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PORTLAND, MONDAY, NOV. 30, 1908.

MUNICIPAL PROBLEMS.

A few days ago F. W. Mulkey, President, and L. J. Goldsmith, Secretary of the Taxpayers' League, published a statement of the indebtedness of the City of Portland, together with the annual interest charge, and a further statement of the amount of city bonds authorized but not yet issued. The two together amount to $12,741,500, with annual interest charge of $583,250; of which interest sum $388,280 is payable by direct taxation, and the remainder by water rates and minor sources of income, as use of the bridges by the carlines and receipts from use of the drydock.

It is now proposed to add to the indebtedness other bonds to the amount of $2,000,000 for a bridge over the Willamette below the structure known as the steel bridge, and $2,000,000 more for an electric light plant. These additions would carry the total of bonded debt up to $16,741,500, and would add $200,000 to the annual interest charge—cost of maintenance by the city not included. It is a situation that must be looked fairly in the face.

An annual interest charge of nearly $800,000—to be exact, $783,250—is a thought that may well cause the owner of property to stop and consider, and give the city as a corporate entity pause. The Oregonian will not indulge any gloomy forebodings about the consequences. The matter should come home to every owner of property and to every taxpayer of the city as if it were his own personal and private business; for indeed it is. For the obligations of the city are the debts of those who own property and do business in it.

Many have feared that already the city had gone too far into debt; and we believe there can be no doubt that a mistake was made when the charge for interest on the new water bonds authorized last June was laid upon the property of the city instead of upon the water rates. This ought to be resubmitted and corrected. There would be a better market for these bonds of $3,000,000, and more equitable distribution of the charges upon the people of the city. For the city is going into debt so far that it requires use of all sources of revenue; and water rates everywhere are the means used for support of the city's water supply.

The question of bridges over the river presses and a mistake was made here, too, for tolls sufficient to operate the bridges and keep them in repair ought to have been required from the first. It is too late now, no doubt, to repair this error; and yet it would be not at all surprising if the pressure of circumstances should yet make it necessary. There is a limit beyond which property will not bear direct taxation, and users of the bridges as well as users of water should pay for what they get.

But there must be bridges, and the present policy cannot now be interrupted. The bridge at Madison street must be rebuilt; and no one denies the need of the proposed bridge below the steel bridge. This will be a very expensive structure; and it will be a mistake to figure on less than two millions for it. But, greatly needed as it is, many will deliberate whether it should be undertaken now. Rebuilding of the Madison bridge is not likely to be a pressing matter soon—although the bonds have been voted for it—unless the city and streetcar company can come to an agreement upon the sum the latter is to pay for use of it; for the bonds can't be sold while this dispute remains unsettled. Buyers will shun them.

Is the city to undertake the construction and operation of an electric light plant? This will call for a bond issue of not less than two millions. Question is whether the charge of this debt and the necessary costs of operation and maintenance will give the city cheaper light than that now offered. It is open to much doubt. What cities are buying light at a less rate than $5 a month for each arc lamp? What cities are supplying themselves with light at less cost? This is a study in economics, not an exercise in declamation. From the well-known fact that any service conducted by the public costs more than when in private hands, there is need of great care and caution in this business. Every city should, indeed, supply itself with water; but it by no means follows that it can as well or as economically supply other wants. All conditions of water supply are different from those of other municipal utilities. Supply of light is in the class of street railways operated by the public. If the City of Portland should undertake any of these things (beyond water supply) knowledge of the mistake will be accompanied by the regret that the schemes were undertaken.

These remarks are not intended as doleful croakings or as gloomy predictions, but as suggestive, monitory, cautionary. A municipal debt of $16,000,000, requiring interest payment of three-quarters of a million a year, cannot be thought of by a city no larger than Portland without serious apprehension; for cities as well as individuals, before running into debt, should think of payday.

The building and successful launching of the fine steel steamer H. B. Kennedy, which took the water in this city Saturday, was an event of more than ordinary importance, not only for the builders, but for Portland. The contract for the building of this steamer was secured by the Willamette Iron Works, of this city, in competition with the builders of other cities, some of them with more pretentious plants, and the enterprise of the local firm in capturing the business is commendable in the extreme. There are very few industries in which labor is more largely represented in the finished product than in the building of metal steamers and their machinery. As the greater part of this labor is skilled and commands good wages, the advantage to the community is obvious. Mr. Corbett has made an excellent beginning with his new plant. The Kennedy afloat will be a great advertisement for Portland as well as for the yard at which the craft was built.

