The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1908.

LABOR AND OTHER COMBINATIONS.

Nobody denies the right of labor to unite; therefore it seems hardly necessary for Mr. Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, to insist on the right. Nor is it necessary to the rights of property and of labor that, "neither directly nor indirectly," according to the insistence of Mr. Gompers, "shall there be held to be any property or property rights in the labor of any person." Since the abolition of slavery we think there has been no claim of any such right within the United States. Mr. Gompers seems to be fighting windmills.

But, in so far as the Sherman law is or can be interpreted to forbid the right of labor to unite or combine, it ought to be amended, or the conditions defined, so as to remove any possibility of such interpretation. The right of boycott, which Mr. Gompers insists should be recognized by law, in the interest of labor, is a different thing. Yet the right of boycott exists, of course. Silent and individual boycott is going on all the time, and even boycott by groups and associations, in a quiet way. This is a right, too; but it is likely to become aggressive, boisterous and unjust. If authorized by law, it would soon become conspicuously so. The law may ignore boycotts, but it will never authorize them—in other words, grant permission for them, or declare them immune.

Can an employer be said to have a property right in the labor of a person, when that person has been employed under specific contract for a definite term? Does the protest of Mr. Gompers lie against the right of the employer to expect that when he has engaged a man or body of men to work for him for a term, they will do it? It is impossible, no doubt, to enforce such contract, if the workman wants to quit. But is there a moral obligation? In former times it was held generally that there was; and workmen themselves almost always recognized it.

The only reason for exception of combinations of labor and combinations among growers of agricultural products from the general law against combinations, is that in the nature of things there can be no hard and fast combinations among agriculturists or workmen in general. All workmen, whether agriculturists, miners or factory operatives, must sell their labor and other commodities in order to live; and no agreement among them can exempt them for any considerable time against competition with each other. Strikes almost universally fail, because employers can wait; and every effort for combination, with a view of enhancing and maintaining the prices of agricultural products, is doomed to collapse. Not so with the combinations of the sugar refiners, of the steel makers and other big trusts, which are able to make their prices and sit still, till consumers are forced to pay them. Difference of circumstances makes all kinds of difference as to the status of combinations.

AN OLD GNOMIC POET.

They were marrying for money, and for frivolity and folly, a long time ago, with little care of the breed of men. Theognis was a Greek gnomic poet, who lived about 550 B. C. He wrote a lot of practical observations and reflections, in sad, melancholy and censorious strain, of which considerable fragments remain. It is probable that the girl he wanted, but was lucky enough not to get, was carried off by a richer suitor—some dull, heavy ass, of little fitness for anything. This, at least, may be inferred from the following fragment, the original of which is in good hexameter verse, but abounding in elliptical expressions and not very easy to translate. This is a prose translation, as closely rendered as possible:

> We seek for well-bred rams, asses and horses, Cyrnus, and everyone wishes that these from noble breed should prevail. So a well-bred man cares not to marry a mean woman, a mean man's daughter, even if he give him much wealth. No woman refuses to be the wife of a mean man, if he be rich, but prefers that he be wealthy instead of noble. 'Tis wealth they value; noble man weds to mean man's daughter, and the mean the daughter of the noble. Then marvel not if the race deteriorates.

John Hookham Frere did the passage in verse, with very good effect, thus:

> With kine and horses, Kurnus, we proceed
> By reasonable rules, and choose a breed
> For profit and increase, at any price;
> Of a sound stock, without defect or vice.
> But in the daily matches that we make,
> The price is everything; for money's sake
> Men marry; women are in marriage given;
> The churl or ruffian that in wealth has thriven
> May match his offspring with the proudest race.
> Thus everything is mixed, noble and base!
> If then in outward manner, form and mind,
> You find us a degraded, motley kind,
> Wonder no more, my friend, the cause is plain,
> And to lament the consequence is vain.

It is an ancient criticism, therefore; and here, also, there is nothing new under the sun. "Riches kept for the owners thereof," and their children as the preacher saith, "to their hurt."

NOT A PARTY ISSUE.

It is doubtful whether protective tariff can ever be made a clear and distinctive issue between our political parties. There is criticism of protection in all parties, but no party would cut protection out altogether. Protection thus becomes a thing of degree, and men's minds become affected by considerations of local interest, as one industry or another is built up in each particular place. Protection, therefore, becomes a local question, and can't be made a strict party question. There are Democrats in large numbers who favor protection, some of them in its most extreme forms; and there are many Republicans who would cut protection out of the tariff schedules—or much of it—if they could have their way.

