The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1908.

MR. TAFT'S PROSPECTS.

As time passes the probability of Mr. Taft's nomination for the Presidency by the National Republican Convention becomes more assured. His instruction to his followers in the several states not to interfere with the local enthusiasm for "favorite sons" was doubtless sincerely meant; but in spite of it the Taft sentiment pushes to the front. Wisconsin thinks Mr. La Follette is pretty nearly the greatest man who ever lived, and quite the most honest; still there is one Taft vote in the delegation from Wisconsin freely chosen at popular primaries. New York is justly proud of Mr. Hughes and believes that he has solved some governmental problems which had baffled all his rivals in public life. Still four members of the New York delegation will certainly vote for Taft upon the first ballot. Massachusetts, which has not been particularly inclined to favor the Taft candidacy, seems to have swung into line. The Republican states which are not blessed with favorite sons give him virtually unanimous support.

Taft has the 22 delegates from Minnesota; the 30 from Missouri, the 20 from Kansas, and of the 48 from Ohio 38 are pledged to him and all are for him. The total number of delegates already instructed for Mr. Taft is 245, which lacks but 252 of being a majority of the convention. The states yet to be heard from will hardly fail to complete this quota, so that we confidently anticipate that he will be made the Republican nominee, perhaps by the first ballot. Should this not be the case, the supporters of the "favorite sons" will rally to him after one vote has been taken and his nomination will probably then be unanimous. Still it is possible that some of the Southern delegates may stand out against him to the end. These men will in a measure represent the sentiment of a faction of the negroes which, without much reason, is hostile to the Secretary of War. But for all that his nomination is apparently a foregone conclusion, as indeed it has been ever since his complete victory over the Foraker forces in Ohio.

But nomination is not election. It is reasonable to expect that the Republican party will be fairly well united in support of Mr. Taft, and yet it will not be unanimous. Reasonably or not, the negroes in large numbers are opposed to him, and it is not so much logic as votes which decide elections. The colored voters insist that the Brownsville affair was an insult to their race. They insist also that Mr. Taft was in part responsible for the inconsiderate dismissal of the colored companies. On this account they bear a grudge against him which they will take the opportunity of the election to gratify. We dare say no argument will suffice to change their minds upon this point, except possibly that of money, which is oftentimes so potent with their race. It is incredible, however, that Mr. Taft wants the Presidency badly enough to buy it from the negroes even if he could.

The colored vote holds the balance of power in several Northern cities, and perhaps in more than one Northern State. United with the labor vote, it could defeat Mr. Taft and elect his Democratic opponent and this is a possibility that must be reckoned with. Labor is not very friendly to Mr. Taft, even if it has no good ground for hostility. It is not forgotten that as judge he supported government by injunction, although it is not to be questioned that in doing so he followed his conscience and the letter of the law. The injunction issue has now become a burning one, however. The workingmen believe that the writ is a tool used to put them at a gross disadvantage in strikes, and they are disposed to visit their resentment for its abuse upon the man who favored it. Ugly threats were made at the recent convention of farmers and labor societies in Washington, threats which bode no good to any candidate who bears the stigma of judge and corporation lawyer upon him.

Moreover, Mr. Taft has expressed his latest views upon the injunction in a manner which will certainly not satisfy the labor vote. He admits the right to combine and strike. He would agree to settle the form of injunctions and to grant a hearing before the writ should issue. He would even permit contempt cases to be heard by a judge other than the one offended, but this is as far as he will go, and it is not far enough to satisfy the unions. They demand a jury trial when accused of contempt. They ask also for the speedy settlement of injunction proceedings, so that temporary injunctions wrongfully issued may not be used to break strikes. These are really more vital to the unions than the demands which Mr. Taft concedes, and it is difficult to see how he can expect to gain the labor vote without granting them.

It may be that Mr. Taft's best hope of compensating the losses which he must expect among the negroes and workingmen lies in a huge secession from the Democratic party which may follow the nomination of Mr. Bryan. But this secession is problematic. The chances are that it will not be very extensive, and it may not take place at all. If it does not, how can Mr. Taft be elected?

GONE TO ITS REWARD.