NOW ENFORCE THE LAW!

Neither surface nor overhead nor underground lines of movement can work too fast, in the interest of justice, when it comes to the duty of railroading scoundrels like Finch to the gallows. Mob law, employed in some parts of the country, will not do at all. It only makes matters worse.

This wretch ought to be hanged by due process of law within three weeks, or less. It is criminal weakness to palter with such crimes. The courts are in no way disposed to palter with them. Juries should not:—say, rather, juries must not.

It is terrible. The defense of "insanity," of "temporary aberration," of "moral irresponsibility," has been permitted by juries to exceed the limit. It encourages homicidal malignity.

Members of the legal profession also have a duty here. To press technical defenses, on the ground of insanity, or of moral weakness, in such cases, does no honor to their profession, but tends to bring it into disrepute.

It is time to set up the gallows and to hang murderers. There has been too little of this downright way of dealing with murderers. There is a lot of these creatures who need the gallows as an object-lesson.

ECONOMIC WASTE OF WAR.

With all India in a state of grave unrest, and unemployed men by thousands parading the streets of all British cities, with the Oriental question not entirely settled, and with Germany making faces across the border, the position of England just at this time is not hilariously enviable. England has some first-class enemies scattered throughout the world who would not be drawn into any clash which now seems among the possibilities, but through hatred of the British and British policies might rejoice in the trouble which may ensue. But if Great Britain's worst enemies would make a brief study of the economic risks attached to a European war or to an Indian rebellion, there would be much hesitancy about approving the policy of the countries which might invite trouble.

A stiff, old-fashioned war between some of the European nations, of course, would advance prices on breadstuffs, bacon, beef and other rations which America might have to sell to the contestants, but in the end this country would be the loser to a greater extent than could be offset by the immediate profit. War destroys wealth in a thousand forms, and the economic system of the world is affected by this destruction and by the slow process of replenishing and rebuilding from that destruction. The surface scars left by the Russia-Japan conflict have been healed, but the enormous waste of wealth has not been fully replenished, and today the effort of replenishing that waste is felt throughout the world. For months America has been selling cotton, corn, wheat and a vast amount of other products to Europe, and the natural supposition would be that our friends across the Atlantic were indebted to us to the extent of some hundreds of millions.

But the rapid rise in sterling exchange indicates quite clearly that not only has Europe settled up all of its indebtedness, but that there is so much of a balance against the United States that gold exports are not improbable. This situation, to a greater extent than to any other cause, is traceable to the unsettled political situation and to the demands for money that Russia finds it necessary to make in order to repair the war damage. Paris has been piling up gold for the $250,000,000 Russian loan, and London is preparing to finance a similar amount in connection with the Irish land act.

These demands, present and prospective, have forced the foreigners to indulge in extensive liquidation of American securities. If we can keep up our exports and hold down exchange rates, England may accumulate the funds needed for immediate loans without the international financial equilibrium's being disturbed. If, however, there is any serious disturbance which calls for the rapid accumulation of the sinews of war, American financiers might be called on to absorb such large quantities of American securities that a stringency would be caused in this country. The philosophical remark that "War is hell" is, to a degree, as thoroughly appreciated by those who do not directly participate as by those who handle the guns.

THE PRYING POLICE.

Honest, law-abiding citizens who desire effective enforcement of the law must expect to suffer some of the annoyances and inconveniences incident to human frailty. Police officers cannot always recognize an honest man or woman by appearances, and if mistakes are made the victim should take the matter philosophically, provided the officer has not been unnecessarily rude. It is safe to say that a policeman who never makes a mistake never does anything else, and it is just as safe to say that the people are tired of that class of policemen who never do anything.

We expect the police, somehow or other, to put a stop to the carrying of pistols. Just how they are to do this no one has pointed out. In the past the only effort that has been made along this line has been merely incidental. Whenever a man has been arrested on another charge and the original charge fails, he is prosecuted for carrying concealed weapons if anything of the kind is found in his possession. But this is no serious or effective method of enforcing the law against carrying revolvers. The only promising plan of compelling obedience to this law would be to authorize the police to search any person suspected of carrying a concealed weapon. But if the police should attempt to carry out such a plan, they would tackle an honest, peaceable, law-abiding citizen in about 20 per cent of the cases. And then there would be a howl of protest.

