The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1908.

MR. BRYAN'S CRITICISMS.

In his Commoner Mr. Bryan joyously notes that the Republican platform does not fully affirm the recommendations of President Roosevelt to Congress, but contrariwise ignores several of them, as Congress did. It is a fair criticism. But it is known that Congress refused to consider the President the law-making power of the country, and some of the members went so far as to hint that men might honestly differ with the President and still be loyal to their country.

The Oregonian certainly agrees with Mr. Bryan as to publicity of campaign funds, the amounts, the sources whence derived, and the disposition made of them. But we doubt whether any party will ever "keep the books" in this way. Mr. Bryan himself has not yet told what became of $20,000 sent by Mr. Ryan, of New York, to aid the Bryan campaign in Nebraska, nor returned the money as he said he would, after inquiry was made about it. All that is known is that $5000 of the money was handed over to a weekly paper in Nebraska. Both parties have been accustomed to use of very large sums of money in Presidential campaigns — the Republicans during recent years doubtless gathering in more than the Democrats, but each party using all it could get. It is known that the silver propaganda contributed an enormous sum to further the efforts to elect Bryan, quite as well as it is known that Hanna gathered and used other very large sums to defeat him. But an end ought to be made of the abuses of this business, or limitation of the abuses enforced by compulsory publicity. Neither party, however, has yet shown any anxiety to renounce or reject campaign funds, and each of the parties will this year, as usual, gather in all the money it can and make the most of it. But neither party will really want publicity.

Of the injunction plank Mr. Bryan says it is a retreat from the position taken by the President and by Mr. Taft in his speeches. But the President and Mr. Taft say otherwise. However, it must be said that the injunction plank does not go far enough, is not radical enough, to please those who demanded insertion of such a plank in the platform. It is reasonable, however, and in practice it will be found that no party can go further and keep the process of injunction at all. Preliminary injunction can decide nothing as to the merits of a case; it simply restricts the party from doing the alleged wrong until the case can be heard and the rights of the parties definitely settled; but the Chicago platform proposes alteration of the old rule or practice by the declaration that no injunction or temporary restraining order shall be issued without notice to the other party. This will bring the whole matter to issue at once—virtually setting aside the preliminary injunction. Of course this whole subject will be threshed out, over and over, during the campaign.

Mr. Bryan's next criticism is that the platform is silent on income and inheritance tax. Many of the states now tax inheritances, and doubtless the remainder of them will adopt this method of policy. Taxation of incomes likewise is open to the states, and question is whether these two methods of taxation and revenue should not be left to the states alone. In the customs and excises the general Government now monopolizes the best sources of revenue, leaving to the states only direct taxation, which some wish to throw entirely upon land. Inheritance and income taxes would be excellent and really ideal sources of revenue for the states, and each state might adapt or adjust the taxes to its own views or needs, while the Federal tax would be uniform for all the states, not adjustable to particular conditions. No state has a right to complain that Congress does not levy inheritance and income taxes. Each state has the power in its own hands. Each state can mulct predatory wealth by these taxes if it will, and moreover may limit the testamentary or will-making power over property, so as to compel division of great estates and to prevent such estates from being erected into family trusts and held in perpetuity for further and endless accretion. Besides the Supreme Court has declared Federal income tax unconstitutional.

It is a right criticism of the Republican platform that it failed to demand a change of the Constitution so as to provide for direct election of United States Senators by the popular vote of the respective states. The people generally are not yet awakened to the necessity of this change, which is refused by the Senate only because the people have not insistently demanded it. The Oregon expedient is in favor nowhere else, because it is not regarded as a practicable method, and besides, the people do not take kindly to efforts to circumvent the Constitution by doing a thing ostensibly in one way, while the Constitution plainly says it shall be done in another. The only way to bring about this necessary change is to amend the Constitution of the United States, and the Republican platform ought to have demanded it.

Returning to Mr. Bryan and to Mr. Roosevelt: How far soever below the Republican platform may fall short of Mr. Roosevelt's recommendations, he will tell the country that it comes nearer to his views than Mr. Bryan's platform will, and if Roosevelt is held up as an oracle and guide some will at least think it as advisable to take his word for it and vote for Taft, as others will take Governor Chamberlain's example as a non-partisan, and vote for Bryan.