Anger of the wage-workers, in 1892, with the lords of protection at Homestead and elsewhere throughout the country, elected Mr. Cleveland; and yet it was not a victory over protection or a repudiation of it. Mr. Cleveland, indeed, seemed to think it was; but his Congress quickly disabused his mind of that idea. Its tariff bill was as highly protective as the one it repealed—though the protective duties were shifted from certain schedules to others, to satisfy local Democratic interests and ideas. Mr. Cleveland denounced this action as betrayal of the principles of a true policy, but couldn't help himself. The trusts and combinations and big interests had all the best of it. That tariff didn't last long; the Republican party regained control and enacted the present one, which if no better than the one it displaced is certainly no worse.

Protective tariff has not been a straight and direct issue between the parties, nor is it likely to be. The present division of parties began on the struggle over slavery—its extension or restriction. It was followed by secession and the Civil War; then by the struggle between parties over reconstruction, and almost ever since by hot contests over various phases of the money question.

Again this year there will be no clear and definite issue on the tariff. The Republican platform will defend protection; the Democratic platform will embody a lot of general and meaningless phrases in denunciation of protection, merely to get the opposition vote, and after the election, whether one party or the other shall succeed, protection will still find holding places in the new legislation. This juggle has been going on during two or three generations, and nobody living is likely to see an end of it. There are districts in all parts of the country that want protection for their special interests and will have it; for they are strong enough in combination to get it, whether one party or another is in power.

Mr. Bryan will be the Democratic candidate. His contention will be on social questions, rather than on fiscal questions and the tariff. For he wants the help of protectionists in the great industrial states, and if elected he will not be permitted to forget his obligations to them.

OUR MIGRATORY ALIENS.

The outward rush of migratory aliens is still holding up to record proportions, and departing Atlantic liners are unable to accommodate the crowds seeking steerage passage. This movement undoubtedly reflects the continued depression from which the East seems unable to rally, but it is questionable whether the country is losing much by the departure of these "transients." There is, of course, a considerable loss in money, for every one of the departing aliens goes provided with sufficient funds to permit him to enjoy at least a few months of idleness, while many of them are carrying back to the land of their birth enough money to enable them to live out the remainder of their lives in ease. But the kind of people who come to this country merely for the purpose of making some "easy money" in much less time than would be necessary in the Old World are of only moderate benefit to the country in either good times or bad.

Naturally when labor is scarce, and the demands of industry are so urgent that every available man who can be pressed into service finds ready employment at high wages, these migratory aliens are useful to us. It would be much better for the country, however, if a larger proportion of the immigrants were of a class who would be content to remain in this country and spend their savings where they earn them. It would be a difficult matter to remodel a considerable proportion of this immigration into American citizens in the fullest sense of the term, but if some system could be perfected for distributing the workers over a wider range of country than they now use for a field of labor, an improved economic condition would result.

One settler and home-seeker coming to our shores is worth more to the country as a whole than a swarm of these "birds of passage," who remain only long enough to accumulate a "stake" and then return to Europe to spend it. Some excuse for the present remarkable migration may be found in the fact that while there has been a cessation in industrial activity, about everything that mankind finds necessary in the way of food and clothing is still abnormally high. When work is plentiful, high prices are less formidable to the consumer than when it is scarce or not obtainable. It is possible that some of the departing laborers find it more advantageous to spend their idle time in countries where the trusts have not yet secured a strangle hold.

THE SPOKANE RATE CASE.

The news from Washington that the Interstate Commerce Commission, after more than a year of consideration of the Spokane rate case, is hopelessly divided regarding the decision, is not surprising. The fact that Spokane was charged the same rate that was paid by Portland jobbers nearly 400 miles further west, when viewed from a distance-tariff standpoint, seemed unjust, and members of the Commission, with a friendly feeling for the distance tariff, have perhaps endeavored to correct the seeming injustice. But the evidence submitted at the first hearing of the case, particularly that given by Manager Jackson, of the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company, proved beyond question that the steamship company over its water route, and thence inland by rail, was actually delivering at Spokane freight of nearly all classes at lower rates than were charged by the railroad.