The Humphrey ship subsidy bill was killed in the House with neatness and dispatch on Wednesday, and it is the general belief that it will be at least a year before that eminent band of patriots who are so anxious to do something for the merchant marine come forward with a substitute for the deceased measure. There are many reasons why all fair-minded people who would like to see this country have a merchant marine will rejoice over the failure of the Humphrey measure to become a law. To begin with, the subsidy provided for in this bill was inadequate to accomplish anything of consequence, and its failure to give relief, had it become a law, would have been used as an argument for an increased subsidy at the next session of Congress.

It did not appeal to the House members as being a measure that could do the work that was expected of it, and they killed it rather than engage in any experiments which were so costly at the beginning and offered such opportunities for increasing in cost a year later. But the principal cause for congratulations over the failure of the bill to pass lies in the possibility that Congress may actually be forced to provide the country with a merchant marine by the strictly businesslike methods followed by other maritime nations with which an American merchant marine would be obliged to compete. The recent cruise of the naval fleet to the Pacific Coast has demonstrated that a merchant marine flying the American flag is almost a necessity. It also disclosed the fact that when the Government needed ships for colliers no difficulty whatever was experienced in securing them from half a dozen different nations.

The foreign ships were chartered by the Government at very low rates, and had the Government so desired, they could have been purchased on proportionately advantageous terms. If the death of the Humphrey bill will carry with it an understanding that the people are weary of the attempts of the subsidy grafters and will not countenance any merchant marine measure except one that will give this country the same rights and privileges in buying ships as are enjoyed by our competitors, we will soon witness a move in the right direction and there will be a rapid increase in deep-sea tonnage under the American flag. High-class steamships, like the Pacific Mail liners plying out of San Francisco for the Orient, should be given a good mail subsidy for the work they perform, but Mr. Harriman should not be forced to build any more such high-priced vessels so long as he could secure them at the British yards, where the German, French and Dutch steamship lines secure their fast liners.

Trade does not follow the flag unless the flag offers the lowest rate of freight, the the slaughter of the Humphrey bill offers encouragement that the people may yet force Congress to give our shipowners the same opportunities for cheap ships that are now enjoyed by their rivals. It will be ample time for ship subsidy after we have determined by the use of cheap ships whether or not it is needed.

WHERE THE REAL DANGER LIES.

C. B. J. Snyder, superintendent of New York public school buildings, has been on a tour of investigation, as have similar officers in many cities since the East Collinwood disaster. As the result of his inquiry, he announces that 429 of the 511 public school buildings in the great city are not properly protected against fire.

This report upon its face is alarming. He qualifies it, however, to some extent by the supplementary statement that there is a great conflict of opinion as to what is required to make buildings "safe." The truth is that the trend both of professional and lay opinion upon this subject is strongly toward the belief that no building designed for continuous use can be made perfectly fireproof. It has not infrequently happened that people have burned to death in buildings that had been thus officially rated. These facts accentuate the demand that buildings for public use be constructed with an intelligent and conscientious fidelity to detail that will minimize the danger both of ignition and rapid combustion.

While only such buildings as have walls, partitions, floors and stairways of "fireproof" materials, in the general acceptance of that term, afford the greatest protection possible against fire, the fact that a building has floor beams, partitions, etc., of wood does not necessarily make it unsafe for school purposes. It is reasonably safe if proper care is used in construction with a view to protecting wood from ignition from chimneys, furnace pipes and other necessary means of heating.

Inspection has disclosed defects of this character in some of our own school buildings that doubtless will be corrected as soon as possible. In the meantime weekly fire drills are being conducted with wonderful efficiency by the teachers throughout the city, under orders of the Board of Education, minimizing as far as possible the danger to our school population either from a real or false alarm of fire in any one of the buildings. Honesty in construction and vigilance in supervision are two elements in the building and care of schoolhouses that will go far toward eliminating the danger of fire that, like the danger from the use of electricity and many other things that are essential to the comfort, progress and convenience of mankind, lays constant tribute upon human vigilance lest from servant it may become master. In the lapse of vigilance in construcfon and supervison lies the real danger in schoolhouses and other public buildings, and only in a less degree (since self-interest is usually more alert than public interest) in the construction of modern dwellings that are pulsing with electric wires and traversed from basement to attic by gas and furnace pipes.

CHURCH UNION.