AMPHIMIXIS.

A remonstrance comes from a reader of The Oregonian against its expression of doubt about the election of Taft. There may be other readers who likewise are uneasy to find any expression of uncertainty on the subject. This particular reader wonders how it is that The Oregonian, which always has been "a good fighter," can doubt, or why it should express a doubt, even if it feels it, instead of trying to "inspire all Republicans with the belief that they are going to win."

What would this reader, who clearly is an earnest party man, have? A view of the situation as it is, or expression of a thoughtless desire, which it is quite possible may fail? The behavior of the Republicans of Oregon these many years certainly is not such as to give certain assurance that the vote of the state will go to Taft. Has it not just now been given to a Democratic Senator? It seems to The Oregonian that there is some reason to doubt whether Bryan is a weaker man in Oregon than Chamberlain. Do any of you think you will find less earnestness, less enthusiasm for Bryan as November approaches than you witnessed for Chamberlain before the June election?

Oregon is but a small part of the country, but who knows for certain that there is or will be any better spirit among Republicans of other states than among those of Oregon? From the way Republicans of Oregon behave we seem to have good right to suppose that this party in politics has become very much as the Laodiceans were in religion. The Laodicean spirit never will win the election in November against the fight that will be made by the supporters of Bryan. It seems that Republicans no longer have any belief in their party or care for what it has stood for, and one-half of them don't know whether they are Republicans or Democrats. A lot of these people, completely befogged, are about ripe to vote for Bryan. But the confusion may not be so great elsewhere as in Oregon, where the "amphimixis," resulting from the "u'renic" system, is apparently complete.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF FISHERIES.

The Clackamas River fish hatchery has been turned over to the United States Commissioner of Fisheries, and in the future will be operated by the Federal Government. This move again suggests the advisability of turning the entire fishery problem over to the Government, where it would be beyond the jurisdiction of clashing state laws, and rival factions of fishermen. The great trouble with Government control of any enterprise is the presence of too much red tape, but in handling the fishery business, especially that branch relating to artificial propagation, very satisfactory results have been accomplished. Not the least of the advantages of Government control of the industry would be the assurance of the retention in office of men who by years of experience had become qualified for the positions they held.

In both Oregon and Washington the office of fish commissioner has always been used as a political asset, awarded without the slightest regard for the fitness of the applicant with the strongest pull. Government experts in charge of the hatcheries would naturally be expected to accomplish more than political appointees who were ignorant of the first principles of the work, but still more important results could be secured in the way of fishing restrictions, which would apply equally to both sides of a river. Oregon and Washington fishery laws have never been in harmony, and with protection on one side of the river and unrestricted fishing on the other, Columbia River fishery laws are, for most of the year, a farce. The amount of money that was spent at the last election by rival fishery factions would indicate that the privilege of catching fish was well worth paying for, and with the Government maintaining strict jurisdiction over the industry, sufficient dues could be collected for licenses to make the work self supporting. Aside from an improved system of interstate regulation over the fishery industry, Government control would be of great advantage on Puget Sound, where American hatcheries turn out millions of fry which later in life find their way into British Columbia traps.

The situation in that field is even more complicated than it is on the Columbia, for the reason that four sets of officials are involved. The Canadian government, the provincial government, the United States Government, and the Washington state authorities all take a hand in the proceedings, and usually succeed in demonstrating the truth of that old adage regarding the cooks and the broth. The fishery industry seems to present a more attractive field for Government control than anything else in which the Pacific Northwest is interested.

THE INJUNCTION RESOLUTION.

Ex-Senator Spooner is a very able man, much addicted to precedents in law and to conservative methods in politics. He resigned from the Senate because the people of his state were taking courses in politics which he did not approve, and because he felt that he must use the remaining years of his activity to make provision for his family and for his own old age. From one of the many syndics of New York he receives a large salary as counsel. Of course he is opposed to the Roosevelt policy, and is a severe critic of the Chicago platform.