This evidence alone was sufficient to prove the utter uselessness of attempting to apply a distance tariff in territory so completely under the domination of water competition. The situation was so thoroughly understood by the largest jobbers in Spokane that none of them appeared at the hearing and most of them openly opposed any movement that might disturb the rates then in effect, giving Spokane a jobbing zone of more than 200 miles in circumference in which the city was immune from competition. This "exclusive" district had been awarded Spokane without much regard for either water rates or distance tariffs, and, as the testimony showed, was in many respects so unwarranted that the jobbers most familiar with the situation feared the results of any kind of investigation which might reveal its discrepancies.

A Spokane dispatch, reviewing the testimony, appeared in The Oregonian of January 18, 1907. It closed with the prediction: "About the best that Spokane can hope to get out of this mix-up which she has precipitated, is wholesale confusion in her present well-protected zone." That such confusion and loss will now follow is almost a certainty, for Spokane, in the belief that her case was being strengthened, emphatically declared her independence of water competition. This abandonment of the only advantage she possessed over a number of other trade centers farther inland, left her wholly dependent on a reduction in the distance tariff. In renouncing her claim to the benefits of water transportation, Spokane assumes that the longer haul should not be cheaper than the short haul. On that basis, practically all of her present jobbing trade east of Spokane becomes the field for Helena and Butte jobbers.

By no possible means except water competition can the railroads justify as low a rate to Spokane as the rate to Butte or Helena. These cities, under a distance tariff, adjusted in accordance with the Spokane complaint, would secure a rate so low that they could sell goods almost up to the eastern city limits of Spokane. With a distance tariff effective east of the city, and water transportation regulating rates to the westward, the present rather large territory enjoyed by the Spokane jobbers is certain to be cut down to very small proportions. The incident shows the folly of disturbing a rate situation, without a definite knowledge as to what the results may be. Portland, situated where water competition is so apparent that it cannot be questioned, enjoys jobbing facilities much superior to those of interior centers, but the entire railroad rate fabric is such a delicate affair, that very slight changes are far-reaching in their effect, and within the past two years we have seen a shifting of some of Portland's jobbing business to points in the interior.

BLOSSOMS AND BLIZZARDS.

At this season of the year, when the Middle West is suffering the terrors of a blizzard, we have some things that look a great deal like snowdrifts when viewed from a distance. Looking across a sunny valley to the hills beyond, one might at first glance mistake the great mass of cherry and plum blossoms for snowdrifts, but the temperature of the atmosphere immediately dispels the illusion. We are sorry for our snow-bound cousins in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Wisconsin and perhaps parts of other states. We should like to send them a few sprigs of cherry blossoms to cheer them up, but likely as not the trains carrying the evidences of good will would be tied up somewhere in a snow bank.

But what's the use? We've done about all we could to help our suffering fellow beings out of their unpleasant surroundings. We have sent them pictures and descriptive matter telling what conditions exist in this state. We have shown them that they can sell out in the East and purchase land here at half the price with double the value. For years and years we sold out state lands at $1.25 an acre in order that all who wished might secure homes in this enjoyable climate. We loosely construed our homestead laws in the interest of the homeseeker, though the speculator was the chief beneficiary. We have always extended a hearty welcome, and extend it still. If it could be done, we might be tempted to go back East and bring a few hundred thousand people out here by force, but this is a free country and those who wish to freeze have the privilege of doing so. We enjoy the beauty and the fragrance of our cherry trees in full bloom and soon we shall enjoy the flavor of the fruit. We wish our cousins of the Middle West could share our pleasure and we hope that the blizzard now raging will impel some of them to come to this land of sunshine and blossoms.

HOW TO GET EVEN WITH ROOSEVELT.

Prominent members of Congress, particularly Senators, disapprove of the habit President Roosevelt has of getting on the popular side of a question, and then addressing a message to Congress asking for enactment of certain measures desired by the people. This practice on the part of the President is apparently embarrassing to the members who dislike it, for they are compelled either to acknowledge the wisdom of the President's course or to incur popular disfavor by refusing to pass his bills. They know that, when the President appeals to the people, he invariably receives hearty support.

There is one way these members of Congress might get even with Roosevelt. They might write to their constituents, and find out what kind of legislation is needed, and then hurry a bill of the kind desired through both houses and pass it up to the President for his signature. If he should sign it, that would be an acknowledgment that the legislative branch of the Government had pursued a wise course. If he should veto it, the Senators and Representatives could pass it over his veto or appeal to the people for approval.