To the twentieth century mind it seems of little importance to the Lord or anybody else what kind of clothes a minister wears when he is preaching and praying. The form of words that he may use in addressing the deity is of still less importance than his clothes. And whether he calls himself a priest or a minister or something else is of no consequence at all. But to Mr. W. E. Tyrrell, who favors The Oregonian with a letter upon these subjects today, they are evidently of infinite moment. He deems the ritualists very bad people because their hearts are set upon ecclesiastical millinery and haberdashery. We do not agree with him. In our opinion gowns and ribbons are entirely innocent, and a minister is much better occupied with them than he would be in persecuting heretics and stirring up theological hatred. The world, or that part of it which values peace, may well pray that our ecclesiastical friends may everlastingly find their clothes and rituals of such surpassing interest that they will abstain from meddling with the affairs of life. By diligent attention to holy attire and sacred forms of speech they keep themselves out of mischief.

One cannot sympathize much with our contributor's dread of union between the Church of England and that of Rome. Undoubtedly, as he says, should it ever occur, the Episcopal Church would be submerged and lost; but it will never occur. The Anglican faction which has its heart set upon undoing the work of the Reformation and slipping back into the Roman form of worship is small, for one thing; but were it never so large, its efforts would be futile because Rome will have nothing to do with it. These ritualists have made humiliating advances to the Pope. They have offered prayers for readmission into the Catholic body which were truly pathetic, but the head of the historic church of Christendom would have none of them. With all their admiration for gowns and ceremonies, the ritualists hold that their ordination comes down in the genuine apostolic succession and that their sacraments are legitimate. This opinion Rome will not tolerate. If they ever regain admission into the Catholic fold it will be after the abjuration of all their heresies, and then they will be no longer members of the Church of England.

Nor can one agree with Mr. Tyrrell that the Protestant Episcopal communion is the first and only national Church of England. England was Catholic for a long time before it was Protestant. From John down through a number of reigns the church was truly national, standing not, in the slightest awe of Rome and holding the Pope and his bishops rigorously under Parliamentary control. If the history of English legislation shows anything, it shows that until the Wars of the Roses had desolated the nobility the Catholic Church in England was strongly national. Henry VIII, in revolting against the Pope, simply restored the condition of affairs which had previously existed so far as ecclesiastical independence was concerned. But, aside from all that, it does not appear that the calamity would be unendurable if England should some time find herself without a national church. To the modern mind the idea that religion is an affair of government to be regulated by politicians and supported by taxation savors of the absurd. Religion is a matter between a human being and his God. The state has nothing to do with it. Every time a government meddles with religion it not only invades the sphere of private right, but it commits sacrilege. We are aware how little the established church in England concerns itself with religion, still it does occasionally pay some attention to that subject, with the result that we behold ribald politicians in Parliament trying to fix by law the intimate relations between man and his maker.

Established churches in England and elsewhere are rapidly becoming an anomaly so absurd that the world cannot endure them. Very likely the Anglican church will maintain its hold on the public revenues longer than the established communion in Italy, Spain or Germany, but the day of severance is not difficult to foresee. The British mind, as well as the mind of the world in general, is coming to perceive that no person has the right to compel another by law to help support his system of theology.

THE BROWN MAN'S BURDEN.

The present financial crisis in Japan occasions no surprise to those who have watched the artificially stimulated development that followed the signing of the Portsmouth peace treaty. Failure to secure a heavy war indemnity from Russia was a staggering blow to the finances of the country, for the expenses of the war were enormous, and the money was forthcoming without protest in the belief that a heavy indemnity would be available as soon as victory was won. Even the burden of the war debt might have been borne without much trouble had Japan settled down to conservative business methods, instead of recklessly rushing into an orgy of speculation and exploitation not at all warranted by her finances.

With all the abandon of a drunken sailor, the Nippon empire began spending money for luxuries at a time when common prudence should have warned that the closest kind of economy was necessary. War and the confusion into which it plunges a nation offer great opportunities for money-making for the few who are in a position to take advantage of the nation's needs. Great steamship companies were awarded heavy subsidies, and all the benefit Japan reaped of this enormous expense was a small measure of glory out of all proportion to the benefits that could possibly accrue. The poor people who were taxed to support these big steamship subsidies were also obliged to stand the burden of the immense expenditure for building new ships for the navy, for modern equipment for the railroads, which were taken over by the government, and for a vast amount of other expensive luxuries as well as necessities which would have strained the resources of greater countries than Japan.