This platform declares that "the rules of procedure in the Federal Courts should be more accurately defined by statute, and that no injunction or temporary restraining order should be issued without notice, except where irreparable injury would result from delay, in which case a speedy hearing thereafter should be granted." In order to realize what an innovation this is, read Spooner's commentary on it, viz.:

> A proposition that hereafter no restraining order should be granted by the courts of the United States except upon notice would be monstrous in its injustice and would operate to defeat, in thousands of cases, the remedy sought by injunction, for the parties would preliminarily perpetrate the wrong. Being free from injunction, they could not be punished for contempt, and the plaintiff would have no recourse except in a suit for damages, which so often affords no relief.

Of course the injunction as a remedy at law or in equity is older than our Government. It is an interdict that reaches back to the Roman law, whence, indeed, we have derived nearly everything. It has grown into the form in which we have been using it through English and American practice. How far we are to modify it in our country will be a question much under debate. To go into the debate intelligently will require a great deal of special research, guided by a fair judgment. But in our country now it will be everybody's question, as that of the debate on silver was.

"PROTECTION" AGAINST THE PHILIPPINES.

"Between the United States and the Philippines," says the Chicago platform, "we believe in a free interchange of products, with such limitations as to sugar and tobacco as will offer effectual protection to domestic interests." This mention of protection against the sugar and tobacco of the Philippines is unjust to them and unnecessary to us.

The Philippines are held in allegiance to the United States, under our sovereignty, controlled by our power. It is wholly unjust, therefore, that we should discriminate against them in industry and trade. Free exchange between all peoples under the flag is but equity and justice.

Besides, the output of sugar and tobacco in the Philippines is but a fraction of the production of these commodities in the United States. Official statistics show that the total production of sugar in the United States for the fiscal years 1906-07 was 1,470,296 tons. This includes the Hawaiian and Porto Rican product. The total production of sugar in the Philippine Islands in the same year was 150,500 tons. The total production of tobacco in the United States in 1905 was 639,034,000 pounds. The total production of tobacco in the Philippine Islands in 1905 was 38,200,000 pounds. These figures prove how little effect free importation from the Philippines would have on production in the United States. It would be imperceptible here, yet favorable to the Philippines.

Free trade between the Philippines and the United States will be absolutely necessary, if the sovereignty of the United States is to be continued over them.

RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE.

As but two trading days, and one of them a Saturday, have passed since the nomination of Mr. Taft, the action of the stock market can hardly with fairness be regarded as reflecting Wall street sentiment on the nomination. There were some pronounced declines, but with liberal gold exports, and the usual Summer apathy in trading, it would be difficult to trace them to political causes. It should be remembered that it is but nine months since this country was enjoying the greatest prosperity it had ever known. Within the few months that have passed since the climax was reached the country has been subjected to the most drastic course of liquidation and demoralization of values that it ever experienced. Naturally it would be unreasonable to expect that all of the lost ground could be recovered at once. It is doubtful even if the election of Mr. Taft were assured beyond the possibility of a doubt, that there would be an immediate return of the flood tide of prosperity that was sweeping all before it about a year ago.

That the country is again on the up-grade toward the eminence from which it toppled last Fall is a certainty. Our financiers and business men may continue under easy sail until after the November political gales have blown out, but their craft will be neither becalmed nor beached in the meantime. There is not much likelihood of the reappearance at Denver of the "cross-of-gold" nightmare, and as our currency is sound and crops are good all that is necessary is a little time and patience to enable the "uplift" to gather headway. There were some eloquent figures in the New York bank statement printed in yesterday's Oregonian. They show that the clearing-house banks of New York alone hold deposits of more than $1,332,000,000, with surplus reserves of $59,000,000 above the legal requirements. Other banks and trust companies in New York have deposits of $959,000,000, or a total of $2,291,000,000 in deposits in New York City alone.

Of course the money that is lying idle in surplus reserves is not immediately aiding in the resumption of business, but its presence has an effect in the restoration of confidence. The 1908 crops are coming along in very good condition. The cereals promise to produce close up to the record, and prices are high. As soon as these crops are on the market the farmers will begin buying goods, and manufacturers and dealers will be expected to provide the necessary stocks, they in turn being in a position to use money that is now in idleness pending the expected revival. Occasional pessimistic views on the situation allege that manipulation has been resorted to in order that the recent flotations of railroad securities could be successfully accomplished. This seems hardly probable, if we pause to consider that the men who would naturally be interested in this manipulation were unable to stop the panic even by the use of vast sums of money as well as manipulation.