This habit the President has formed of putting the lawmakers in the position of playing second fiddle is annoying. The House and Senate are a sort of tail to the kite, a fifth wheel to the wagon, an echo, or a number of other things that might be mentioned. The President is the real moving factor. It is he who does things and gets the credit. But if the leaders of Congress will take the advice of a friend in the Far West, they will reverse the order of things. They will put the President "in the hole," as we express it out here in Oregon, by making the first move in every matter of public interest. They will become the representatives of the people, and let Mr. Roosevelt tag along behind or get on the other side. If the dictators of the Senate and House will maintain this policy for one session, they will make the President look like 30 cents, a mollycoddle, a sissy, or whatever else they desire to call him. That's the way to shear the President of his power and make him a nonessential in the vital affairs of government.

But will they do it?

The British steamship Carlton is a rusty old tramp and, like thousands of others of her class, goes threshing her way around the world with a small crew, who regard a 14,000-mile trip round the Horn with about as much anxiety as is felt by the coasting sailor who makes a voyage from Portland to San Francisco. But the Carlton steamed all the way from Baltimore to San Francisco, a distance of more than 13,000 miles, with only one stop, and that for ten minutes to enable the engineers to repair a check valve. Presumably to show his contempt for the wild waters around Cape Horn, the master of the Carlton rounded that famous land mark, instead of taking the usual route through the Straits of Magellan. A performance of this kind by an ordinary tramp steamer ought to explain why there is no occasion for surprise when a splendidly equipped fleet of battleships, accompanied by repair ships, colliers, and making frequent stops, covers the same route without mishap.

Active work on the construction of the jetty at the mouth of the Columbia will be resumed tomorrow. Preparations have been made for handling more rock this season than in any previous season since the work was begun. If this programme is carried out, good results are bound to follow. Meanwhile, we should not lose sight of the fact that the permanency of a deep channel at the mouth of the river is dependent to a considerable extent on dredging, and it is highly important that the good work of the jetty be reinforced by that of a modern bar dredge. The deepening of the channel at the mouth of the Columbia River is the most important matter before the people of the Columbia basin today. There is plenty of transportation available from much of the immense territory east of the Cascade Mountains, but all of the vast traffic will be hampered to a certain extent, so long as the work at the mouth of the river remains uncompleted.

The new York banks hold $40,000,000 cash in excess of legal requirements, and the United States Government for the fiscal year to April 1 shows a deficit of $36,000,000. These two items bear no direct relation to each other at this time, but if the Government expenses continue to increase as the revenues decrease, it is only a question of time until it will be impossible for the New York banks to expect any assistance from the Government, and they will naturally find these substantial reserves highly advantageous in the event of further trouble. The financial sky has cleared quite materially as compared with the cloudiness of a few months ago, but the situation would present a much healthier appearance, if the Government was not running behind at such a rapid pace.

Question is asked of The Oregonian how Morrison street, Portland, got its name. From John L. Morrison, who came to Oregon, overland, with the party of 1842. This was Dr. Elijah White's party. It was White's second journey to Oregon. The party consisted of about sixty persons; the sole survivor is F. X. Matthieu, who joined the party at Laramie. A. L. Lovejoy was of the party; also Medorem Crawford and T. J. Shadden, who settled in Yamhill and died there. Morrison was a carpenter, and built the first house on the street that is called by his name. He died at Puget Sound, many years ago.

Oregon is in the midst of a season when portraits of men saved from death by Dr. Curem's elixir are thrown into eclipse by pictures of candidates.

So suits for slander are to be injected into Oregon politics? The judges might pass along the annoyance by granting changes of venue.

Prophet Joseph Smith, head of the Mormon hierarchy, is a prohibitionist. That is, a prohibitionist of excess of liquor, not of excess of wives.

Oregon's direct primary law in New York would have closed up that "Amen Corner" quicker than the old hotel can be torn down.

Count Boni now shares the world's disgust at the spectacle of foreign nobles seeking American heiresses.

No protest has been heard from the Salem hotels over the change of venue in the Thorburn Ross case.

Now we shall see whether Marion County has a prejudice against bunco bankers.

USING A CALAMITY AS AN EXCUSE

Harriman Can no Longer Dodge the Land Grant Question.

