The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance.

(By Mail.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year.....$8.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months.... 4.25
Daily, Sunday included, three months.. 2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month.... .75
Daily, without Sunday, one year..... 6.00
Daily, without Sunday, six months.... 3.25
Daily, without Sunday, three months.. 1.75
Daily, without Sunday, one month..... .60
Weekly, one year..... 1.50
Sunday, one year..... 2.50
Sunday and Weekly, one year..... 3.50

(By Carrier.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year..... 9.00
Daily, Sunday included, one month.... .75

How to Remit—Send postoffice money order, express order or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at the sender's risk. Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—10 to 14 pages, 1 cent; 16 to 28 pages, 2 cents; 30 to 44 pages, 3 cents; 46 to 60 pages, 4 cents. Foreign postage double rates.

Eastern Business Office—The S. C. Beckwith Special Agency—New York, rooms 48-50 Tribune building. Chicago, rooms 510-512 Tribune building.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, DEC. 21, 1908.

IF FREE LUMBER, THEN FREE COAL.

To resist the massive interests of the East that demand free lumber, Oregon will have in the House two Representatives and in the Senate a Democrat (perhaps) and a golf player. As Republicans in Congress have resolved to take tariff revision entirely in their own hands, it is not clear how Democratic influence will help Oregon lumbermen. The lumbermen who have just returned from their quest in Washington found no nonpartisans in Congress, so that that type of statesman will probably be unable to render aid in this very important matter.

The forces that are working for free lumber are very formidable. Newspapers all over the United States are demanding free paper pulp, as a means of relief from the paper trust. From this it is but a short step to a demand for free lumber. Powerful Eastern States, having no lumber of their own to protect, and being heavy consumers of timber products, see no need of retaining the duty. Loudest of all the voices for free trade is that calling for admission of foreign lumber in order to check the rapid depletion of forests. The Government evidently is supporting the free-lumber movement for this reason. Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester, is its spokesman in this respect. Eastern States, beholding the fast-depleting supply of standing timber, and incited by pictures and tales of forest waste in the West and the South, have no sympathy with lumbermen. It may not be too much to say that in that part of the United States is a sentiment which would hold the forests of the South and the West as permanent reserves, could the Government gain control of them.

Politics evidently will play considerable part in this contest in Congress. At the hearing conducted by the House ways and means committee in Washington last Saturday, Chairman Payne not only made known that he favors abolition of the duty, but also told Democratic lumber manufacturers of the South that if they want the benefit of Republican policies they should sustain the Republican party in politics. This was repetition of the advice quietly handed out to Oregon lumbermen some time before.

Abolition of duty will work hardship on many millmen and dealers of the Pacific Northwest, by temporarily curtailing their market. It will unsettle the trade and adversely affect the industry. As Oregon lumbermen advised the House committee, it will increase the timber waste, by compelling the larger use of the best part of the trees, in order to meet Canadian competition, and the larger sacrifice of inferior timber. Aside from this, the timber wealth, however, will not be impaired nor ultimately the lumber industry. Big fortunes have been made out of timber speculation and lumber cutting in Oregon and Washington, and the possessors of those gains will not find their interests considered. The "little fellows" engaged in milling and trading will have to make the most of the situation, provided the duty shall be removed. Lumbermen should see to it that coal shall be put on the free list so as to diminish depletion of the Nation's fast-disappearing coal supply. If American homes could buy coal at foreign prices, they would consume less timber for fuel and Pennsylvania's resource would last the Nation longer. For the same reason, the tariff should be taken off petroleum and petroleum products. Congress should have no favorites in tariff revision.

DON'T KICK YOUR NEIGHBOR'S DOG.

A Salem man who was a successful candidate for a seat in the City Council has filed an expense statement, as required by the corrupt practices act, and therein disclosed political policies which may well be commended to the consideration of all who hope to succeed in politics. This candidate spent very little money, but in his effort to state honestly all the influences he brought to bear in securing his election, he says that he did not kick his neighbor's dog. Thus is set forth, in figurative language, the secret of the success of many a candidate for office. He who would be a good vote-getter must not kick his neighbor's dog. Patting the dog on the head will probably help some and remarking the intelligent look in the dog's countenance will help even more; but under no circumstances must the dog be kicked. Let him snap at your heels if he will—that is just his way of playing. Never mind his ferocious bark—he doesn't mean anything by it. If he beats a path across your lawn, acknowledge frankly that you want a path there anyway, if he rolls in the flower bed, reflect that perhaps the flowers needed that sort of cultivation. When he chases your chickens, condemn yourself in your neighbor's hearing for keeping chickens in town. But don't kick the dog. That is the unpardonable sin which no man ever forgave. The owner of the kicked dog will remember the act to the last day of his life. If he ever finds the name of his enemy on a ballot, he will vote for the opposing candidate, and do it with the greater pleasure if the opponent be a "yellow dog." No party ties were ever strong enough to induce one man to vote for another who had kicked his dog. Political treachery, factional differences or questionable political principles may be overlooked and forgiven, but the kick which a candidate has sometime given a dog makes an enemy who cannot be placated by any apology or amends.