The United States at this time is in a condition not unlike that of a convalescent patient who has just passed through a severe sickness. A National convention and a Presidential election may produce slight shocks not conducive to quick recovery, but with a sound currency and good crops to aid the naturally strong constitution of the patient their effect is minimized, and continued progress toward complete recovery is a certainty.

Not long ago in Portland a young couple, talking over the wire, refused the most frantic appeal of a mother, who wished to get a physician, on emergency, for one of her children. But what do people expect? This sort of thing must go on, or presently we shall lack soldiers and sailors and waiter girls. The Lord takes care of the propagation of the race. They say a flirtation yesterday between a motorman and a girl, near Arleta, caused a collision and shake-up, in which, however, no one was much hurt. "Courting" must go on, no matter what the consequence. You see the Lord knows how to provide for continuation of the race, and danger to life and property, or even destruction of both, isn't much when you consider the really important and vital aspect of the whole matter.

It is officially denied that the Philippine Assembly has adopted a resolution that demands independence of the Islands. There was a motion for such resolution, but no action was taken on it. The people are said to entertain an idea of future independence, but the representatives do not think the islands ready for it. Possibly by the time they are "prepared" for independence and self-government they will be unwilling to separate from the United States, seeing more good for themselves in the union, with local self-government, than in absolute independence.

Forest fires in Northern Michigan, where the snow remains until late in April, are something unusual, and do not corroborate the general belief that scarcity of timber and high prices for stumpage result in greater precaution against fire loss than is exercised in the Pacific Northwest. Later in the season when vegetation dries out and fires are easily started and difficult to control, a conflagration of the proportions of the one reported in Michigan dispatches might not occasion surprise, but a Spring time forest fire when the earth is green with vegetation, and damp from the recently departed snow, is a rarity.

Our "Statement" men who are pledged to Chamberlain and all calling themselves Republicans who voted to send them to the Legislature, have a right now to claim his support for Taft. They are entitled to it. Let us, with the dawn of a better era, have fair dealing in politics. If it is non-partisan to vote for Chamberlain for the Senate, it is non-partisan to expect and require Chamberlain to give his support to Taft. Let us have the square deal!

Portland bank clearings for the week ending last Saturday were $2,000,000 smaller than for the corresponding week last year, but with the single exception of last year's were the largest ever recorded at a corresponding period. Seattle clearings for the week ending Saturday were $4,000,000 smaller than for the corresponding week last year, and were exceeded in the corresponding week in 1907 and 1906.

The earning capacity of Mr. Bryan is said to have doubled after his second defeat, the lecture platform and the Commoner both drawing larger crowds. Estimating the value of the prospective third defeat on the same basis as its predecessors we shall find the peerless leader right up in the front ranks of the plutocrats about the time he begins laying plans for the Presidential campaign of 1912.

It's likely to be close in Oregon between Taft and Bryan, but if we can get Governor Chamberlain to support Taft in a non-partisan way, which he ought to do since he expects Republicans to elect him to the Senate, we believe Taft may get the state.

Crop reports indicate a record-breaking yield of hay, which will be pleasing to the dairyman. Perhaps Nature figured that since much of this state has voted "dry" the people will expect to drink a glass of milk for every glass of beer they forego.

Since the Democratic party has done quite as well with Bryan at its head as with somebody else, there will be no doubt of his nomination at Denver.

If Roosevelt had been nominated for the second elective term, of course Senator Bourne could not have been spared for a trip to Europe.

Perhaps the Gould family reasons that the sooner Anna scatters her money the sooner she will be rid of noble French rakes.

After all, Count Boni has the laugh on Prince Sagan; he got more money than Sagan will find remaining.

The difference between uremic poison and u'renic poison is not great. Both kill the patient.

A "POEM" ON WASHINGTON.

The Like of Which Never Before Was Seen; Probably Never Will Be Again.