We expect the police to drive out that class of dangerous characters who prowl about the streets at night looking for some opportunity to hold up and rob, or planning to rob a house or store. But we also have the idea that the policeman, by some magic power, should be able to tell at a glance whether a late pedestrian is an honorable citizen or a desperado. At least, if the policeman makes a mistake and becomes inquisitive about the name, residence, business and other pertinent affairs of a stranger, the latter becomes at once highly indignant. For his error the policeman must be discharged from the force. The peace officers are expected to drive out that class of men and women who maintain unlawful relations in convenient rooming-houses, but if the officer makes a mistake and asks a respectable couple to give an account of themselves there is immediately a cry of stupid, malicious or tyrannical interference with private affairs.

It must be admitted that the power to search without warrant, to subject to inquisition without formal charge having been made, and to pry into private affairs, is one easily abused and readily made the means of persecution and graft. The existence of such power is particularly un-American. And yet it is difficult to understand how we are to secure effective protection from the lawless without submitting to some annoyances and inconveniences such as these mentioned.

PORTLAND'S FOREIGN FLEET.

Misrepresentation of conditions on the Columbia River, either by the people of rival ports who seek to lessen this city's prestige or by Portland's own people who believe that an exposure of its shortcomings may hasten a remedy, are alike objectionable and unfair. Considerable publicity has recently been given a statement by a man who thirty years ago was familiar with conditions then existing on the Columbia River, but who is apparently in ignorance of the present situation. In an attempt to belittle the commerce of Portland and the Columbia River the man used the San Francisco Commercial News statistics on tonnage figures. By including the mammoth Harriman liners in San Francisco and Mr. Hill's "white elephant," the Minnesota, on Puget Sound, it was demonstrated that the average tonnage of vessels plying to and from San Francisco and Puget Sound ports is greater than that of the Portland foreign fleet.

These figures were used in an attempt to show that Portland is lagging in the commercial race, and that the additional ten feet which Portland had dredged in the channel to the sea is inconsequential. Other figures from the same newspaper, equally authentic, make a radically different showing. These latter figures Portlanders might naturally expect would be used in preference to those which had so little bearing on actual commerce. There are two great commodities, in quantity exceeding all other exports combined, shipped foreign from Portland and Puget Sound. These commodities are grain and lumber. From a tonnage standpoint all other products exported from the Pacific Coast are, in comparison, insignificant. Let us see how "poor old Portland" figures in this actual business transacted.

For the first four months of the current season, beginning July 1, Portland dispatched, exclusive of regular liners, thirty grain ships of 61,857 tons, an average of 2061 tons net register per ship. For the same period the Puget Sound ports dispatched fifteen grain ships of 30,054 tons, an average of 2004 tons net register per ship. These figures did not include in either port the British steamship Knight of the Thistle, 4286 tons, which loaded two-thirds of her cargo at Portland and finished at Tacoma. San Francisco's grain fleet, exclusive of liners, for the same period consisted of twenty vessels of 39,991 tons, an average of 1999 tons net register per ship.

The lumber fleet for the same period makes an equally interesting showing. During the four months Portland dispatched foreign with lumber twenty-three vessels of 40,105 tons, an average of 1743 tons net register. The lumber fleet from Puget Sound for the same period, including Tacoma, Seattle, Everett, Bellingham, Port Gamble, Port Ludlow and all other Puget Sound ports, and also the Canadian ports of Chemainus, Vancouver and Hastings, consisted of thirty-nine vessels of 47,757 tons, an average of 1224 tons net register, or more than 500 tons net register smaller than the Portland vessels. From these figures, which are official, it is evident that the large sums of money expended by the Port of Portland in deepening a channel to the sea have brought results. Ten years hence the average size of the vessels out of all Pacific ports will be greater than it is today, and with a continuation of present efforts Portland will still be able to make a satisfactory showing.

While the big liners plying out of Puget Sound and San Francisco do not carry as much freight tonnage originating on the Coast as is carried by the Portland liners, they would be welcome additions to the Portland fleet. With sufficient appropriations for a forty-foot channel on the bar and a thirty-foot channel in the river to Portland, they would all come to Portland docks, and every railroad in the Northwest would hasten to meet them. Oregon can reduce railroad freight rates by the method successfully followed by Washington, which finds maximum rate laws more economical than unprofitable steamboat lines. But it cannot use this method in deepening the channel to the sea. Pending the time when the people will realize the necessity for centering all efforts on that portion of the river most in need of work, there is nothing to be gained by circulating misleading statistics.