The result of all this wild industrial exploitation is shown in a national debt that on January 1 had reached the enormous sum of $1,160,000,000, of which nearly $600,000,000 is owed abroad. In addition to this, the commercial enterprises of the country are in such shape that probably there is also a heavy trade balance against the private firms of the empire. The Japanese have a reputation for frugality, and also for patriotism, and if the latter does not become too inflammable, stringent economy for a long period may pull the country out of the financial morass into which it seems to have fallen. But before industrial prosperity can be restored it will be necessary to retrench somewhat on the army and navy expenditures, and it will also be necessary to cut out the ship subsidy and other legalized grafting. The Japanese nose has been bumped because the infant endeavored to walk before the art of creeping had been fully mastered.

A Chicago dispatch announces that 200 members of the Illinois Manufacturing Association will go on a special trip to the Orient, where "the association will take the initiative in formally planting the flag of American industries in the Orient." It is pleasing to learn of an awakened interest in Far Eastern trade, and the Chicago junketers will undoubtedly accomplish something, but the word "initiative" is somewhat carelessly used, for the flag of American industries was "planted" in the Far East more than a generation ago, and Pacific Coast exporters have built up a trade which in most lines has kept pace with the growth of the purchasing power of the Orientals, and in a few has outstripped it. Still, if the Illinois travelers go to the Orient, they will come by way of the Pacific Coast, and even this country will have surprises for them that may equal any they will find across the Pacific.

The amount appropriated by Congress for the shipment of standard dollars to banks for the year 1908 has been exhausted, hence as explained by Secretary Cortelyou in a circular recently issued, the free transportation of these coins will stop for the present year. During the crop-moving period in recent years, the shipment of standard dollars at Government expense has been as high as $1,500,000 a month. The total cost of this so-called free transportation of silver, including that of subsidiary silver coins, for 1907 was $163,051. The policy of assuming the cost of carriage of silver coin to the banks was inaugurated about 25 years ago, when it was deemed advisable to stimulate the general circulation of silver. Usage is stubborn and the practice still prevails, though the need that prompted it has passed.

The plight of the young parents of Colfax who, in attempting to give their sick baby a bath, scalded the little one to death, is truly distressing. Lack of judgment is not a crime, else would few young parents escape indictment on some count, great or small, in the mismanagement of their first baby. It may be hoped, however, that few would be guilty of an indiscretion so grave as that which resulted in the death of this infant who was put in the bath and the pan containing water and baby set on the hot stove. The poor young parents are distracted over the matter and are entitled to pity. They will know better next time.

The efforts of the people of Tillamook to improve their transportation facilities are commendable and must in time succeed. A thrifty community in close proximity to market, yet shut away from it by a dog-in-the-manger transportation policy, has good and sufficient reason for resentment. Nothing is more exasperating in this day and age of the world than to be "bottled up," commercially. It is beyond probability that this condition will continue much longer to vex the commercial interests and retard the development of Tillamook County.

If the electric wiring in the Irvington school building is defective, it should be corrected at once. The electrician of the public schools and Deputy Fire Marshal Roberts do not agree upon this point, it seems. Each is testy and disposed to be disputatious about the matter. It will be well to call upon a third man for an opinion in the premises—one who knows his business—and let his decision govern the matter. It should not be very difficult to settle this dispute, and it ought to be settled without further delay.

George L. Blodgett, who killed his mistress in this city more than two years ago, after having deserted a faithful, hardworking wife and several little children in Great Falls, Mont., is to be retried for his crime. If justice, through some technicality, had not miscarried, the execution of this fellow would have taken place May 23, 1906, and by this time the community would have forgotten him and his revolting crime.

Whether Mr. Barnes, of New York, has the power to read Mr. Hughes out of the Republican party is debatable; but there is no doubt in the public mind that the Governor will continue to do reform business at the old stand, party or no party.

Charles E. Hughes may not be President, perhaps not even a nominee. However, he has served notice to all concerned that he is still the Governor of New York and will so serve till the end of his term.

August Belmont rejoices over the defeat of an anti-gambling measure fathered by a Republican Governor. Bryan should read Mr. Belmont out of the Democratic party.