But this is not saying that dogs should not be kicked. Advice to a man who wants to be elected to office is not always in accordance with personal duty. Some dogs ought to be kicked, though in many cases it is the owner who is more deserving of the chastisement. It follows that somebody ought to do the kicking. But the man who performs this public duty ought to realize that when he does so he forfeits his privilege of running for office with hope of success. There is a widespread need for dog-kickers and some of them are really needed in office, though few, if any, ever get there. Every community has a few dog-kickers who have earned public gratitude, even if they never receive a public expression of popular commendation. Their reward, however, is not in the line of public service. If wise, they will be satisfied with the compensating sense of duty well performed and will save themselves the mortification of defeat in a race for office.

CIVIL SERVICE "CLOCK-WATCHERS."

No member of the Portland Charter Commission would admit the city's civil service method of hiring employes into his private business. But the Commission has adopted that method for the public's business, practically without change. None of them, in his private affairs, would allow employes discharged by one department to appeal to another department and by it to be reinstated. Yet that system is to be perpetuated in the administration of taxpayers' affairs. There is lax discipline in such a system. There is also low efficiency of employes and a surfeit of them, performing work that a smaller number could do.

"Clock-watchers" are what Controller Metz, of New York, calls the civil service employes of that city. The City Hall of Portland is full of clock-watchers. In a private firm they would be discharged for "unfitness" or because their services were "unsatisfactory" or "no longer required." But such causes are not sufficient in the City Hall. When the Executive Board dismissed a number of detectives for those causes, the Civil Service Board reinstated the men and the city had to pay unearned salaries amounting to several thousand dollars.

The appeal of discharged city employes to the Civil Service Commission for investigation and reinstatement should be restricted to religious and political causes. A private employer does not specify his reasons for dispensing with a negligent or unfit or unsafe employe nor have to prove "good faith." No more should the city, if for no other reason than that it is an impractical way of dispensing with unsatisfactory servants.

MAYOR LANE'S ELECTRIC SCHEME.

Mayor Lane's annual budget recommends a tax levy sufficient to raise $190,000 for establishment of a distributing wire system for electric street lights. By this method the city would buy light current in bulk, so to speak, instead of paying the electric monopoly so much per lamp. The Mayor's idea is that the city, in paying for each lamp, receives less current delivery than it pays for.

But what assurance has the Mayor that the city would pay less for electricity, after it should have provided its own distributing system? Has not the electric company complete control of all the sources of electric energy? After paying out $200,000 or more for wires and transforming machinery the cost of lights would probably be no less than before. Maintenance would undoubtedly cost the city more than the electric company, on account of the low efficiency of public employes and the impossibility, under civil service rules, of employing the fittest men. There would be no competition between electric companies for the city's benefit. There is only one company now and none other in view will have enough light energy to supply the street lights. Another plant on Clackamas River is talked of, but it is yet to be financed and built. When the present plant on that river was established it at once combined with the old company and is now owned by it.

Here is a scheme which would cost far more than the Mayor's estimate, for purchase of land for substations, erection of buildings, installation of transforming machinery, erection of wires, buying of lamps and underground conduits. The public would find itself called upon to put up additional sums continuously. There would be heavy interest on debt and big depreciation. The cost to the city would be more in the end than a contract with the company. This scheme could have no terrors for the company; less even than a municipal generating plant. The city has enough to do with existing problems. It needs its cash and credit for other things.

CALLING A HALT.

Liquidation in the New York stock market was pretty heavy throughout last week, and, despite a slight rally on Saturday, the net losses for the week ran up around five points in some of the prominent industrials, while the losses in railroad securities averaged around three points. This reaction was due to the strength of the money market, and it is a decline that will not be deplored by the legitimate business interests, which for several weeks have been endeavoring to check this runaway speculative market. With call money advancing and stocks declining, there will soon be a shaking out of the Wall-street thimble-riggers whose manipulation hampers the legitimate functions of the New York Stock Exchange and disarranges and unsettles values throughout the list.