THE BOY WITH A FIRE LUST.

The story of the youthful incendiary and his works, that comes to us from Baker City, is scarcely believable, yet it is painfully true. Here we have a boy of fifteen who, like many other boys of that restless, inconsiderate, irresponsible age, gave his teachers much trouble in school. Necessarily, he had to be reproved and punished. There is no record that either reproof or punishment was severe. The probability, indeed, is that the discipline was not as severe as the offenses deserved. However this may be, this unconquered young mischief-breeder was incensed at the teacher, determined "to get even with her," and so in the spirit of true anarchistic unreason, set fire to and burned to the ground the little schoolhouse in which she taught.

She was transferred to another building, and this, too, he burned. By this time he had developed a sort of mania for burning buildings—a fire lust—and before he was apprehended the costly new high-school building, just completed and furnished, and the Standard Oil Company's tanks in Baker City were burned by this precocious fire-bug.

Here, indeed, is a case the disposal of which will tax the best judicial judgment of the state. Had he been a grown man and been caught in setting any one of these costly fires it would have fared ill with him, so thoroughly were the citizens of Baker City aroused to the enormity of the flagrant and frequently repeated crime of arson in their town. It may be doubted, indeed, whether the boy would have been spared had he been caught setting fire to the fine new high-school building. But he was not caught in the act and when calmly reviewing the spectacular conflagration, caused by the burning of the oil tanks—his little sister by his side—on the porch of his own home, he stoutly declared his innocence.

But the net had been woven around him and he finally confessed to having started six fires within the past five months, involving a loss in aggregate of $100,000. Here, we say, is a moral pervert—a boy who developed a fire lust, which he did not hesitate to gratify in the simple pleasure that the indulgence afforded. What shall be done with him? Send him to the State Reform School, where he will boast his success as an incendiary and perhaps excite envy and emulation among his associates? Or to the penitentiary, where his association with hardened criminals will defeat whatever possibility yet remains of making a man of him? He will certainly have to be restrained of his liberty and subjected to stern discipline. The case is a sorrowful as well as a perplexing one, involving as it does the ruin of a life yet in its morning, a disgraced home and name, and a yet deeper shadow of yearning and wretchedness upon the hearts of those who love him. Had he been made from early childhood properly amenable to law, the law of home and school set up for the welfare and protection of the many, he would not now, in all probability, have been face to face with severe penalty for violating the law of the state and the rights of the community. When it becomes necessary to inflict punishment upon an openly and stubbornly rebellious boy it should be severe enough to make him hesitate long before he repeats the offense that called it out. Probably the only criticism that can be justly lodged against the schoolteacher of the Baker City lad for the punishment that aroused in this boy the spirit of blind retaliation is that the punishment was too mild.

Here are the appropriations for the City of Nashville for the ensuing year. The population of the city is somewhat less than that of Portland. Owing to different conditions, the comparison as to items of expense in the two cities cannot be accurate; yet it will interest many here to see the Nashville budget, to wit:

Department—	
Street	$ 50,400.00
Health	19,000.00
Waterworks	239,946.25
Police	130,215.00
Fire	127,708.00
Sprinkling	25,800.00
Workhouse	7,180.00
Hospital	27,459.00
Light	149,350.00
Scavenger	80,720.00
Markethouse	3,500.00
Public property	6,062.00
Sewer	7,000.00
Advertising, printing and stationery	3,000.00
Interest on bonds	184,885.00
Miscellaneous	2,500.00
Salary	46,700.00
Law	8,000.00
Carnegie Library	10,000.00
Sinking fund	140,000.00
Abutting property	65,000.00
Street signs	1,000.00
School	290,635.00
Total	$1,600,608.25

Deposits in the New York banks and in the trust companies and other institutions not associated with the clearing-house banks, for the week ending Saturday reached the enormous total of $2,530,216,000. The surplus reserve of the clearing-house banks, while showing a decrease for the week, was still in excess of $28,000,000, with more than $384,000,000 cash on hand. On a corresponding week last year there was a deficit of $52,989,425 in the surplus reserve account, and the amount of cash on hand had dwindled to $217,831,400. These figures have a healthy appearance, and the fact that not even the record-breaking stock speculation and investment buying has served to get the surplus reserve down to below the 25 per cent limit is evidence that the New York financiers are keeping a stiff rein on the borrowers until after the hysterical wave of speculation which followed Mr. Taft's election has spent its force.