By whose authority, we want to know, has Bock Beer day been pushed forward two weeks on the calendar?

Like Davy Crockett's coon, President Clark, of the Mount Hood Railway, has come down.

ALUMNI DON'T EDIT PAPERS

But They Have Many Arguments to Support University Appropriation.

PORTLAND, Or., April 10.—(To the Editor.)—In a recent issue of The Oregonian Mr. Cyrus H. Walker, of Albany, makes the charge that the many editorials of outside newspapers upon the subject of the referendum of the University of Oregon appropriation bill have emanated from Oregon alumni. Mr. Walker's charge is not true and cannot be substantiated. People want more proof of "guerilla" warfare than Mr. Walker's sarcastic slurs. According to Mr. Walker and Mr. Eugene Palmer, every argument in support of the university appropriation bill is either "inspired" or "conceived in iniquity."

Mr. Walker and Mr. Palmer have repeatedly said that they are not opposed to the University of Oregon, but that they are fighting this particular bill. The insincerity of these statements is proved by Mr. Walker's recent letter to a Baker County man, in which he advises that man to send his son to Whitman College. Oh, yes, Mr. Walker is a true friend of the University of Oregon! He is setting a fine example of state pride and loyalty to our home institutions, isn't he?

Mr. Walker would have us believe that the expenditure for public school purposes amounts to only $8 per year for each pupil. As a matter of fact, it amounted to $25.63 per year for each pupil (including high school pupils) for the year ending June 17, 1907. This result is obtained by dividing the total public school expenditure ($2,631,825.57) by the total number of children in attendance, (i. e., 102,683). Should the university bill be defeated and the amount of the increase applied to the public school funds, there would be an expenditure of about 40 cents additional per year for each child.

I quite agree with Mr. Walker in his contention for a better system of high schools and common schools, but I fail to see how the defeat of the university appropriation bill will aid these institutions. As a matter of fact, the University of Oregon is the only institution of higher learning in the state that had exerted any influence whatsoever toward the upbuilding of the high school system.

C. N. M'ARTHUR.

PROGRESS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Building Activity Has Gone on With Undiminished Vigor.

March Bulletin of California Promotion Bureau.

Many thousand acres of new vineyards and orchards will come into bearing in California during the coming season, and indications point to good crops in all lines. Increased activity is marked in all California industries.

The demand for labor is marked in viticultural pursuits, and all competent men can obtain steady employment. Reports received by the California promotion committee from the vineyard districts show that the shortage in labor there is so great that employment will be found for all who apply.

There is great demand for women and girls in the canneries and drying establishments. These will be needed with the opening of the fruit season, and they will have constant employment for three months.

In San Francisco, building activity has gone on with undiminished vigor. Sanitation work has been carried on most successfully, and the city is now declared to be one of the most healthful and cleanest in the United States. Preparations for the reception of the battleship fleet are progressing, and arrangements are being made for the accommodation of an immense crowd of visitors at that time.

The following summary shows California conditions from February 29 to March 28, inclusive:

San Francisco building permits..	$ 2,676,969.00
San Francisco building permits since the fire.....	99,683,455.00
Los Angeles building permits...	946,070.00
Oakland building permits.....	489,514.00
San Francisco real estate sales, 650; value.....	2,250,666.00
San Francisco bank clearings..	128,811,315.29
San Francisco bank clearings, March, 1907.....	186,004,042.79
San Francisco bank clearings, March, 1906.....	177,699,263.76
Los Angeles bank clearings.....	28,542,094.60
Oakland bank clearings.....	5,821,708.58
Sacramento bank clearings.....	3,211,997.05
San Jose bank clearings.....	1,677,755.06
Stockton bank clearings.....	1,724,699.83
San Francisco customs receipts	664,856.50

ENCOURAGING ANARCHY.

Responsibility of Sensational Press for Envy and Hatred.

Baltimore Sun.