An astonishing poem on George Washington, by Mr. Charles R. Alloway, of Milwaukee, Wis., has appeared. "I have endeavored," the poet says, "to give a correct history of Washington." We think he has succeeded. The poem is too long for very extended quotation; so we must begin far on in the history, when Washington was called to the Presidency. Thus:

On the fourteenth of April, seventeen eighty-nine,
A messenger rode up to his door with a look sublime;
"Hail to the Noble George of Mount Vernon," said he,
"Dear sir, I address you as the Father of our Country,
And as Messenger from Congress I am sent—
With these glad tidings to bring you I'm sure I am content—
That by a unanimous vote with all true dexterity
You've been elected First President of the United States of America,
And with the assumption of your office immediately
The Congressmen beg to be Yours Most Obediently."

So two days later Washington departed for New York
To be inaugurated and take up his new work.

Here is a portrait of the domestic hero:

He now relinquished the sports of his earlier life
And saw less company, but was very attentive to his wife.
In his tastes and habits he always had simple ways;
It was his custom to rise very early and shave.
Wholly absorbed in his extensive agricultural operations,
Ever progressive was he in his daily occupations.

Following is the account of his last illness:

At two in the morning when all was still,
George said to Martha, "I'm quite ill."
But would not let her rise, for 'twas not warm
He said, "Martha, dear, a cold might do you harm."

In the morning they "sent off to Port Tobacco for physicians," and the story of the last hours of the Father of His Country proceeds:

But that day congestion became so complete
That this dying hero had great difficulty to speak.

Towards night he said, "I feel myself agoing on,
I thank you for your attention, friends, I cannot tarry long;
So pray you, do not take more trouble about me,
But let me pass to the Great Beyond most quietly."

He said to Mr. Lear just as the clock struck ten,
"I am going fast, I see my journey's end.
See that I am decently interred," he said.
"Don't put me in the vault till three days after I am dead."

* * * * * * *

When all were fixed in silent grief, 'tis said,
Mrs. Washington, who sat at the foot of her hero's bed,
In a cool and collected voice did ask, "Is he gone?"
Not a word was spoken, but Lear waved his hand along.

The story concludes with this couplet. We think the most exacting reader would not ask for more;

He whipped the British in the great Revolution.
'Twas him that signed the Constitution.

All the writers of history and of poetry have been at work on the life of Washington; but nothing like this ever was done before, or ever will be done again. We trust, however, this is not the last word on Washington.

QUIET HINT FOR THE IDLE RICH

No More Need They Yawn From Club-House Windows, Minus Work.

Denver Republican.

While well meaning individuals are worrying themselves into a fever over the question of providing suitable employment for the idle rich, and while most of our ten-cent magazine fiction seems to be centered about wealthy young men who are led into desperate adventures in order that they may shake off the weight of ennui that hangs upon them, J. Anthony Drexel-Biddle, of Philadelphia, has solved the question in a single evening.

Mr. Drexel-Biddle belongs to one of Philadelphia's most aristocratic families. He is a social leader, and the beau ideal of the "younger set." Being young and strong and active, he has won considerable fame as a boxer. That is, among society people he is a veritable demon with the padded mitts, while among professional prizefighters he is a social lion. Having all the money he wants it would be ridiculous for him to fight for nothing—so the other night Mr. Drexel-Biddle arrived at the happy medium by acting as second for "Philadelphia Jack" O'Brien, who had a match on with another professional.

To the glory of Philadelphia society let it be said that Mr. Drexel-Biddle performed his work well. Never has a towel been more gracefully shaken in the face of a gasping prizefighter between rounds, and never has a pugilist been more effectively sprayed with water—which process consists of taking a large gulp from a bottle and then blowing the aqueous mouthful over the chest and shoulders of the fighter, with the identical technique employed by a Chinese laundryman in moistening a shirt.

Mr. Drexel has pointed the way for other young men of wealth who are yawning their heads off in club windows. The world has plenty of statesmen, chauffeurs, prizefighters and professional baseball players. But it is painfully short of good seconds at the prize ring. May J. Anthony Drexel-Biddle's tribe increase until every pugilist is sure of the inspiring ringside encouragement that only a Vere-de-Vere can give.

U'Renal Hocus-Pocus.

Moro Observer.

Oregon county officers elected to take up their duties the first of July, owing to the so-called amendment to the Constitution changing the time of election from June till November, will have a term of two years and six months to serve, instead of two years as formerly. They will get the extra six months by U'Renal hocus-pocus, commonly called the initiative and referendum.

Nickname for Taft.

Walla Walla Union.

Buckeye Bill.