The panic of last year was largely brought about by the hysterical speculation of these plungers, who for the past six weeks have been engaged in a frantic endeavor to force stock prices up far above a figure warranted by legitimate conditions. Fortunately for business throughout the country, the methods of this speculative crowd are pretty well understood, and it will be impossible at this time for them to start such a stampede of distrust as that which frightened money into hiding a year ago. There is an abundance of money in the country, and, in spite of the heavy advance in rates on call money, legitimate borrowers can secure time loans at very moderate rates and in any amount desired. The decline in stocks may have the effect of stopping the unloading process in which the foreigners have been engaged almost continuously since election. Had it not been for this feature of the situation, the legitimate business interests of the country could have viewed with equanimity the manipulation which has screwed values up much higher than they should have been permitted to go.

But with foreigners sending back railroad and industrial securities in enormous amounts to pay for the exports which we had been sending out in record quantities, we were deprived of a large amount of cheap foreign money which can still be used to advantage in this country. Now that the surplus reserve of the clearing-house banks of New York has been practically wiped out of existence, the financial interests that for the past six weeks have fed the speculators with cheap call money may change their tactics and force rates up to a figure where there will be a sudden halt in stock gambling. If this course is not taken, it is only a question of time until there will be apparent a scarcity of money for legitimate purposes. Having called a halt in this orgy of stock speculation, it is now the duty of the New York moneyed interests to insist that it does not get under way again.

EDITOR BENNETT'S GROUCH.

It is not pleasant to discover Editor Bennett, by instinct and profession an optimist, in the role of the pessimist. Mr. Bennett read a paper before the Oregon-Idaho Development Convention at Vale last week, that may fitly be described as one grand long growl at the communities in which the papers of Oregon are published. Criticism, kicks, complaints, whines and grunts are the portion of the country editor, who never does and never can print a paper to satisfy the community in which he lives. So says Editor Bennett.

Tut, tut, Brother Bennett. The county papers of Oregon get always all the support they deserve. Take the Bennett papers, for example. They are bright, readable and newsy; and therefore they are flourishing. If they were not worth reading, they would not prosper—and should not. It's the man behind the hand press or the county cylinder that makes the paper. That's all there is to it. Let him do his part and the community will do the rest.

It follows, then, that if there is anything the matter with the county papers of Oregon there is something wrong with the editors. If the editor sits back in his easy chair, and expects his subscribers to bring him the news, and the business men his ads, and the public generally to donate him food to eat, clothes to wear, and wood to burn, a mighty poor paper will come out of that shop. But if the editor hustles for news, subscribers and business, he will get them all, and he will succeed, provided he doesn't try to run an agate newspaper in a long primer town.

Drop your grouch, Brother Optimist. Or change your name.

WOMEN AND THE GRANGE.

Election of officers in the Multnomah County Grange has been in order this week. After the pleasant custom of these farmers' lodges, the elections were followed by feasting, speaking, entertainment and mild hilarity. The social function of the Grange has ever been one of its strongest features and is one that is commendable and generally enjoyable, while the banquets—well, it is only necessary to say of them that farmers' wives are good cooks, and that they do not spare their butter and cream and eggs and fowls and fruit and preserves and pickles upon these occasions.

He was probably a crusty old bachelor who declared that it was owing to this fact that women were admitted to the Grange in the first place—a suggestion which if true would certainly reflect less discredit upon the women who joined the order than upon the men who took them in for "thel stomachs' sake" There is no record, however, of a desire at any time to exclude women from the Grange or to minimize the value of their work and influence in the Grange. They have done their full part, from baking and roasting for the banquets to filling with honor the position of lecturer under the auspices of the State Grange; and from preparing programmes to be rendered at public entertainments to competing successfully for honors in drills in its unwritten work. Further than this their presence and endeavor have been appreciated in the order as both inspiring and helpful.

WASHINGTON CAPITAL IN OREGON.

Oregon and its wonderful opportunities for investment and development have always appealed strongest to moneyed men from beyond the state line. This is not due to the presence of features in which "distance lends enchantment to the view," but instead to the fact that these opportunities are here in such abundance that they have become somewhat commonplace for Oregon capitalists, who have dwelt in their midst for so long that great difficulty is experienced in recognizing them. A Pendleton dispatch in yesterday's Oregonian announces another reclamation project for Umatilla County in which a syndicate of Spokane capitalists will reclaim a large body of fine land along the Umatilla River. Actual experience in the cultivation of this land has demonstrated its remarkable productiveness, and the Spokane men are accordingly taking no chances on ultimately receiving good returns on their investments.