We believe no injustice or exaggeration is involved in the suggestion that if anarchy and "militant socialism" succeed in gaining a foothold on American soil their success will be due largely to the aid which they receive from a certain class of journals in this country. Meetings of the "unemployed" are not of uncommon occurrence in London. The English are certainly as law-abiding as the New Yorkers, and detest rioting and turbulence as intensely as the most conservative New Yorkers. The London police force is as vigilant, as quick to suppress disorder, as the New York policemen. Yet demonstrations in the London parks of the unemployed or of any of the discontented classes meet with little interference. "Orators" speak their minds freely without molestation. The police attend, but only to prevent violence. The English theory is that it is better to allow an open demonstration of dissatisfaction with the existing order than, by severe repressive measures, to intensify grievances and to encourage secret meetings of the discontented. London newspapers exercise commendable discretion in reporting such demonstrations. They do not publish the names of prominent Englishmen who have succeeded in politics or in business and the professions, and intimate that their methods extenuate, if they do not justify the murderous activities of anarchists. English journalism may be dull, according to our notions, but it certainly cannot be accused of any lack of regard for the welfare of the English people.

Sidestepping Both.

Chicago Tribune.

"Senator," said his private secretary, "here's a letter from the editor of the Skedunk Bugle, who wants to know how you stand on the question of repealing the infamous tariff on wood pulp."

"Tell him," said Senator Pitrimmer, "that ——"

"But here's one from a paper manufacturer who writes to ask you if you are going to allow the senseless clamor of irresponsible newspaper men to influence you against the great principle of protection to home industries and cause you to vote for the repeal of that most righteous and necessary tariff on wood pulp."

"H'm!" mused the eminent statesman. "William, send the editor's letter to the paper manufacturer and the paper manufacturer's letter to the editor, and explain to each, in strict confidence, that a public man who is trying to serve his country has to stand this sort of rot from ignorant or prejudiced constituents who seek to dissuade him from the faithful performance of his sworn duty."

Need for a New Candidate.

Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier.

Is there encouragement to bet on a horse that shows decreasing speed in successive races? Nobody who wishes the Democracy to win urges the nomination of Parker. He's a loser. But Bryan is not only a loser twice, but a loser and a greater loser as he grows older. What the Democratic party needs is a fresh horse.

A LITTLE TALK ON CHURCH UNITY

This Protestant Episcopalian Objects to Going Over to the Catholics.

PORTLAND, Or., April 10.—(To the Editor.)—A very important controversy on the subject of "Church Union" is now going on in the Protestant Episcopal Church, not only here, but also in England and other parts of the world, and in these days of "unionism," "church union" has a very attractive sound to those who do not stop to consider exactly what it means. The union proposed is between the Protestant Episcopal and the Roman Catholic Churches, and the very first proviso for the acceptance as co-partner of the former by the latter is—that she shall be subservient to the Romish Church and hand herself over, horse, foot and artillery to the Pope.

Who and what are the men who are principally engaged in forwarding this movement? They are men who are drawing their salaries from the Protestant Episcopal Church and style themselves Ritualists, and they are doing what in any other line of business would be termed "obtaining money under false pretenses." "In a letter to the London Times a few weeks ago the Dean of Canterbury, Dr. Wace, says that any statement made by these Ritualists to the effect that there is anything either religious or catholic in their vestments is absurd; and that their use is simply "a return to the superstitions of the mediaeval ages." Furthermore, he says "that the change of vestments at the communion is neither more nor less than the Romish mass," which the 31st article of belief in the prayerbook declares to be "a blasphemous fable and a dangerous deceit." It is more than probable that Dr. Wace knows what he is talking about, and when he says, as he does, that laymen of the church should steadfastly oppose all such innovations, he is merely doing what, as a member of the church militant, is his bounden duty and every lay member of the Protestant Episcopal Church should see to it that the true meaning of the proposed "church union" is distinctly understood so far as his tongue and pen can make it so, since the Ritualists are very careful never to explain themselves very fully on that point.

For the Protestant Episcopal Church to unite with the Church of Rome is simply to extinguish herself, since her inferiority in numbers would preclude the possibility of her ever holding her own with her giant partner; and that is just as the Ritualists would have it. How any man worthy of the name can have so little pride in his church as to contemplate, even for a moment, placing her in such an anomalous position, is one of the unsolved mysteries, and there are men, both clergy and laymen, in the Protestant Episcopal Church who would do it without the quiver of a muscle or a twinge of conscience; and there are church periodicals that would lend them a helping hand in the nefarious transaction.