Some of the prohibition hopgrowers who assisted in voting their respective districts in the Willamette Valley into the "dry" column will be interested in the hop testimony given before the ways and means committee at Washington. This testimony showed that very few hops were used in making beer, only five-eighths of a pound being necessary for a barrel of the "suds." This comparatively small contribution of the Oregon hopgrower to the alleged cause of intemperance will, of course, absolve him from the blame which might attach if foreign hops were barred and he was obliged to supply all that were needed for beer.

Paving companies in Portland have fought each other by jobs and politics, but not by price-cutting. Now if the brick and the Belgian block companies, in their war, will declare off the price truce, the public will pray that places be reserved for them in heaven.

The Houston Post "regrets exceedingly to learn that Tom Johnson's private business has gone so heavily Democratic." Another victim, says the Nashville American, of fantastic theories, vagaries and impracticabilities.

To escape the consequences of the statute that "instructs," those who enacted it now admit that it has no validity. It was only a part of the bunco game.

Dr. Clarence True Wilson is married at last, and now all those girls will have to look elsewhere.

The farmer whose land is bordered by a rock-surfaced highway does not care how hard it rains.

In the Multnomah County Jail there are thirteen murderers. It is the fault of juries.

Tag day in Chicago netted a little over $20,000. Not a great sum for a big city.

It will take rain to make some persons appreciate the fine weather.

TESTING DIRECT PRIMARIES.

Illustrations Drawn From the Experience and Example of Oregon.

New York Sun.

New Yorkers are or should be much interested in the way in which the direct primary law is working in Oregon. There is in this state a movement on foot both for the enactment of a direct nominations law and as its sequel statutory provision for practically effecting the popular election of United States Senators through the medium of the direct primary. Oregon has made a trial of both this year under circumstances and with results which have not appeared so flagrantly elsewhere. In other states which have the direct primary and make popular choice of United States Senators through the primary things have gone more smoothly. There have been in many of them hints of defects in the system not wholly compatible with the necessity of party government, but Oregon is the first state in which they have come out fully developed. Of Oregon it may be said that it is furnishing a demonstration of the disadvantages and drawbacks of the direct primary which may at any time produce trouble, if not disaster, wherever it is put into operation.

Oregon held an election last June, at which a Republican Legislature was elected and a Republican delegation returned to Congress. On joint ballot a majority of the Legislature, by a margin of six, was elected on a pledge to "vote for the candidate for United States Senator who has received the highest number of the people's votes for the position at the general election next preceding the election of a Senator without regard to any individual preferences." At the same time that this Legislature, with the majority so pledged, was elected a primary was held to nominate a candidate for United States Senator, and, as it turned out, the man who had "the highest number of the people's votes" was the Governor of the state, George E. Chamberlain, a Democrat, who had been previously named in his party primary for the Senatorial candidacy.

Immediately upon the count of the returns, which showed that Chamberlain had a plurality of about 1500 votes, the Republican organization of the state began to bestir itself to encompass Chamberlain's defeat in the Legislature. The cry was made all over Oregon that in the party primaries before the June election Democrats, who were assured of Chamberlain's nomination in their own primary, packed the Republican primary and brought about the nomination of a very weak man to oppose Chamberlain. As there is no doubt that the direct primary permits such a political maneuver as this the charge which has been made in Oregon, and has been made in other states for that matter, must itself be accepted as an evidence of one defect of the direct primary without regard to the question of proof. In the nature of the case the charge would be hard to prove, but the self-evident possibility of its truth is enough, without proof, to weaken confidence in the direct primary. Party government can hardly survive under such conditions, and it is doubtful if Americans are ready to accept the doctrinaire notion that our Government can be carried on without parties.

The Oregon test of the direct primary, so unhappily begun, is now reaching its logical consequence in the organized efforts which are being made to have the Legislature fail to elect Chamberlain, if not to elect a Republican, in spite of the pledge of the majority. At this distance such an outcome would appear to be impossible, even in the harebrained State of Oregon. Nevertheless the very openness of the attempt to defeat Chamberlain betrays a far from settled public opinion in Oregon as to the merits of the direct primary and the process of electing United States Senators by popular vote. Chamberlain's plurality was meager compared with the plurality of 25,000 which the state gave Taft this month, and this comparison is being extensively used as arguing that the majority of Oregon voters do not want a Democrat sent to the Senate. Obviously the argument should not in morals or reason affect the validity of Governor Chamberlain's status before the Legislature as the candidate which it must elect to the Senate. What it does do, though, is to show another weakness of the direct primary as applied to the choice of Senators.