"The Way."

Ella Wheeler Wilcox in the Nautilus.

However certain of the way thou art,
Take not the self-appointed leader's part.
Follow no man, and by no man be led,
And no man lead. Awake, and go ahead.
Thy path, though leading straight unto the goal,
Might prove confusing to another soul.
The goal is central; but from east, and west,
And north, and south, we set out on the quest;
From lofty mountains, and from valleys low:—
How could all find one common way to go?

Lord Buddha to the wilderness was brought,
Lord Jesus to the Cross. And yet, think not
By solitude, or cross, thou canst achieve,
Lest in thine own true Self thou dost believe.
Know thou art One, with life's Almighty Source,
Then are thy feat set on the certain Course.

Nor does it matter if thou feast, or fast,
Or what thy creed—or where thy lot is cast;
In halls of pleasure, or in crowded mart,
In city streets, or from all men apart—
Thy path leads to the Light; and peace and power
Shall be thy portion, growing hour by hour.
Follow no man, and by no man be led,
And no man lead. But know and go ahead.

PRICES OF MEAT STILL SOARING

Victims of Hog Combine's Extortion Lured Toward Vegetarianism.

Philadelphia Inquirer.

The quotations on steel billets and pigiron have been reduced, which is very important, but leaves the average citizen unmoved; but the commodities of daily consumption, the so-called necessities of life, cost about as much as ever, and in some cases actually cost more.

Meat is an instance. During the past few weeks the price of meat has advanced by leaps and bounds. Beef has led the procession, and it has now reached an altitude which places it beyond the reach of the great majority of the people, or at least confines their purchases to the cheaper and coarser, though not less nutritious cuts. When sirloin steak is selling at from 30 to 36 cents a pound, a great many consumers feel constrained to buy the humbler rump or to dispense with this particular viand altogether. Yet if they turn to veal or lamb or mutton, they find the same conditions confronting them. Meats of all kinds are inordinately dear. Legs of lamb, which not so long ago could be had at from 15 to 18 cents a pound, now cost from 20 to 25, and everything else is in proportion.

This unpleasant state of things is variously explained. It is said that the "Hog Combine," which most of us thought had been put out of business, is responsible for it, and that the consumer is being compelled to pay tribute to the confederated meat packers of Chicago and Omaha. Perhaps that is true. It is not unlikely, and the thought that he is being robbed will not assist the victim of the extortion to endure the situation with a philosophic patience. But after all, it does not help much to account in this way or in that for the evil of which the public is complaining. How can it be remedied? That is the all-important question, and it is, unfortunately, a question much more easily asked than answered.

There is just one thing the citizen can do, and that is to cut his consumption of meat down to a minimum or even do without it, altogether. The doctors who differ in so many things agree in this, that we all eat too much meat anyhow, and there is no doubt that we should be happier and healthier and a good deal better off in pocket if we ate less. With the markets full of fruits and vegetables this is an especially good time to reduce the meat bill by dispensing with steaks and chops for breakfast and by lessening the meat allowance all round. It is quite possible to keep well and strong on a vegetarian diet.

Far-Away Error.

Tacoma Ledger.

The Springfield Republican calls Senator Fulton of Oregon the original third-term boomer for President Roosevelt. This usually well-informed journal may have been confused by the recent complex turn of affairs in Oregon United States Senatorial politics. In a recent issue it observed: "Senator Fulton of Oregon, the original and final third-term boomer of President Roosevelt, has evidently come to accept the nomination of Taft as inevitable, and now seeks a part in shaping the rest of the Republican ticket." In justice to Senator Bourne, the Republican ought to set this matter straight. Senator Fulton has been a distinguished figure in the National Convention, but it was Bourne and not he that insisted upon the third term, or, as he called it, the "second elective term." Senator Bourne is entitled to all the credit there is in the insistence upon another nomination for Roosevelt when Roosevelt specifically and repeatedly expressed opposition. It was Bourne, as the Springfield paper should know, that offered the prize for the best essay on the reasons Roosevelt should have a "second elective term." When a man expends money in the promotion of an idea, as did Senator Bourne, he ought to receive whatever credit there may be in using his name in connection therewith. The error in the Massachusetts newspaper should be attributed to misinformation rather than to malice.