There are, of course, plenty of opportunities in the State of Washington, and they will by no means be exhausted in either state for many years to come. But the ultra-conservatism of the Oregonians has retarded the development of this state to an extent that there now exist in Oregon much better opportunities for investment than can be found in any other state in the Union. The investor, naturally desirous of getting as much as possible for his money, is accordingly turning to Oregon. The new Umatilla irrigation project is only one of many similar enterprises in this state that have been financed by Washington capital, and in many other lines of investment the men of the Evergreen State are securing substantial representation. Some of the richest mines in Southern Oregon are owned exclusively by Washington capitalists. The Great Southern Railroad, which has already opened up much new territory in Central Oregon, and has undoubtedly hastened the building of other lines, is all owned by Seattle and Everett capitalists, and a large share of the stock of the United Railways Company, which is now rushing work on a suburban electric line system out of Portland, is in the hands of Washington capitalists.

One of the largest hotels in the city is operated by Seattle and Bellingham Bay men, and another large hotel was started by Spokane capital. The advantages of cheap timber and admirable logging propositions have also appealed to the Washington men, and within the past year they have made heavy investment in this industry in various parts of the state. Portland city real estate, which is far the best investment that can be found in any other city on the Pacific Coast, has not escaped the attention of the shrewd Washingtonians, and within the past two years Seattle capitalists alone have invested nearly $1,000,000 in Portland property. Viewed from a broad economic standpoint, Portland and Oregon would much prefer to have these profitable investments picked up by capitalists from beyond the Rockies. Any money that comes into Washington or is lodged in Washington to a certain extent will benefit the neighboring state, and both of these states contain such a wealth of gilt-edge opportunities for investment that we should like to see more outside capital taking advantage of them.

However, so long as the keen financiers of our neighboring state recognize the fact that they can get more in Oregon for their money in any line of investment they choose than they can get in any other state in the Union, no attempt will be made, either by injunction or otherwise, to prevent them from getting in on these good things which are lying all around us in such great profusion.

The Navy Department is considering the desirability of building a fleet of battleships of greater size than any that have yet been constructed. These proposed monsters will be of 25,000 tons displacement, will carry twelve 12-inch guns, and steam about 20 knots. The cost is not given out, but it probably will be nearly as great as that of running the City of Portland after we approve all of the wild bond issues that some of our people desire. It would be very nice to have a fleet of these big ships to fire salutes for our ambitious Presidents, and they might be useful in war. It should be remembered, however, that we should only be setting the pace for some of the other nations that make more of a business of war than we have been in the habit of doing, and by the time the trial trips of the big ships were had, some of these other powers would have construction well under way on some larger, faster and heavier-armed craft. The principal drawback to the acquirement of a modern navy is to get ships launched before they are out of date and before it becomes necessary to relegate them to the junk pile, and build others.

Dr. Henry Waldo Coe may succeed in getting his name in the papers by reason of his charge that Democratic officials are hampering the work on the Panama Canal, but he will never command a very wide circle of believers of such a foolish charge. The Panama Canal has never been a party issue. It has from the beginning received hearty support from Democrats and Republicans alike. Quite naturally the South, which is Democracy's stronghold, will reap greater benefits from the canal than will fall to any other part of the country. It may have been this selfish reason that caused the project to receive such hearty support from the Democrats, for it will build some great ports along the southern coast line. But, whatever the motive for Democratic support, it has been freely given the project, and any report that the work is being delayed by Democrats will be received everywhere with something more than the customary grain of salt.

The financial turmoil that prevailed a year ago makes it impossible to secure accurate comparisons between conditions then and now. By comparison with conditions two years ago, however, it is possible to determine the extent to which we have recovered from the panic. Portland's bank clearings for the week ending last Saturday were $2,608,045 greater than for the corresponding week in 1907, and they were also $696,305 greater than for the corresponding week in 1906. The Seattle clearings for the week ending last Saturday were $2,248,639 greater than for the same week in 1907, but she fell short of those for the corresponding week in 1906 by $532,854. When it is remembered that two years ago this month both Seattle and Portland were floating on the top wave of the greatest prosperity we had ever known, Portland's heavy gain seems all the more striking.

The Standard Oil Company is preparing to erect two business blocks in the most exclusive residence district of London, the site being surrounded by the homes of royalty and those who have purchased its favors. As the British, along with the rest of the foreigners, seem to like the American dollar much better than anything else that we produce in this land of the free, there should be no objection to such a typical example of American "dollardom" as Standard Oil.