After all there is no virtue in direct nominations as such which make them necessarily superior to indirect nominations. In fact, to the man who is thoroughly convinced of the worth of representative institutions, as such a tremendous Democrat as Jefferson was convinced, the direct primary must look something like a dangerous departure.

MOUND BUILDERS' RELICS.

Tomb With Sixteen Skeletons Unearthed in East St. Louis.

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill., Nov. 24.—Human bones believed to have been those of 16 Mound Builders were found at Second and St. Clair avenues, East St. Louis, today by workmen who were digging an excavation for a hay warehouse. Despite efforts to keep the bones together most of them were carried away by persons living near by.

One Skeleton, supposed to be that of a chief, was standing up in a stone tomb eight feet high. The skeleton was that of a man apparently seven feet tall. An effort was made to remove the skeleton intact, but it fell to pieces. In the bottom of the tomb were five pottery bowls, two flint arrowheads and a stone hatchet.

Buried under seven feet of earth, near the base of the tomb, were found the skeletons of 16 men, all above the normal height. They were seated in a circle. As the ground was cleared away these skeletons also fell apart.

Can Kill but Not Wound Dog.

Baltimore News.

Cooper Horner, living near Camden, N. J., was fined $20 for wounding a dog that had killed his chickens. The Court said if he had killed the dog he could not have been punished.

JUST A FEW SQUIBS.

"Why are women who figure in the press items invariably beautiful?" "To offset the newspaper cuts, I imagine."—Puck.

De Snail—I guess I'll have to say good night, Miss Weary—If it will help you along any I'll consider it said.—Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

There are now 250,000 words in the English language, but that isn't any reason why a Presidential message should contain them all.—Ohio State Journal.

"Not a cent. Get along with you, or I'll call the police." "Gee!" ejaculated the mendicant, "dat must be one o' dem vicious rich. I've read about 'em."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

"The women's hats are as big as houses now." "Well, maybe they won't have to have an entire new structure every year. Maybe they'll be satisfied just to add a wing."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Bronson is one of the most humble men I ever saw." "Yes, arrogance seems to be wholly foreign to his make-up." "I wonder why it is that he always has such a servile manner?" "I think it is because he is neither rich enough to get into a trust nor poor enough to belong to a union."—Judge.

THE DUTY ON HIDES.

Packers Make the Most Money Out of It.

Chicago Tribune.

The last schedule of the tariff, which will be reached by the committee on ways and means about the end of the month, is the one which contains the 15 per cent duty on hides. It will be interesting to watch the men who appear before the committee to object to the repeal of the duty. They will not be the manufacturers of shoes. They have been against the duty ever since it was imposed, 11 years ago. They will not be the farmers and cattleraisers, for whose alleged benefit it was put in the Dingley tariff law. The sole beneficiaries have been the packers, and if the duty were to be retained it would be to oblige them.

The United States is a considerable exporter of leather and shoes. A tax on imported hides is, in spite of the drawback provisions, a tax on both those important industries. The United States does not produce enough hides to meet the demand. There are some particularly those best suited for making sole-leather, which have to be imported. The leather and shoe industries of this country were built up on a basis of free hides and have suffered during the last ten years from lack of it.

The Treasury gets something over $2,000,000 a year out of hides. The packers may make more than that. The men who raise the cattle get nothing. As far as they are concerned there is nothing protective about the duty, although attempts have been made to persuade them that there is. The Government ought to be willing to surrender a comparatively small revenue to give free raw materials to two great industries and enable the shoe manufacturers to sell their goods more cheaply at home and abroad. Cheaper footwear is more of an object than the perpetuation of the unjust profits of packers.

JUST HOW THE MATTER STANDS

For This Is a Perfectly Fair and Exact Statement About It.

Pendleton Tribune.

There are at least two dozen Republicans in the next Legislature who will "choose" a United States Senator to whom they are opposed and whom they believe will misrepresent the people of Oregon, and to whose support they have promised to come for the admitted reason that withholding that promise to vote against their own convictions would not be popular—might result in their defeat.

In other words, every Statement No. 1 Republican in the next Legislature promised to renounce his party affiliations on the only political question that can possibly come before that body, and vote with the Democrats on the only political question demanding their attention, in order to make their election more certain.

