "department" store: Lowii, blowit, owit, goit.

* * *

One of Tacoma's wealthiest citizens was in Portland not long ago and was invited to take an automobile ride with a friend. This Tacoman bears the reputation of having the almighty dollar first in mind above all things, and an incident on this occasion seems to prove it. Going at terrific speed, the motor became unmanageable and the chauffeur called out that he would have to run into something that he couldn't stop it. Whereupon the Tacoman cried out: "For heaven's sake (or words to that effect), pick out something cheap."

* * *

The crematory is earning dividends by burning the dead. Now, wouldn't that incinerate you?

* * *

An old colored preacher in the South was discoursing one evening on the subject of the flight of the children of Israel across the Red Sea, and he addressed his hearers as follows:

"Bruthers and sisters, when de chillun ob Israel rushed down to the Red Sea, pursued by Pharaoh's army, der was a thick coat ob ice friz ober de sea, an' de chillun was able to rush 'cross de ice and save theirselves. But jes as Pharaoh's army reached de middle ob de stream de sun come out an' melted de ice, an' all de army was drownded." At this moment a long, raw-boned negro slowly arose in the congregation and addressed the minister, saying: "Look heah, Mister Parson, ain't yo' sorter mixed in yo' discou'se? Now, 'cordin' ter de geogfry, de Red Sea is somewhar neah de equator, an' dey nebber was no ice friz down neah de equator."

The old minister smiled a knowing smile, and, leaning forward, replied: "Now, look heah, brudder, I 'spected some ob you Booker T. Washington smart Elick niggers to 'spute my discou'se, but I wants ter tell you all one thing. At de time er de flight ob de chillun ob Israel ober de Red Sea dar warn't no geogfry and der warn't no equator, neidder."

* * *

Man wants but little here below. He usually gets it.

* * *

"Did you ever 'sit in' and get 'froze out'?"

"No; but one time I 'antied up' and 'fell down.'"

* * *

Too many cooks spoil the broth. I've known one to do it.

* * *

On Ralph Stuart's recent visit to Portland he told this story on his boys: Upon the birth of the youngest boy the proud father escorted the eldest lad (aged 5 years) to the crib where the sleeping infant lay.

"Aren't you proud of your little brother?" he was asked.

"Yes," he replied, hesitatingly; "but, gee! ain't he sunburnt!"

* * *

"I've got a dog," said Brown, "with more intelligence than most people. The other day I was walking downtown, when suddenly I stopped abruptly and said: 'Fido, there's something I should have attended to, but I can't, to save my life, remember.' Would you believe me, that dog sat right down on the sidewalk and scratched his head and tried to help me think."

* * *

A Portlander who was frequently guilty of errors in grammar at one time cherished ambassadorial honors and finally obtained a flattering position in one of the foreign countries.

Two men were discussing the situation, when one declared: "I hear Blank was desirous of being made Minister to England, but, of course, he couldn't make it."

"Why not?"

"Well, he couldn't speak the language."

* * *

Hymn of the depositors: "When I can read my Title clear."

Colonel J. "Ham" Lewis as a Jest.

Chicago Tribune, Jan. 2.

Robert Emmet Burke wished everybody good luck yesterday except Colonel James Hamilton Lewis. Even during the season of good cheer Colonel Burke could not bring himself to see Colonel Lewis as the Democratic nominee for Governor. It is not a case of ill will towards Colonel Lewis; merely a case of skepticism.

What will make this the more irritating to Colonel Lewis is the fact that no less a person than Colonel William Jennings Bryan considers Colonel Burke's political judgment as the most sane, safe and sound in Illinois.

If he had given a moment of reflection to it he would have realized that nothing crude or brief could dismiss Colonel Lewis from public attention, or summarily dispose of him as a possible Governor of Illinois. What Colonel Burke meant to intimate was that Colonel Lewis was too effervescent and volatile to be effective politically in districts not acquainted with him and his art. Colonel Burke expressed the fear that Colonel Lewis would be regarded as a jest.

An Apron String.

Elizabeth Payne in Harper's.

I'm a foolish little apron—
Laws and lace, you know the kind—
With blue bowknots on my pockets,
And pert strings that tie behind;
But I wreak the deadliest havoc
That the heart of maid could wish,
When she wears me, superintending
Rarebits in a chafing dish.

Be it boys of gay and twenty,
Or grave widowers, twoscore,
Be it benedict, or even
The elusive bachelor—
When they meet my ways beguiling,
Oh, I chuckle while I win!
For they all says she is, somehow,
"So intensely feminine!"

She has given up athletics;
It's no longer worth her while
To acquire tan and freckles—
Golf meant many a weary mile!
I'm a foolish little apron,
But there's nothing that can vie
In man's heart with such a combine
As that chafing dish and I.