The market for cascara bark has been in such bad shape that the principal holders and dealers in the staple have found it necessary to form a trust for the purpose of advancing prices. At first glance it seems somewhat paradoxical to think of a cascara bark market so "congested" that stocks would not move without the artificial aid of a trust.

When President Roosevelt succeeds in killing wild animals in Africa he will have the skins sent to the National Museum for exhibition. If the museum could secure the hides of a number of politicians who have been put to eternal sleep by the President, they would make an interesting addition to the collection.

Uncle Bill Brown, who fed a big dinner to the widows of Polk County at Dallas last Thanksgiving day, has bought 600 pounds of candy, and will give each child under 15 a package Christmas. Uncle Bill Browns grow only in Oregon.

Speaker Cannon and Chairman Payne are going to do a lot of tariff-revising on articles produced in the states of their colleagues. Take lumber, for example.

Proposed tax levy of 18 mills isn't much, of course, not over fifty per cent greater than it should be. Taxpayers would growl if they didn't have any tax levy, we suppose, or anything to tax.

The news that Governor-elect Cosgrove is recovering rapidly makes mighty interesting reading in Olympia official circles. Don't you hear the loud huzzahs?

Now they are going to have a battleship with 26,000 tons displacement. And they used to think the Great Eastern a large vessel.

Congress is getting a lot of free advertising out of that secret service paragraph of the President's message.

Winter sunshine brings freezing weather. Give us the warm rain.

RUNNING A COUNTRY NEWSPAPER

Pessimistic Views by the Cheerful Head of Two Successful Journals.

From a paper read by Editor Bennett, of the Dalles Optimist, before the Oregon-Idaho Development Convention.

I am only small fry in the newspaper field. The 45 years I have spent in and around newspaper and printing offices have been wasted, thrown away, dissipated, lost, for I know absolutely nothing about a weekly paper, and a blamed sight less about a daily paper. I do not ask you to take my word for this. All you have to do to find that I am telling the truth is to go to the places where I am running papers and ask the people of those places. They will tell you that The Irrigator and The Optimist are no good, and their editor less. I take great pride in those papers. They have a wide reputation. I give them the best there is in me, but the people of the towns where they are run will tell you (with the exception of a few choice souls who are too good for this world and will soon be in heaven), the people as a rule will tell you that my occupation ought to be that of digging post holes or shoveling smoke.

Of course I go to other points, other towns and cities, and the people wine me and dine me and get me full of paloucers and say I am "IT" in very large type; but my neighbors know me for the fraud that I am.

And in thus stating my position I have given the meat and kernel of my argument, and that is that the people of almost every community in Oregon keep pretty busy cussing the local paper and its editor, and wondering how a man can stoop to publish such a measly sheet.

The average community seems to think that the local paper is a parasite, something to be endured but not encouraged. They will point across the state line, to the next county, to the neighboring city, to any old paper in any old place, and tell you what a good paper it is and how fortunate the community is to have such a sheet; but they will at the same time take great pains to tell you that the paper in their own town is plumb cultus, and the editor a man who does not know the first principles of the newspaper business.

What would you do without your newspaper? How long would it be, if your present paper should close down, until you would be flirting with some other newspaper man to come to your town, and what promises you would hold out, but how you would fall down after he got out his first issue. I know all about you. I have seen the thing worked to a frazzle in Oregon, and know that the newspaper man is, as a rule, the last paid, the poorest paid and the most grudgingly paid of all.

For Sale: One Valuable Cow.

In a recent issue of the Alta Searchlight, a paper published in a small town up in Canada, appeared the following advertisement:

"Owing to ill health, I will sell at my residence in township 12, range 18, according to the government survey, one raspberry plush cow 8 years old. She is a good milker and not afraid of motor-cars or anything else. She has undaunted courage and gives milk frequently. To a man who does not fear death in any form, she would be a great boon. She is very much attached to her home at present by means of a logchain, but she will be sold to any one who will use her right. She is one-fourth short horn and three-fourths hyena. I will also throw in a double-barrelled shotgun, as it goes with her. In May she generally goes away for a week or two and returns with a tall red calf with wobbly legs."

Owners' Rights to Excavated Earth.

PORTLAND, Dec. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Will you inform me what rights a property owner has in the dirt excavated in the street in front of his property when that street is being graded.

I am told that a decision was rendered some months ago by Judge O'Day upon this subject and would like this information, as it would settle a much disputed question and inform many property owners now in ignorance of this decision as to their rights. L. G. C.