San Francisco Call.

The San Francisco fire has become in its old age a cherished asset of the railroads and other public service corporations in this neighborhood. Is there a magnate or a traffic manager in danger of going to jail? Why, sir, the San Francisco fire destroyed all the evidence. It is a shame to persecute a man who was deprived by the act of God of the means to prove his innocence.

Attorney-General Bonaparte in Washington and Attorney-General Webb in California find the San Francisco fire like an omnipresent lion in the path. It is a cataclysm of universal application and at the same time a handy thing to have in the house. It will drive a nail, boil the tea or knock a court of justice galley west and crooked.

One of the uses to which this accommodating conflagration has been put was to befog the people who wanted to buy railroad grant land from the Oregon & California, one of the Harriman lines, more generally known as the Shasta route. Under the Congressional grant this railroad took 3,800,000 acres in Northern California and Oregon, and it was a condition of the grant that the land should be sold to the public at $2.50 an acre. This condition has not been fulfilled and the Department of Justice is preparing to bring suit for recovery of the lands. In the early years of the grant the railroad did sell some of these lands, but not at the price fixed by Congress. The later history of the grant is related by Attorney-General Bonaparte in these words:

"Late in the year 1902 the railroad company adopted a new policy and permanently withdrew all its lands from sale. There then remained in its hands approximately 2,800,000 acres of the grant, besides approximately 300,000 acres claimed but not patented. After having disposed of approximately 800,000 acres, most of it in violation of the terms of the grants, it resolved upon the plan of asserting an absolute, unqualified and permanent estate in the balance of the grants in its own favor. For a time applicants to purchase were informed that by reason of a confusion of the records of the company it was necessary to make a complete check of its titles to ascertain what land remained for sale. The San Francisco fire was used as an excuse for some time, it being explained that the records of the company had been destroyed and with them its information concerning its holdings. By these various excuses public sentiment was restrained. In a public speech at Oakland, Cal., in September, 1907, Mr. Harriman, the president of the company, admitted that this policy was intended to be permanent."

The lands withdrawn are chiefly in Oregon, but a considerable part are in Shasta and Siskiyou Counties of this state. In all some 2,000,000 acres are involved in the suit, and they include large bodies of valuable timber and agricultural lands. They have enormously enhanced in value of late years, and Mr. Harriman, after first taking refuge in the ashes of the San Francisco fire, now admits that they look too good to him to be sold at the Government price. It will be fit retribution if this dog in the manger policy brings about a rescision of the grant.

WAIL OF TRUANT CONGRESSMEN.

Say Present Legislative System Destroys Individual Initiative.

Pittsburg (Pa.) Post.

Chronic absenteeism by members of Congress from their routine duties is now complained of at Washington. And yet nothing is more logically the effect of a series of powerful and cumulative causes. The system in the lower house, at least, has reduced the average member to a cipher, valuable only to give importance to the few significant figures of the House. Then, splendid offices have lately been completed for the use of the individual members, and it is said to be very much pleasanter here than in the tedium of a session where a member cannot speak until the presiding officer has graciously given permission and knows and permits him to say what he is saying.

Individual initiative has been all destroyed by the present system of conducting legislation. The committee idea keeps the real work of the session under cover, where responsibility is hidden and public interests may be assailed in safety. The proceedings on the floor of the two houses are rarely other than of the most perfunctory character, and the congressional record of their proceedings commonly is a solemn, stupid joke. To merely compel larger attendance is already abundantly within the power of Congress, but under the present rules, if not with prevailing type of membership, nothing at all would be gained by such a step. And the outcry itself against absenteeism is merely one of the periodical grandstand plays which a recreant body puts on to delude its constituents. The best way to get better work is to get better men. And this puts the matter up to the people of every district now.

Where Industrial Education Steps In.

Boston Transcript.

Nobody doubts, at this stage of the world, that society is responsible for the correction of conditions which inevitably breed its criminals. The consciousness is growing with wonderful rapidity of late that the penal system strikes in too far away from the roots; that drastic punishments are merely an attack upon the far-spread outcroppings of evil while leaving its roots to extend underground, sapping the community's foundations and killing out healthy growth. One fruit of this newly awakened consciousness is the increased thought and effort bestowed upon industrial education. This is being directed with wise judgment towards equipping rising generations in their own interest, with the means of earning their livlihood as well as making them a productive force. Thousands of foul nests of misery and vice with children dwarfed in their mental and physical capacities will be forestalled. What higher demand is there upon us than to see to it that the sources of the citizenhood of the Republic do not continue longer to turn out in such swarms children stunted in body and poisoned in character—future citizens who are morally crippled for life?