The London Index Expurgatorius.

London Bookman.

The Index Expurgatorius of the London County Council is a fearful and wonderful thing. That care must be taken in selecting books for young readers is obvious, but it is difficult to see what principles have governed the compilers of the index. If ever there was a boys' book we should have thought it to be "Don Quixote," but that is banned, in company with the rollicking "Charles O'Malley," of Lever and Scott's "Kenilworth," and Lytton's "Last Days of Pompeii." The County Council scholar is not to have, to select but a few names, "Vanity Fair," "The Woman in White," "The Cloister and the Hearth, "Adam Bede," "Barchester Towers," "The Heart of Midlothian," "The Caxtons," or "Coningsby." It only remains for the authorities who drew up this list to compile another of books they think suitable.

Next Ism, Please.

Tillamook Headlight.

What is the matter with a large number of Republicans in Oregon? That is as easy as falling off a log. A lot of them became politically buggy when A. P. A.-ism swept over Oregon; then they went crazy on the Populist ism, after that they became luny on 16 to 1-ism, and by way of diversion, a whole lot of Republicans became so full of Statement No. 1 bugs at the recent election that they did not realize what a lot of idiots they were. Next ism, please, to catch Republican suckers.

Minus Bell and Rope.

Aberdeen World.

Wanted — Address of Jonathan Bourne. Last seen in corridors of Freaks Club. Usually carries dilapidated megaphone labeled, "second elective term." If discovered, send word to W. S., U'Ren, Oregon.

Time's Softening Influence.

Puck.

Somehow or other, after a girl gets pretty well along in the thirties, it doesn't seem to make her so mad to be called a coquette.

A FEW SQUIBS.

Cooley (reading paper in Feeney's saloon)—"What's a dead reckonin', Dinny?" Feeney—"The bar bill av $7.80 I have agin yer late brother Mike."—Puck.

"The editor of a humorous publication has to be familiar with all the old jokes." "To keep people from palming off new jokes upon him, I s'pose?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Do you know that your chickens come over into my garden?" "I thought they must be doing that." "Why did you think so?" "Because they never come back."—Cleveland Leader.

"You can't buy happiness," exclaimed the sentimentalist. "No," answered the man who is sternly practical. "You can't buy happiness. And at the same time that fact doesn't imply that your comfort is enhanced by being broke."—Washington Star.

"De man who accidentally goes to sleep in church," said Uncle Eben, "somehow seems to get a heap mo' blame than de man who puts in de other six days showin' deliberate disrespect to de sermon."—Washington Star.

"The climate here is salubrious, isn't it?" remarked the tourist. "Say, friend," replied the native, "jes' write that there word down fur me will yer? I git tired o' swearin' at this climate in the same old way. That's a new one."—Philadelphia Press.

"Does youah leisure clawss in this country follow the hounds at all, Miss Peppry?" asked the visiting British nobleman. "No," replied Miss Peppry, "the hounds usually follow the leisure class here. We always try to keep the hoboes on the move."—Philadelphia Press.

NOW'S THE TIME TO BUILD.

Lowered Cost of Labor and Materials May Not Long Continue.

American Lumberman.

Labor is cheaper now than it was a year ago, although nominally wages are the same. It is cheaper because it is better.

Materials are cheaper than they were a year ago, not for the same reason that labor is cheaper, but in the actual prices that must be paid.

Last year the majority of the dealers in building material had all the trade they could handle. This year business has been fair, as shown by the building records, but there is room for a very considerable improvement.

The one great reason why building operations should be undertaken now or why contracts for supplies should be entered into is that they can be made on more advantageous terms.

Materials can be secured for lower prices, will be delivered more promptly and in a more satisfactory manner than during either 1906 or 1907.

As a general proposition, lumber now is being sold for 10 to 15 per cent less than during last year. In some cases, where the trade is supplied with special woods, a reduction to that extent has not been made. However, 10 per cent probably represents about the general decline in the retail price of building material.

A Cleveland operator has supplied some specific information showing the relative cost of building in 1907 and 1908, which is reproduced herewith:

	1907.	1908.	Pct. dec.
Masonry and grading	$1,329	$994	20.9
Plastering	585	313	46.4
Plumbing	640	500	21.9
Heating	730	570	22.0
Painting	530	400	24.5

Lumber, $4 to $6 a thousand less.