This matter is still in litigation. Briefly, Judge O'Day in the case of Sharkey against the City of Portland granted a preliminary injunction against the city restrained it from using earth excavated for a street improvement. The case will come up for trial probably next month. Judge O'Day held that the city could use the excavated earth only in case it was needed for fills on the same improvement.

Sharkey claimed it for use in filling his own lot, and preliminarily the court decided in his favor.

The city will fight the decision on the ground that it will be almost impossible to secure bids on street work under such rulings. Contractors could not know what to do with excavated earth until each separate owner of abutting property was consulted as to his wishes concerning its disposal.

Qualifications for School Elector.

PORTLAND, Dec. 17.—(To the Editor.)—Please answer the following: (1) Does a person who lives on Government land not proved up on, who pays taxes on improvement and stock, have a right to vote at school election? (2) Could he lawfully hold the office of school director? (3) Could he lawfully hold the office of clerk if he could give good bond, or would he have to own real estate first? (4) Is a person who prohibits another from voting liable for damages?

One, two and three: Yes, provided he pays taxes on $100 worth of personal property. In Oregon, any man or woman who pays taxes on real or personal property assessed at $100 or more may vote at school elections and is qualified to serve as director or clerk.

Four, consult a lawyer.

Concerning Divorce Proceedings.

PORTLAND, Dec. 17.—(To the Editor.)—May I burden you to answer these questions:

First—Must one live a certain period of time in Oregon before applying for divorce?

Yes. One year.

Second—Can same be obtained upon statutory grounds, if offense was committed some years since, and in another state?

Yes.

Third—Can one obtain a divorce in this state on the—apparent—grounds of incompatibility?

No.

Fourth—Under what conditions may alimony be asked?

Where defendant is a non-resident, alimony cannot be had in Oregon.

Citizenship of Alien Minors.

GASTON, Or., Dec. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Do children born in a foreign country and coming to the United States with their parents, and the said parents become citizens of the United States before the children are of age, become citizens or would they have to take out citizenship papers before they became citizens? H. C. H.

Naturalization of their parents confers citizenship on such children. They need not take out citizenship papers.

Wages May Be Attached.

PORTLAND, Dec. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Is there a law in this state making it possible to attach a man's wages for debt? C. R.

Yes

Oregon as Viewed by a Harvard Professor

He Is Captivated by Our Apples, Comprehends Our Climate, Thinks We Are Backward in Education and Is Confident of a Great Material Future.

(Correspondence of the Boston Transcript from Albert Bushnell Hart, Professor of History, Harvard University.)

OREGON is nearly 30 years older than California, and prides itself on its conservatism. The reason for this early development was the fertility of the Willamette Valley, a wide plain, much of which was not wooded and all of which was easily reached from the Pacific. Until a few years ago, this valley and its commercial capital, Portland, were the whole of Oregon. The wide region to the east of the Cascade range hardly counted, for it includes a large part of the great lava beds which reach north into Washington; and it is still the part of the continental United States least provided with railroads.

* * *

Oregon depends for its wealth upon fisheries, lumber and wheat, and it has also become a fruit producer of world-wide reputation. The forests are more valuable than those of Washington, because more extensive and they are, so far, less cut over. Lane County, in Oregon (a county about the size of Connecticut) claims to have 50,000,000,000 feet of standing timber. For the Lewis and Clark Exposition at Portland three years ago, they built a sort of temple of tree trunks, every one of which was five feet in diameter at the base, four at the capital, and 54 feet high; it is the sort of structure that the Greeks tried to repeat in enduring stone; and it is certainly one of the most striking and effective buildings in the world. The Pacific slope of the Coast range and the interior slopes both of those mountains and of the Cascades, are heavily timbered with trees of such size and perfection that there is no rival for them away from the Pacific Coast of the United States and British Columbia. So far, the state had been no more prudent in its lumber cut than its sisters; but now there is an awakening to the need of skilful cutting, and the preservation of such an asset, and the Federal Government is aiding by forest reservations.

The mineral wealth of Oregon has only been scratched so far; but there are a few productive gold mines in the Cascades and some coal near the ocean. The salmon industry is nowhere so lively as upon the Columbia, where a single one of the scores of fish wheels has been known to catch four tons of fish in a night. The two states divided by the river are at odds as to the conservation of the salmon, and Oregon has just prohibited fish wheels. Oregon has always been an agricultural state and in going through it one sees curious structures with the wooden ventilators, which are used for the storage of hops. This culture is diminishing, and some of the brewers have threatened to boycott the hops grown in dry counties, as a rebuke to the double-dealing of those who will not consume the liquid for which they furnish the raw materials.

Apples That Sell at 30 Cents Each.