Easy Way to Earn $1500.

Milton Eagle.

Last year a Milton man with six and a quarter acres of fruit land rented the property for one-half the crop. He received $1500 for his share and did not have to do an hour's work to get it. Invest your money at home.

Mabel at the Telephone.

Chicago News.

> When Mabel's at the telephone
> She's generally loaded.
> The others on the line must groan
> When Mabel's at the telephone—
> To desperation goaded.
> But Mabel never seems to flinch;
> She knows that she has got a cinch.
>
> When Mabel's at the telephone,
> You'd think she had imparted
> All that the girl had ever known.
> When Mabel's at the telephone.
> But really she's just started.
> There's nothing any one can do
> But wait with patience till she's through.
>
> When Mabel's at the telephone,
> She heeds no call to "trim it"
> Or "cut it out." That's said, I own
> When Mabel's at the telephone,
> Her chatter has no limit.
> Some day subscribers will combine
> To oust her from that party line.
>
> She shows great indignation,
> When Mabel's at the telephone.
> Her plaints would move a heart of stone
> When Mabel's at the telephone
> And hears a conversation
> She'll ask them if they mean to stay
> And gabble nonsense there all day.

BLOATED URBAN POPULATION.

A Big City Complains of Excessive Growth.

Chicago Record-Herald.

According to recent reports from Berlin, that city during the last year erected more buildings, both absolutely and relatively, than the City of Chicago did. This is not exactly news, but it is another reminder of one of the most striking, inscrutable and momentous features of the present period, which is the mad rush of all populations, in all countries, from the farm to the city. The figures for the increase of urban population in the United States are as follows:

Year.	Total pop.	Urban pop.	Pct.
1790	3,929,214	131,472	3.4
1820	9,638,453	356,920	4.9
1850	23,191,876	2,897,586	12.5
1880	50,155,783	11,318,547	22.6
1900	75,468,038	24,992,199	32.1

There was a time when it seemed a patriotic duty to promote the growth of cities and when the rapid growth of Chicago was a distinction and a matter of pride. The time has now come when it is a matter of duty to deplore and discourage the increase of urban population. To take a pride in an overgrown city is now as great a solecism as to congratulate a bloated man on his increased stature.

The mystery of it is that the farms are abandoned at the very time when farming has lost many of its hardships. The farmer now has the delights of the country combined with the comforts and elegancies of the city. He has the electric car, the telephone, the rural delivery and the automobile.

The evil of it is that both country and city are suffering. The crops cannot be harvested for want of labor, and the cities are overcrowded with people out of employment and a much larger number working for starvation wages. If this evil grew out of the concentration of factories in the cities there are signs of a reaction, for many manufacturing establishments are deserting the cities for the country. "Back to the farm" should be the watchword.

THE IDLE RICH.

With Remarks on Their Diversions.

New York World.

To his catalogue of undesirables Mr. Roosevelt adds those who pursue lives of "vapid idleness, whether the idleness is that of the hobo at one end of the scale or the gilded youth at the other."

What have the idle rich done that the President should put them on his list for censure? It is not from them that the malefactors of wealth come. They furnish no Harrimans or Ryans. Gentlemen to whom tailors and chefs, clubs and new routes of foreign travel are a main concern have recently been somewhat loud in their complaints of passed dividends and defaulted interest payments. But they are not actively engaged in disrupting the social fabric. They are not robating or conspiring against my policies or making predatory uses of their wealth.

They are employed in the somewhat tedious occupation of distributing their money. Is it wise to awaken them to other possibilities and divert their frittered energies into channels less safe? No doubt there is much dormant activity among the idle rich which only needs arousing to keep Supreme Courts and special commissions busy. Some mute inglorious Morgan may be devoting to the cut of his clothes and the quality of his filets mignon talent which, directed in other lines, might require a special message to Congress.

This Is Sound and Just.