Not one of them but who will frankly say he would prefer to vote for a Republican United States Senator, but they have renounced their party allegiance for a seat in the Legislature where, so far as anything aside from the election of a Senator is concerned, they had all as well be Democrats.

At the only stage in the proceedings next Winter when the 25,000 Republican majority in Oregon cares a whoop whether it is represented politically or not, about two dozen Republican members will support Bryan policies alongside of Milt Miller and Turner Oliver!

And there are those Republicans so obtuse as to be unable to see the difference between a situation such as this and a Democratic Legislature outright. The Tribune belongs to this class.

The Help of Brother Charles.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

Brother Charles' $110,000 for the expenses of Mr. Taft's campaign does not include his expenditure in the preliminary canvass whose object was to secure the Republican nomination. Mr. Hitchcock's expenses prior to the Chicago convention were believed to be very large, so that the total sum invested by the Cincinnati millionaire must have been considerably in excess of $200,000. No one will criticise such a display of fraternal affection and regard. What one of us, worth millions, would hesitate a moment to pay the legitimate campaign expenses of a worthy and able brother, who was without a fortune, on his way to so exalted an office as the Presidency? Mere family pride, if nothing else, would move one to untie the purse-strings. Yet a sensitive man would be content with such reward as the consciousness of having been useful and generous would afford him. He would not make political capital out of his fraternal service as financial promoter and promptly seek a place in the United States Senate. There will be general hesitation, consequently, in accepting current rumors that Charles P. Taft will now be Senator Foraker's successor.

"How Times Have Changed."

Paris (Ky.) Appeal.

When we were young, people had colds, soaked their feet in hot water and got well. Now they have grip, take quinine and feel sick all Summer. Then they had sore throat, wrapped a piece of fat pork in an old sock, tied it around the neck at night and went to work the next morning. Now they have tonsilitis, a surgical operation and two weeks in the house. Then they had stomach ache and took castor oil and recovered. Now they have appendicitis, a week in the hospital and six feet due east and west and four feet perpendicular. Then they worked, they labor now. In those days they wore underclothes, now they wear lingerie. Then they went to a restaurant, now they go to a cafe. Then they broke a leg, now they fracture a limb. People went crazy then, they have brain storms now. Politicians paid good hard cash for support, now they send Government garden seeds.

Our Merry Andrew.

Brooklyn Eagle.

When the devil was sick, the devil a monk would be. When Mr. Carnegie was younger and poorer, a high protectionist he would be and was. Now he is older and richer, a free-trader he would be. Age and prosperity have had a better effect on him than illness on the adversary of all souls.

WHALE FISHERY NEAR END.

"The Bravest Industry in Which Daring Men Ever Engaged."

New Bedford (Mass.) Mercury.

There are some facts in connection with the announcement that the Arctic whaling fleet will not sail out of San Francisco this Spring which have not been told. The reason given, that the catch of the Dundee fleet has glutted the market with bone, may be put aside, for the truth is the Dundee fleet had an unsuccessful season, and the bone is not of a quality that competes with that taken from the mammoth bowheads which are the prizes of the Arctic fleet. It is true, however, there is an ample stock of Arctic bone on hand, and inasmuch as there is no profit worth while at a price under $5 a pound, and an increased supply would tend to depress the price, the whaling agents have no incentive to fit the ships.

The hazard of life and fortune in Arctic whaling is out of all proportion to the wealth it has brought. The fact that the great fleet of 50 or more whalers that once resorted to the Arctic has been reduced to six or eight, the others having been ground in the remorseless ice floes, is impressive. The little remnant that has escaped the clutch of the ice daunts at last the men who have hitherto looked upon the half-breadth escapes and disastrous chances as but a part of the day's work.

Nevertheless, it is probable the ships would have kept on "through fog to fog, by luck and log, sailing as Bering sailed," trusting to him who "clears the grounding berg and steers the grinding floe," until the ice had claimed the last ship, had it not been for the attitude of the United States Government. As it is, there is very small chance that any of the fleet of steam whalers will ever again sail to the north. Until within a few years it was truly said: "There's never a law of God or man runs north of Fifty-three."