Eastern Oregon grows plenty of wheat, but the grain most before people's eyes is the apple. Hood River apples are said to be sold in Paris at 30 cents each, to go upon the tables of millionaires, diplomats and popular actresses. Fruit lands down in the canyon of Snake River are really worth $500 or $600 an acre, and people talk of $1000 or even $2000 an acre. The idea seems to be that if you can sell 10,000 bushels of apples at a fancy price, you could dispose of 10,000,000 bushels at the same price. Washington and Montana are already competitors in the fruit business, and it is likely that the fruitgrowers in the end will find that there is only a limited market for the highest priced fruit. Yet nobody can deny that Oregon apples have a beautiful rosy texture, nor that the complexion of the girls is very similar. This is not the result of eating the apples. It would appear that the high quality both of the fruit and of the young ladies' complexions is due to the moist climate.

Yarns in re Humidity.

Just how moist the climate is nobody living in either Oregon or Washington will take the responsibility of saying. A Summer like that of 1908, in which there were not half a dozen rainy days during two months, is not a safe basis for an appraisal of Coast Summers, and still less of Coast Winters. When the late President Harrison addressed a crowd in the open air here some years ago, he was shocked that school children were allowed to stay out doors and sing to him while it was raining; the Oregonians were simply not aware that it was raining. A comparison of partial revelations by different people leads to the suspicion that during the Winter it rains in Oregon nearly every day; but that it is a sort of dry rain quietly drizzling down, so that people accept it as they would a hot wave. You are told that the rainfall of the two states is less than that of the Atlantic Coast, but it is undoubtedly spread over more days. On the other hand, the Summer climate in a good year is almost perfect, with little extremely hot weather west of the Cascades, though it boils and broils and sizzles out on the lava beds; the air, notwithstanding the dearness of the sea, is not oppressive. Even in Summer, however, and particularly in late Summer, there is thick muggy weather; and people have been known to stay a month in Seattle and declare that there was no such thing as a Mount Rainier, though when the weather is clear it seems the only thing that you care to look at. People live an outdoor life in the city and country, while camping and picnicking and Summer outings are brought within the range of the exact sciences. The Coast in Summer is much like Florida in Winter, balmy and bright.

Long Backward in Education.

Oregon, as the oldest of the three Coast sisters, has a character to maintain, and passes for conservative in these whistling latitudes. Till about 30 years ago the old farmers in the Willamette Valley made up a majority of the voters and had things their own way. The result has been that Oregon till recently has remained backward in education and intellectual appliances. The state has a good normal school, agricultural college and university, all within a few miles of each other, but till 1907 the Legislature thought it was liberal in voting $48,000 a year for the university, which cares for the higher education of 700,000 people. Gradually the graduates of the university have spread through the state, and two years ago one of them got into the Legislature and made a campaign for an increase of the university's appropriation to $125,000 a year. The Legislature voted it; the Governor vetoed it, and it was passed over his veto; whereupon some mossbacks invoked the referendum, and at the last election submitted to the voters the important question whether the university should be kept at the old footing, or adopt a new standard. The result was fortunate for the university, for its sons rallied to its defense, the voters of the city of Portland were strongly in its favor, and overcame the conservative backwoods; and the university has a continuing appropriation of $125,000, which could only be disturbed by another referendum. The whole state has been educated by this discussion of higher education.

Professor Hart tells of the initiative and referendum, Statement No. 1 and the perplexing, unexpected position of the Legislature, and continues:

In this controversy, as in everything else in the state, The Oregonian, of Portland has taken a lively part. The Oregonian is a public institution like the Hood River apples or the referendum; it is far and away the best newspaper on the Coast, edited in the staunch manner of the old New York Tribune, the Springfield Republican or the Boston Transcript. Considering what the San Francisco papers are or rather are not, and the weakness of most of the papers in Washington, the continued success of The Oregonian is striking; in general, it is on the side of progress. Otherwise, the state is as yet intellectually little moved, except by its institutions of learning. The Oregon people are just coming to realize that they can afford to give their children a good education, and the excellent university and agricultural college are just at the beginning of a career of influence in the state.

There is something stirring in the awakening of a state so full of potentialities. Though much of Eastern Oregon is desert, entirely out of the reach of irrigation, some millions of acres can be touched by the magic springs and the ramifying gorges of the upper Snake River. Nobody really knows what are the mineral resources of the Cascade Range; and Western Oregon is capable of supporting a population many times its present 500,000. Like Washington, the state outside of its one large city has a characteristic American population, and has attracted many Eastern men of high training. In Mount Hood, the state possesses a snow peak little inferior in size or accessibility to the Washington giants. Oregon is a strong, hardy and progressive state, which is certain to hold a larger place in the councils of the Nation than it has yet attained. It's one ex-Cabinet officer, Attorney-General Williams, of Grant's time, is still a force in Portland and in the state. It remains to be seen whether the popular primary will bring to the front men of like abilities.