Isaac Seligman of New York recently made these very sensible remarks on the recent panic and its causes:

> The real reason for this crisis through which we have just passed has been overspeculation, overtrading and overmanufacturing; and this was confined not only to New York, but extended to a great many of the other centers.
>
> We cannot absolve the financial magnates of New York from being privy to these enormous gambling operations, not only in stocks, but in metals. We know that copper was driven up by interested parties to unnatural prices. This could not have been done but for the financial aid which they received from banks, which ought to have known better than to sustain such gambling. The same thing occurred with stocks. Stocks were driven up to unnatural prices, and, of course, one must be rather chary in attributing to bank managers and directors a share of the blame; but certainly, if they had acted on more conservative lines, I am quite sure these enormous gambling speculations could not have taken place.
>
> There is also a party which ascribes this late crisis to the deficient currency law, but I defy any person to devise a currency law which will prevent overspeculation and overtrading. Those who accuse the President of hastening or causing this panic are in the wrong entirely; on the contrary, I believe the people of America owe him a debt of gratitude for calling the attention of the public to—what shall I say?—the illegitimate, rapacious and predatory transactions of a great many of the trust and railway financiers.

Crop Yields and Administrations.

Mr. Pollard, of Nebraska, in the House of Representatives.

I find that during the administration of President Harrison the average annual acreage of corn was 74,280,296 acres. The average annual yield of corn during his administration was 1,822,876,000 bushels. The average annual price per bushel on the 1st day of December was 39.7 cents. During the Cleveland administration the average acreage and yield was practically the same as during the Harrison administration, but the value of the crop was $162,000,000 less in round numbers. The average annual price per bushel was 7½ cents less per bushel. During the McKinley and Roosevelt administrations the average annual acreage increased to almost 88,000,000 acres. The average annual production amounted to 2,240,634,463 bushels. The average annual value was $869,575,309. The average annual price per bushel was 38.9 cents. I find that the value of the corn crop during the last year of the Harrison administration was 6.6 per cent greater than it was during the first year of his administration. I find that during the last year of the Cleveland administration the value of the corn crop actually decreased 16 per cent from what it was during the first year of his administration.

She Then Has the Floor.

Echo Register.

"If there is one time more than another," says an experienced married man, "when a woman should be left alone, it is when a line of clothes comes down in the mud."

Restaurant's Odor Halts Bloodhounds.

Baltimore News.

Bloodhounds trailing a thief near Ridgeway, O., 20 miles, came to a sudden halt when they smelled the odor of cooking food in a restaurant.

Postcard Sale to Buy Sea Lions.

Indianapolis News.

Two sea lions for Wheeler Park, Oklahoma City, to cost $800, will be paid for by an issue of postcards to be used by the town's merchants.

But "Manners" are not in It.

Charleston News and Courier, Dem.

"Why should I refuse?" asks Mr. Bryan. Because two helpings from the nomination dish should induce any man not a glutton to leave a third for "manners."

Celluloid Collar's Exclusion Law.

Baltimore News.

So many celluloid collars and cuffs are worn in Ottawa, Kan., that Hung Lee, the only Chinese laundryman in the place, will move to St. Louis.

Mr. Bryan as a Runner.

New Bedford (Mass.) Standard, Rep.

Mr. Bryan is only 48 years old, and barring accidents he ought to have many chances of running for the Presidency.

NATIONAL GUARD

THE question of a new and adequate rifle range in the vicinity of Portland will be settled very shortly. The workers in this cause have succeeded in picking out a desirable piece of land and feel quite certain that the matter of effecting a purchase will be disposed of before the end of the present week.

The proposed range is 16 miles from Portland, in the direction of Troutdale. It is a level strip with facilities for all ranges up to 100 yards. An island strip, which it is hoped to secure, adjoins the range, and would afford a range of 1500 yards.

Transportation is afforded by three lines—boat, railway and streetcar. The distance, 16 miles from Portland, would not prove in the least inconvenient, being rather an advantage, since target practice has been much hampered by visitors on the old range back of the City Park.

The settlement of the rifle range question is being watched with greater interest by local Guardsmen than any other military undertaking in years. Handicapped by the present inadequate range, local riflemen have been held down to a large extent in both the state and National competitions. Not long ago, when the Fourth Infantry challenged the Third to a rifle competition, there was no great alacrity to accept the challenge. The Fourth has an excellent range, including targets at 1000 yards, and the Portland men can hardly be expected to compete successfully with them in the long-range work.