This is no longer the case. The revenue cutter service dispenses law in the Arctic now, and the agents say it is capricious and arbitrary authority which adds the last risk and establishes a prohibition upon the whaling industry there. When the revenue cutter officer overhauled steamer William Bayliss a couple of seasons ago and placed Captain Bodfish under arrest, ordering him to report at Nome, October 1, the voyage of the ship was broken, and the owners and men lost thousands of dollars, as it was necessary for the ship to leave in the height of the whaling season. From the nature of the Arctic whaling business it often happens that the crews comprise desperate and dangerous men. There is bound to be continual trouble, and if the revenue officers can take the Captains out of their ships upon complaints of such men and thereby break voyages, the chance is one no investor will take. The agents do not expect the masters of their vessels shall escape the consequences of misbehavior, but if they are accused they say there can be no harm in waiting for the return of the vessels before making an arrest. Captain Bodfish, it may be added, was acquitted of the charges brought against him.

The whaling agents say the shore traders conspire against them, and have used the missionaries, who are themselves traders in many cases, to make representations to President Roosevelt, as a result of which the revenue service has been unduly exacting. Many of the whalers have engaged in trading, and have licensed the shore traders by getting, in some cases, a monopoly of the business. The methods of the whalers have not been different from those of the shore traders, but a ship can be held to an accounting where a detached trader cannot. In some ships trading is forbidden, the owner taking the ground that the time wasted with the natives can be more profitably employed in whaling; but some of the men of the ship may carry on a private enterprise and the owners suffer vicarious punishment in greater degree than the actual offenders.

At best, the whaling ventures in the Arctic are not as profitable as is generally assumed. It costs about $50,000 to fit a vessel for a voyage. Assuming the ship escapes the countless perils and takes three whales, which is a fair average catch, or better, this means a revenue of $30,000. It requires $10,000 to settle the voyage, and if the vessel is to be sent to sea again the $20,000 is required for refitting. The whales have been retreating to the north and east, and it is only under the most favorable circumstances a vessel can chase them to their last stand and get out before the pack closes in upon them.

These circumstances, in connection with the alleged oppression of the Government, has led the owners to take their profits and retire from the enterprise. The vessels will lay up in the San Francisco docks, and it is doubtful if they ever again "hear the floe-pack clear and the blast of the old bull whale." It may be the whalemen may fit out sailing vessels and make occasional voyages to the Arctic, but it is safe to predict that the doom of the steam whaler is sealed.

No steam whalers have been built in many years, and it is now admitted they were a mistake. They frightened the whales from the grounds they had frequented, and there were other circumstances that were a drawback. The masters of steam vessels are required to take out a license, and some of the best whalemen could not meet the requirements. So it happened that the "boat-header" system was introduced. Men of the merchant service were placed in command of the steam whalers in some instances and expert whalemen were shipped as boat-headers at a lay above that allowed the masters of the vessels. The boatheader was in command of the boats when they lowered for whales, and at other times he was an anomalous figure aboard ship.

The disasters of 1871 and 1879 destroyed the vessels by wholesale, the Shenandoah preyed upon them, and the ice pack picked them off one by one. To the ever-present foes of nature the United States Government contributed its menace to the investment, and so ends another incident of the bravest industry in which daring men ever engaged.

Bryan Devotee Leaves His State.

Washington (D. C.) Dispatch.

Because he had bet that Bryan would carry the Nation, J. W. Walker, president of the Denver Musical Protective Association of Denver, has packed his household goods, and, with his family, will leave the state at once, to remain away four years, in accordance with the terms of the bet.

She Drives 900 Miles to Save Money.

Baltimore News.

In order to save money, Mrs. Mary Canfield drove alone from Owatonna, Minn., to Akron, Ohio—900 miles.

THE LOST ONE

New York Evening Mail.

MOTHER of many children I—sprung of my heart and my brain—
And some have been borne in gladness and some have been borne in pain,
But one has gone singing from out my door
Never to come again.

Content and Ease and Comfort—they abide with me day by day;
They smooth my couch and place my chair as dutiful children may,
And Success and Power, my strong-limbed sons,
Stand ever to clear my way.

And these be the prudent children, the careful children and wise.
There was one and only one with a reckless dream in his eyes,
He who was one with the wind o' the dawn,
And kin to the wood and the skies.

Faithful and fond are my children and they tend me well, in sooth;
Success and Content and Power, good proof is mine of their truth.
But the name of him that I lost was Joy,
Yea, my first-born Joy of Youth.

Well do my children guard me, jealous of this their right;
Carefully, soberly, ever by daylight and candlelight.
But oh, for my prodigal Joy of Youth
Somewhere out in the night.

—Theodosia Garrison.