NO JEST ABOUT THIS MEASURE.

Dr. Owens-Adair Again Defends Her Plan of Sterilization.

WARRENTON, Or., Dec. 17.—(To the Editor.)—I beg space to reply to R. W. Traver who took me to task and sagely advises a 16th amendment to the constitution, which shall prohibit the manufacture and sale of both tobacco and whisky. Personally I should approve of such a law, as I abhor whisky and detest tobacco. I have used my feeble efforts against both all my life, but the curse is still with us. As there are about 95 per cent of all men who use tobacco in some form, and a large per cent who use alcoholic stimulants, and women are not allowed to vote, I don't just see where the "16th amendment" is coming in. Don't try to sidetrack me on that old threadbare theory, but you go right along and get your "16th amendment" and I'll say amen if I'm living.

A long time ago, about a quarter of a century, I was an active member of the third House at Salem, and that honorable body gave us a good law, not "a fool law," requiring all the public schools to teach the effects of alcohol, tobacco, opium and other narcotics on the human system. This was a great step in the right direction and yet only a drop in the bucket. To make an assertion is easy but to prove it is not so easy. That the best blood without proper care and training will degenerate, while the so-called "scrubs" with such care will excel, requires proof through scientific research. I don't believe that alcohol and tobacco produce insanity. Thousands and tens of thousands of bright intelligent men have used both through their long lives and never showed the least symptoms of insanity. But had there been a trace of insanity in their blood, then those narcotics would have lighted the torch and the explosion would have been felt.

You seem to think Finch's crime was due to drink and Chester Thompson's to cigarettes, yet Thompson, Thaw and thousands of others have escaped the hangman's rope through the plea of hereditary insanity. I am not taking exception to the juries' decision, but to all such unfortunates I hold that sterilization should be the remedy. And I believe that the profession would bear me out in this, for every informed physician knows the intimate relation between the brain and the organs of reproduction. And by the aid of this remedy the uncontrollable irritation of the nervous system in many cases would be relieved and the brain would assert its normal functions.

I am conscious of the fact that there are many who smile and even sneer at this measure. Only a week ago a relative said to me: "A woman of your standing should not be mixed up in such a subject." Twenty-five years ago such a rebuke would have brought a deluge of tears and rendered me nervous and sick, but not so now, for I am following out what I believe will be a great blessing to suffering humanity. I say will, because I believe it will come. My convictions have been obtained through hard trials and long research. Two years ago while talking with Representatives Farrell, Chapin, Beals and Newell, the four young men who were brave enough to champion this bill, I said to the Secretary of State who was standing by: "You approve of this measure, do you not, Mr. Dunbar?"

"Yes I do. Any one who has lived among these institutions as I have for the last few years could not do other."

And now, my friend, I would advise you to study up along these lines. Perhaps a good place to apply your theory of proper care and training would be at the boys' and girls' aid societies and the reform schools, go into those charitable homes for the demented, the helpless and the vicious, where great minds have been and are devoting their lives for the betterment of those classes. And still they increase instead of diminishing. Go there and apply yourself and perhaps you may find a remedy better than sterilization.

DR. OWENS-ADAIR.

Likens Dr. Stephen Wise Unto Amos.

Boston Herald.

Discerning New Yorkers realized long before his recent rebuke to Tammany judges for dining with Richard Croker that the pulpit of New York had gained a man of power when the Rev. S. S. Wise, of Portland, Or., settled in the metropolis and established his independent congregation. Bostonians of Theodore Parker's day will see in the enterprise and in the man much that will recall the time when Parker was the least hedged about with conservative bonds of any of the Boston clergy, and when from Music Hall went forth prophetic utterances that disturbed the serenity of ecclesiastical and political "stand-patters." This young Jewish successor of Amos is not only bold and candid, but unusually eloquent.

Where Woman Fails as Inventor.

Washington Post.

More than 6000 patents have been issued to American women, and yet none of them has perfected a device for getting off a streetcar backward or for making bargain-hunting a non-hazardous pursuit.

Still a Few Lobsters Left.

Baltimore American Star.

The New England lobster may be disappearing, as usual, but the Yankees manage to find one or two to run on their Democratic tickets every year.