The search for a local range has continued several months, during which many strips of land have been gone over. During the negotiations the committee has encountered some property-owners who were totally lacking in public spirit. In nearly every case the price of a strip of land would be advanced, on learning that the Government or the state was the prospective purchaser. One particularly exasperating case is reported of a farmer, whose name is favorably known in the city. He asked $150 per acre for his land until informed that the Government was the intended purchaser, whereupon the rustic patriot immediately said he would have to charge the Government $200 per acre, as the "Government had plenty of money, anyway."

The outdoor range season opens now in three weeks. Adjutant-General Finzer will issue the necessary order during the present week. The Southern Oregon troops will be able to take up their competitions immediately, although Portland marksmen may have to wait a short time for targets to be constructed in case the new range is secured.

Orders will also be issued at an early date for the state competitions. The meet this year will occur earlier than before, possibly a few days after July 4. This is necessitated by the probability of an August encampment.

The American Lake joint maneuvers are now reasonably certain. The dispatch from Washington, D. C., printed in yesterday's Oregonian, records that the Senate returned the $1,000,000 maneuver appropriation to the Army bill. Provision was likewise made for the increase of pay for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

When Congress eliminated the appropriation for Summer maneuvers several weeks ago, it was feared that the big joint maneuvers at American Lake were doomed. Local Guardsmen had all but made up their minds that a camp of instruction at the coast was to be the extent of this year's outing. The Senate evidently has an eye to the future and an understanding of the importance of military training for as many men as possible.

Organization of new companies of infantry is to be taken up in the near future by the State Military Board. Almost every prospering town in the state, not already the headquarters of a company, has submitted an application for mustering in of a body of recruits. Among the likely aspirants for companies are Dallas, Silverton, Newport, Newberg, Canby, Medford, Marshfield, Astoria, Rainier, Seaside and Grants Pass.

The Salem and Woodburn companies are planning a military picnic for this month. The companies will march from their stations Saturday night, bivouac in the woods and spend Sunday picnicking with their families and friends who will join them Sunday morning. This plan was carried out by the Cottage Grove company last Summer with entire success.

General Finzer and Colonel McDonell made a tour of inspection of the outside companies of the Third Regiment during the week, visiting Baker City, Pendleton, The Dalles, Woodburn and Salem. The Oregon City company will be inspected at the next quarterly inspection. All the commands were found in excellent condition except at The Dalles, where the drilling was poor and many of the men of unkempt appearance.

The season is already at hand for khaki and olive-drab uniforms. Company commanders are authorized to change from the blue at their discretion, and a little more warm weather will probably see the blue uniforms shelved for the season.

Prospects of a favorable vote on the Armory bill in June are bright, although the efforts of every man in the Guard will be required to put the measure through. The Southern and Eastern Oregon companies are already hustling about among their voting friends, explaining the real significance and importance of the Armory bill.

A FEW SQUIBS.

Redd—What kind of a machine have you got now? Greene—A runabout; it will run about a block, and then stop.—Yonkers Statesman.

Inspector—Are your exits all right? Manager (enthusiastically)—You bet they are. Every one of 'em comes on a climax.—Baltimore American.

"I overreached myself yesterday." "How was that?" "Made a bluff at reaching for the luncheon check, and the other fellow let me get it."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Landlord—Sir, the other tenants will not stay in the house if you insist on playing the cornet. Mr. Toots—I'm glad of that. They were very annoying.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

"So your rich uncle is dead at last?" "Yes—after a lingering illness." "Did he retain possession of his faculties to the end?" "Don't know—his will hasn't been read yet."—Cleveland Leader.

"Do you understand the laws that influence finance?" inquired the economist. "No," answered the lobbyist. "I am more interested in the finances that may influence laws."—Washington Star.

Caller—I see you keep chickens. What breed do you consider the best? Suburbanite—It's hard to tell; I notice, though that more of my White Wyandottes are stolen than any other kind.—Chicago Tribune.

Little Pitchers—Mr. Smith, let me see you do your sharpening, will you? Visitor—Do my sharpening! What do you mean, sonny? Little Pitchers—Mamma asked papa what you came here so much for, and papa said it was because you had an ax to grind.—Baltimore American.

"All you married me for was my title," growled the Duke. "Well," replied the heiress, as she placed her purse in the safe and mixed up the combination, "I at least got what I married you for—and that is more than you can buy."—Chicago Daily News.