The foregoing comparative values represent actual figures secured by a gentleman who wished to build. The 1907 prices were made during the latter part of that year, and the 1908 prices this month.

It is high time the general public informs itself of this condition of affairs and profits by the opportunity now presented, one which probably will not long be available.

No uniform reduction in the retail prices of lumber has been made by the dealers of the country. Some have very materially reduced their prices and claim to have encouraged building by this policy. In other sections, however, cheap lumber now being offered has to be transported such great distances that the freight rates put a high value on the products. This particularly is true throughout the eastern section of the country, and to a more limited extent in the northern territory where local supplies are inadequate.

Referring again to the comparative schedule of values submitted, it will be seen that the total cost in 1907 would have been 3814 for the items mentioned. For 1908 the bids put in represented a cost of only $2727, a saving of $1087 on the building for which prices were secured, representing a decrease of 28.5 per cent. This reduction possibly may be out of the ordinary. It scarcely is possible that building could be done for a third less now than in 1907, but the figures given represent estimates made by contractors during the two periods.

This showing is sufficiently strong to warrant every prospective builder or everyone who is in a position to build in taking this matter up and making a thorough investigation of the subject.

Conditions in different parts of the country vary. What is said of one town may not be applicable to another, and probably would not be applicable to all the country; but in every city and every village in the United States it is a comparatively easy matter to determine the relative cost this year and last, and beyond question it will be found that buildings can be put up this year at a saving of anywhere from 10 to 25 per cent of the cost in 1907.

Pre-eminently, emphatically and conclusively, this is the time to build.

Bourne's Exraordinary Proceeding.

Spokane Spokesman-Review.

The distinction of playing the trickster's role at the Chicago convention belongs without contest to Senator Jonathan Bourne of Oregon. His sly and deceitful schemes are laid entirely bare, and he is thoroughly exposed and discredited.

The country can respect those "allies" who fought President Roosevelt and Secretary Taft in a manly, open way. They have been defeated in honorable combat, but they had the courage of their convictions and went down as gallant fighters.

But Bourne has been guilty of contemptible duplicity. Under pretense of extraordinary devotion to President Roosevelt and his reform policies, he has industriously striven for months to undermine the President's earnest plan of perpetuating his policies through Secretary Taft. He has been a willing and conspicuous tool of the reactionary forces. His purpose throughout was to draw from Taft enough Roosevelt admirers to prevent the Secretary's nomination on the first ballot, and thus throw the convention into confusion and wreck the carefully-matured plans of the administration.

Bourne persisted in this role of the marplot in open but suave defiance of the repeatedly expressed protests of the President. No other interpretation can be placed on his amazing conduct than a treacherous desire to destroy the reform policies of President Roosevelt.

Local Option Vote Affects a Cat.

Prineville Review.

Dick, the old cat that has been in the Long & Snoderly saloon since birth, 17 years ago, was taken down to the O'Neil ranch day before yesterday, there to pass the remainder of his days. Though toothless, blind and deaf, old Dick is yet the best mouser in the county, and he is still able to earn his keep by following his chosen profession. When once his smeller scents a mouse, it's all off with the mouse, as Dick will camp at its hole for a week if he doesn't catch Mr. Mouse sooner.

State of Matrimony Gets Them.

Grants Pass Pacific Outlook.

One hundred and eleven teachers will have been graduated from the four Normal Schools of this state when the Normals close this month. Recommendations for the graduation of 192 were made by the executive board of the Normal School Regents last week. Nine were graduated from Monmouth in February. And yet a large proportion of our city school teachers are imported from the Middle West or Far East. Is this a reflection upon the Oregon product or a mark of "peculiarness" on the part of Oregon school boards?

One of Life's Tragedies.

Moro Observer.

Grandpa William Peabody, having lost his home in Sherman County, has gone to live with his daughter in Kansas. The leaving was sad. As the old man left the house, and turned to give it the last look, he broke down and cried like his heart would break. When he went uptown friends and neighbors made up a purse of about $100 and gave him.

Two Times and Out.

Walla Walla Statesman.

That experience in Oregon has evidently made the Republicans lose faith in the election of Senators by the direct vote of the people.