Let all those who do not desire to see the Protestant Episcopal Church trodden down under the heels of the haughty prelates of Rome stand out and fight this monstrous proposition of "church union" to the last entrenchments, as there is nothing in it for them or their church but slavery and disgrace. Some of these Ritualists have the audacity to tell people who know no better that the vestments are copied from those of the Jewish High Priest and must therefore be orthodox. All tommy-rot. Do such men read their Bibles understandingly? I trow not, since the Bible tells us that when the Great High Priest was in his death throes "the veil of the temple was rent in twain." What did that signify? It was intended to teach us that whereas up to that time a portion of the temple was partitioned off, into which none but the High Priest dared to enter under pain of death, henceforth, the Great High Priest having left the earth the Priests and their vestments were done away with and the temple turned into a church in which all were equally priests. The haughty exclusiveness and gaudy trappings of the priests, (both perfectly correct, as was the eye for an eye doctrine, in their day and generation) were superseded by the humility and simple attire of the disciples. And so it remained until the small company of Christians was absorbed into the Paganism of Rome, and being too few in numbers to resist, adopted, perforce, many of the pagan rites and superstitions. That most unhappy state of affairs lasted until the reformation, when the pagan elements were knocked out and the Protestant Episcopal Church, the first and only national church of England, was established. Now the Ritualists are endeavoring to bring those superstitions and rites back again and place the church in her former unenviable position of numerical inferiority and consequent subserviency to the Roman Hierarchy. W. E. TYRRELL.

SIGN BOARDS AN UGLY NUISANCE

St. Louis, Mo., Gets Merchants, Instead, to Depend Upon Printer's Ink.

Leslie's Weekly.

The City of St. Louis has a Civic League that does things. It has succeeded in getting the leading merchants of that city to agree to stop advertising on billboards when their contracts expire. This agreement was secured by showing the merchants that billboards were spoiling the beauty of the city and by proving that such advertising did not pay because citizens were opposed to the boards and to the advertising display thereon. If there is one city in the United States that needs a sermon on billboards it is New York. Whether one rides in the surface or the elevated or the subway cars he must see unsightly boards. There is no reason why the present state of affairs should continue. One ounce of public sentiment is worth a pound of legislation—strange as it may seem. The advertiser who cares more about money than he does about the appearance of a city is a good one to let alone.

Negroes, North and South.

Nashville American.

It is amusing to see the efforts of the Taft Republicans to pacify the negroes in the Northern States where their votes may amount to something. No attention is paid to the Southern negro. The white Federal officeholders are expected to look after the delegates regardless of the negro, and at the polls the Southern negro's vote does not count.

Mother's Almanac.

Lippincott's Magazine.

I tell you when it comes to dates,
My mother's just the boss!
She tells me all I want to know
'Bout ever gettin' cross.

You'd think she'd get mixed up sometimes;
At school, I know I do—
'Bout Washington and Plymouth Rock,
And 1492.

But mother says: "The war with Spain
Was fought in '98
The year you all had chickenpox,
Exceptin' Sister Kate.

"The Boer War in Africa—
That was a dreadful thing—
Began in '99, I know,
For Jack was born that Spring.

"In '98 the Spanish ships
Were sunk in Cuba channels,
'Twas Summer, for you children had
Just changed your Winter flannels.

"In 1904, my dear,
The Russians fought the Japs,
That year was very cold, and you
Had chilblains and the chaps."

There's six of us, and we're mixed up
With hist'ry just that way.
Sometimes it's measles, croup or mumps,
But there's no date that ever stumps
My mother, night or day.

BY LILIAN TINGLE.

THE bakers are already displaying reminders that Good Friday comes next week, and that people who desire a sufficient supply of hot cross buns should place their orders early. And the wise woman will do so, or will lay in the necessary provision of yeast and other ingredients, and try her hand at concocting the spicy, pulpy buns for herself and family. Some time ago the London bakers threatened that there should be no more buns on Good Friday, contending that the profit of the manufacture is not sufficient to counterbalance the labor it involves. But, as far as I know, there has been as yet no apparent falling off in the supply.

I believe, however, that the old style hot cross bun seller of private enterprise is almost extinct. They used to sally out in the earliest dawning, old and young, decrepit or strong, with thin piping cries or voices like the bells of Bashan that you read about in the psalms appointed for the day.

It was no use trying to sleep on Good Friday morning. Some venders had bells, some simply shouted "Buns! buns!" others chanted:

Hot cross buns. Hot cross buns.
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot cross buns.

A few added extra lines that always seemed the height of injustice to me, the one daughter of our family:

Buy one for your daughters
And two for your sons;
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot cross buns.

* * *

I never could see why sons should be entitled to two, while daughters had only one; and the male members of the family used the verse freely as an argument in favor of the subjection of woman. All I could do was to insist that the "one" meant the "one a penny" kind, and must be a special and highly superior variety for feminine use.

Not every one who enjoys a well buttered hot bun realizes what a mass of history and tradition it represents.

The Egyptians had sacred cakes which were eaten before the altar when oxen were sacrificed, and for this or some other reason were marked with horns. These horns were also the symbols of Astarte. When Jeremiah rebukes the women of Judah for their idolatrous worship of "the queen of heaven" they reply, "Did we make cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her?" Our buns can trace their ancestry back to those cakes which bore the mark of Astarte.

More than 1600 years B. C. Cecrops, one of the early Greek Kings, is recorded as having sacrificed sacred cross-marked cakes, made with fine wheat and honey. In Mexico, Peru and in China, as well as among the Greeks and Romans, are found traces of the sacred cross-marked cake.

* * *

The name bun is supposed by some to be derived from the word "bous" or "boun," which stood for "ox." Professor Skeat, however, suggests a Scandinavian origin of the word bun.

Certainly the Saxons ate similar cakes, at their Spring festival, in honor of Eoster, the goddess of light, from whose name we get our word Easter.

The Christian Church absorbed and gave its own meaning to this as to other pagan customs. Probably the first Christian cross buns were the "blessed cakes" made from the same dough from which the host was taken. These were given, after mass on Easter Sunday, to communicants who had a long journey home before they could break their fast. This custom is still followed in some Roman Catholic countries.

* * *

The bakers imitated the "blessed bread" for their own profit. This practice of the bakers was interdicted in 1253; but the bun trade seems to have gone on and flourished in spite of the interdict.

Probably the palmiest days of the bun, as we know it, came in the reign of George III, when crowds thronged all day long to the two famous Chelsea bunhouses. Each of these two shops claimed to be the "Royal Bunhouse." One, however, had a large placard stating that it was the original bunhouse and had been a bunhouse ever since it was a house; and, moreover, "the King had stopped there"; all of which no doubt proved the marked superiority of its buns.

* * *

On account of their ancient sacred origin many superstitions have been connected with hot cross buns. In many places one bun is always saved until next Good Friday, to bring good luck.

In Dorset a Good Friday bun is often hung over the chimney to prevent bread from going sour or stringy.

In other localities they are dried and powdered and used as a medicine. Three Good Friday buns, buried in a heap of wheat, will keep away rats and mold, it is said; or if hung in the house they are a splendid protection against fire. In a certain old London tavern known as the "Widow's Son," a curious custom is kept up which had a pathetic origin some 70 years ago.

A widow then kept the house, and her son, a sailor, was expected home on Good Friday. He never returned; but each Good Friday his mother carefully baked and kept a large hot cross bun for him. Succeeding tenants have kept up the custom, and now 70 buns hang in withered clusters from the ceiling of the tavern bar.

Why Not Some American Dukes?

Charleston News and Courier.

If the American people really desire a titled aristocracy, why do they not establish one? If the populace enjoys the sight of a visiting duchess and "must throng about her automobile in the street, why does not Congress provide duchesses for their delectation? A home-made title would be just as good as an imported one after a generation. Meanwhile, the desire in the hearts of American girls for titled husbands is planted by the common people. The slavish obeisance of the average American citizen to the American duchess turns the head of the American heiress.

The Last Act.

New York Sun.

The last act's drawing to its close:
The hero's fixed his broken nose;
In center stands the lady fair;
The villain (left) tugs at his hair;
Over his woe I start to gloat—
My friend in front puts on his coat.
"Come, dear, or we shall miss that train."
The closing scene is lost again.

You'd think folks didn't like the show,
They make such headlong haste to go;
But, good or bad, for aught I see,
Farce, melodrama, tragedy,
Or comedy, or opera grand,
You wait the outcome—people stand;
A dozen, fifty, score on score,
Flock geeselike, sheeplike, toward the door.

No use! The stage is hidden now,
How does a play end, anyhow?